

Shropshire Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly

Board Newsletter September 2009



The most recent meeting of the Assembly Board took place on the 8th September and covered a wide range of VCS Assembly issues from approving the Local Resilience Action Plan and the draft Compact, to welcoming a new Forum of Interest and, of course, hearing news from our existing Forums of Interest. Highlights from the board meeting are contained in this newsletter, for more detail, see the full set of minutes on our website: <http://www.2shrop.net/shropvcsassembly>.

Thanks to all of you who have sent in information for, and feedback on, the weekly e-mail bulletins. Don't forget that if you have news you would like to share please get in touch using the contact details on the following page. It is always good to know if you have found an article particularly useful or perhaps accessed funding or equipment from information shared.

Waste and recycling forum join

The Board approved an application from the Waste and Recycling network, to join the Assembly as a Forum of Interest.

The network exists to facilitate and support members to minimize waste and maximise the use of resources including: materials, people and energy. It lobbies and seeks to influence policy and decision making and is a key link between community groups and waste industries, regulators and statutory agencies. The network also negotiates contracts on behalf of the network for delivery by network members.

The activities of members are very varied and include: publication of recycling guides, furniture recycling and reuse, campaigning activities, education and awareness raising, recycling of cardboard, plastic, paper and "green waste", use of recycled materials for arts and craft and many more.

If you think the Waste and Recycling Network forum members could help you, or you would like to join the forum, contact the VCS Assembly Coordinator using the contact details on the following page; or perhaps contacting or joining one of the other Forums would benefit your organisation. Descriptions of the work of each forum can be found on our web pages.

Representatives take off!

As the Assembly becomes more established, we are being asked to provide representatives at more and more key meetings. At its September meeting the Board decided that to make sure that these opportunities are open to all members they should be advertised in the weekly e-mail news bulletins.

Anyone interested in being a Representative will be fully supported by the VCS Assembly Coordinator, it is a great way to expand your networks and learn from others. So keep your eye out for these opportunities.

Compact Consultation gets the seal of approval!

The board went through the draft Compact document and approved the roles set out for the Assembly in its ongoing implementation and monitoring. The Assembly will play a key role in the Compact Implementation group, Compact Champions Network and in the Disputes and Resolution process. Thanks to all those who replied to during the consultation period.

Join us at the Compact launch—6th November, Shrewsbury Football Stadium, 9.30a.m start

Shropshire VCS
Assembly Board

Next meeting:
1st December 2009



We will survive!

The local resilience action plan which aims to support the Voluntary and Community sector in Shropshire steer their way through the recession was approved by the board's September meeting. The actions were developed from a survey of VCS members earlier in the year and a workshop event held locally. Of course the economic climate is changing all the time and the Board was keen that the plans remains current, so the Forums of Interest will be keeping an eye out for developing trends.

New Third Sector Champion

Councillor Martin Bennett has taken up the role Third Sector Champion. The board discussed key messages that they wished the Assembly Chair to share with Councillor Bennett to aid him in understanding and Championing the sector. These included passing on key statistics about the sector, the message that "volunteering is not free" and that "The VCS should not be expected to take a disproportionate share of any cuts in public Sector spending". The Assembly Chair also agreed to invite Councillor Bennett to come along to the next Board meeting to meet the rest of the Assembly Board

Independent Safeguarding Authority Conference. Free Event

Fri 27th November
Hospital Education and Training Centre
Shrewsbury
10-2p.m

Booking essential. For further details and to register your interest e-mail: enquiries@shropshireroc.org.uk

Assembly in the Frame?

The Visual arts Network has offered to investigate getting a grant to commission an artist to do a piece of work to promote the Assembly and celebrate the diversity of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Shropshire and the contribution it

Sustainable Communities strategy.

Jenny McNicol from the Shropshire Partnership gave the Board an overview of the draft Sustainable Communities Strategy and invited contributions and comments from the Board and the Forums of Interest. This strategy steers both policy decisions and the services that public agencies provide across the county and steers plans for the future infrastructure development. Hear more about the strategy at the Shropshire Partnership Standing Conference, 9th November, Council Chambers, Shirehall, 6p.m onwards

Open For Business

Don't forget that the main part of the Assembly Board meetings are open to Assembly members as observers and you can ask questions by prior agreement with the Chair. So why not join us on 1st December, 1.30 p.m, in the Oswestry Room Shirehall?

If there any issues you would particularly like to see the Board discuss you can raise these through the Chairs of the Forums of Interest who can submit papers for inclusion on the agenda, or have an informal chat with the Assembly Coordinator. The agenda will be sent out two weeks before the meeting (16th November), so please let us have your ideas a week or so before that date. Papers need to be finalised by 20th November.

Contact us

For more information about Shropshire VCS Assembly visit our web site at:

<http://www.2shrop.net/shropsvcsassembly>
or contact the Shropshire Partnership Team
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