

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

Volunteer Management

December 2017

Networking and Sharing Good Practice

Our Networking Event for Volunteer Managers last month included a presentation and group work on marketing volunteering opportunities and using social media for marketing these opportunities. There was also the opportunity to learn about our new volunteering platform, Volunteer Connect, as well as plenty of time to network with other volunteer managers. Feedback was very positive with 100% of those people attending saying that the discussions were useful and that the event will benefit their work. The next Networking Event for Volunteer Managers is on Thursday 28 June 2018 at Parkside Hall, Ampthill.

Volunteer Connect

Many of you have now registered with our new volunteering platform, Volunteer Connect, but there are still a number of organisations that have not.

Volunteer Connect has the following benefits:

- enables you to register your own organisation
- allows you to update and add to your organisation's volunteering roles
- gives you access to a bank of prospective volunteers
- means that volunteers can register online and join the 'Volunteer Bank'
- lets your organisations search for prospective volunteers who have the skills and experience which match your requirements.

Please note that in future we will be using Volunteer Connect instead of Do-it.org to market volunteering opportunities so you do need to register with Volunteer Connect as soon as possible.

Volunteer Connect can be accessed via our new website www.cabeds.org.uk and by following these simple steps:

- click on the link to [Volunteering](#) and then click on the link [Find Volunteers](#)
- Half-way down on the [Find Volunteers](#) page is:

[Register / Login to Volunteer Connect >](#)

- or, in the footer of every page you can click on:



If you need help or advice about Volunteer Connect and/or your organisation's volunteering opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact Vicki Drummond on 01525 850559 or email vicki@cabeds.org.uk

Volunteer Display Space at Central Bedfordshire Council offices

Central Bedfordshire Council's display areas in the reception areas at both Priory House and Watling House enable you to showcase the benefits that volunteering brings to individuals and to local communities.

The Council are using these display areas to highlight the contribution that volunteers and groups of volunteers from Central Bedfordshire have made. Its focus is on the volunteers themselves, the difference they make to the local communities and what volunteering means to them.

If you would like to take advantage of these display areas to promote your voluntary organisation and your volunteers or you would like further information and guidance about the display areas, please visit:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council/stronger-communities/display-space.aspx>

Cheering Volunteering 2018

Cheering Volunteering is returning next year with the fourth annual awards and celebration evening taking place on Tuesday 5 June 2018 at the Grove Theatre in Dunstable. This event is an excellent chance to celebrate the work of volunteers across Central Bedfordshire.

There will be the opportunity to nominate people or groups for six different awards, including a new category for 2018 - Sports Volunteer. Nominations will open on Monday 8 January 2018 and you will then have almost three months to nominate volunteers in as many categories as you like. However, you will not be able to nominate the same volunteer in more than one category.

Applications for the Inspiring Volunteering Grant Scheme will also be open from Monday 8 January 2018. There is a total funding pot of £5,000 available for projects which encourage volunteering or kick-start new activities involving volunteers. Grant awards will be made from a minimum of £100 to a maximum of £1,000.

Last year, 14 different groups and organisations benefitted, and you can find out which they were, as

well as who won at last year's awards

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council/stronger-communities/awards-event.aspx>

Please note that the closing date for both nominations and grant applications is Monday 2 April 2018.

Safeguarding Awareness Sessions

Community Action Bedfordshire is running free Safeguarding Awareness sessions on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council. The sessions are for workers, volunteers or trustees from small voluntary organisations or community groups in Central Bedfordshire who:

- are working with vulnerable adults, families or children
- are new to safeguarding
- want to refresh and up-date your knowledge
- need to undertake 'approved safeguarding training' to meet funding requirements.

The locations and dates for the sessions are:

- Leighton Buzzard: Tuesday 30 January 2018 and Thursday 15 March 2018.
- Dunstable: Thursday 1 March 2018.

All the sessions run from 10.00am to 1.00pm.

If you would like to book yourself or your volunteers on to one of these sessions, please email vicki@cabeds.org.uk or call 01525 850559.

And in other news ...

General Data Protection Regulation

With only five months left to ensure your organisation is ready for the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the NCVO have put together a great deal of [useful information and guidance](#) to help you including:

- [How to prepare for GDPR](#)
- [Guidance on writing a GDPR policy](#) (NCVO members only)
- [Training days around the country](#)
- [Webinar recording](#) - what does GDPR mean for your organisation?
- Links to partners offering further advice and support

Visit this NCVO website for further information: [All you need to know to get ready for GDPR](#)

You need to [prepare now](#) to protect your data properly and to make sure you are ready for the new rules.

Job Vacancies

Administrator

Community Action Bedfordshire is looking to appoint an Administrator at its offices in Leighton Buzzard. The post holder will undertake a range of administrative work including finance, facilities management, ICT and management information systems. The post holder will need to have good organisational, finance and ICT skills, and experience of using accountancy software and management information systems.

£18,746 to £21,962 pa [pro rata]; 20 - 25 hours per week.

Closing date for applications: 10.00am on 8 January 2018.

For further information, please visit: www.cabeds.org.uk/vacancies

This email has been sent by Volunteer Centre Central Bedfordshire, part of Community Action Bedfordshire.

To unsubscribe, please reply with 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line.

Our offices close at 12.00pm on Friday 15 December 2017 and open again at 9.30am on Tuesday 2 January 2018.

Community Action is a local infrastructure organisation that develops, enables, promotes and supports local voluntary and community action (including volunteering) across Bedfordshire. It seeks to achieve this through advocacy; capacity building activities; enhancing the provision of volunteering opportunities; the exchange of information; the provision of training; advice and consultancy; and by working in partnership with others. To find out more visit our website at www.cabeds.org.uk

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