



Annandale & Eskdale  
Council for  
Voluntary Service

# AECVS News

May 2011

## **NEW DEVELOPMENT MANAGER APPOINTED**

We are delighted to report that AECVS has appointed a new Development Manager. Her name is **DONNA WILKINSON** and she will take up post on 1 June 2011. Donna has said that she was specifically seeking a position within a charity that could draw on her many skills, while also allowing her to be in a position of service.

Originally from the USA, Donna spent many years as a volunteer, and also as an employee, with the American Red Cross. A successful business woman in her own right, Donna will bring many skills: good management — supervisory — training — IT — media — marketing ... and many more.

Given time to settle in, Donna hopes to be proactive and be out and about meeting the CVS membership groups.

We wish her well in her new position.

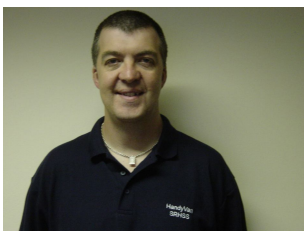
## ***Farewell Annette!***

Sadly, Annette Meehan, our Community Development Worker, left AECVS during April. Having sold her house after two years on the market, Annette moved away to a place nearer the sea, where she could carry out her hobby of sea kayaking.

I'm sure you'll agree, she's found an idyllic home and she looks pretty cool here .....



## **HANDYVAN/SMALL REPAIR & HOME SUPPORT SERVICE**



There is good news for customers of the HandyVan/Small Repairs & Home Support Service. Stuart Maxwell, our HandyVan fitter, can now tackle jobs requiring two people. For example, gutter cleaning can now be undertaken as, for health and safety reasons, two people are required. This has come about due to a link with The Food Train. Certain willing volunteers from The Food Train have very kindly agreed to help Stuart on certain days.

***We are indebted to this willing band of people.***

The criteria for the service remains the same, that is:-

You are a tenant of a private landlord or a home owner and in addition

- ◇ Be 60 or over
- ◇ Disabled
- ◇ Have learning difficulties or mental health problems
- ◇ Be a victim of domestic abuse.

We may then be able to help you with:-

- ◇ Home security
- ◇ Small Repairs
- ◇ Falls prevention
- ◇ Minor adaptations

If you feel we can help you, or someone you know, then please call **YVETTE** on **01387 812014**

## ***FUNDING INFORMATION .... FUNDING INFORMATION .... FUNDING .***

### **LEADER FUNDING AVAILABLE**

LEADER funding is still available for rural based projects. LEADER is part of the Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP). It is a bottom-up method of delivering support for rural development through implementing local development strategies. Support, awarded by Local Action Groups (LAGs), is aimed at local projects with a wide community benefit that show an element of originality or experimentation where possible, and complement other activities within the local development strategy.

Perhaps you have a rural playgroup/community childcare/minibus service (or know of an organisation) in need of a boost? Please see the following links for details of the fund. For further information contact:-

Scottish National Rural Network - <http://www.ruralgateway.org.uk/>

SG website - <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/SRDP/LEADER>

Rural Direct - <http://www.ruraldirect.org.uk/>

SCVO - <http://www.scvo.org.uk/>

### **BIG LOTTERY FUND - £20 MILLION TO IMPROVE CHILDREN'S FUTURES**

The Big Lottery Fund believes that every child deserves the best start in life but that some grow up in difficult circumstances. Their Improving Futures programme, with investment up to £20 million, aims to improve outcomes for children within these families. Grants for projects that build on existing best practice will receive funding for between 3 and 5 years.

The Big Lottery Fund are looking for initial expressions of interest in the programme, before inviting a limited number of applicants to submit full applications. Note the following points about expressions of interest:-

Expressions of interest must be from partnerships led by voluntary sector organisations, but those partnerships may include local authorities and other voluntary and public sector partners.

The focus of Improving Futures is on helping families where their oldest child is between 5-10 years of age.

No more than one expression of interest should be made per local authority area, and local authorities (Community Health Partnerships in Scotland) should sign the form to indicate their support, thus ensuring appropriate dialogue and that proposals are additional and complementary to existing provision in the area.

Full details—guidance, application material and Questions & Answers— are available on the Big Lottery Fund website:

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

### **SHORT BREAKS FUND**

The Scottish Government has made the Short Breaks Fund available to help support and sustain Scottish carers, including young carers and kinship carers, through enabling better access to short breaks or respite care.

Applications are open to voluntary organisations for projects starting from October 2011 that develop existing, innovative and personalised models of short breaks for carers. Organisations can apply for up to three years, for a maximum of £50000 per annum and it is anticipated that the majority of grants will be for one year and in the range of £5000-£25000.

This fund is now open with applications available at:-

[www.sharedcarescotland.org.uk/short-breaks-fund.html](http://www.sharedcarescotland.org.uk/short-breaks-fund.html)

Deadline: 12 noon, 20 June 2011.

## WHAT'S COMING UP .... INFORMATION ....WHAT'S COMING UP ... INFO

### MAKING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION WORK FOR YOU—FREE WORKSHOP

Tuesday 21 June 2011

Hollywood Trust, Mount St Michael, Craigs Road, Dumfries

Why not take the opportunity to gain the skills to make effective use of Scotland's freedom of information (FOI) rights. This gives individuals and organisations the right to request and receive information from Scotland's public authorities.

The workshop will be facilitated by staff from the Scottish Information Commissioner's office—the organisation responsible for promoting and enforcing Scotland's FOI rights.

For more information, or to book a place, contact the Scottish Information Commissioner on 01334 464610 or email:-

[enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)



### HSE FIRST AID COURSE

Tuesday 14 June 2011

12.30—5.00 pm

Annan (venue to be confirmed)

Funded by Awards for All Lottery Funding, this training is FREE to volunteers.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Closing date for places is 7 June 2011.

To book a place, contact Liz Forsyth, SHAP Development Worker on 01461 207728 or e-mail: [elizabethforsyth@nhs.net](mailto:elizabethforsyth@nhs.net). Also speak with Liz if you require help with travel costs.

### NEWS FROM SCOTTISH GAS

Scottish Gas has opened the doors of its Green Skills Academy, based in Dumfries, which aims to raise energy awareness and offer training in renewable technologies. As well as training their own staff, local communities will be invited to participate in skills training and make use of the centres for community activities.

The Academy promotes renewable technology and has a live training area able to deliver training and up-skilling in renewables technologies (including air source heat pumps and combined heat and power units).

The centre aims to help improve the energy efficiency of homes throughout Scotland and to support Scottish householders to reduce their carbon emissions. The Dumfries base will also work with local job agencies and the third sector to support long term unemployed people re-train in the highly skilled, and growing, green industry. Scottish Gas is already engaging with social enterprises and aims to further engage through the Green Skills Academies by offering meeting space, bespoke training for social enterprise and skills training for local unemployed people.

The senior manager on site is Alex Dingwall (Operations and Account Manager). The daily operational point of contact is Neil Robertson (Community Development Manager) telephone **07979 564159**. For further information about the facilities please contact Neil Robertson directly or email [Dumfries.Academy@britishgas.co.uk](mailto:Dumfries.Academy@britishgas.co.uk) or call the Academy on 01387 721079.

### CHARITY ACCOUNTS REMINDER

Under statutory requirements, the accounts of all Scottish charities must be prepared in line with the regulations and externally scrutinised. That is, the accounts must be prepared on either a Receipts and Payments basis or using the accruals method, and someone who is independent of the charity must review the accounts and associated documents and produce a report which is attached to the accounts.

The independent examiner should have the necessary skills required to carry out the examination and should have an understanding of charity accounting regulations and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator's guidance on

carrying out independent examination.

The basis of accounts to be prepared depends on certain factors such as the charity's gross income and whether the charity is a company or unincorporated organisation. Further information can be found by visiting the regulator's website: [www.oscr.org.uk](http://www.oscr.org.uk) or by calling 01382 220446.

Alternatively, if your charity's income is less than £100K and you require help with preparing accounts, or need someone to carry out the independent examination, contact AECVS on 01387 810974 to be signposted to book-keeping services and an independent examiner who can provide this service at affordable rates.

## WHAT'S COMING UP .... INFORMATION ....WHAT'S COMING UP ... INFO



Wednesday 22 June 2011  
Newall House, Newall Terrace, Dumfries

12 noon—3.15 pm **FREE** course

Part of the Scottish Government strategy to reduce suicide in Scotland by 20% by 2013, Safe-talk:-

- ◇ teaches community members to recognise people with thoughts of suicide and to connect them to suicide intervention resources;
- ◇ Prepares participants to activate a suicide alert by following the 'TALK' (Tell, Ask, Listen and Keepsafe) steps.

To book a place, contact Carole Reed on 01387 247215 or 07765 191 210, or email [carolereed2010@btinternet.com](mailto:carolereed2010@btinternet.com)



Why not have a look at the DGVoice's new website [www.dgvoice.co.uk](http://www.dgvoice.co.uk). It is packed

with information relevant to disabled people in Dumfries and Galloway and gives details of DGVoice, its work within the region, and its influence at a Scottish and UK level. There are sections of news affecting disabled people, forthcoming events, details of 'the team', an online form for FREE membership of DGVoice, and a section on youth.

The Directory contains essential information for Disabled People, while the parking section contains information on disabled parking and the Blue Badge Scheme. Another section contains all DGVoice newsletters, available to read online or download in pdf format. For more information on DGVoice, telephone 01387 257770 or e-mail [info@dgvoice.co.uk](mailto:info@dgvoice.co.uk).

### WINNING BUSINESS

Tuesday 7 June 2011

Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries

A 1/2 day **FREE** conference and trade fair exploring local and national procurement policy and the opportunities and challenges for Social Enterprises in winning public sector contracts.

If you are a staff or Board/Management Committee member of a social enterprise; a procurer or commissioner in any public sector service; an intermediary or business support organisation working with social enterprises on tendering - then this event is for you.

To book, complete the online form on:-

[www.amiando.com/procurement.html](http://www.amiando.com/procurement.html)



### CERVICAL SCREENING

#### The Cervical Screening Test: Put it on you list

All women in Scotland between the ages of 20 and 60 are offered a cervical screening test every three years. In August 2010 a new set of leaflets was introduced into the national screening programme in Scotland. The leaflets explain what's involved, address reasons why women may not be coming forward for screening and answers questions commonly asked. The leaflets can be downloaded from:-

[www.healthscotland.com](http://www.healthscotland.com)

**NORTH** - 22 June 2011, Lockerbie Town Hall

**SOUTH** - 25 August 2011, McFarlan Hall, Clarencefield

**EAST & ESKDALE** - Gretna, Springfield, Gretna Green, Kirkpatrick Fleming - 5 July 2011, Richard Greenhow Centre, Gretna.

### ANNANDALE & ESKDALE WARD FORUMS

(all start 7.00 pm)



### ANNANDALE & ESKDALE COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE (AECVS)

16 High Street, Lochmaben, Lockerbie, DG11 1NH Tel: 01387 810974 Fax: 01387 812010

Website: [www.aecvs.org.uk](http://www.aecvs.org.uk) Email: [info@aecvs.org.uk](mailto:info@aecvs.org.uk)

Office hours: Monday-Friday 9.00 am—4.00 pm Open to Public: Monday-Friday 9.00 am—3.00 pm

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Annandale & Eskdale Council for Voluntary Service is a partner in the Dumfries & Galloway Third Sector Interface, and member of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and Voluntary Action Scotland. AECVS is a charity registered in Scotland, Scottish Charity No. SC013763 and a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland, No SC176394.





# INFORMATION EXTRA

## **VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT FAYRE**

In association with Scottish Volunteering Week in June 2011, the Dumfries and Galloway Volunteer Recruitment Forum has arranged a special Volunteering Recruitment Fayre. This will be held on Wednesday 1 June 2011 between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm at The Baker's Oven, High Street, Dumfries.



The purpose of the event is to invite members of the public to drop in and find out more about the wide and varied volunteering opportunities in their area. A number of locally based agencies will be on hand to give all the information and advice required. For more information just contact Bill Milven, Volunteer Recruitment Forum at Leonard Cheshire Disability, Lochar House, Heathhall, Dumfries on 01387 711337 or email [vrf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vrf@hotmail.co.uk) Do come along, find out more about volunteering and *'Get more out of Life!'*

## **MY HEALTH PASSPORT— INFORMATION SESSIONS**

If you are:-

- ◇ a person with a learning disability
- ◇ a parent
- ◇ a Care provider
- ◇ a health professional / social services staff

then come along and find out what is being done to help with accessing healthcare.

- ◇ Leaflets
- ◇ Health passport
- ◇ Annual health checks information
- ◇ Training for hospital staff

Dates/times/venues for drop-in sessions are as follows:-

Monday 6 June 2011 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm  
Activity & Resource Centre, Ednam Street, Annan

Tuesday 7 June 2011 9.30 am - 12.30 pm  
DG One Leisure Complex, Hoods Loaning, Dumfries

Tuesday 7 June 2011 1.30 pm—4.30 pm  
Front Foyer, Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary

## **ANNANDALE & ESKDALE FEDERATION OF VILLAGE & COMMUNITY HALLS**

**Annual General Meeting**

**13 June 2011 at 7.30 pm**

**Applegarth Hall, Applegarth, Lockerbie**

Membership fee must be paid prior to the day.

Nomination forms for Management Committee to be returned to AECVS Office, 16 High Street, Lochmaben DG11 1NH as soon as possible.

Attendance/non-attendance should be notified prior to AGM.

There will be a presentation following the AGM by Graham Hudson, Central Insurance Services Ltd, Aberdeen on insurance for village/community halls. The more halls (within the Annandale & Eskdale and Nithsdale Federations) who take out insurance the greater the reductions. Do come along and find out more!

## **NEW WEB RESOURCE FOR UNDERAGE SEXUAL ACTIVITY**

New laws around underage sex were introduced on 1 December 2010 when the Sexual Offences Action (Scotland) 2009 came into force. In the same month the Scottish Government produced National Guidance on Underage Sexual Activity.

An on-line guide has been developed for all staff working with young people in how to deal appropriately with sexual activity of 13, 14 and 15 year olds. For more information, log on to:- [www.huspa.org.uk](http://www.huspa.org.uk). The website focuses on the best interests of the young person and acknowledges the complex decision making involved.

**DG VOICE CONFERENCE  
YOUTH MATTERS  
Friday 24 June 2011 from 10.00 am - 3.30pm  
DGOne, DUMFRIES**

### **Conference Aim**

This conference will be an opportunity for disabled young people to tell decision makers what needs to happen for them to live their lives to the full as equal citizens in their communities. The event will:

- ◇ identify what helps or hinders disabled young people get on in life and to come up with solutions;
- ◇ provide an opportunity for young disabled people to meet, discuss relevant issues and learn from each other;
- ◇ give young disabled people a voice on the issues that affect them and to increase their participation;
- ◇ provide the opportunity for 'expert listeners' to learn from the experiences of young disabled people;
- ◇ identify priorities for moving forward;
- ◇ give carers an open space for discussion;
- ◇ be fun!

### **Who should attend?**

If you are a young disabled person aged 12 – 25 then the DG Voice Youth Matters Conference 2011 is not to be missed.

### **Opening Performances**

Youth Alive, Body Electric Dance group will be entertaining you in the morning and in the afternoon you can rock to the band Cree Sound.

### **Keynote Speakers**

We look forward to hearing from Ryan McCann finalist from Young Scot awards in the morning. Two years ago Ryan was in a car crash which left him with a broken neck. His job centre referred him to [yipworld.com](http://yipworld.com), a charity in Cumnock, Ayrshire, where he is a volunteer. Ryan, 20, also acts as a mentor for two schools. He will also be facilitating one of the workshops.

In the afternoon we welcome The Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People (SCCYP), Tam Baillie. Tam will announce Dumfries and Galloway's outcomes from the National Big Blether Consultation undertaken by SCCYP. Tam wants to hear what you think about this!

### **Interactive workshops**

A series of workshops, running in the morning and afternoon, will allow you to discuss in greater depth, areas of specific interest.

### **Networking and market place**

You'll also be able to share your experiences, ideas and concerns with people who are facing the same or similar challenges and to chat to people from a variety of agencies who have some fun lunch-time activities planned and lots of free stuff to take away.

## **COMMUNITY SPACES PROGRAMME**

This programme will be launched mid-June to support communities to come together around a space or place that matters to them, helping this to be better used, and the communities to improve the environment and to work together to be healthier and more active, eg. parks, community gardens, outdoor play areas, allotments and community centres or meeting spaces.

The programme will be geographically targeted. Eligibility of their space/place can be checked through the Big Lottery Fund website by entering the postcode of the project base.

Organisations will be able to apply for grants of between £10K-£250K for capital or revenue projects. Applications will require a minimum of 5% match funding which can be in-kind. There will be a 2-stage application programme and deadlines set. More information will follow on this when available.