

# ALL CHANGE FOR PUBLIC SERVICES IN WARWICK DISTRICT

## KNOW-HOW

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

The way public services are organised in Warwickshire is due to change dramatically from September as Warwickshire County Council, Warwick District Council, Warwickshire Police and Warwickshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) move forward together to implement Locality Working. This new way of partnership working will bring together public sector services at a more local level than ever before.

Five specialist teams - one each for Kenilworth, Warwick and the Rural areas and two for Leamington Spa/Whitnash, will be created to focus on delivering quality public services that reflect more the specific needs of these areas. In order to better enable local communities to communicate these local needs to these new teams, the existing Safer Neighbourhoods Panels in Warwick District will become Community Forums and progressively extend their brief to include the services of the Councils and the PCT - one each for Kenilworth, Warwick and Whitnash, two in the rural areas (East and West) and two for Leamington - North and South.

The aim of these changes is to make public services more citizen focused, make it easier for partnership working between public service providers to happen and to give local people more influence over the services they pay for.

Jenny Murray, head of the new joint County Council/District Council Community Partnership Team told Know-how

*"We really believe that these changes will make things better for local people - and we've tried to come up with an arrangement that builds on the success of Safer Neighbourhoods here and avoids adding more bureaucracy. We are convinced that giving local people more influence over the services they receive will offer better value for money for everybody".*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News	2-5
Events	6
Leading Light	7
Volunteering	8-11
Development	12
Funding	13-16
Developing Your Organisation	17-19

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

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

August  
2008

# 'HELLO AND GOODBYES'

Firstly we say hello to Graham Austin who joined Warwickshire CAVA in early May as Finance Manager of the new organisation, based at Leamington Town Hall following a career as a Chartered Accountant in a local practice .

He is looking forward to the challenges ahead, working with the localities to integrate onto a common accounting and reporting system.

Graham is enjoying his new job immensely. He says that everyone has made him feel very welcome.

Secondly behind the public face of every professional third sector organisation there lies professional central support services run by professional workers, whose faces will not necessarily be known to you the sector! CAVA Warwick District is no exception to this rule! From human resource management, office management through to financial management we have an exceptional team.

After 9 years, we have just said goodbye to Amanda Lambert who is emigrating to Germany with her family. We wish them all the very best in their new life and thank Amanda for the skill and expertise in all things financial that she has done for us over the years gone by.



We will all miss her valuable behind the scenes contribution to Warwick District CVS!

At the opposite extreme we have the public face of Warwick District Office in Stephen Nightingale! Due to the changes within WCAVA, the Warwick District Office said a reluctant farewell to Stephen Nightingale in early June. Stephen had been the Chief Officer at Warwick District CVS for 10 years and led our team with commitment and enthusiasm. Whilst in post he championed the needs of the sector for which we are all grateful.

At present Stephen is taking a well earned break, however is hoping to return to the sector later on in the year on a part-time basis.

He was admired by many and will be greatly missed, not only from within the Warwick District team, but also widely by many within Warwickshire Public services and the voluntary and community sector. As was pointed out at his leaving party he is also greatly admired for his vast collection of matching suits and ties!



# FLOOD RELIEF FUND

Following serious flooding in various parts of the district over the past few years WCAVA - Warwick District has been working with Warwick District Council to distribute grants of up to £200 for local residents, to help secure their homes against possible future flooding. The scheme is offered on a first come first served basis until either the fund is used

up or until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008, whichever is sooner. The maximum grant allocated is £200.00 per household.

Any homeowner in Warwick District is eligible to apply for the grant, regardless of whether or not their home has been affected by the floods. However the grant can only be used to purchase flood defence items to prevent flooding.

Over the past 6 months the scheme has been very successful with approximately £7,047.49 being awarded to date. The sort of things people have bought are:-

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Air Brick Covers        | Portable Pumps     |
| Dirty Water Pumps       | Gulley Surrounds   |
| Floodgate Door Barriers | Sand Bags and Sand |

Some residents have clubbed together and installed additional drainage and building works. There have been a lot of satisfied customers and WCAVA-WD have received numerous letters and phone calls of appreciation and thanks for the financial support received.

Applying for the fund is a simple process, all that is required is an application form together with your receipt of purchase.

To receive an application form please contact either WCAVA-Warwick District on 0845 051 1170, visit the Town Hall or Warwick District Council. Application forms can also be downloaded from the Warwick District Council website.

**For general enquiries contact Warwick District Council – Customer Service Team on 01926 456338.**

## YOUR SPACE...

There are a lot of amazing charitable organisations out there, doing an excellent job – and hardly anyone has heard of them! How can we support our fellow Sector members, signpost clients and opportunities to each other, if we don't know who exists and what they do?

If you would like an opportunity to make your organisation known to the Voluntary and Community Sector in Warwick District, please use these pages in “know-how” to tell everyone about yourselves! Send us a picture or two and a couple of paragraphs of text (approx 100 words) and we will do our best to include you in our next edition – free of charge. (Of course, if you want to sell your services, there will be a small charge – price on application)

**STRONG NEW APPROACH TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR SUPPORT IN WARWICKSHIRE**

**know-how**  
A bi-monthly publication... More than 2,000 copies distributed annually

Four independent support services for voluntary and community sector organisations and groups in Warwickshire will merge into one new organisation - under the direction of Chief Executive, Paul Tolley, previous Rugby Council for Voluntary Service Director.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (Warwickshire CAVA) will be born, giving the process of bringing together Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) organisations in Warwickshire and some District and Borough based Volunteer Centres.

This move is the culmination of several years work in Warwickshire prompted by ChangeUp and which has most recently led to Capacity Builders funding being secured through the local Consortium Coventry & Warwickshire Infrastructure Consortium (CWIC). This has enabled all local CVS and Volunteer Centres to explore the benefits of merger and restructure.

Paul Tolley, who has been the director of Rugby CVS since July 2007, said: "We have not seen an increase in the generic levels of core funding available but the mands upon our support services have increased"

Continued Page 2 →

**April 2008**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
News	2-5
Events	5-6
Leading Lights	7-8
Volunteering	9-12
Development	13
Funding	14-17
Developing Your Organisation	18-19

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

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

**For further information call Lin Pride or Owen Jones on 0845 051 1171 or e-mail [lin@wcava.org.uk](mailto:lin@wcava.org.uk) or [owen@wcava.org.uk](mailto:owen@wcava.org.uk)**

# WARWICKSHIRE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR ASSEMBLY

As mentioned in the last Know-how we are now ready to proceed with mapping the networks and forums in the county that will go towards the building of an effective Assembly where the interests of community and voluntary sector groups can influence the policies that affect them and their communities.

My job is to contact as many forums and networks in Warwick District as possible, and to understand what kind of work they do, and how much influence they feel that they have.

To help with this task please complete our online questionnaire (details below). Where possible we encourage you to work through the questions on this survey with other members of your network or forum. However as it is the holiday season we realise that this may not be possible as we need all results in by September.

All voluntary and community groups in Warwickshire will be eligible to join the Assembly in their own right once it has been formed and will receive information from the Assembly about matters that may affect them.

Please complete our on line survey at:

[www.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?B793FFE7B5F6E2E6](http://www.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?B793FFE7B5F6E2E6)

**If you require a paper version of the survey, and help in completing it then please contact Pauline Urwin on 0845 051 1173**

Warwickshire Voluntary & Community Sector Assembly  
Page 1 Warwickshire Network Survey Page 1 of 3

1. What is the name of your network/forum?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Please provide contact details of the Chair:  
First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_  
Post code \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

3. How often does the network meet?  
 Monthly  Every other month  Quarterly  
 If other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

4. How are the members of the network chosen?  
 Elected by voluntary groups  Invited on  No idea

5. What is the purpose of the network? Please tick all that apply.  
 Information sharing  Advice  Representation/advocacy  
 If other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the networks area of interest?  
 Older people  
 Children and young people  
 Disability  
 BME/Migrants  
 Faith Groups  
 Community Groups  
 Mental Health  
 LSP theme group  
 Local Area Agreement  
 If other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

7. Is the network:  
 Local  County wide  Regional

8. How useful do you find the network for information sharing?  
1 = not very  
5 = extremely  
1 2 3 4 5

9. Which of the following do you feel your network has influence over? Please tick all that apply.  
 Local Area Agreement blocks  
 Local Strategic Partnership theme groups  
 Partnership Boards  
 Strategic Partnerships  
 Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

10. How effective do you rate your network in influencing decisions?  
1 = not very  
5 = extremely  
1 2 3 4 5

11. Do you see any gaps/barriers to being influential?  
 Yes  No  
 Any comments \_\_\_\_\_

12. Does your network have contact with other networks?  
 Yes  No  
 If yes, please state which ones, with contact details for the Chair.  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Which organisations promote the interests of your network?  
\_\_\_\_\_

This survey is powered by [www.surveymethods.com](http://www.surveymethods.com)



## THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHARITY TOOLKIT

The Charity Commission has published a free online reference manual designed to help local authorities work with charities. The toolkit explains the legal and fiscal framework within which charities must operate and is intended to be a guide for local authority officers and councillors. <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/enhancingcharities/toolindex.asp>



## Financial Advice Site Offers More Than Words Of Wisdom

Financial website MoneySavingExpert.com has launched a new charitable fund to try and help communities in the UK tackle the rising reliance on consumer debt.

The MSE Charity Fund will provide grants to support innovative community-led projects that aim to increase education about money, debt and consumer issues.

The website has donated an initial £200,000 to set up the fund, and expects to pump in an extra £100,000 a year, including all the proceeds from two books sold by the website's founder Martin Lewis, *Thrifty Ways* and *Three Lessons*.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to help communities break the cycle of debt, and are available to any fully constituted group that has their own bank account and set of rules.

The fund can also offer £500 to individuals over the age of 18 to help cover the costs of studying a recognised and approved course that will help improve their ability to budget and manage their finances.

Mr Lewis said the charity had been formed as a consequence of the current UK debt crisis.

He explained:

*"While sales staff get training, we don't get buyers' training. Worse still, the UK is a nation that educates our students into debt when they go to University.*

*"But every level - school, higher education and adult life - fails to educate us about debt.*

*"So rather than trying to pay off a few people's debts, this charity aims to educate people into how to deal with their money and tackle financial illiteracy. In other words, to help people help themselves."*



For more information about the scheme, visit <http://www.msecharity.com>

Source: SYFAB, 17/06/2008



The Regulator for Charities  
in England and Wales



## New guidance on trustee payments published

The Charity Commission has published updated guidance for the payment of trustees who provide their charities with goods and services. The new guidance covers what is and is not a reasonable expense, when trustees can and cannot be paid for goods and services and how to manage any conflict of interest that may arise.

Visit <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/> for details.

*From Sustainable Funding Project's e-newsletter*