



## Welcome to our latest newsletter

**July 2011**

- find out about our new and exciting projects
- reviews of training events that have taken place and details of up and coming activities
- news from local organisations
- changes to our Youth Volunteering project

The Youth Volunteering Project, our dedicated service for 16-25 year olds, ended on March 31st due to the withdrawal of v funding.

It is not an end to the services we provide for young people, just a change in the way we work.

We will continue to provide help and support for young people wanting to volunteer, and will contact them with new opportunities, events and one-off activities.



### Are you looking for short term help this summer?

During the summer months we have a high number of skilled students looking to do something productive with their time.

Are you holding one-off events or do you have special short term opportunities or projects that these volunteers can help you with?

**If so, just let us know and we can include your opportunities within our summer volunteering leaflet.**



### Take us back to the sixties!

We have been successful in securing funding to run an exciting new intergenerational project, aimed at engaging young people in their local heritage.

Working in partnership with the Museum, the project will incorporate an exhibition at the museum and a celebration event for all people involved in the project!

Volunteers will get involved in lots of unique and interesting opportunities such as:

Creating 60's inspired shop windows for the charity shops in Warrington, creating a short film on people's memories of teenage life during the early 60's, creating an exhibition for the Museum to showcase all the research and work, training in oral history and research and organising a celebration event for all the people involved in the project.

If you, or any of your client group were teenagers in the early sixties and would like to get involved with this exciting new project then please contact:

**Claire - Youth Volunteering & Heritage Officer**

**01925 637609**

**[claire@warringtonvc.org.uk](mailto:claire@warringtonvc.org.uk)**



# NATIONAL PROFILE!

**Thanks to a successful tender to the Office of Civil Society, Volunteer Centre Warrington has been commissioned to deliver a key piece of national work on Volunteer Management as part of the European Year of Volunteering 2011**



We will deliver a programme of activities, building on existing examples and resources of good practice in managing volunteers. The audience for this work is both individuals whose responsibilities involve managing volunteers and planning strategically, and organisations who involve volunteers in the delivery of their work.

We will bring together the vast array of good practice, key contacts in the field of volunteer management and existing networks and opportunities for professional development into one accessible document.

The project will involve developing and evaluating four specific areas of work:

- **Evaluation of Talent Management, an approach adapted from the private sector, involving progression planning and empowerment of volunteers**
- **Developing new approaches to good practice in the management of volunteers engaged in short-term opportunities**
- **Supporting new ideas to enable volunteer-led organisations to deliver a good practice approach**
- **Incorporating technology to support and develop volunteer programmes.**

A nationwide team of Volunteer Management Champions will be set up, with specialisms in priority areas such as volunteer management at strategic levels. The aim is to ensure sustainability beyond the lifetime of this project.

Key messages from relevant speakers and organisations, as well as ideas generated throughout the project, will be streamed through a series of Webinar links. The links will maintain momentum and ensure that the findings and developments from the project are shared across the networks.

**New VC team members Chris Huffee and Claire Ross will be working alongside Training Manager Sue Jones to deliver this work.**

Chris has already begun work as our new Volunteering and Social Media Officer, and will be developing our capacity to deliver a series of national Webinar broadcasts as well as focusing on the crucial role of effective Volunteer Management in volunteer involving organisations using social media.

Claire's role will involve working specifically with local volunteer-led groups to explore some of the challenges and benefits of following a Good Practice approach to volunteer management.

The aim of this work is to overcome some of the challenges and to capture what works well in this particular setting so that other groups can share in this learning.

**We recently held a Webinar demonstration for people to find out more about this emerging workplace tool!**

The webinar covered the following points:

- Why this interactive on-line approach to meetings and learning is becoming more popular across all sectors of work
- How you can access future learning and networking opportunities without even leaving your desk
- Discovering what you need to get started and participate in a webinar

The session introduced the tools used to deliver webinars. At the end of the session participants were familiar with the software and had chance to contribute to discussions about the content of potential future sessions.

**[Click here and have a look at what went on!](#)**

**Interested in finding out more?**

**Email [chris@warringtonvc.org.uk](mailto:chris@warringtonvc.org.uk)**

# TRAINING NEWS!

## Bespoke training available

We are receiving requests from organisations to develop training solutions which are bespoke and meet the individual needs of their group.

The sessions provide time and space for participants to share what's happening within the organisation and explore what might need to change or develop to meet the ever-increasing demands placed on volunteer-involving projects.

Recent groups we have worked with in this way include Making Space and St Rocco's Hospice. Both agreed that the sessions helped to move their ideas forward and develop a consistent approach to the way that volunteers are included and valued within their workplace; here is some feedback:

*"I gained a better understanding of volunteering structure, aims and motivation".*

*"Interacting with other team members from the organisation was really beneficial".*

*"I enjoyed the enthusiasm generated by the session".*

If you think your organisation would benefit from this type of training session, please contact our Training Manager [sue@warringtonvc.org.uk](mailto:sue@warringtonvc.org.uk)

## Want to influence future training topics?

We are really keen on finding out your views and opinions to help shape our future plans. We have devised a training questionnaire for you to tell us more.

Please click here to take the survey - it will only take a few minutes

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GZ78SKP>



As one of the training providers for a national volunteer management programme funded by capacity builders, Volunteer Centre Warrington have worked with 120 learners delivering the Excellence in Volunteering Management programme across the North West and West Midland regions.

There were a range of learners from a wide variety of settings; from small local sports clubs to student unions, large national charities and public sector volunteering programmes.

Congratulations to all of the local Volunteer Managers who successfully completed this level 3 qualification.

Excellence in Volunteer Management



We held a training fair on the 20th May to highlight the range of learning and training opportunities we can offer here at the Volunteer Centre.

Topics that we covered included:

**National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Managing Volunteers, Coaching, Excellence in Volunteer Management programme, Webinars, Learning loops**

Click here to look at the handouts from the day:

<http://wavm.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Training-fair-handouts.pdf>

We received some great feedback from the session;

**'Really good to network and learn more about what is out there to help me'**

**'Great opportunity to have questions answered'**

**'Found the learning loops really useful - not seen it before'**

# WHAT ARE OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS UPTO?

## We have recently delivered a tailor-made training session for Warrington Libraries - Wendy Molyneux tells us all about it...



“Warrington Library service has developed and expanded its volunteer programme over the years focusing on plans to empower communities. From delivering books to housebound people to promoting and encouraging healthy lifestyles and creating a new library within the Orford Park Neighbourhood Hub.

To effectively operate a volunteer programme it was recognised that it is necessary to have the relevant paperwork in place. A training need was identified to upskill library staff to ensure we have the right people in the right role.

At our request the Volunteer Centre developed and delivered a tailor made training session entitled ‘Interview Techniques’ covering hints and tips on how to interview potential volunteers.

Participants really enjoyed the training and one member of staff commented that it was useful to be made aware of the importance of setting the scene. Staff also felt clarification about how to proceed if we receive interest from an unsuitable candidate proved particularly useful.

Everyone taking part felt it was good to get together as a group to discover how colleagues were finding what until now has been a bit of uncharted territory for us. Knowing that help is at hand at the Volunteer Centre we are ready to embrace volunteering for now and into the future”

**For more information about the library’s volunteering programme or to find out how you can get involved please contact Wendy Molyneux at Orford Library on 07730 075966**

## A warm welcome to a new Volunteer Co-ordinator in our area ...



My name is Fiona Villanova and I have recently started working for Leonard Cheshire Disability as North West Supported Living Volunteer Coordinator. Although new to this organisation, I have been working in the voluntary sector for the past six years in different volunteer support roles as well as volunteering myself in my spare time. I have thoroughly enjoyed these experiences and so was thrilled to get the chance to continue to work in this field, especially with volunteers who can make a real difference to the lives of people with disabilities.

I’ve only been with LCD for a short time but I am finding the job very rewarding and interesting. I have met lots of great people who access the different services, as well as fantastic volunteers willing to give up their time to help disabled people through various roles.

Leonard Cheshire Disability exists to change attitudes to disability and supports over 21,000 disabled people in the UK, works in more than 50 countries and is the largest voluntary sector provider of care and support services for disabled people in the UK.

Volunteers have always played an important and crucial role in the success of the organisation and remain a vital part of our services. The high value that we place on our volunteers is reflected in the well developed programme of support that we make available, helping to ensure that volunteers’ experience is enjoyable and rewarding.

For more information, please contact me at [Fiona.villanova@lcdisability.org](mailto:Fiona.villanova@lcdisability.org) or call **01925 414115**

# CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



## The Give to Gain Event was held on Friday 10th June at Warrington Business School.

The purpose of the event was to showcase Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the local community. CSR is about taking a responsible attitude, going beyond the minimum legal requirements and following straightforward principles that apply whatever the size of the business.

This was an exciting opportunity for private and voluntary sectors to network and also bring together ideas for the future of the community.

We had key speakers who provided an insight to CSR in Warrington and how organisations can make a valuable contribution which others can gain from. Key speakers included; Lord-Lieutenant David Briggs, Ed Wootton Construction Director for GallifordTry, Lesley Brewin Head of Community and Third Sector Partnerships, Julie Dadson Chief Officer of Walton Lea project and our own Chief Officer Alison Cullen.

The event was a great success where people from both sectors gained valuable information and contacts and also started brainstorming ideas for future projects.



Volunteer Centre Warrington has set up a new project - **Impact Warrington** to deliver a range of Employer Supported Volunteering activities. This includes skills bank - a scheme that matches specialist skills of professionals, such as business planning or marketing, in order to benefit the local community.

**If you would like to find out about ways your organisation can get involved then please contact us here at the Volunteer Centre.**



**We hope you have found this newsletter useful and informative. Please get in touch if you would like help and advice with any element of your volunteering programme.**

### Contact Us:

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**Volunteer Centre**  
Warrington

**Excellence in  
Volunteer  
Management**



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