

CVS AND VOLUNTEER CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

KNOW-HOW

A Bi-monthly publication. . . . More than 2,400 copies distributed annually



August 2007



Here is the current position relating to the proposed changes to CVSs and Volunteer Centres in Warwickshire.

Following the audit and reviews undertaken by Bridge Consulting Partners reports were produced recommending a new County-Wide Infrastructure Organisation that will carry out both CVS and VC functions to take the place of the existing eight organisations. At a meeting on the 20th March 2007, despite some misgivings from two organisations, all eight partners agreed to pursue, to the next stage of this development. This new Organisation would provide at least five local delivery points (one in each District / Borough Council Area). The next stage requires the production of a Business Plan and costs.

Since that meeting North Warwickshire Volunteer Centre and Nuneaton Bedworth Volunteer Centre Boards of Trustees have both decided not to continue to participate. The remaining six independent organisations are strongly committed to work together to assist the Consultants to develop a Draft Business Plan.

The six organisations have established a Shadow Board with representation from the Boards of Trustees of each of the 6 organisations to oversee the strategic development of the Draft Business Plan and Action Plan. A 'Facilitation Group' has also been established comprising senior officers to provide executive support to the development of the Draft Business Plan and Action Plan.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

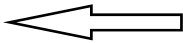
CVS-WD News	2
News	2 - 3
Events	4
Leading Lights	5
Volunteering	6 - 11
Groupwise	11 - 17
Development	18 - 20
Training	21 - 24

Continued →

If you need this publication in a different format, please contact us at CVS-WD on 0845 051 1170



PROMOTING, SUPPORTING AND DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE VOLUNTARY ACTION TO MEET LOCAL NEED



The Shadow Board has agreed that any new organisation should adopt the standards required by Volunteer England (VE) and the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA). It is expected that a report will be available by the beginning of October 2007.

This proposal is the most significant piece of work ever to be undertaken by the six organisations, and will undoubtedly have far reaching effects. The purpose of this proposed development is to ensure that all our member organisations receive high quality advice and support across the whole of Warwickshire. It is intended to ensure that the good practice that exists in patches across the County is available for the benefit of all Warwickshire Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, their staff and volunteers.

NEWS**MAKING SENSE OF LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS**

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Warwickshire was signed off in the Spring. It is a contract between central government and localities to deliver the priorities of local people, and involves all partners in a locality agreeing to work together to this end. The Government are quite keen on LAAs because this will become their performance management tool for Local Authorities.

The LAA provides localities with opportunities to pool resources whether these are local, regional or central government funds. This would be an enormous step, and it is quite likely that pooling of notional budgets may be the first step.

The Agreement is based on outcomes that are agreed between the partners and government. A Warwickshire Public Service Board has been established to ensure the implementation of actions to facilitate the achievement of the agreed outcomes.

The work across the County has been divided into blocks, with representatives from the voluntary and community sectors, statutory sector and business. The blocks are

- Children and Young People
- Stronger Communities
- Safer Communities
- Healthier communities and Older People
- Economic Development and Enterprise and
- Environment, Climate Change and sustainability.

As far as Warwick District is concerned a consultation exercise has been undertaken to refresh the Community Plan into what will be termed as a Sustainable Community Plan, and all the structure plans will now have to be aligned to that plan. It is thought that the Blocks/themes in the LAA will be mirrored in the developing the Sustainable Community Plan for Warwick District. CVS has been tasked to bring together a group to cover the Stronger Communities theme.

Watch this space.

NEW TO YOU...THE “FAIR ...FAITHS RESOURCES IN SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE”

Over the past year, as one of the many sustainable legacies of the PIE (Promoting Inclusion & Enterprise) Programme, we have been working to produce an interactive web based directory which attempts to list all the different faiths venues, and their details, plus the associated wide range of local community outreach clubs, groups and organisations which use the buildings.

Naturally, there are gaps in the system but since this website is an ongoing project, hosted by the two Councils for Voluntary Service in South Warwickshire, there is the possibility built into its design for faith leaders, parish information officers, community development workers, and club leaders to amend and update their entry. They can also continue to build a photographic image of their venue and its associated activities by simply contacting CVS-Warwick District.

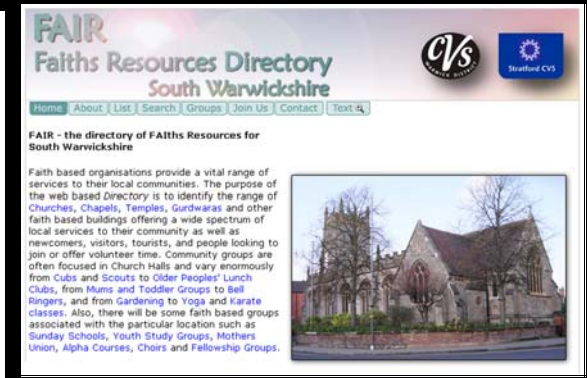
This unique record will provide people browsing the web with a comprehensive range of information about religious services, faith related groups (eg bell ringers, choirs, Sunday School, religious study, prayer group, alpha course, etc.); and, the use made of church and community halls for local clubs (eg scouts, youth clubs, mums and toddler group, older peoples lunch club, yoga classes, gardening club, etc.). These combine to make up a major part of the voluntary and community sector across both districts.

Have you yet contributed to the “FAIR....Faiths Resources in South Warwickshire” website? Does your club or group meet in a Church Hall or other Faith Centre? Would you like to publicise your organisation’s activities? Would you like to link your Church website to FAIR ?

FAIR website may also help with valuable income generation for venues by advertising the availability of meeting space, not only for clubs and organisations, but also for public events which hire the facilities like elections, weddings, and parties. It will also help groups regularly using the buildings to publicise their activities eg Macmillan Coffee Mornings, Health Visitor sessions, drug or alcohol rehabilitation advice sessions or promoting a Fair Trade Shop.

Any Directory is only as good as the information that is fed into it, so it may be that a church member or someone from one of the community groups would volunteer a little time to ensure the details are up to date, photos of religious or community events are added, or links to faith based websites made. Lee, one of our CVS-WD volunteers, would always be pleased to receive feedback about the website design and any other constructive comments.

Please visit the CVS website,(www.cvswd.org.uk) and click the **FAIR** button, there are links to the entry forms which can be completed on line or downloaded, and more details about the **FAIR-Faiths Resources in South Warwickshire**.



<http://www.cvswd.org.uk/fair/default.asp>

Max Down
Community and Faiths Researcher
Council for Voluntary Service – Warwick District

