

Poole CVS News

July 2013

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...and finally

Like our readers, Poole CVS is always

developing new projects, and it is particularly pleasing when one goes well right from the start. Carrie Smith has been working with colleagues from Poole Housing Partnership, the Borough of Poole and Bourne Valley Action Group to launch a Jobs Hub for the residents of the Bourne Estate and the surrounding areas. The aim is to help people who are looking for work, particularly those who have been unemployed for some while, to become job ready.



The Hub is based at Rossmore Library and is a great example of how partnership working can develop a quality project quickly. Since its launch in April, the Hub has helped 146 people with all sorts of issues including: preparing a CV, identifying job opportunities and preparing for interviews. Feedback from users has been very positive and two people have already found employment.

We are also launching another new project: the Poole Well-being Collaborative with six other partners and the support of the Borough of Poole. Please see page 2. This is an exciting project about which we will be updating Poole CVS news readers regularly.

I would like to sign off with what appears to be a negative issue, but a crucial one: fraud. According to the National Fraud Authority almost one in 10 charities with incomes of £100,000+ reported being victims of fraud in the financial year to March 2012, with a total cost of £147.3 million. All sectors have problems with fraud and this is a good prompt to review procedures we use to manage our finances. One of the many things I value about our sector is the high level of trust within organisations; however this can also lead to problems. For example, a lot of readers may have experienced situations when blank cheques are signed because one of the signatories is going on holiday. It is in situations like this that we can open ourselves up to fraud, however well intentioned we are trying to be. If you would like information about how to go about reviewing your procedures please contact sam.wilcox@poolecv.org.uk.

Christopher Beale, CEO, Poole CVS



Community



Poole Well-being Collaborative

The Poole Well-being Collaborative is a new company, incorporated in March 2013, and is the result of an initiative between the Borough of Poole and seven local charities.

The company is dedicated to developing two new services to benefit the community: an **information network** and a **network of community projects**. The Council has committed to funding the project for two years, after which time the aim is for it to become self-supporting.

The participating voluntary organisations in the Poole Well-being Collaborative are: Autism Wessex - Diverse Abilities Plus - Dorset Advocacy - Faithworks Wessex - Help and Care - Poole CVS – Prama. In order to fulfil their remit, the Collaborative has just appointed three resource workers and a project co-ordinator.

The **community projects** will involve the resource workers working with adults with additional needs and/or emerging or existing groups to develop new activities and support services. Sometimes this will involve supporting existing projects to grow. If you have an idea for a new project or want some help in building on your good work, please contact Chris Beale here at Poole CVS. We want to help projects with such issues as finding volunteers, gaining support from the private sector, working with other partners or finding funding.

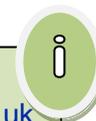
Projects could cover just about anything as long as there are benefits to adults e.g. lunch clubs, bereavement support, exercise groups. We want to tackle local need and support your ideas. A key aim is to build on local assets and resources to ensure that the projects are rooted in their local communities and are sustainable.

We also aim to develop **networks of organisations/individuals providing information** to adults in various localities across Poole. The focus will be on identifying:

- Local people and assets who can help in distributing information e.g. community groups, venues and private sector organisations.
- How local partners can work with each other in providing information e.g. a local housing officer can assist the GP's surgeries in sharing health alerts.

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Quotation:

Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.
attributed to Henry Ford

Transforming Rehabilitation

Radical reforms to the way criminals are rehabilitated will mean every offender leaving prison must serve a minimum of [12 months under supervision](#) in the community. This is the most significant change to short custodial sentences in a decade. The new approach will see a far greater role for private and voluntary sector organisations, which will be paid by results to help reduce reoffending, thus driving innovation and efficiency through the criminal justice system.

Poole CVS is working with [Dorset Probation Trust](#) to support the recruitment and coordination of a cohort of up to 15 specially-trained criminal justice volunteers to support the work of the Trust. Opportunities will range from supporting groups of offenders on a week-long personal development programme to one-to-one work in the community.

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Voluntary Sector – preparing for the future

The voluntary sector, like any other sector, needs a skilled workforce in order to thrive and provide quality services, particularly in the face of rising demands about what it can and should deliver.

The new [UK Voluntary Sector Workforce Almanac 2013](#) provides information about how the sector's workforce has changed over the past ten years, as well as charting the levels of skills and training across the sector.

For the last eight months, Dame Mary Marsh has been leading a working group of individuals from across the social sector and beyond to identify [the critical skills and leadership needs](#) in the sector. This has resulted in [The Skills Platform](#), a **new website that will be launched in the autumn**. It is designed to be a resource where you can:

- swap and share skills, expertise and resources with other organisations in the sector.
- collaborate on projects to improve key skills.
- compare quality and relevance of free learning development opportunities as well as paid-for services.

A few voluntary sector facts

- 72%** - educated to A level or higher
- 38%** - educated to degree level or above
- 51%** - organisations unable to afford to upskill staff
- 60%** - staff employed in health and social care
- 62%** - staff on fixed-term contracts
- 1.3 million** – the estimated number of full-time workers required to replace the work of those who volunteer at least once a month (2010/11, NCVO)

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Community First

[Community First](#), the government-funded initiative that is now entering its third year and will run until March 2015, provides grants to encourage people in Poole Town Ward to come together and give their time and expertise to local projects that will make their area a better place to live.

The decision on where to allocate funding is made locally by a panel of representatives currently made up of community development workers, a church representative, the Asda community champion ward councillors and Poole CVS.

Grants recently allocated include a newly-formed parent and toddler group [AJ's Funtime](#), the [Community Café No 34](#) in the High Street and *Szkrab*, a Polish parent and toddler group that, due to the initiative of three local mums, has created a Polish language children's library to encourage their children, who will read, write and speak English the majority of the time, to learn Polish and



to value their heritage.



This year the panel is making efforts to engage with those living in Sterte as it was recognised that little was known about the lives of residents in that area. One of the priorities will be to understand the assets that currently exist within that community – people, buildings, open spaces, organisations etc. – and then to develop and encourage networks that encourage the community to come together.

The following booklet, [Creativity in Community-led Planning in Dorset](#) provides a wealth of information on the topics of

how and why to tap into the creative skills in **your community** for **your community-led plan**.

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Charity Twinning

New!

Are you a small and struggling charity? Could you do with some help and encouragement?

According to [Charity Choice](#), the **top 6%** of UK charities receive **nearly 90%** of all charitable income. In June, they launched a new scheme, [Charity Twinning](#) which is all about giving small charities the opportunity to learn from larger charities, and large charities the chance to get back to basics and experience working at a grassroots level again.

Already, the Alzheimer's Society and Macmillan Cancer Support have signed up to this.

charitytwinning@charitychoice.co.uk



Governance

Gift Aid

To claim Gift Aid, **charities must now register with Charities Online.**

Are you ready?

Have you tried claiming online yet?

How easy is it?

Find out all you need to know on the [HMRC website](#).

For those without internet access at home, a new paper repayment claim form, called a ChR1, will replace all existing R68 claim forms. These can be ordered from the HMRC Charities [Helpline](#). Tel: 0845 302 0203

Cash donations of £20 or less may be eligible for top-up payments from HMRC, under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS).

Find out more [here](#).

Good governance

Are you an organisation with a **small annual income and no paid staff**? If so:

- Are you aware of the six key principles of good governance for your organisation?
- Do you understand the important legal requirements?

Download the NCVO guide to [Good Governance](#)– written by the sector, for the sector, with this particular version **written specifically for organisations like yours**.

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Disclosure and Barring Update Service

The Disclosure and Barring Update Service (DBS) which replaces CRB checks, was launched on 17 June 2013 and allows applicants to keep their [DBS](#) certificates up to date online, as well as allowing employers to check a certificate online. Read the guides for both [applicants and employers](#) here

Recent publications

[Charity Finance Group](#) has recently launched some publications that should make interesting reading, including:

- [Protecting data, protecting people: A guide for charities](#): a good practice guide for charities on data protection. The guide provides an account of variations in the way the sector operates and explains what data protection means in the charity context.
- [Making it count](#): a report that takes a wide-reaching look at the issues small charities face with financial management.

Health

Changes in Public Health - a personal view

The following article has been contributed by Lindley Owen, recently retired from his post as consultant in public health:

Last April, the public health service in England returned to local authority control¹. In doing so the service returns to its nineteenth century origins, in response to appalling death and illness in rapidly expanding Victorian slums. Public health rejoins local government at a time of unprecedented cuts, which collectively threaten to recreate those very conditions which the public health service has done so much to eradicate. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1989, a few oligarchs became extremely wealthy, but the population as a whole suffered a catastrophic decline in health. Extremes of wealth and poverty are bad for everyone². Bacteria and viruses are no respecters of wealth or status, and a society in which some lack decent accommodation and sufficient food is a breeding ground for infection which threatens all. People denied work and ineligible for benefits will, if sufficiently desperate, turn to crime and prostitution.

In such circumstances, the voluntary sector is needed more than ever, because at its best it provides daily, unsung, practical support for those who fall through the welfare safety net. Paradoxically, because the voluntary sector has itself become more reliant on state funding, and donations from individuals during times of plenty, it is forced to retrench just when it is most needed. It was from just such a crisis during the last great depression, that a patchwork of voluntary and local government-run hospitals was combined into what became the NHS.

The voluntary sector's greatest strength is in identifying the gaps where an efficient and caring state should marshal its efforts. These gaps are opening up in the NHS, with A&E departments struggling to cope, while the rising needs of an ageing population collide with frozen budgets. New legislation has enabled commercial and the voluntary sector to bid to run formerly NHS services. While this may drive innovation, there is a major risk. Market-driven health care is seen at its most developed in the USA, where its huge costs bankrupt businesses and families, while excluding many from care altogether. If we follow this example in this country, there will be many more such gaps for the voluntary sector to deal with.

*Lindley Owen FFPH
May 2013*

¹*This is a simplification. Some elements of public health, especially health protection, have become part of a new national body, [Public Health England](#).*

²*as Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett spell out in their 2009 book, [The Spirit Level](#)*

Heatwave Plan for England 2013

It may have taken a long time for us to see and feel the sunshine this year and as such, we may feel that we don't get enough. However, too much heat can cause as many problems as too little. To address this problem, Public Health England has produced a Heatwave Plan for England 2013. This document can be found [here](#). Other supporting documents included on the website are:

- The impact of heat on health
- Advice for Health and Social Care Professionals: *supporting vulnerable people before and during a heatwave*
- Advice for Care Home Managers: *supporting vulnerable people before and during a heatwave*
- Looking after yourself and others in hot weather.

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Health and Well-being

On the Borough of Poole's [Bournemouth and Poole Health and Well-being Board](#) page, you will find a copy of their health and well-being strategy for 2012-16. The strategy reflects contributions from many voluntary organisations. In fact one of its key principles is the recognition of the enormous contribution that the local community makes to health and well-being. The aim of the strategy is to focus on three themes to improve local health and well-being:

- Reducing inequalities
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and preventing ill health
- Working together to deliver early intervention, high quality care and better value

Its implementation will be overseen by the new Health and Well-being Board on which Bournemouth CVS and Poole CVS represent the voluntary sector. There are lots of good reasons to read the strategy, including that it contains:

- A summary of the joint strategic needs assessment which, as the name suggests, highlights key local need and which can also inform the planning of your organisation's work and your funding applications.
- A good glossary helping to explain some of key local and national initiatives which contribute to the plan.

The two CVSs will be focussing on developing preventative services as part of our role on the board; the local voluntary sector will have a crucial role to play in this.

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Families with Futures

Families with Futures, a step change project of Poole Partnership, is now in its second year and is making good progress, with over 80 families attached to the project. (For more information, please see page 11 of [winter 2012 issue of PCVS News](#)) Several new posts were created in order to enhance the service, including two family-intensive school home workers, a parenting worker, an adult health worker and an analyst. Seven families have been supported to make positive changes to date and as a result, young people are in education or training and anti-social behaviour has reduced.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Troubled Families Team recently came to Poole to meet with project leads and staff, and were impressed with the progress to date. The project in Poole draws on best practice and national research, but fundamentally it is built on a wide evidence base of 'what works', based on feedback from families in Poole.

As a result, we have built on, and improved, a holistic family-centred approach that supports families to address their own problems, rather than having unsustainable solutions imposed upon them.

Feedback from families has been really positive and will be captured more formally in an evaluation process in due course.

Vikki Howe
Families with Futures Strategic Analyst

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The [Women's Health and Equality Consortium](#) (WHEC) has recently launched a new report 'Better Health for Women: how to incorporate women's health needs into Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies'

Poole CVS News

Do you rely on having Poole CVS News forwarded to you?

Join our [mailing list](#) to receive it direct.

The next newsletter is due in September. Please send any articles for inclusion in the newsletter to evelyn.price@poolecvs.org.uk, making sure to include the word NEWSLETTER in your email heading.

IT

With ever-decreasing income for many small charities, one way to raise awareness of your cause, and to gain new supporters, without feeling the pinch, could be to make more use of social media – also called **new media** or **web 2**.

Don't be put off by terminology. Basically, by accessing the internet via a desktop computer or a mobile phone, it is a quick and easy way to provide and exchange up-to-date information with members/supporters, as well as being a medium for sharing concerns and receiving feedback.



It is important to recognise that using social media may work better for some organisations than for others. The NCVO has produced [an in-depth look at social media](#) where there is a lot of useful information on social networks, podcasting, blogs, RSS, newsfeeds and more – all explained in an easy-to-understand manner.

Like all organisations, Poole CVS needs to consider whether or not using social media might be a useful tool to help provide members with information more quickly, particularly as, at the present time, information seems to change so quickly.

In order to help us consider our future communications strategy, **please take time to complete this short [Social Media Survey](#)** for us. Thank you.

Phone apps for health

The NHS Commissioning Board has launched a [library of phone apps](#) to help people manage their health. Currently they have reviewed over 70 apps, produced by a number of organisations, to ensure that they are clinically safe and can be trusted. Learn about your risk of developing diabetes or how to deal with a panic attack – it's all there!



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Learn online

Ask questions and share experiences on the forums of the excellent [KnowHowNonProfit](#) website. It provides a wealth of important information on governance, leadership and managing change, plus how to ensure that you and your organisation are communicating effectively and making the most of media exposure opportunities.

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Profile

Sue Hudson

Sue Hudson is a lady with over 20 years' experience of working with adults with severe learning disabilities.

When one of Sue's managers asked her to find out what facilities were available in the community for individuals with high needs, and she had great difficulty in finding any, Sue decided to do something about it herself.

Last year, with help and support from Poole CVS, she set up a community group, [Bee Yourself](#) to help reduce the social isolation of those who had been moved from residential



care back into their own homes. Sue recognised that many would have difficulty in coping and, assisted by volunteers and carers, she organises singing, dancing and ball games as well as craft and sensory activities for those who attend.

When Bee Yourself first started, Sue had eight members plus four volunteers to help her. News of her work spread by word of mouth, and now she has 15 members attending the group which meets every Wednesday morning behind the

Gateway Church in Parkstone. Unfortunately, although the group has become increasingly popular, Sue now only has the equivalent of three and a half volunteers as one has left and one attends part-time.

Sue would be delighted to hear from anyone willing to help.

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Your News

Dorset Blind Association

Dorset Blind Association was successful in recently securing a vital £16,000 grant from the Lloyds TSB Foundation.

The grant will help fund the post of co-ordinator for the charity's Home Support Service in Poole. This provides direct community support for people with sight loss, and aims to help them maintain independent and socially-active lives as far as their sight loss will permit. It is estimated that around 250 visually-impaired residents will benefit.

Carol Jenkins, the co-ordinator for the service who has worked for the charity for six years, said that as well as giving direct support, she also encourages peer support, mentoring and buddying plus the setting up of small, local, meeting groups.

Jonathan Holyhead, CEO, said that the grant will safeguard the community support service in Poole for the next two years.

Jonathan Holyhead, CEO
01202 712861

Dorset Action on Abuse

Dr Moira Walker, chair and founder of DAA, died earlier this year after a long illness. She was an inspiration to all those involved in the organisation which continues to bring much-needed counselling and support to survivors of childhood abuse in Dorset.

In her book, **Questions of Abuse**, published in 2003, Moira stated: *Somehow, we have to turn ourselves into a society that takes a wider responsibility for the well-being of children. They are our future, and to ensure this, they must be the responsibility of a larger community. Whilst services for the protection of children need to be scrutinized and need to be adequately resourced, the buck does not stop there. Children live in our streets, go to our schools, and are our neighbours and part of our community. **Turning a blind eye, seeing them as only the responsibility of designated others, is dangerous.***

A report detailing the signs of child sexual exploitation can be found on the website of the Children's Commissioner, Dr Maggie Atkinson. See page 51.

[Child Sexual Exploitation Inquiry interim report - I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world](#)

One of the more recent reports [Always Someone Else's Problem](#) looks at illegal exclusions from school.

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Space Youth Project



[Space Youth Project](#) is excitedly preparing for the festivities that [Bourne Free](#) will bring on Saturday 13th July. A colourful day is guaranteed. The young people are joining the parade and then will be congregating in Bournemouth Gardens for a glorious afternoon of bandstand entertainment, information, fun, food and ice cream. It's a grand family day out, says Helen, and it's FREE.

Helen Walsh
07973 405280



Reconnect

[Reconnect](#), part of Poole Missional Communities, is now hosting a **fortnightly film club** at Hamworthy Library. The club aims to offer a friendly and relaxed environment to watch some great films and in the process meet new people. People are welcome to bring their own refreshments. Tickets are a very reasonable £3.

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.....and finally,

- The [Charity Commission](#) has revamped its website to make it easier to find the information that you need.
- The NCVO has produced an interesting, quick guide to [Thanking Volunteers](#) which includes information on the psychology of saying thank you as well as how and when to say it.
- Don't forget to check the Dorset Health and Well-being Board's [website](#) regularly in order to access up-to-date information.
- Can the voluntary sector transform public services to be more responsive to people's need? Read case studies in [Open Public Services: experiences from the voluntary sector.](#)
- Do you understand your rights and the power that local communities have been given under the Localism Act? Read all about community asset transfer and your right to challenge [here](#).
- Read a two-minute guide to the government's [Spending Review 2013](#) and what it means for charities.

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Loan of Equipment

Don't forget that we can loan you the following equipment:

- ✓ Flip chart stand
- ✓ Laptop
- ✓ LCD projector
- ✓ Projector screen
- ✓ Display boards

Contact Poole CVS

While every effort has been made to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct, Poole CVS cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that may occur. Nor can it endorse any goods or services mentioned herein.