

vinvolved



Wigan & Leigh
Council for Voluntary Service

Wigan & Leigh

Monthly News

June 2010

New faces for the Vinvolved Team Wigan & Leigh

Catherine Akehurst, Youth Volunteer Development Manager has gone on maternity leave. **Emma Barer** is taking up this role and will be making contact with voluntary organisations to generate some exciting and fun volunteering opportunities for local young people.

Meanwhile, **Francesca Slattery** has left to become a Vschools Advisor working around volunteering with high school pupils. **Pauline McKittrick** has taken on her role, meeting young people who wish to volunteer in Wigan & Leigh. **Our contact details are on page 6.**

Latest News



Join the **bigvbus** crew at the V Festival this Summer and you'll get your ticket into the festival for free.

They are looking for enthusiastic and energetic volunteers to help spread the word about volunteering and help festival-goers have a good time.

You will be needed for four hours per day at the festival to help do anything from flyering to handing out sunscreen or a brolley (depending on the weather!).

The V Festival is going on from 20th - 22nd August 2010, so you will need to be available on those dates. They say they will also need to take your credit/debit card details as security, to make sure that you turn up to the festival and complete your 4 hours a day of volunteering!

TO APPLY, go to <http://vinspired.com/summerofgive/opportunities> sign in and click 'I'd like to do this' **NOW!** Vinvolved will send you an Application Form and Terms and Conditions for you to read, fill in and return by no later than **28th June 2010**

What's involved this month?

Latest News
Pg 1 - 2

Volunteering
Opportunities
Pg 3

Your YAT
Pg 4

We need You!
Pg 5

Contact Us
Pg 6

Vinspired
Awards Pg 7

Latest
Opportunities
Pg 8

Latest News Continued

Live UnLtd aims to show that young people are the solutions to the problems faced in their communities through empowering them to run their own community projects. We currently have funding available for young people between 16-18yr olds [11-18yr olds from Aug2010 onwards] to apply for awards of up to £2000 for projects that have a positive social impact on their community. In every application we look for achievability of the project; the motivation of the individual and how much social impact the idea will have on the community. *Please note that anyone applying who is under 17yrs old will need an advisor to help them to run their project.*

Each month, the Youth Leadership Team living across the north (aged 16-25), will decide which youth lead projects will be funded and how much money will be awarded per project. The basic criteria for an award is:

Must be 16 – 18 years old [11-18yr olds from Aug2010 onwards]

Must be living in England

Must be applying as an individual or an informal group for a new project idea

Must have a positive social impact on the community

Applications are accepted all year round and applicants will be notified with the final decision from the youth leadership team within 4 weeks.

The next deadline for applications is Wednesday 12th May and for your information the next one will be in June.

For further information please contact Joe at Live Utd directly on 07540413911 or visit the website on www.liveunltd.com

NEW— Cashless Bus Voucher Scheme

First are the major bus operator in Greater Manchester - eg Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Rochdale, Middleton, Wigan, Leigh, Salford and many routes into Manchester.

First have introduced a cashless bus voucher scheme where organisations can purchase bus vouchers (daily/weekly) on a discounted rate and pass them on to their learners/young people.

How does the voucher scheme work?

1. The voucher is issued to the learner for travel next time.
2. The voucher is handed to the bus driver who gives the person the relevant daily/weekly ticket

the main features and benefits of the cashless bus voucher scheme ARE:

1. Cashless scheme
2. Reduces the need to fund travel out of petty cash (and hold large amount of cash on premises)
3. Reduces administration time
4. Provides a clear audit trail (internally & externally)
5. Ensures the learner/client can only use the voucher for travel and cannot be spent on other things
6. Encourages attendance (person has means to travel)
7. The vouchers are dateless - can be used any time in the future
8. Bus prices do rise annually, so if vouchers bought pre price increase then there would be an added saving when prices rise
9. Staff can use vouchers when travelling from site to site
10. Discounted prices available

LET THE ORGANISATIONS YOU VOLUNTEER WITH OR ARE ON TRAINING WITH KNOW THAT THIS SCHEME IS AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU AND THEM.

V Opportunities

Community Foundation for Greater Manchester Writing Experience opportunity

16-25? Good with a pen and paper? Like to write creatively and looking to develop those skills?

This role is about writing and profile-raising for projects.

This is a great way to build up a portfolio of work to add to your CV or for further education. This suits people who like to write stories, research information, enjoy talking to people and want to learn how to present their written work well.

If you're considering a career in medicine or caring then you should volunteer with the **British Red Cross**.

You could become a **First Aider**, a **Fire and Emergency Supporter** or help **raise money** for the charity.

Aged 11 - 19? Want your say in recruiting people who run the services you use? Want to see what its like to be on an interview panel? You will be provided with training to sit on interview panels and will be given the opportunity to receive an exciting AQA accreditation.

The training will allow you to have the opportunity to gain skills in the recruitment and selection process, experience being involved in interviews and give you the chance to improve teamwork skills as the panel work together on the task.

Times and days are flexible and will not interfere with your school or college timetable!

Are you into drama and the arts? The Three Towns Operatic Society are looking for set-builders, make-up artists and Front of House volunteers. A fun and fulfilling Opportunity

16-25? Interested in nature and the environment? The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside are seeking **5 x volunteers for a 20 week placements 30 hours a week, aged 16 - 25 years old**, who can assist with projects and operations based at the Bolton Environmental Resource Centre.

v Environmental Resource Centre-Based Placement - To support staff at the Environmental Resource Centre and develop it as a resource for visitors.

TO GET INVOLVED WITH THESE OPPORTUNITIES AND FIND OUT MORE GET IN TOUCH WITH US TODAY! Also search www.vinspired.com for volunteering near you!

Your Youth Action Team

My YAT

My name is Rory Wilding, age 20 and a volunteer whose been a part of Vinvolved early this year.

As someone who had been jobsearching for nearly a year, I did seem a bit lost, thus I went for an appointment with Connexions. Since they knew I was looking for experience, they suggested to be a part of Vinvolved, an organisation I knew nothing about.

When I visit Vinvolved's quarters at Wigan, which was originally the Age Concern building, the information that was given to me about the organisation was an interest to me, so I became involved in Vinvolved. As part of the Youth Action Team, the meetings we conducted were about activities we can plan to do in the future, while we try and bring a sense of fun into them.

Aside from these meetings, these are a number of voluntary workplaces that Vinvolved advertise and this is where I heard about the Wigan & Leigh Hospice Charity shop based at Mesnes Street, Wigan. Originally started as a work placement, working there was a bout gaining retail experience as I have always wanted to work at a retail store and this was a great way of preparing for a job like this in the future, such as working behind the till and shelf filling. Despite the conclusion of my work placement, I still voluntary work there for two reasons:-

I like working in the store, along with the other volunteers. It is a way of keeping myself occupied, since I don't want to stay home watching all films, which is something I'm very good at.

So why do I do this and what success do I get out of it? The main reason is not about money, but my skills and knowledge within this will be a help for future career plans, as well as gaining more experience than I thought.

If you're interested in joining the Youth Action Team get in touch - WE NEED YOUR SKILLS!

We need you! Feature in a DVD

Are you currently volunteering in your local community?

Do you feel that volunteering is a good thing to do?

What are the benefits for you and others?

We want to hear from you!

Not only are we always on the look out for Good News Stories for our newsletter, but we are searching across Wigan and Leigh to find some fantastic examples of young people like you volunteering to feature in a DVD!

Our Youth Action Team are creating a DVD celebrating all the hard work young people are doing out there and these will be handed out to lots of people to recognise your achievements and recruit more volunteers.

So contact us at [vinvolved](mailto:vinvolved@cvswl.org) to star in your own short film!

01942 686242

vinvolved@cvswl.org

07593544223





Want to get involved?

If you are interested in getting involved in volunteering, want to have your say or wish to get let us know what you think about the newsletter, then contact Pauline or Emma from the Vinvolved team (details below).

All your ideas and opinions are welcome.

CVS involved team

Wigan and Leigh CVS
93 Church Street
Leigh
WN7 1AZ

Phone: 01942 686234

Text : 07593 544223

email involved@cvswl.org



www.cvswl.org/involved

Vinspired Awards - Expanding opportunities to get involved

Introduction

v is committed to encouraging young people to undertake volunteering and community action activities and giving them the recognition they deserve.

With almost 1 million young people unemployed and in an increasingly competitive job market, young people need our support to find ways to develop their skills and self-confidence. v has therefore begun to consider the ways in which our experience of developing volunteering and community action programmes can be expanded to enhance young people's skills and employability.

The vinspired award scheme provides a fantastic opportunity to enable young people to gain recognition for the personal, social and work-based skills they have developed whilst volunteering.

v is now expanding the vinspired awards scheme to include wider community action activities.

What is community action?

Community action is any kind of activity which benefits an individual, group or the environment and draws on two key areas of activity:

- ◆ **learning through action**, this could include any action that may take place during school curriculum time, which may benefit the school or wider community.
- ◆ **volunteering**, which is any activity that involves spending time, unpaid, doing something that aims to benefit the community (individuals or groups) or the environment.

How is the vinspired award scheme changing?

There are now three key changes to the vinspired awards:

v has decided to expand the current scheme to recognise **all community action** activities including **learning through action** (as described above) **as well as volunteering**.

Young people aged **14 and 15** can now access the vinspired awards (**but only through the vschools programme**).

Young people **no longer** have to complete either of the awards within a **12 month period**, allowing young people to complete the awards at a pace that suits them.

For more information on how you can get involved in the vinspired awards and earn recognition for the volunteering or community action you are involved in, contact Pauline at Vinvolved Wigan & Leigh on 01942 686234, or [email pmckittrick@cvswl.org](mailto:pmckittrick@cvswl.org)



Opportunities just in.....

KIDZ OFF STREETZ

Volunteer Play Workers required to support our activities for young people and children.

We have several roles for you and you may be asked to fill any one at a session:

- ◆ Welcome Staff Member - meets and greets children and parents.
- ◆ Activity Leader - organises activities for the children.
- ◆ Fire Safety Officer works with the proprietor on safety issues.
- ◆ New members supervisor.
- ◆ Teenz Team Supervisor liaises with the 3 teen teams.

This is an ideal opportunity if you want to work with children or young people.

Volunteering Opportunity with Salford Foundation:

Mentor for female offenders

To act as a sounding board for clients sometimes with complex issues, to offer practical help with transport and applications, to accompany clients to relevant appointments.

This could be useful if you are looking for work in probation, support work or other people centred occupations.

Formal programme of training provided (1.5 days) pre-requisite to starting volunteering. Ongoing support available from Keyworker and other staff and At regular volunteer meetings.

For more information contact Pauline at Vinvolved Wigan & Leigh
Tel. 01942 686234 or
email pmckittrick@cvswl.org

Warm and friendly?
Empathetic and outgoing?
Flexible and helpful?

If any of the above describe you, here's a chance to put your brilliant personal qualities into action.

Help blind and partially sighted participants get the best out of the RNIB member forum events by providing a friendly, welcoming and comfortable place to meet and share experiences. Our lively team of event assistants has a space just for you!

Volunteers with RNIB benefit from a welcome pack and induction to RNIB, ongoing training and support, out of pocket expenses covered and training on Understanding sight-loss.

Call Vinvolved Wigan & Leigh for more information on 01942 686234.

The Disability Advice and Signposting Service at Paveways Plus in Wigan require a volunteer to assist with the efficient organisation of the office, answering the telephone, taking and recording messages and to undertake additional responsibilities as requested by the Service Manager.

Good organisational skills, able to manage work load and to prioritise activities are required and it would be desirable to have some experience of working with people with disabilities or an understanding of disability issues.

Again, contact Pauline at Vinvolved Wigan & Leigh to find out more.