



COMMUNITY SECTOR NEWS

AMBER VALLEY CVS EXISTS TO DEVELOP AND BE PART OF A VIBRANT VOLUNTARY SECTOR SPRING 2011

CVS Welcomes Fair Financial Services for Amber Valley

Amber Valley CVS, Erewash Credit Union and Amber Valley Housing Limited have joined forces to bring Credit Union financial services to Amber Valley.

'worrying about money affects people's health'

'Worrying about money not only affects the quality of people's lives but their health and wellbeing as well,' said the Chief Executive of Amber Valley CVS, Lynn Allison. 'Credit Unions are not only great places for everyone to save money they are also a place to get affordable loans as well.'

'save your money and get small affordable loans'

Erewash Credit Union is a co-operative run for members by members. Anyone living or working in Amber Valley or Erewash can become a member of the Credit Union. It costs just £2 to join. Operating entirely for the benefit of its members, authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority and a member of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme means your savings are safe.

Weekly repayments Erewash Credit Union (Amber Valley)			
Loan Amount	Repayment	Amount Repayable	Interest Charged
£250	£5.42	£281.76	£31.76
£500	£10.84	£563.53	£63.53
£700	£15.18	£788.91	£81.91

The Development Officer Marietta Farnsworth told us, 'We promote savings and provide small affordable loans at reasonable rates. We don't turn people away if they have a poor credit history, earn low wages or are on welfare benefits.'

The general savers account is an easy and safe way to save by cash, cheque, Standing Order or by paying in a benefit such as Child Benefit, JSA, Income Support or a pension. There is an annual dividend paid into these accounts which has been 2% for the past four years. The dividend is a bit like interest on your savings, a sort of 'thank you' for saving with us.

'thank you for saving with us'

The cash ISA (Individual Savings Account) is for longer term saving for those with some money to put by. It is tax free and the current interest rate is 2.75% which will be reviewed at the Erewash Credit Union AGM in early 2011.

'volunteers are a key resource'

Volunteers are a key resource and largely responsible for Erewash Credit Union's success. If you have three hours a week to spare and you are interested in the community in which you live we would love to hear from you. Please contact Marietta on 0794 119 0376.

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CIRCULATION LIST

(Please tick)

CHAIR	[]
MANAGER	[]
TREASURER	[]
SECRETARY	[]
.....	[]
.....	[]
.....	[]

FUNDING

Funding success for Amber Valley groups



Angela

Congratulations to Amber Valley voluntary and community groups on your successful funding applications throughout last year.



Name of Group	Funding Body	Amount	Project Awarded
Blue Skyz	Ashby Fund	£1,000.00	Towards a therapy room for children
Marlpool Luncheon Club	Ashby Fund	£1,000.00	Towards running costs
Marlpool Luncheon Club	AVCVS Small Grants	£250.00	Contribution to start up costs
Moorwood Moor Angling Club	DCF	£300.00	Towards a strimmer
Waingroves Show	Grassroots	£625.00	Towards staging and radios
Codnor Scouts	Grassroots	£2,692.00	For refurbishment
Crich Neighbourhood Care Scheme	Grassroots	£500.00	Transport cost to get to luncheon club
Belper Hockey Boys Club	John Weston	£562.00	For pitch hire
Hearing Help	John Weston	£750.00	Towards redecoration
Hearing Help	CRT	£2,570.00	For outreach services
Arrowetts	John Weston	£1,000.00	Towards insurance & venue costs
Arrowetts	CRT	£4,999.00	Towards equipment
Arrowetts	AVCVS Small Grants	£140.00	Towards training cost
Heanor Swimming Club	AVCVS Small Grants	£250.00	Support for 2 coaches training
South Wingfield Youth Group	AVCVS Small Grants	£250.00	Towards arts and crafts
Ripley Amateur Boxing Club	AVCVS Small Grants	£250.00	For room hire
Swanwick Pentrich Road Football Club	AVCVS Small Grants	£250.00	Towards a new hot water tank
Aldercar Lane Community Fishing Club	AVCVS Small Grants	£250.00	Towards equipment
Alfreton Treble Clef Girls Choir	AVCVS Small Grants	£250.00	Towards a new keyboard
The Autumn Club	AVCVS Small Grants	£250.00	Towards transport and running costs
Greenhillocks	AVH Ltd	£630.00	Towards outing
AV Homestart	AVH Ltd	£595.00	Towards training costs
Belper Drop In	AVH Ltd	£1,600.00	Towards running costs

FUNDING

Derbyshire Community Foundation Funding Surgery



Derbyshire Community Foundation will be holding their annual funding surgery for Amber Valley on:

Thursday 7th April 2011 from 1.30pm at Amber Valley CVS, Market Place, Ripley.

This annual event gives you the opportunity to discuss your funding requirements with one of the Foundation's grants team, in an informal half hour one to one session that is tailored to meet your needs.

These sessions can cover discussion of projects and which of the funds administered by the Foundation is suited to your project, help with developing applications you are currently working on, hints and tips for applying for funding in general.

There are ten half hour slots available throughout the day - five sessions between 1.30pm and 3.30pm followed by a further five sessions between 4.30pm and 6.30pm.

To book an appointment please contact Lindsay Sowter on 01773 514856 as soon as possible as places are limited.

If you know of any other community group you think could benefit from meeting with us please pass the details on. Surgeries are also being held in other areas of the County:

Area	Details
Amber Valley CVS - Ripley	April 7
High Peak	TBC
Derbyshire Dales - Ashbourne	March 7
Derbyshire Dales - Bakewell	TBC
Erewash	March 22
Bolsover	April 18
Chesterfield	April 27
Derby City	TBC
South Derbyshire	March 15

If demand is high we may consider holding additional sessions so if you are unable to make the dates set please contact us for more information.

Amber Valley CVS give Local Charity a Donation



Amber Valley CVS staff had a Christmas collection instead of giving and receiving Christmas cards and presents.

They decided to donate the funds raised to a local charity. The staff of Amber Valley CVS voted to donate the money to Hearing Help.

Pictured is John O'Brien from Hearing Help receiving the donation.

Left to right: Tanya Nolan (Derbyshire LINK), John O'Brien (Hearing Help), Vicki Harding (Amber Valley CVS) and Angela Quinn (Amber Valley CVS)

TRAINING

Training Opportunities

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults - March 1st & 2nd 2011 – 9.30am to 12.30pm at AVCVS - This training is £10 for members of AVCVS and £15 for non members.



Does your group have or work with vulnerable adults? These 2 sessions will give you all the relevant information you need to know. They will provide information on Derbyshire's Multi-agency definition of vulnerable adults and the categories of abuse covered within Derbyshire's agreed policies and procedures. Both sessions must be attended.

Feedback from previous courses include:

- 'Very friendly, all explained, always able to ask questions'
- 'Feel more competent to be aware of any vulnerable adult issues that may occur with members of the lunch club'



Report Writing – March 7th 2011 – 9.30am to 12.30pm at AVCVS. - Delivered by Derbyshire Learning and Development Consortium - this course is **FREE**. (*The Consortium does charge £35.00 for non attendance if they are not notified before the event*)

Reports play an essential role in many voluntary and community sector programmes. They need to be read, understood, and often acted upon. This workshop will offer an introduction to key principles of report writing, techniques for writing short, succinct reports and ideas for structuring reports.

If you write any type of report - then this is the course for you!

Introduction to Presentation Skills – March 8th 2011 – 1pm to 4pm at AVCVS. - This training is £10 for members of AVCVS and £15 for non members.



This session will help you to understand what makes a good or bad presentation, understand the elements that go into making a successful presentation and then plan, create and deliver a short presentation.

Feedback from previous course includes:

- 'Better understanding of the preparation needed. Good introduction to presentation skills, good pace, good handouts.'
- 'Made to feel comfortable'
- 'Excellent'

If you would like to book on any of the above training sessions please contact Jo Glossop on 01773 512076 or email joglossop@avcvs.org. Please feel free to contact us if you wish to discuss any details of the AVCVS training programme e.g. costs, venues, times etc.

TRAINING

Training Opportunities



Time Management – March 15th 2011 - 9.30am to 12.30pm at AVCVS. This training is £40 for members of AVCVS and £45 for non members.

This session will look at why we need to manage time, different ways and methods of managing time, how we recognise time stealers and ways of dealing with interruptions. You will go away with some strategies for managing time effectively.

Feedback from previous courses include:

- 'Will make me more focussed and confirm my effectiveness'
- 'Will make clear whether expectations can actually be met regarding volumes of work.'
- 'Bring a fresh perspective to time and its management.'
- 'Nice cosy number – made it good'

Benefits of Volunteering – March 16th 2011 – 1pm to 3pm at AVCVS. This session is FREE.

This course is for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer and will look at the wide range of benefits you can gain from a volunteering role. It will also look at how volunteering might affect any benefits you claim.



Interview Skills – March 21st 2011 – 1pm to 4pm at AVCVS. This training is £10 for members of AVCVS and £15 for non members.

Do you interview people as part of your role? This session can increase your skills in getting the best out of people in interview situations.

Book Keeping – March 23rd 2011 – 9.30am to 12.30pm at AVCVS. This training is FREE and is provided by Derby Community Accountancy Service.

A look at manual book-keeping systems for all organisations and an opportunity for treasurers or those thinking of taking on the role to review, update and simplify their existing systems. It is appropriate for treasurers or book keepers of all sizes of voluntary groups.



Feedback from previous course includes:

- 'This course was very interesting & informative. The tutor took account of the different ways each group did their accounts and did not try to enforce the use of one system'
- 'Very informative, very easy to understand, very helpful tutor. Thank you.'
- 'I enjoyed the course. I found it alleviated some of the fears of handling other people's money and it gave good examples of basic book keeping.'

If you would like to book on any of the above training sessions please contact Jo Glossop on 01773 512076 or email joglossop@avcvs.org

MEMBER NEWS

Marlpool Lunch Club



The Marlpool Lunch Club was set up in September 2010 by retired Occupational Therapist and church member Ann Waddingham.

“I realised that there was no specific groups for the elderly of our church or the community so I took it upon myself with the support of valuable volunteers to set up the Marlpool Lunch Club”.

The Lunch Club meets every Wednesday at the MURC Community Room, Chapel St from 12:15pm to 2.30pm. Three quarters of its members belong to the church but the club is open to both males and females from the community who are over the age of 60. Members are invited to attend every week or occasionally at a cost of £4. The menu changes weekly and all diets are catered for. The food is prepared by a professional chef and after lunch they have various activities such as a speaker.

“We have on average about 18 members but we still have places available and would welcome more members. The Lunch Club relies on 9 dedicated volunteers; Marlene Harrison volunteers as a Kitchen Assistant, along with Clarice who is 83 and volunteers as a one off when we are short. Val is the chair of the group, she picks up the members from their homes and brings them to the lunch and liaises with the church on our behalf”.



Amber Valley CVS supported Ann with the process of starting up the Marlpool Lunch Club and from their small grant allowance awarded £250 to help with their start up costs.

Angela Quinn, Community Development Manager was able to advise Ann on local grants that could also help; subsequently the Marlpool Lunch Club was awarded £1,000 from the Derbyshire Community Foundation and £109 from Derbyshire County Council.

“Without the help of Angela and Amber Valley CVS, it would have been much more difficult to get started. We have been able to provide Health and Safety training and get a suitable amount of goods in for our storage cupboard”.

Mina Fairley and Doreen Riley, both aged 85, are members of the Lunch Club and say “We love coming here; it is a great opportunity to catch up with friends and something to look forward to each week. We are extremely grateful to Ann and the volunteers who provide this club”.



For more information on the Marlpool Lunch Club please call Ann on 01773 535482.

GOOD NEWS

Skip hire company J.B England & Son Ltd support local charity



L-R, Collette Watson, Jamie Howe, Scott England, Colette England and John Brooks

Family run skip hire company, J.B England & Son Ltd, based on Meadow Lane Industrial Park in Alfreton have supported a local family in need, by generously supplying a skip free of charge.

J.B England & Son Ltd is run by local man Scott England and his wife Colette, who is the Office Manager. They employ a staff of four and cover most of Derbyshire with around 110 skips available six days a week. Along with skip hire they also sell pre packed fuel, logs, sticks, Calor Gas etc.

Collette Watson, SOS Development Worker for Amber Valley CVS, works with families in

Amber Valley and provides a support and signposting service. Collette, along with Social Services, have been involved with the care of a local family who were struggling to keep their home clear of items, which were becoming a hazard to the children. Collette discussed the best plan of action for the family and it was agreed that a skip should be used to clear the house.

Collette said "I looked through the yellow pages and came across J.B England & Son. I contacted them and spoke to Colette and explained the situation. Colette was fabulous, she did not hesitate and organised the free use of the skip straight away for the family. Amber Valley CVS are so grateful for the support of this local company to a family in need".

Scott and Colette England said "J.B England & Son Ltd like to support the local community where we can. We felt that supporting this family was a great opportunity especially if it made the children's life easier".

For more information on the SOS Service that is provided by registered charity Amber Valley CVS, the Centre for Voluntary Services, please call 01773 512076 or visit www.ambervalleycvs.org.uk

Congratulations



Elaine

Congratulations to Elaine Broadhurst and Jayne Purdy for the successful completion of their NVQ's.

Elaine completed her Business Administration NVQ Level 2 in December 2010.

Jayne completed her Business Administration NVQ Level 2 in December 2010.



Jayne

VOLUNTEERING

Update from Elaine Broadhurst

Another New Year and time to reflect on the successes of last year

301 Placings!!!

Figures for October to December 2010

Placings: 25, Out of area: 31, Home from Hospital: 5, Befriending: 3,

Christmas Campaign: 10

Total: 74



These included opportunities in Administration, Community meetings, Domestic Violence, Environment, Dog walking, Family Support, Care home visitors, Local events, Driving, Retail, Trustees and Mum and Toddler group help.



For further information please contact Elaine Broadhurst on 01773 512076.

Highlighting New Opportunities

Consultation Buddy for Belper Toy library

To help shape its future development including; where, when & how it should operate, who it should serve, consideration to alternative locations for venues and storage & services it provides.....

Main Tasks include:

- To help formulate Survey Monkey online questionnaire (Requires ICT skills).
- To help produce & distribute paper version of questionnaire in and around Belper.
- Take out Paper Questionnaire to identified settings/ groups in Belper & support parents and carers to complete questionnaire face to face at venues such as Children's Centres, supermarkets, farmers market, library, G.P surgeries etc.
- Help collate info from questionnaires and present findings to Belper Toy Library committee, members and other interested parties.
- Marketing associated with consultation within local Media, Facebook, local newsletters, forums etc.

VOLUNTEERING

Highlighting New Opportunities

Credit Union in Amber Valley

Credit Union volunteers offer financial information and support. No experience is required as full training will be given. Collect and record small amounts of money at Ripley CVS, complete loan application forms and signpost to advice organisations.



No previous qualifications required as full training given. People with experience of the financial sector are of course very welcome.



Fab fun play - Amber Valley Village Games

To assist with a short play and physical activity session for children aged 3 + and their parents. To encourage parents to join in.

To engage with a range of abilities and to develop the core fundamentals each week. You will be helping a fully qualified coach and given opportunities to help set up activities.

There will be the opportunity to gain qualifications and lead sessions after the initial 6 weeks.

Cricket Club Schools Co-ordinator

The club is looking for a diverse and confident individual that is able to aid our community cricket club. We require a schools co-ordinator to create and develop successful school club links with local junior and senior schools.



You will help us to:

- Have a supply of young cricketers that we will be able to develop
- Have a supply of up and coming sports leaders
- Have an increased number of participants at all levels

Volunteering can be a brilliant way to boost your CV, develop your interests and enhance your skills and confidence. It is a great chance to get out, have fun and meet new people while supporting your local community.

For further information please contact Elaine Broadhurst on 01773 512076.

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA) INFORMATION

Healthy Structures



The way that health and social care services are commissioned is changing. The PCTs are on their way out and public health will become the responsibility of the County Council. Consortia of GPs will take over the commissioning of services and this is already being piloted around the country. Derbyshire has a pilot area across North East Derbyshire and Bolsover districts, covering a population of 118,000 and encompassing 15 GP practices. This will be overseen by a revised Health and Wellbeing partnership and led by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which is currently under review.

It is still unclear whether the voluntary sector will have representation on this new board. The chair of 3D has written to Cllr Andrew Lewer, leader of the county council to put forward the case for continued representation. The 'Modernising Commissioning' Green Paper recommends that the voluntary sector is involved in the development of the JSNA and Health and Wellbeing Partnerships in other local authority areas have strong VCS representation on them. We are waiting for a response, so watch this space.

Voice is also working with all the voluntary sector health and social care forums in the county to ensure that the new GP commissioning consortia have an understanding of the sector and how services are commissioned at the moment. We have some support to develop a training session aimed at GPs and delivered in partnership with existing commissioners to highlight current best practice and raise their awareness of the range and scope of services delivered in the community. This is likely to take place in May as the new structures begin to be implemented.

The LAA Headlines

Health and Wellbeing Partnership Last met on the 6th January. Board members have previously given assurances that the VCS will be invited to join the new statutory health and wellbeing board which is being set up to guide and oversee the work of the new GP led Commissioning Consortia. However, the VCS representative has since reported that there are now no plans to include the VCS on the board which will be made up mostly of commissioners. It is unclear whether this is because the VCS could be considered as service providers and so any representative would have a conflict of interest/unfair advantage or because otherwise the new Board will be too large and unwieldy. It is also unclear how the Local Authority will manage the contradiction that it too is a service provider. The board will meet again on 3rd March.

This information has been supplied by the VCS LAA Bulletin.

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA) INFORMATION

The LAA Headlines



Culture Board Met on the 17th December. Lorna Wallace attended and presented a report from the 'Surviving and Thriving' Event in November. The event aimed to feedback on the work of the NI7 Steering group to frontline VCS organisations. Cllr Lewer has said that he would like to see this group continue their work, despite the LAA being abolished and so those who attended were invited to comment on how the plan should be developed. The Board also discussed the joint city/county application to become City of Culture in 2017. Unfortunately as a result of the Comprehensive Spending Review, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport have decided to pull the competition until the outcomes of 2013 City of Culture are known. Instead the Local Authorities are looking at making 2013 a joint 'Year of Culture'. The Culture Board's next meeting will be held on the 17th February.

Safer Communities Partnership Met on the 17th November and discussed the potential for merging this board with the Cities Community Safety Partnership as endorsed by the Minister for Crime Prevention, James Brokenshire so that the Boards can work better together with the new elected Crime and Policing Commissioner from 2012. Work has begun on the new Joint City, County and Police Strategic Assessment which is needed to inform the new County Community Safety Agreement which must be in place by April 2011. The top 5 priorities were Safeguarding Children, organised crime groups, alcohol related harm, drugs, Domestic Violence. These will be the new priorities and in the absence of the LAA new Performance Indicators will be developed.

Sustainable Communities Board The meeting on the 2nd December was cancelled due to the bad weather. The next meeting will be held on the 24th February. The Climate Change subgroup met in October and also discussed what the future of the group will be with no LAA targets to meet. The group felt strongly that it should continue but that it would need to re-define its achievements in economic terms and may become a task and finish group like some of the other thematic partnerships.

Transformational Partnership The meeting planned for the 8th November was cancelled but the group did meet on the 24th January. Discussed RIEP funded projects and a Department of Work and Pensions Programme 'Tell Us Once'. This is a new system being piloted around registering of births and deaths where the public will only need to inform the registrar and they will inform all agencies involved such as local authorities, PCT, DVLA, DWP, HMRC, Identity & passport office and others necessary on your behalf.

If you would like to read the minutes and papers from any of these meetings contact Claire Thornber, or download from www.3Dsupport.org.uk/Derbyshire_LAA

This information has been supplied by the VCS LAA Bulletin.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INFORMATION

Health and Social Care Forum

Spending Review & White Paper Update

This was a key feature of the November Forum. Andy Layzell, Director of Commissioning, Derbyshire County PCT, spoke first on the Spending Review and the White Paper. Referring to the four main points from the White Paper, Andy mentioned:

- **Putting patients and people first:**
The Government are making more information available to the public to enable choice.
- **Improving Health Outcomes:** There may be not much difference between the old targets and the new 'outcomes', e.g. waiting lists, access to cancer services, access to GPs
- **Autonomy, accountability and democratic legitimacy**
- **Cutting bureaucracy and improving efficiency**

Talking about the future structures (Post White Paper Structures), Andy spoke about:

Clinical (GP) commissioning: The bulk of GP budgets are already committed. GPs will have the responsibility for remaining within budget.

Local authorities are to have the responsibility for co-ordinating the health and social care needs of the population and holding GPs to account. They will hold GP commissioning groups to account via the Health and Wellbeing Boards (Although not part of the presentation, readers will want to know that the voluntary sector will be represented on the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Board).

NHS Commissioning Board: The Boards have delegated responsibility from the Department of Health. Although there is no indication yet of how many Boards there will be, Andy thinks they will possibly be similar to the Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs).

Public Health: transferring to Derbyshire County Council (DCC) - with a ring fenced budget. In response to a question from the floor about how DCC would manage their extended role when they were losing staff – James Matthews (DCC) said that existing PCT staff and money from the NHS will be transferred to cover these roles.

Turning to NHS Derbyshire County, Andy informed the Forum that there are 96 GP practices, currently working together in 14 consortia. There will probably be between 2 and 5 GP commissioning groups across Derby City and Derbyshire County (current betting is on 2). They need to be quite large to manage the financial risks. They must exist in 'shadow' form by April 2011. However, groups of GPs wish to work together locally so there could be GP clusters (reflecting the current practice based commissioning groups) underneath the large overarching centre.

Responding to a question from the floor, Andy said that each consortium will have its own board of GPs and below that there will be GP support (probably PCT people, although it will be open to tender – GPs will be able to get support from anywhere, including the private sector)

This information has been supplied by NDVA. Network newsletter

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INFORMATION

Health and Social Care Forum

The increased demands on the NHS, (more older people, new drugs, more innovations) mean that costs will outstrip available funding. In order to manage the gap, savings of £40 million will have to be found in order to break even - which equates to 4% on all the budget lines. Other initiatives include a moratorium on investments, 40% management cost reduction over 2 years and financial caps on all contracts.

There will be an average 4% cut for the Voluntary Sector. However, Andy said that there was no blueprint yet as to how this might happen. However, it is possible that there will be no cuts if they decide it is more effective to make larger cuts elsewhere!



*Colin Selby, James Matthews
and Andy Layzell*

James Matthews, Assistant Director (Strategy and Commissioning) spoke for Derbyshire County Council Adult Care. Colin Selby also attended the meeting and provided us with some valuable and pertinent insight at various points during the Event.

Speaking about the National Comprehensive Spending Review, James said that central

Government support for local authorities will drop by 7% for each of the next 4 years (with the added 'whammy' of inflation), which gave an idea of the amount they need to save. It will be December before actual figures for Derbyshire are known. Once Council Tax is decided then decisions will be made on budget allocations. **It will probably be January before there is any information on finance for 2011/12.**

DCC have to save between £20 million and £40 million over the next 4 years and it is expected that 2,000 jobs will be lost over this period.

DCC have consulted on their proposals for adult care, with some 2,000 responses being collated. (See the response made on behalf of NDVA members included in this issue of Network - pages 12 to 15).

Speaking about joint funding, James said that they would try to co-ordinate information. It is very unlikely that there would be any increases to cover inflation.

Given that social care is under particular pressure, £1 billion (nationally) has been transferred from the NHS to social care but there is no information yet as to how the Derbyshire share of this money will be spent.

As a result of management efficiencies / restructuring within DCC, the managers whom we in the voluntary sector are used to contacting may not be there, or if they are, they may be doing different jobs.

This information has been supplied by NDVA. Network newsletter

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INFORMATION

Health and Social Care Forum

James talked about the 'Putting People First' document, 'Think Local, Act Personal', (see: www.puttingpeoplefirst.org.uk/ThinkLocalActPersonal) a proposed sector wide commitment to moving forward with personal and community based support. It talks about the new Government's intentions re the direction of Personalisation. There is a strong emphasis on 'design for all' – services which are broadly available to everyone, measures around 'hospital avoidance', the provision of a range of services and robust local community capacity

There is also targeted support for

- Crisis support
- Re-ablement/intermediate care
- Personal budgets – Derbyshire is now working though the new Personalisation process.
- Strong emphasis on carer support and Safeguarding

There were several questions from the floor around concerns that the majority of GPs seem not to understand the work done by the Voluntary Sector - and the need for us to be proactively involved in providing training to achieve this.

Andy Layzell said that it would be 2 years before GPs are fully in the driving seat and that GPs recognise they don't know everything - and may refer to DCC for commissioning on a particular service. Andy said that there would be 'a passage of development' for GPs (development programme).

All GPs will have to be in a consortium – if they do not join voluntarily they will be assigned to one.

The PCT has just completed a prospectus of PCT activities so that GPs can see what PCTs do. DCC and the voluntary sector will be included in the development programme.

In response to a question about the timing of information on funding for 2011 (bearing in mind that if there are to be any cuts groups need time to make their plans), James said that DCC would be working within the Compact so any notice periods would apply. Andy said that groups should not panic - he didn't think there would be any massive cuts to their PCT funding in 2011/12.

A question was asked about people being assessed, or re-assessed, re their level of need and that if they are assessed as moderate then there will be no funding to purchase services - which are the ones provided by smaller / medium size voluntary groups. James replied that DCC has a budget for prevention which may have money available and could be used to redress the situation.

Some Forum Members expressed concern about many recent tenders being awarded to large contractors and felt this did not match with a 'local' community provision. James said that they have a mixture of grant aided and contracted services. Colin said that before contracts are eventually re-tendered they will offer training for groups. DCC may be looking at having a framework agreement / approved list of providers as per Children's Services.

This information has been supplied by NDVA. Network newsletter

MARKETING and COMMUNICATIONS

Marketing and Communications

Our new website and logo was successfully launched at our AGM in November and we are busy keeping the website up to date with good news stories from our Member Groups and information about our new training courses and volunteering projects.

Despite the cold winter weather and snow I have been able to get out and about to meet with some of our Member Groups to create good news articles. The Marlpool Lunch Club article can be found on the Members page along with an article about the generosity of J.B.England & Son a local skip hire company, who supported one of our families in need.

The publicity for Help at Home has been focussed on the Erewash area with presentations made to various groups and societies including Long Eaton Parkinson Group, Long Eaton 50+ and Flamsted Day Centre, which has increased the awareness of Help at Home in this area.

The Amber Valley CVS Team



Adjacent are some pictures of the Amber Valley CVS team at local events across Amber Valley.

If you would like a member of the Amber Valley CVS team at your event please contact us on 01773 512076 or email admin@avcvs.org

Would you like to share your news with us?

In 2011 we would like to dedicate a section of our newsletter to hearing about **You**.

Do you have any Good News Stories that you would like to share? Are you currently commemorating any special events? We would love to hear from any of our Member Groups. To include your stories in our next newsletter please email your information to Vicki Harding at vickiharding@avcvs.org by Tuesday 26th April 2011 or call Vicki on 01773 512076.

HOME FROM HOSPITAL



Mandy

Hello my name is Mandy Rafferty and I am the Home from Hospital & Befriending Development worker. My main responsibilities are to provide a fully trained and police checked volunteer to all the clients who have been referred to us either for the **Home from Hospital Volunteer Service** or the **Long term Befriending Service**.

The **Home from Hospital** service is offered to people who have been discharged from hospital and who live in the Amber Valley area. This is a vital aid to the individual's recovery as it prevents them from being socially isolated.

Our **Befriending** service is over 10 years old; in that time we have supported a large number of clients, some of whom have formed very good long standing friendships.

As an organisation we are not only committed to supporting our clients, but also to support and develop our volunteers, who I feel are a vital element to the success of our service.

As a development worker I am always looking for dedicated individuals who are willing to join our committed team of Befrienders, people from all different backgrounds who have an interest in people.

As a thank you to our volunteers we like to celebrate the good work they do, and Christmas time was one of those occasions. We invited our volunteers to join us at CVS for a festive get together; mince pies and music was the order of the day. It was great to see so many of our volunteers meeting with one another, some of whom had not seen each other since they completed their training. I am glad to say that the bad weather did not deter our volunteers at all.



We run the Befriending Training course throughout the year offering them during the day as well as evenings so that we can accommodate as many as possible. The course covers:

- Listening & communication skills
- Relationship Guidelines & Boundaries
- Health and safety

The next training sessions are

11th, 18th, 25th March & 1st April 2011

4pm till 6pm

Book now to reserve a place

Once you join Amber Valley CVS you become part of our valued team of volunteers and you will receive our continued support. Part of our service to you is to run a number of drop-in sessions where our volunteers can get peer support and information on the service, as well as having an informal chat with me and light refreshments and a chance to meet fellow Befrienders.

Once our volunteers are trained they are then given the opportunity to volunteer for either Befriending or Home from Hospital or both. We are very pleased to introduce our newly trained volunteer Bethany, who is already working out in her local community.



If you require any further information regarding the service or about volunteering please contact me on Amber Valley CVS 01773 512076 or email me at mandyrafferty@avcv.org

HELP AT HOME NEWS

Meet Mr Mitchelson

Mr Mitchelson of Long Eaton was referred to the Help at Home service back in 2009 by his Social Worker. Michael sadly lost his wife at the end of 2008 and due to poor mobility was starting to find daily tasks at home increasingly difficult.

The aim of the Help at Home project is to enable elderly and disabled people in Amber Valley and Erewash to live independently in their own homes by providing domestic and gardening support. The workers carry out tasks which many of us have undertaken in the past but are no longer able to do due to age, disability or illness. All workers receive an ongoing training program and are CRB checked.

Michael has two domestic workers who visit him twice a week for a total of three and a half hours. Jo visits on a Tuesday and helps with various tasks such as making the bed, putting the washing on and cleaning the kitchen. Karen visits on a Friday and shops, hovers and cleans the bathrooms.

Michael said of Karen and Jo “The ladies radiate goodwill, I think the world of them and the service. It is excellent, I would be lost without it”.

Michael has four children and nine grandchildren. One of his daughters lives locally and is often on hand to help. Michael said “I see a lot of my daughter and she is extremely supportive. This service is a great benefit to her as it means that she doesn’t have to help with the cleaning!”

Although Michael has poor mobility he is still able to cook for himself and keeps himself entertained making cards, listening to Dolly Parton, following Nottingham Forest Football Club of which he is a huge fan. He also uses his mobility scooter for visits to his local fish and chip shop. Michael also visits the Parklands Day Centre twice a week.

Michael said “I would highly recommend the Help at Home service, it is a lot more than a cleaning service. I have built up a good relationship with the ladies and enjoy having a chat with them and seeing them weekly”.

For more information on the Help at Home service please call 01773 512076.

Karen and Michael



Karen hoovering



Michael on his electric scooter



ADMINISTRATION

Amber Valley CVS CRB Service

Amber Valley CVS are an Umbrella Body for the Criminal Records Bureau.

We can process CRB checks for you as an individual or you can join us a Voluntary or Community Sector Organisation if you work or volunteer with children or vulnerable adults.

We aim to provide a quick, efficient and affordable service.

For more information call Emma Rodgers on 01773 512076 or e-mail emmarodgers@avcvs.org

CRB - Position applied for

As you are aware, there is a section of the application form that you are required to complete as a registered person, to confirm specific details about the position for which a CRB check is required.

Question X61 asks you to record the 'position applied for'. It is vital when completing this field that you provide the principle role details, being as specific as you can about the position in question. In completing this field correctly, you may avoid any questions arising as a result of a suspected ineligible application. For example, the position may be for an administrator in a school – recording the position as 'school administrator' rather than simply recording 'administrator' is more likely to be accepted without the need to query the application. Recording the specific details of the role will not only save time during the processing of the application at the CRB, but will also be more beneficial to you and the applicant in removing the need for us to clarify the details at a later stage.

Please note that although this field on the application form allows for 60 characters, only the first 30 characters will be used by the CRB for processing. It is therefore vitally important that you include the principle role details in those first 30 characters.

CRB - Monthly CRB Newsletter



Editions of CRB News are available to download here: www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/newsletter

You can also take a look at the CRB website: www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk as a source of relevant guidance and information.

ADMINISTRATION

Amber Valley CVS Membership

Being a member of Amber Valley CVS means you can:

- Receive Advice, Information, Training Opportunities, Funding, and Volunteering etc
- Use of Shop Front for Displays
- Subscription to Quarterly Amber Valley CVS Newsletter
- Place Articles in the Amber Valley CVS Newsletter
- Place Publicity on the Amber Valley CVS Website



Make the most of the benefits by becoming a member of Amber Valley CVS

Reduced Rates For:

- Newsletter inserts and Flyers
- Hire of equipment
- Room Hire
- Amber Valley CVS Training courses
- Photocopying

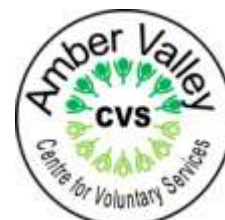


Other Benefits Include:

- The opportunity to order stationery etc through Amber Valley CVS at our bulk rates
- Use of a PC, including free internet access
- E-mail advice of any news, funding opportunities, developments etc
- Inclusion in information sharing with other local agencies
- Purchase of administration services

It Will Also Give You:

- A say in how the Amber Valley CVS is run
- The right to vote at the AGM
- The opportunity to nominate individuals to join the executive board
- A copy of the Annual Report
- Dedicated contact at Amber Valley CVS
- A membership pack and card



SOS UPDATE

SOS Team

The SOS team continue to support families in both Amber Valley and Erewash.

We are supporting 34 families to deal with issues around debt, benefits checks, and rent arrears. We work in partnership with various services to help families deal with these issues.

We have been very lucky over the past few months that local businesses have stepped in to provide a helping hand to our service - Boots of Ripley and JB England & Son, a local skip hire company.

Boots at Ripley kindly donated a selection of baby clothes for our service to use to help families.

JB England & Son were able to help step in and help a family. See full article on page 7.



Thanks to both businesses for their support in the local community.

AVEDASS

AVEDASS workers, Jenny and Michele, are supporting 29 young people who have witnessed or experienced Domestic Abuse.

We continue to deliver the Domestic Abuse schools awareness programme throughout the Amber Valley and Erewash area. Once the programme has been completed the students are asked for their comments and feedback. Please see below for some feedback given by the students.

What was the most important thing you learnt today?

- That domestic abuse isn't just violence, it can be emotional, sexual and financial as well. I also learnt that it is happening a lot and I didn't know how high it actually is.
- That people get abused 32 times before they have the confidence to call the police.
- That it is ok to tell people like adults, teachers and friends if you are being abused.
- That domestic abuse isn't all about violence.

What we can offer at AVEDASS

- One to one support (Confidential) - A chance for you to talk about your worries
- A source of advice - A listening ear, we can meet at school, home or in a café
- A plan to keep you safe - Help build your confidence/ self-esteem
- Introduce you to other services and help you join any leisure activities

Our Telephone number is: 01773 512076

Or email: jenniferjones@avcvs.org michellewoodley@avcvs.org

DERBYSHIRE LINK UPDATE

Derbyshire LINK



Christmas Activity Morning at Langley Mill Children's Centre 2010



David Timcke, Co-Host of Derbyshire LINK, as Santa and Tanya Nolan, Development Worker, as an elf giving out presents to the children.

Despite battling through the snow, Derbyshire LINK's Christmas event at Langley Mill was a resounding success with a free prize draw and lots of craft and other activities. It was a delight to see so many happy faces when Santa gave presents to all the children.

Everyone who attended provided positive feedback, joined as members of Derbyshire LINK and many asked if we could arrange future events in the Langley Mill area.

Have you, a friend or family member been discharged from hospital in the last two years?

If you are aged 16 or over then Derbyshire LINK want to hear about your experiences of the discharge process, both good and bad. This is an opportunity to make your experience count. You can visit our website, within the consultations section, to download a copy of the questionnaire. Alternatively telephone 01246 559824 and a questionnaire will be posted to you, along with a reply paid envelope.

All your experiences will be collated and used to compile a report for the relevant providers and professionals. Your identity will be protected but your comments will help Derbyshire LINK make a difference!

Liberating the NHS

Following three months of consultation on its plans for the service the Government's response, published December 2010, sets out further policy development based on substantial feedback and reaffirms the strong commitment to the reforms.

Local Involvement Networks will cease to exist and will evolve into Local HealthWatch. When the consultation on choice and information closes in early 2011 we will be more aware on how HealthWatch will carry out its functions. For now you can view the 'Legislative Framework and Next Steps' document on our website at www.derbyshirelink.org within our news section.

Contact Derbyshire LINK: Tel: 01246 558924
Email: info@derbyshirelink.org.uk - Web: www.derbyshirelink.org.uk

We can also be found on Facebook!

LOCAL NEWS & INFORMATION



DO YOU NEED FINANCIAL HELP?



No. 1 BASIC BANK ACCOUNTS Having and not having a bank account...

What is a basic bank account? How can it help me?

Basic bank accounts are aimed at giving everyone access to banking facilities. They are a basic, no frills account. So if you don't currently have a bank account or, if you are not able to get a standard current account, look into basic bank accounts. They are available from all major banks.

Having a bank account can help you to manage your money, and you can get your money paid into the account and you can pay bills from it.

- A basic bank account is ideal if you are worried about overspending, as they don't allow you to go overdrawn.
- You can only spend the money you have in the account. You won't get a cheque book but you will generally get a cash card.
- Cash withdrawals can usually be made at cash machines and at the post office
- You can get your wages, benefits, state pension or tax credits paid directly into the account.
- You can pay in cheques for free and arrange for bills to be paid by direct debit or standing order (which can often save you money on your bills).
- You would of course need to make sure there are enough funds in the account to cover these though.

Locally a report by Derby Citizens Advice Bureau and Law Centre (April 2010) showed 25% of people surveyed did not know about basic bank accounts

How to open a basic bank account

If you want to open a basic bank account you will need to bring identification with you. Check out the table for any special circumstances or restrictions at some banks such as record of fraud, or undischarged bankruptcy.

Proof of identity to open a bank account

The law says that banks and building societies have to identify new customers, to help stop criminal activities like money laundering. They will explain which documents they will accept as proof of identity. They may ask you for documents such as:

- Passport
- Driving licence

Or if you don't have these they may accept:

- A letter confirming a right to state benefits (eg council tax, housing benefit or pension)
- A letter from a care home manager or warden from a refuge
- A letter from a young persons workplace or educational institution

Step-by-Step Guide to Opening a Basic Bank Account

- 1 Decide which basic bank account would be best for you. Use the table and speak to the bank to help you decide
- 2 Drop in or make an appointment at the bank or building society and ask to open a basic bank account, giving its name (on the table).
- 3 Be ready to prove you identity. If you have difficulty proving your identity, ask to see a more senior member of staff.

- 4 Ask the staff to run through how the account works to double check it meets your needs - pay particular attention to any charges.
- 5 Once an application has been approved, it should take no more than 10 days for the account to become operational.
- 6 If you want your wages, state benefits or tax credits paid directly into your account talk to your wages office or pension or benefit office dealing with your claim.
- 7 To set up a direct debit or standing order to pay household bills, ask the company for a direct debit or standing order form. Direct debit forms are returned to the company that you want to pay, but you give a standing order form to your bank.

Different types of basic bank account This table shows which banks and building societies in England offer basic bank accounts and what you can expect to get

Bank and name of the basic bank account	Min age to open an account	Free buffer zone	Direct debits + standing orders	Charge for unpaid Direct Debit or standing orders	Debit card (Solo, Visa debit, Electron, Maestro)	Bank branch counter access	Post Office branch access	Free access to bank cash machines (ATM's) in UK	If any of the following apply, your application may be declined
Bank of Scotland: Easycash	16	No	Yes	£15 (max 3/day)	Electron	Yes (withdrawals over £300)	Yes	Yes	Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud
Barclays: Cash Card Account	18	No	Yes	£8	Visa debit	Yes	Withdrawals only	Yes	Record of fraud
Co-operative Bank: Cashminder	16	No	Yes	£19.50	Visa debit	Yes	Yes	Yes	Record of fraud
Halifax: Easycash	16	No	Yes	£15 (max 3/ day)	Electron	Yes (withdrawals over £300)	Yes (except deposits)	Yes	Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud
HSBC: Basic Bank Account	18	£10	Yes	No	No	Yes (except withdrawals)	Withdrawals only	Yes	Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud
Lloyds TSB: Cash Account	18	£10	Yes	£20 (max 3/ day)	Visa debit	Yes	Yes	No, own ATM's only	Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud
Nationwide Building Society Cash Card Account	18	No	Yes	£30	Visa Debit	Yes (withdrawals over £100)	Yes (except deposits)	Yes	Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud
NatWest: Step Account	16	No	Yes	£5 (max 10 items/ charging period)	Visa debit	Yes	Yes	Yes	Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud
Santander: Basic Bank Account	16	No	Yes	£5-£35 (depends transaction size)	No	Yes (withdrawals over £300)	Withdrawals only	Yes	Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud
Royal Bank of Scotland: Key Account	16	No	Yes	£5 (max 10 items/ charging period)	Visa debit	Yes	Yes	Yes	Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud
Yorkshire Bank: Readycash	16	No	Yes	£35	Maestro	Yes (except deposits)	Yes	Yes	Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud

"Bank accounts have increasingly become a necessity in our lives and enable us to participate fairly and fully in society, to generate and receive income such as pay, to save for the future and to purchase goods and services. When combined with local knowledge, the data provided by the banks should provide a very useful tool for targeting local action to increase the take up of basic bank accounts" Emma Bates, Financial Inclusion Manager for Derbyshire, said, "In Derbyshire, we are working to make sure that people know about basic bank accounts and can easily get one from their local bank". "Financial Inclusion Derbyshire" is a partnership of nearly fifty organisations across the county working on these types of issues. She can be contacted on 01629 821929 Email: e.bates@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

WATCH PRESS FOR FURTHER PULL OUT AND KEEP FINANCIAL INFORMATION

LOCAL NEWS & INFORMATION

Amber Valley Community Transport

Community Transport is available to anyone who has difficulties using public transport or to any age wishing to travel as a group.

We run a weekly shopping bus door to door to your local town and also a regular shopping trip to a nearby city – this is free with your Gold Card. Do telephone to register and book a seat. Vehicles are wheelchair accessible.

We also arrange Peak Park tours in the summer, trips at Whitsun and Easter and Christmas shopping trips in the weeks before Christmas.

Our Community Car Scheme is joint funded by Derbyshire County Council and NHS Derbyshire County to enable people who cannot use public transport to attend medical appointments or other social events.

We rely on volunteers to help provide these services to the public and would love to hear from anyone who has any time to spare.

If you belong to a group and would like a talk about Community Transport explaining more about our services please contact us on 01773 746652.

Census



On 27 March 2011 all residential households in the United Kingdom will be taking part in a census. Since 1801 a day has been chosen every ten years for this purpose, except in 1941 for obvious reasons.

The census provides an excellent source of information about the population. This enables central and local government, health authorities, voluntary organisations and many other bodies to plan housing, education, health and transport services for years to come. Even the national lottery uses census statistics in deciding where to award grants.

The census statistics feed into the allocation of funding for local authorities and play a major part in their ability to provide local services, so it is crucial the population estimate is as accurate as possible. When the questionnaire envelope comes through the door you'll easily recognise it by the purple 2011 Census logo. Take care of it.

If, like many people, you want to complete the questionnaire online, your individual internet code is on the front of the questionnaire.

The 2011 Census doesn't want anyone to fall behind – so there is a wide range of help booklets, large print format, Text Relay and census field staff on hand, as well as online help and telephone call centres.

If your group would like more information about the census and the help available for your members to fill in the form, please contact the area manager for the Amber Valley area, Mike Whittall, on 07801 331336. Mike can arrange to visit your group to make a presentation, or can send further details by post or email.

More about the 2011 Census can be found at: www.census.gov.uk



HELP AT HOME

Maintaining your independence with practical support - Across Amber Valley and Erewash

**Are you or is someone you know, elderly, disabled, or have other needs and require reliable assistance with your Domestic arrangements?
If the answer is yes then we can help!**

What can the service provide?

- Cleaning
- Dusting
- Vacuuming
- Shopping or Accompanied Shopping
- Ironing
- Gardening
- Mowing
- Hedge Cutting
- Tidying Borders
- Fence Painting

How to access the Help at Home services

Please contact: The Help at Home team.

Amber Valley CVS, 33 Market Place, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3HA

Tel 01773 512076

AVCVS Help at Home is a non-profit making organisation and is part of the registered charity of Amber Valley CVS

The views expressed in this newsletter should not be taken as Amber Valley CVS policy. Whilst every care is taken to provide accurate information, Amber Valley CVS does not accept liability for any error or omission.