

We are delighted to announce that the Tonbridge Volunteer Centre have joined VAWK, through merger. We are welcoming Alison Batchelor, Barbara Williams and Carol Kelly to the team and are looking forward to providing a seamless



Volunteer Centre
Tonbridge

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We are continually seeking to improve the services that we provide and would be pleased to hear your comments on our newsletter. Is it clear and easy to read? Is the information useful to you and your organisation? Are there any areas that you feel we are currently omitting and that you would like to see included?

We would welcome positive feedback as well as suggestions for improvement and would appreciate you taking the time to contact us. You can email us on info@vawk.org.uk or call 01892 530330. Any comments will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Independent schools chief steps down after member mutiny

The chief executive of the Independent Schools Council has stood down in order to diffuse a dispute which saw 250 headteachers vote to leave the umbrella organisation.



Children's charities merge courtesy of grant from government's Transition Fund

The National Children's Bureau has announced this week that Play Matters will join the National Children's Bureau charity group, with help from £198,000 in funding from the government's £107m Transition Fund.

Public service reforms will 'profoundly change role of government', says White Paper

The government says it will encourage commissioners of public services to break up contracts into smaller lots "where appropriate" to enable smaller providers to participate in service delivery.

Sector leaders lament absence of 'social value' in White Paper

Sector commentators have largely welcomed the *Open Public Services White Paper*, recognising that the reforms have the potential to create unprecedented opportunity for civil society organisations to deliver more public services.

The UK's largest immigration advice charity goes into administration

The Immigration Advisory Service, which employs 300 staff across 14 branches in the UK, has this week gone into administration, as a result of losing more than half of its income following government cuts.

Study highlights benefits of entering consortia

Entering consortia helps charities to access additional funding and to build their capacity through peer support and sharing of resources, a Charity Commission study has found.

Statutory income: defying the odds

If the government is cutting spending, the biggest service-delivery charities must all be sustaining deep and painful wounds, right? Actually, no. Many are even predicting growth, finds Tania Mason.

Are your trustees thinking about e-safety?

Are you using Facebook, Twitter, email or websites in your work? An e-safety policy is an ideal way to make sure that staff, volunteers and service users do not face unnecessary risks when using the net, but do you know where to start? Who's taking a lead - your trustees or the person with the most Facebook Friends? A recent SCIP Briefing Session provided pointers for anyone who wants to review existing policies and adopt best practise.

READ MORE: About e-safety policies, including materials from the briefing, at bit.ly/nPhFmb

Council owned premises and the compact

Many organisations either rent or use council-owned premises. The attached guide is a short introduction on how the Compact, public law, and equalities duties, are relevant and can be used where decisions are taken that affect...

[For more information please click here.](#)

London-based organisations closing services due to cuts

More than half of London-based voluntary and community organisations participating in a recent survey have closed services in the past year as a result of funding constraints, it was revealed today.

Commission compliance staff numbers likely to be slashed

The Charity Commission is looking at reducing by around two-thirds the number of staff whose main job is concerned with ensuring regulatory compliance by the sector, *civilsociety.co.uk* has learned.

Community groups will be recruited to train community organisers

[Locality has announced](#) it aims to recruit up to 200 organisations to act as "hosts" for trainee community organisers by September 2014.



Charitable-giving bank accounts could increase giving by £1bn

Introducing charitable-giving accounts into high street banks could increase giving by up to £1bn, the Philanthropy Review has suggested.

People Powered Change: the ethos underpinning BIG's future funding delivery

Dharmendra Kanani has some big ideas for change. People Powered Change. The director of England for the Big Lottery Fund talks to Celina Ribeiro about the new philosophy that will underpin how the lottery distributor devises and delivers funding in the future.

Community Development Foundation to deliver government's £80m Community First programme

Community Development Foundation will partner with a number of organisations including Charity Award-winning Community Foundation Network to deliver the government's £80m Community First programme, the Cabinet Office has announced.



Community groups to be charged 1 per cent of income to play music

Community groups have expressed their dismay after music licensing group PPL announced that they would have to pay 1 per cent of their turnover in order to play music at licensed events.

Hurd announces £10m to help charities win public service contracts

The Cabinet Office will release £10m of funding for charities and social enterprises to develop skills and infrastructure to win more capital investment and public service contracts.

People Powered Change: the ethos underpinning BIG's future funding delivery

Dharmendra Kanani has some big ideas for change. People Powered Change. The director of England for the Big Lottery Fund talks to Celina Ribeiro about the new philosophy that will underpin how the lottery distributor devises and delivers funding in the future.

BIG chair warns of funding squeeze, as demand from charities doubles

The England chair of the Big Lottery Fund, has warned that as its own funding is being squeezed, charity demand for its money is twice as great.

2011 Shell Springboard Awards Launch July

The Shell Springboard Awards launched in 2005 and have since attracted over 900 applications from small business owners with ideas to combat climate change, allocating more than £2 million to over 50 businesses.

The programme provides a financial boost to innovative, low carbon business initiatives from across the UK. The objective is to encourage businesses to see climate change responsibilities as more than compliance and cost. Shell believes there is a marked business opportunity if society is to move from a carbon-constrained world.

Arts Council England Announce Catalyst Arts Details

Arts Council England have announced further details of their new £40 million fund to help support arts organisations.

Announced last December by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and Arts Council England, the Catalyst Arts fund is part of a £80 million scheme to help boost philanthropy to the arts.

Education Fund Open to Applications

The Education Endowment Fund (EEF) is now open to applications.

The EEF is seeking applications for projects that address educational disadvantage. They are particularly looking for projects which can be developed, scaled up and replicated and which will have a measurable impact on attainment

Community Development Foundation to Lead Consortium for Big Local Trust

The Community Development Foundation (CDF) has been announced as the lead partner in a consortium establishing the Big Lottery's Big Local Trust.

The consortium has been chosen by the Big Lottery Fund to set up and manage a new organisation to run the new independent, charitable Big Local Trust that BIG has endowed with £200m. The organisation will deliver a ten-year programme, called Big Local that will put local people in the driving seat to achieve lasting change in 150 local areas across England.

SITA Trust Launches Queen Elizabeth II Fields Volunteer Support Fund

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge was created to celebrate Her Majesty, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and is a new campaign to protect 2,012 outdoor recreational spaces in communities across the country as a permanent living legacy.

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Major Works Fund is provided by SITA Trust through the Landfill Communities Fund. SITA Trust has joined forces with HRH The Duke of Cambridge and the Fields in Trust to support this challenge.

Innovation Grants Programme

The [Innovation Grants Programme](#) is a fund from the Money Advice Trust, supported by the Nationwide Building Society. It funds innovative work that will improve the money-advice sector

Big Society Awards

The [Big Society Awards](#) were set up by the Prime Minister in November 2010. Twelve winners are decided each quarter and then announced once a week throughout the year. Deadline 8 August.

Allen Lane Foundation

The [Allen Lane Foundation](#) is a grant-making trust set up in 1966 by Sir Allen Lane, founder of Penguin Books, to support general charitable causes. They make grants for up to three years, with a value of £500-£15,000 in total.

Alec Dickson Trust

The [Alec Dickson Trust](#) provides up to £500 to help under 30 year olds run a project in their local area which involves local volunteers.

£24m funding available to coastal communities

The government is inviting charities and other organisations to bid for funding from a new multi-million pound fund designed to benefit coastal communities.

BIG adds £20m to government's £30m infrastructure commitment

The Big Lottery Fund has committed £20m for infrastructure development among charities delivering services, as the government releases details of its own £30m fund for the same purpose.

New Funding Opportunity for Voluntary and Community Groups.

Up to a thousand local clubs and facilities will be upgraded thanks to this £50million National Lottery fund, which is part of the Places People Play legacy programme, bringing the magic of the Olympic and Paralympic Games into communities across the country.

Community and voluntary organisations are able to apply for grants worth between £20,000 and £50,000, with the first round of funding running from 1st August to 28th September 2011. Designed to be as accessible as possible, the fund is ideal for small community groups who might have previously been put off from applying for public money

<http://inspiredfacilities.sportengland.org/about/what-is-inspired-facilities>

Kent Community Foundation

The following Funds are open for application:-



The Overstone Fund

The Fund supports projects striving to reduce crime and recidivism. This includes support for individual ex-offenders and prisoners with a particular emphasis on re-training & increasing employability.

This Fund will also support projects that provide countryside activities for inner city or disadvantaged children or projects that provide musical opportunities.

Grants from £250 up to £2,500

Deadline: 26th August 2011

The Phillips Fund

The Fund supports charities, voluntary groups and organisations using volunteers to deliver small but beneficial conservation and environmental projects to rural communities in Kent.

Activities receiving support includes: -

- Planting of trees and hedging
- Regeneration of hedgerows or village ponds
- Creation of wildflower meadows, new native woodlands
- Restoration of local habitats

Grants: from £250 up to £2,000

Deadline: 2nd September 2011

The Sarah & Francis Salway Grassroots Fund

This fund is interested in projects that involve local people in self-started initiatives which support the spirit and wellbeing of the community. Especially projects that support individuals and communities to help themselves in enterprising and self-sustaining ways. There is a preference for projects involving volunteers.



Grants from £250 to £5,000

Deadline: October 2011

Ward & Partners Annual Children's Awards 2011

The Annual Children's Awards recognise the efforts and achievements of courageous children, their families and the charities that support them.

The six awards open for nomination are:

Brave and Inspiring - for children with severe disabilities and illnesses who are working to overcome them. Three age groups: 0-5 6-11 12-16

Young fundraiser - for the child or group of children who have raised fund for charity

Going for Gold - for achievement in sports, music, visual and performing arts despite disability

Exceptional Carer - for young carers who care for other family members

Courageous Family - for families who coped with severe illness or disability

Outstanding Charity - rewarding charitable and voluntary groups who support children who face challenges in life

To Nominate please go to: http://www.kentonline.co.uk/kentonline/features/ward_awards.aspx

Funding is also available for projects supporting children and young people with disabilities, this includes support for individuals.

To apply for any of the above mentioned funds please send an email to admin@kentcf.org.uk or call 01303 814500, and ask for a Grant Enquiry form

HLF South East England is now running bi-monthly pre-application information sessions at our London office. These events are open to all potential applicants.

Sessions will include the following:

a presentation on HLF criteria and main grant programmes, including case studies and tips for writing a strong application (11am-12pm);

35 minute one-to-one advice surgeries (From 12pm. These must be booked in advance).

Dates for 2011 are: Friday 5 August;

Friday 7 October;

Friday 2 December.

If you are interested in coming along, please contact the South East England team on 020 7591 6171.

BT Community Connections

BT are currently running an award scheme called BT Community Connections that offers a years' free Total Business Broadband to community groups across the UK. Please see attached flier for more information.

Community Action Against Crime: Innovation Fund (England)

The Home Office has announced that it will be launching a new fund in August to encourage greater community activism in order to enable communities to develop innovative approaches to tackling the local crime issues that matter to them. Application forms and guidance notes will be published shortly. The innovation fund is worth £5 million in 2011-12, with a further £5 million set aside for 2012-13.

Further enquiries on the 'Community Action Against Crime: Innovation Fund' should be addressed to: CAACFunding@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Nominet Trust offers £500,000 for community IT projects

Community IT projects in England are being invited to apply for grants of up to £5,000 to get more people online, as a result of a partnership between the Nominet Trust and UK Online Centres

Boosting innovation

The Department of Health has opened its 2012-13 Voluntary Sector Investment Programme: Innovation, Excellence and Strategic Development Fund. Applicants are invited to submit proposals to develop new, innovative approaches...

[For more information please click here.](#)

Make an impact

The GSK IMPACT Awards provide core funding for health charities in the UK who have income below £1.5 million. The awards are designed to reward charities that are doing excellent work to improve people's...

[For more information please click here.](#)

Heart Research UK

Heart Research UK gives grants of up to £10,000 to community groups around the UK to allow them to run projects to encourage people to lead Healthy Heart lifestyles. For further information please visit their website, <http://www.heartresearch.org.uk/grants/healthyheartgrant>

Beatbullying launches £1m advertising campaign

Beatbullying has launched a £1m TV, print, outdoor and online advertising drive that highlights the plight of almost a million young people in the UK that are currently not in education, employment or training.



Project Salus

Kent County Council has decided that the functions of Kent Safe Schools will no longer be provided in-house but by an external body and so has set up a Social Enterprise (Community Interest Company), Project Salus, to continue to provide the agreed services. Project Salus has a formal agreement with KCC to ensure they are able to continue to benefit from the existing partnership arrangements.

The key outcomes of the service will continue to be to improve the social skills, educational outcomes, health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people and their families in Kent through the development and delivery of evidence based products and services.

There are distinct benefits of being a social enterprise in terms of access to funding, flexibility and the ability to be responsive to need. In terms of your school and pupils, this change should make no difference to the range of services you currently receive or may access in the future. As all existing KSS staff members have transferred to Project Salus, they will ensure that the high standards and quality you expect, are maintained.

If you would like to find out more about some of the innovative services Project Salus is delivering across Kent, please get in touch or have a look at their [website](#).

Contact: Katie Ling, Office Manager, Non Local Authority. Tel: 01303 817470 Email: [Katie Ling](#)

Munro report

The Department for Education has published the [Government response](#) to Eileen Munro's review of child protection Government will take forward further detailed work with key partners. This will include building on the Department of Health's work to date on the practical implications of NHS reform for safeguarding children. Health, education, police, probation and the justice system are all to be inspected on how well they protect children.

Fair start in life

The Government has said it is committed to giving every child a fair start in life and takes its obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child very seriously. The government has [set out how they are changing the services](#) available to parents to help this become a reality.

Services for Young People

A [briefing](#) on the House of Commons Select Committee 'Services for Young People' report has been produced by Community Matters on behalf of the DfE partnership group that includes NAVCA.

Family income too low to live off with universal credit

Welfare reform could leave working families trapped in a situation where their income is too low to provide an acceptable standard of living, a report claims. JRF's annual update, based on what members of the public think people need to achieve a socially acceptable standard of living. Over time, changes in prices affect the cost of a minimum standard of living (MIS), and changes in social norms change the 'minimum' that is required. This study considers both of these, and updates the MIS budgets to April 2011.

The Report and Summary Report are available to download from the FRN Discussions Board. just follow the link <http://www.frndiscussions.org/forum/index.php?showtopic=3763>

South East Network of Disabled Peoples Organisations

A number of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) have come together to form a network which will enable them to learn and support each other and provide a voice for DPOs in the South East. The network is a User Led...

[For more information please click here.](#)

Police Disability Involvement Forum

Kent and Medway Disability Involvement Forum—Kent Police has a community involvement forum for disabled people and carers of disabled people. They want to listen to what you have to say.

Tuesday 6th September, 2011, 2pm –4pm, Tonbridge Police Station (O'Brien Room), 1 Pembury Road, Tonbridge, TN9 2HS.

Items for discussion can be raised by members of the public at the meeting or can be suggested to them in advance. Go along to have your say.

For further information please view the 'Diversity—Get Involved' section of the Kent Police website www.kent.police.uk or contact the Kent Police Diversity Team at diversity.team@kent.pnn.police.uk or on 01622 652444.

Volunteers

The Volunteer Centres are seeing increasing numbers of people looking to volunteer who have extra support needs. Could your organisation benefit from volunteers and have the time to support volunteers to reach their full potential. The Volunteer Centres in Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells can assist you with role creation and finding the right applicant for your organisation. If you would like to find out more please contact

volunteering@vawk.org.uk or call 01892 530330.

Big Lottery Fund

The BLF is seeking to gather regional intelligence on stakeholders, services, unmet needs and issues affecting older people in the South East. **Please see the attached document for further information.**

The Big Lottery Fund is committed to making a significant investment in issues affecting older people over the next few years and the first phase of this investment is due to be announced in the Autumn.

Please send any response to: kate.sawdy@biglotteryfund.org.uk by Monday 22 August 2011

Dial 2 Drive

Dial 2 Drive is a Community Transport Scheme for people unable to access public transport due to older age, illness or disability. It is the amalgamation of three volunteer car schemes: Sevenoaks Brighter Futures, Tonbridge Volunteer Centre car scheme and Dial 2 Drive in Tunbridge Wells.

Volunteer drivers use their own cars to take people weekdays, evenings, weekends and bank holidays to social and medical appointments, shops and more. Drivers can travel locally or further afield and will wait for up to 1 hour at appointments. Volunteers also offer their practical help with form filling, prescription collection, shopping, help with computers and simple DIY.

For more information please contact 01892 553123 or driving@vawk.org.uk

or visit www.vawk.org.uk/transport



RAISE task force

RAISE has set up a new Health and Social Care Task Group with the purpose of increasing understanding between the VCS and evolving health and social care structures. The group, which includes the two Strategic Health Authorities...

[For more information please click here](#)

Kent LINK

The latest Kent LINK Bulletin Issue No 39 – July 2011 – is now available via the following link:

[http://www.thekentlink.co.uk/assets/files/Bulletins/
Kent LINK Bulletin Issue 39 Web Version 20 07 2011.pdf](http://www.thekentlink.co.uk/assets/files/Bulletins/Kent_LINK_Bulletin_Issue_39_Web_Version_20_07_2011.pdf)

The Kent LINK has now produced and published its Annual Report for 2010 – 2011, and can be accessed via the following link on the website:

http://www.thekentlink.co.uk/assets/files/Publications/Annual_Report_2010_2011.pdf

If you have any problems opening the link, or would like to request the report in a hard copy format, please contact the team on 01303 297050 or email info@kentlink.org

Fairer Care Funding

This month the Dilnot Commission Report was published, looking to improve the fairness of the funding of adult social care in response to the needs of our aging population. The recommendations do appear to take out some of...

[For more information please click here.](#)

Mapped out

Kent and Medway Public Health Observatory has produced Health and Social care maps, covering the whole of the county. The maps are an in-depth profile of each locality, covering service provision, mental health, key killers,...

[For more information please click here.](#)

New qualification for health and wellbeing in the workplace

A new health and wellbeing qualification is to be offered through a certified 5½ day course starting in November 2011. The course is aimed at general managers, supervisors and HR personnel who have responsibility for,...

[For more information please click here.](#)

Getting the right services for your area

The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 confirms a much more ambitious and central role for the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). For many local areas, this re-affirmed duty for the JSNA comes against the...

[For more information please click here.](#)

Extending choice of Any Qualified Provider

In response to the NHS Future Forum's report, the Government has committed to extending patients' choice of Any Qualified Provider, with phased implementation from April 2012. The aim of greater choice of provider...

[For more information please click here.](#)

Equality toolkit published

A toolkit has been published to help VCS organisations and others working with Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities to use the Equality Act 2010 to challenge discrimination and promote equality. It has been produced...

[For more information please click here.](#)

Cabinet Office Publishes 2010 Study of Charities and Social Enterprises

The 2010 National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises (NSCSE) provides a tool for citizens, communities, the sector and all levels of government to understand current issues affecting the sector since the 2008 publication.

The report collates the responses of over 44,000 sector organisations on a host of issues important to their success and vitality, and aims to provide all audiences with the information needed to support the sector in building a stronger civil society.

Free Tool for Voluntary Organisations

Rocket Science Lab has launched a new online tool to help organisations approach and adapt to change.

Ready for Change is a free tool developed by Rocket Science to help organisations measure their readiness to adapt and respond to change.

Community Toolkit

[Community Toolkit](#) is a FREE information resource for people who want to get involved in organising smaller, straightforward community activities. Created by Zurich Insurance to address barriers to community volunteering, it provides guidance on some legal, health and safety, insurance and planning issues.

Improving charity fraud prevention

NCVO has published a '[Managing Risk: A New Approach for the Fit and Proper Regulation of Charities](#)' analysing the respective roles of the Charity Commission and HMRC in preventing fraud within charities. It contains thirteen recommendations for improving the regulatory framework in which charities currently operate.

Charities and Consortia Working

The Charity Commission has published "[Consortia for the delivery of public services: the issues for small and medium-sized charities](#)". This research says "Working in consortia helps charities increase their access to funding and build capacity through peer support and sharing resources and experience."

New Philanthropy Capital

New Philanthropy Capital have published an article about Impact Reporting; worth a read; [six tips for good impact reporting](#)

Training Programme September - December 2011

VAWK training is high quality, affordable and meets the needs of voluntary and community organisations, businesses and social enterprises.

Our training programme from September 2011 – December 2011 is offering a range of practical courses that will help you develop your staff and your group or organisation. The table below shows the courses that we will be delivering.

Please visit our website for full programme details:

Focus Area	Course
Board Development	Legal Structures and Charity Law Introduction to Merger and Collaboration
Personal Development	Presentation and Public Speaking
Developing Staff	Introduction to Leadership Skills
Organisational Development	Introduction to Effective fundraising Fundraising and the Law Introduction to Tendering Introduction to Business Planning Introduction to Social Enterprise Introduction to Outcomes Introduction to Supervision skills
Management	Introduction to Strategic Planning Introduction to Management
External Courses	Appointed Persons First Aid Course Health and Safety in the Workplace Fire Marshall Training

For more information about training, or if you have a specific requirement for a course, or any other feedback, please contact the Training Team on 01892 530330 or email: angela.holland@vawk.org.uk

We can tailor all training to meet your needs and can deliver it to just your organisation, or you can share the course with another organisation to split the cost and improve working relationships.

Costs are based on your requirements, length of session and size of your organisation.



“Everyone has a responsibility for safeguarding children.”

Voluntary Action within Kent is working with the Kent Safeguarding Children’s Board (KSCB) and the Kent Children’s Fund Network to bring you affordable, accredited Child Protection training. We will be running a rolling programme of introductory Basic Awareness Child Protection workshops in West, Mid and East Kent. Courses will be delivered by multi-agency trainers and accredited by KSCB.

Kent has recently reviewed and updated how staff make referrals to specialist Children Social Services. It is essential that staff understand this process and how they and their organisation make referrals. The Voluntary Sector also needs to understand the Common Assessment Framework process and the multi-agency working practices at levels below that requiring specialist children services.

The importance of inter-agency cooperation and communication has been highlighted in all reports concerning child deaths and serious injuries, most recently and notably the inquiry into the death of Baby P.

All organisations have an obligation to ensure that staff and volunteers working with children and young people receive basic child protection training as part of their induction to that organisation and that this training is maintained through regular continued professional development.

This course will allow you to meet your statutory training obligations.

At this stage, we would like to establish demand and so would be grateful if you could **let us know if this course would be of interest to you.**

As with all VAWK’s courses, this course can be delivered in-house, please contact the training team to discuss your specific needs; please contact Angela Holland angela.holland@vawk.org.uk or Jon Weller jon.weller@vawk.org.uk for further information.

Hurd says DWP has to stop job centres deterring jobseekers from volunteering

Nick Hurd, minister for civil society, has said the Department for Work and Pensions has to do more to tackle the "big problem" of job centres putting off jobseekers from volunteering.



Youth volunteering falls sharply

Volunteering among young people has fallen back to 2008 levels, and could be made worse as funding is diverted to the National Citizen Service, according to research consultancy [nfpSynergy](#). Results from its Youth Engagement Monitor found that in May 2011, 14 per cent of 11-25 year-olds had volunteered in the previous three months, compared to 19 per cent in November 2010. Before that point, participants' volunteering levels had grown in the previous five twice-yearly surveys.

[nfpSynergy](#) Head [Joe Saxton](#) said: "This drop may well reflect a cut in investment in youth volunteering initiatives like v, suggesting a possible link between government funding and volunteering levels – and thus highlighting the urgent need for a better understanding of what volunteer recruitment and retention strategies do and do not work."

"Moreover, the dip in youth volunteering could yet be made worse by ongoing cuts to youth services, despite worryingly high levels of youth unemployment; and by the National Citizen Service, if it hoovers up any new investment in this area, only to produce a limited number of volunteers, whatever their supposed higher quality."

Guide Dogs for The Blind are urgently seeking Puppy Walkers

Do you have the time, space and love to be a puppy walker? This very rewarding role requires you to be fully committed to providing care and socialisation for a puppy that will live with you in your home from the age of six weeks until they are around one year old. At this point, the puppy will leave you to move on to a training centre where they will receive specialist training.

Your role is to ensure that the puppy is socially well behaved, friendly and responsive to the handler, and is confident in all environments, including town centres and different transports. Ongoing advice is provided by experienced staff, and the association supplies basic equipment and covers all veterinary and feeding expenses.

If you feel you can provide this special start in a puppy's early education, then volunteer Puppy Walkers are urgently needed in Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks, Dartford, Bexleyheath, Orpington and Sidcup. Tunbridge Wells Volunteer Centre can refer volunteers to all areas.

Volunteers needed in the Crowborough Area;

Could you spare a few hours a week to support the residents of a care home to attend and take part in-house activities including flower arranging, music and reading? Residents would like support to get from their rooms to the activity and perhaps some support to participate.

Or maybe you could sit and have a chat over a cup of tea and swap stories with someone on a one to one basis? The residents have a lot to share with you.

If you have the skills to lead the flower arranging, read the poetry or lead a good old fashion sing along session then you are needed too! Please contact the volunteer centre below for information on how to get involved.

"My name is Laura"

*My name is Laura; I'm different to you
I don't see the world the same as you do.
You see a classroom and I see a chair
I don't always notice what else is in there.
Too much information keeps coming my way
It's so hard to cope with, day after day.
You show me so much that I don't always see
One step at a time is the best thing for me.
Bright lights and loud noises upset me so much
An unusual smell, or somebody's touch.
When you look in my eyes and I'm looking away
I'm not being rude if I don't hear what you say.
I'm not being awkward; I'm just doing my best
I'm striving so hard to be just like the rest.
The times when you think I've not really tried
If only you knew how that hurts me inside.
I want you to like me the way I like you
If only you saw things from my point of view.
Your life and my life both run parallel
Yours seems like heaven, mine's sometimes hell.
Whenever you're frustrated at the things that I do
Remember
You could have been me and I could have been you.*

Adapted from 'My name is Charlie' by B.J. Webb. 2007



Befriending has helped me to be more confident in myself. It has helped me to start to be able to trust other people that I haven't met before. Amy has shown me that in actual fact other people do care about me and they are and have been there for me when I have needed them most.

A BIG BIG BIG THANK YOU!.

Love Laura. xxx.

Age: 14yrs

Help Needed in the Paddock Wood and Hildenborough Area

Local befriending charity, 121 Befriending, is urgently recruiting male and female volunteers to support young people aged between 9 -16 experiencing crisis, social disadvantage, unhappiness and isolation. Vulnerable children often feel helpless and alone. At 121 Befriending we never give up on a child and our volunteers work closely with the children to help them discover a joyful childhood, build confidence and self-esteem and give them tools for a positive future.

In the past 12 months alone we have supported over 50 young children, but over 30 children are still on our waiting list. We are desperately seeking a male befriender in the Paddock Wood area to match a young boy who has a passion for fishing and also a male in the Hildenborough area who enjoys tractors and steam engines.

121 Befriending provides volunteers with full training, support and expenses. We ask our volunteers to commit to meeting the young person once a week for 6 months.

For more information on how to get involved please contact the volunteer centre below.

Edenbridge Outreach

THE BRIDGES CENTRE
High Street
Edenbridge
Kent
TN8 5AJ

t 01732 454785
e volunteering@vawk.org.uk
w edenbridgevolunteers.org.uk

Volunteer Centre Sevenoaks

Knole Academy West
Bradbourne Vale Road
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 3LE

t 01732 454785
e volunteering@vawk.org.uk
w sevenoaksvolunteers.org.uk

Volunteer Centre Tunbridge Wells

Voluntary Action Within Kent
17-19 Monson Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN1 1LS

t 01892 530330
f 01892 532539
e volunteering@vawk.org.uk
w tunbridgewellsvolunteers.org.uk

noticeboard

Can you help Hospital Radio Tunbridge Wells?

Hospital Radio Tunbridge Wells will be losing their base, along with the rest of the Kent and Sussex Hospital, when services move at the end of September. Without studios to broadcast from, Hospital Radio Tunbridge Wells goes out of existence. They have explored a number of avenues with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the local NHS trusts to help with accommodation but sadly we have been unable to find any space. They are now in a position where we will have to rent commercial accommodation in order to survive.

Please see the attached document for further information.

Make an impact

GSK's IMPACT Awards are designed to reward charities that are doing excellent work to improve people's health. Organisations must be at least three years old, working in a health-related field in the UK with income...

[For more information please click here.](#)

NCVO launches good governance competition

NCVO has launched a competition to recognise good governance, with £1,000 on offer to the winning charity.

Health and Social Care Maps

Kent and Medway Public Health Observatory has produced Health and Social care maps, covering the whole of the county. The maps are an in-depth profile of each locality, covering service provision, mental health, key killers, demographic profile etc; they are a valuable tool for commissioners and anyone who wishes to influence commissioning:

- Health and Social Care Maps give an overview of healthcare needs and service gaps for the locality, taking into account local community views and variables, such as population mix and deprivation.
- They pull together information from engagement with community representatives and groups, population data and available health performance data.
- They are a way of involving local communities in health and social care service development and creating a local healthcare profile to inform commissioning decisions.

Take a [look](#)

Microsoft expands charity software donation programme

Microsoft has expanded its software donations programme, widening the types of charities that can apply and allowing them to order more products.



The views expressed in this publication should not necessarily be taken as VAWK policy. Whilst every care is taken to provide accurate information, VAWK undertakes no liability for any error or omission.

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Want to help your community get online?

Apply for a BT Community Connections Award today...



“ It’s amazing. Once you’re online nobody knows if you’re deaf or hearing, it’s a level playing field, especially when I’m challenging someone in China to an online chess game!

”

Ricky, 17, from Deaf Links, Scotland.

What is BT Community Connections?

BT Community Connections is an award scheme which offers community groups the chance to get online and help people discover the wonders of the internet. If your group helps the community access the internet and improves people’s ICT skills, you could be eligible to apply for a year’s free broadband.

Who can apply?

The scheme supports a diverse range of community and charitable groups across the UK. Just log on to www.bt.com/communityconnections for more information and an application form.

www.bt.com/communityconnections



HOSPITAL RADIO TUNBRIDGE WELLS

We're with you!

The Studios, Kent & Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8AT

Help Save A Valuable Service!

Hospital Radio Tunbridge Wells is a registered charity and has been in existence in one form or other since 1961, making this year our 50th Anniversary. We broadcast around-the-clock to patients in the Kent and Sussex, Tonbridge Cottage and soon, the new Tunbridge Wells Hospital. At any point during the night or day, patients have access to a unique mix of programmes containing music, news, local information, competitions and sport. We also dedicate time to playing patients' requests and our philosophy is that we are a friend at the bedside, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

From our base at the Kent and Sussex Hospital, Hospital Radio Tunbridge Wells is entirely run by volunteers who give their time to present and produce programmes, collect requests, fund raising and many other duties connected with running the charity. Our funds are mainly generated from street and store collections where our members spend a Saturday tin-rattling at local supermarkets. We also broadcast live programmes from these locations to give shoppers an insight into how we operate. These broadcasts are fed back to our studios via a UHF radio link.

Our need to find a new home is because our current home, along with the rest of the Kent and Sussex Hospital, will be decommissioned at the end of September. Without studios to broadcast from, Hospital Radio Tunbridge Wells goes out of existence. We have explored a number of avenues with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the local NHS trusts to help with accommodation but sadly we have been unable to find any space. We are now in a position where we will have to rent commercial accommodation in order to survive.

Hospital Radio Tunbridge Wells currently occupies around 70m² in a self contained area in the Kent and Sussex hospital and since our members come from around the local area, some of whom only use public transport, moving to a central location preferably in Tunbridge Wells would be the ideal situation for us. We have come to appreciate, since looking into the rental market, that we will be unable to afford a space of 70m² and therefore we're willing to revise our future requirements accordingly. We could, for example, happily survive in a self-contained suite of offices of no more than 30m² but preferably not open plan. This will accommodate a studio, office space and our extensive record library.

We would also need to position an aerial and a satellite dish on the roof. The dish enables us to receive news from a dedicated satellite news channel used by many commercial stations and the aerial is for receiving the signal from our outside broadcasts. The dish is no bigger than a dustbin lid and the aerial is no larger than a domestic television aerial.

Unfortunately, our timescales are very tight. Our exit date, set by a short term lease given to us by the Trust, is 30th September. This is non negotiable and we must have found a new home and be broadcasting by this date. We had hoped to have found a new home much earlier than now but lengthy but ultimately fruitless negotiations have left us in this position.

Hospital Radio Tunbridge Wells has been around for 50 years. During our outside broadcasts and fundraising activities, people often come up to us and tell us that they tuned in when they were in hospital and that we raised their spirits by playing their request. People value what we do and we want to keep doing it. Our volunteers are dedicated and keen to continue the high standard of hospital broadcasting of which we are very proud. It would be such an immense shame for this organisation to come to a close after fifty years.

For more information, please feel free to contact us at info@hrtw.org.uk or visit our website at <http://www.hrtw.org.uk>.



Older People services in the South East

Big Lottery Fund is committed to making a significant investment in issues affecting older people over the next few years and the first phase of this investment is due to be announced in the Autumn.

With this in mind I am keen to build up a picture of what is happening in the South East region in terms of what services exist and where, unmet needs, successful and innovative projects and key stakeholders..

I would very much appreciate it if you could take time to have a look at the following questions and let me know if you have any information that may be helpful in building up a picture of services for older people in the South East.

- 1. What cuts if any has your local authority made to adult services and in particular, adult social care in the past 18 months?**
- 2. How have services for older people been affected and to what degree?**
- 3. Have any areas been worse hit than others?**
- 4. Have you identified any gaps in service provision in your area and, if so, what and where are these?**
- 5. Who are the key stakeholders and what areas do they cover?**
- 6. What services exist for older people in your local authority and where are they situated? (Age UK, lunch clubs, activities, advice services, home and garden maintenance, transport, forums, etc. *Please include contact details if available*)**
- 7. Do you have a community transport scheme and, if so, how does this operate?**
- 8. Are there any particular issues that you are likely to face due to an ageing population?**
- 9. Are you aware of any successful or innovative project working with older people in your area? (*Please include contact details if available*)**

Please send any response to: kate.sawdy@biglotteryfund.org.uk by Monday 22 August 2011

Thank you for your assistance.

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