

Volunteer Management

January 2018

Cheering Volunteering 2018

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

There are opportunities to nominate people or groups for six different awards, including a new category for 2018 - Sports Volunteer. Nominations are open and you now have just over two months to nominate volunteers in as many categories as you like. However, you cannot nominate a volunteer for more than one category.

Applications for the Inspiring Volunteering Grant Scheme are also open. There is a total funding pot of £5,000 which is available for projects that 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.

14 different groups and organisations benefitted in 2017. You can find out which they were, as well as who won at last year's awards by visiting this website:

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.



Request for photographs of volunteers

Displaying photographs of volunteers undertaking their volunteering roles within Central Bedfordshire forms a significant part of the Cheering Volunteering celebrations. These images might be of a group of volunteers working together or of just one volunteer. Do you have any images that you would like to send us? If so, please could you only send pictures where everyone in the photo has agreed that their image can be used for publicity purposes. Please could you email your photographs or get in touch if you would like a photograph consent form template by emailing vicki@cabeds.org.uk

Volunteer Connect

Have you recently received an email saying 'Volunteer Connect - Your volunteer role is soon to expire'? If so, you need to take immediate action otherwise these roles will disappear and volunteers will not be able to apply for them.

Details about your organisation and volunteering roles have been uploaded to Volunteer Connect. In order to access this information and to renew your roles, you need to register with Volunteer Connect as an individual.

Please note that we are now only using Volunteer Connect to promote volunteering opportunities and that we are no longer using Do-it.org. Therefore, so you can promote your volunteering opportunities, you need to register with Volunteer Connect as soon as possible.

Volunteer Connect can be accessed via our 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 of our website 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

Community Grant Scheme is now open for applications

This grant funding is available for community groups, charities, not for profit organisations, social enterprises and individuals who are working with the residents of Central Bedfordshire.

The aim of this funding is to:

- support the prevention of loneliness and social isolation
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- promote independent living and community participation
- encourage individuals to feel safe, valued and respected.

The Central Bedfordshire Council Better Care Fund Community Grant Scheme is open to existing groups and also those with innovative ideas of how to provide new opportunities to local people.

Funding is available for revenue costs, for example staffing, equipment, fees for registration, DBS checks, running costs and promotion. The total funding available in the 2018-19 Financial Year is £100,000 with bids being accepted between £200 and £10,000.

The deadline for applications is Friday 16 February 2018. Applicants will be notified on the outcome of their application by Friday 16 March 2018.

For further information about the grant scheme please visit:

www.cabeds.org.uk/news/18-funding/60-news-item-7

If you would like support with exploring ideas or with completing the application process, please contact Gina Croxford, Community Engagement Manager at Community Action Bedfordshire, on 01525 850559 or email gina@cabeds.org.uk

Do you have any opportunities for Micro-volunteering?

A recent article in the Guardian defined micro-volunteering as taking a simple idea – that people are more likely to volunteer their time in short and convenient bite-sized chunks – and turning it into a new approach to community action. It offers volunteers a series of easy tasks that can be done anytime, anywhere and on their own terms.

Micro-volunteering could involve anything from signing a petition or retweeting a message to taking part in a ‘flash mob’ or counting birds in your garden. The only requirements are that: volunteers do not need to go through an application or training process; the tasks take only minutes to complete; and the volunteering does not require any ongoing commitment.

The vast majority of micro-volunteering takes place online (more than 80% in 2016) but it does not have to. Weeding a garden in a local community centre or going to visit a lonely neighbour for half an hour or so is just as important.

Source: www.theguardian.com/voluntary-sector-network/2017/apr/13/microvolunteering-what-is-it-and-why-should-you-do-it

Sunday 15 April 2018 is Micro-volunteering Day. Do you have any micro-volunteering opportunities that you would like us to promote? We can do this via a variety of different media. If you log on to [Volunteer Connect](#), you will see that Micro-volunteering is now included in the Activity list for each volunteering role. If you select this, volunteers will be able to search for it.

If you would like help with developing your micro-volunteering roles or you require any further information, please email vicki@cabeds.org.uk

Safeguarding Awareness Sessions

There are still places available on the FREE Safeguarding Awareness sessions which are run by Community Action Bedfordshire on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council. These 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:

- Dunstable: Thursday 1 March 2018
- Leighton Buzzard: Thursday 15 March 2018

Both these 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.

Alternatively, if you have a large number of staff or volunteers who would like or need to do safeguarding awareness, we can arrange to deliver it at a venue of your choice. For further details, please email vicki@cabeds.org.uk

Are you Volunteer-ready?

We are running the FREE Workshops for Volunteer Managers and Co-ordinators again in Luton in February and March 2018. These workshops focus on the key aspects of volunteer management. Feedback from the Volunteer Managers' Workshops that we ran in November was extremely positive. Comments about the workshops have included:

'Thank you for the effort you put into training us, it was very thorough and engaging.'

'I found the whole event very informative and it has given me lots of ideas to try out!'

'There has been some really positive feedback from the workshops, the booklets are fantastic. And I know the certificates are going down well.'

'Great training delivered by excellent trainers. Definitely advise any organisations that have volunteers or are planning to have volunteers to attend this FREE training.'

If you deliver services in Luton and didn't attend the Workshops in November or you were only available to attend some of the sessions or maybe your colleagues would like to attend, then please email vicki@cabeds.org.uk for further details about these Workshops for Volunteer Managers and

Co-ordinators.

Networking and Sharing Good Practice

Our Networking Events for Volunteer Managers in Central Bedfordshire are extremely popular events. They provide volunteer managers and co-ordinators the opportunity to learn about new development within volunteering and to network with each other. The next Networking Event for Volunteer Managers is on Thursday 28 June 2018 at Parkside Hall, Ampthill. For further information, please email vicki@cabeds.org.uk

And in other news ...

General Data Protection Regulation

The NCVO website states that:

Data protection law reform is coming with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) taking effect from 25 May 2018. You now need to start preparing the changes to your current policies and procedures that the GDPR will require. GDPR is not just a tick box exercise and it needs all staff and volunteers to embrace new procedures. To help prepare for GDPR, NCVO has a range of services that they can offer directly and through partners to support organisations.

Information and guidance

Data protection legislation covers everyone about whom you keep personal data. This includes employees, volunteers, service users, members, supporters and donors. The legislation:

- requires organisations to register if they keep records
- governs the processing of personal data including 'personal sensitive data'
- requires organisations to comply with eight principles for data protection
- allows employees, service users and other contacts to request to see the personal data held on them.

Every organisation should have a written policy and procedure that is specific to their context about how they handle personal data and enact privacy principles. Requirements for these policies and procedures will change when GDPR takes effect.

For further information, please visit:

www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/information/data-protection

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.

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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