



# FREE ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH CHECKS

If your organisation would like a basic health check on the following areas:

- Organisational status
- Purpose & Planning
- Governance
- Service users
- Staff & Volunteers
- Finance & Funding
- Information & Communication technology
- Publicity & Promotion
- Monitoring & Evaluation

Please contact Jane Holdsworth (Tues 01789 298115, Thurs 0845 051 1170  
or e-mail [jholdsworth@cvsd.org.uk](mailto:jholdsworth@cvsd.org.uk))



## UNDERSTANDING & USING AN OUTCOMES FOCUS



- How much do you know about the *effects* of your organisation's work?
- Would you like to know more about outcomes?
- Are your funders asking about outcomes monitoring?

If so, you'll be interested in **free** training courses for voluntary and community organisations.

- Learn how to assess your effectiveness
- Learn about what works, to improve your services.
- Increase morale for staff and users by showing that change is happening.
- Demonstrate to funders that you are making a difference.

CVS Stratford and Warwick Districts are running a free two day course in February and March and also three short (morning) courses. If you are interested in attending please register your interest with Jane Holdsworth on 0845 051 1170 or email [jholdsworth@cvsd.org.uk](mailto:jholdsworth@cvsd.org.uk)

The courses are offered as part of the National Outcomes Programme, run by Charities Evaluation Services. The programme is funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

This means the training, which usually costs £250, is free to participants.

Places are limited, so please register your interest now.



Over 150 third sector organisations and major funders joined Charities Evaluation Services (13th November 2007) for the national launch of the new **PQASSO Quality Mark**.

The PQASSO Quality Mark is the new externally assessed 'kite mark' for PQASSO users.

PQASSO, CES' Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations, is the most widely used quality assurance system within the third sector, adopted by thousands of organisations wishing to become more efficient and effective.

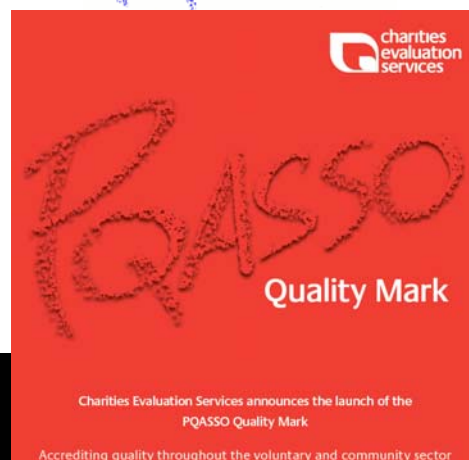
It is also growing internationally.



### What are the benefits of the PQASSO Quality Mark?

- Using the PQASSO Quality Mark logo will demonstrate that your achievement has been externally verified.
- It will potentially lead to greater recognition and credibility from statutory and independent funders, users and other stakeholders.
- It will help to motivate your staff and volunteers and to celebrate that your organisation has reached a recognised quality standard.
- The assessment process will promote organisational learning.

PQASSO



For more information about the PQASSO Quality Mark visit the website [www.pqassoqualitymark.org.uk](http://www.pqassoqualitymark.org.uk)



## COMMUNITY MATTERS LAUNCHES VISIBLE ACCREDITATION SCHEME



On 1st October, Community Matters are launching the accreditation programme for their Visible Communities™ quality standard following a pilot scheme which saw three awards being made to Cutteslowe Community Association in Oxford, Foresight in Grimsby and West Hampstead Community Association in London.

The three groups received their certificates at Community Matters annual conference from Chair, Lesley Michie, following a rigorous assessment of their work earlier in the year. The standards, which are recommended in the Quirk report – *Making Assets Work* - scrutinise the governance, operation and services delivered by these groups and attempt to set a national benchmark for the work of community centres and multi-purpose community organisations.

Community Matters believes that the accreditation programme, which opened to the wider community and public sectors from 1 October will allow community organisations to show real evidence of their fitness for purpose. They anticipate that many will want to use the kite-mark to win service contracts, grants and other local support. Chief Executive, David Tyler said "There's a great deal of interest in government at the moment in tools that measure the value and benefit of community based activity. This concern is about both raising standards and managing risk and I'm pleased that our *Becoming Visible* workbook fits squarely into this agenda. We think that some smaller or more self-contained organisations will just want to use it as a development or self assessment programme but we've been surprised by the clamour from many of our members for a scheme that gives an independent national endorsement of the standard they've achieved."

The Visible standards have also been designed to encompass the role of 'community anchor organisations', recently identified by Hazel Blears as a Government priority for investment next year. Community Matters hopes to help as many of its members as possible to achieve the Visible standards in order to rise to the challenge of this new initiative.

The cost of accreditation will be between £1,400 and £1,650 (plus vat) per community organisation and more information is available on a dedicated web-site [www.visiblecommunities.org.uk](http://www.visiblecommunities.org.uk) or at a series of regional events around England running between October and December 2007.

CVS-Warwick District  
wants your comments on



Please contact us on  
0845 051 1170

E-mail: [information@cvswd.org.uk](mailto:information@cvswd.org.uk)  
Or write to us at the address below

ARTICLES/COMMENTS TO CVS BY

**THURSDAY 24TH JANUARY 2008**

NEXT MAILOUT DATE:

**THURSDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2008**



Raise funds for charity  
when you search the web

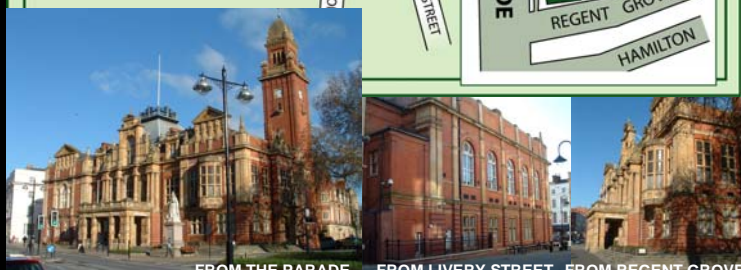
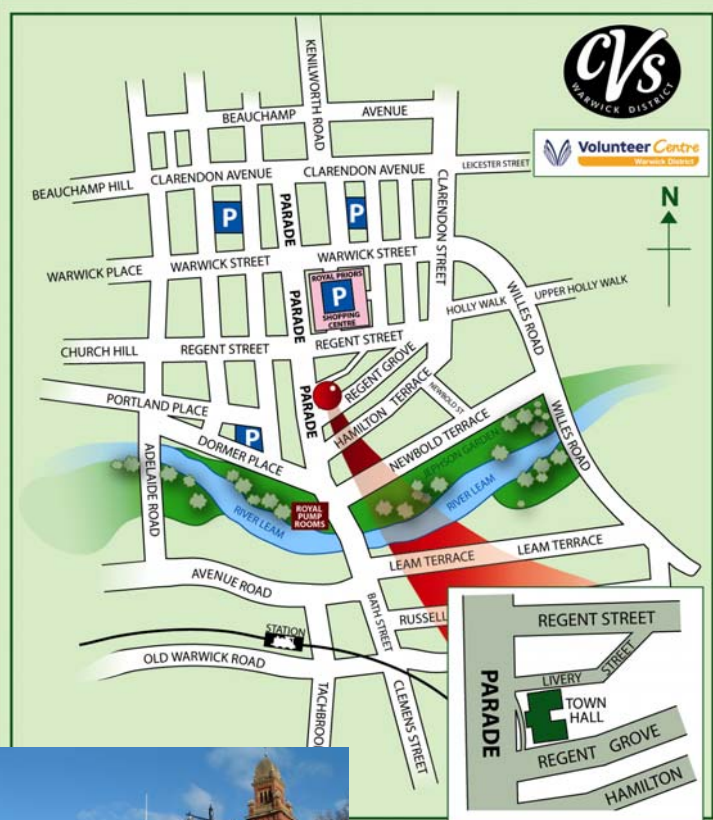
[www.cvswd.org.uk](http://www.cvswd.org.uk)

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District just by  
searching the web!

See our website for  
more information!

**CVS—Warwick District**  
would like to thank the  
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**NAVCA, CIB Monthly Funding  
Newsletter, Volunteering England,  
[www.energizeinc.com](http://www.energizeinc.com)**



FROM THE PARADE FROM LIVERY STREET FROM REGENT GROVE

'Know-how' is a bi-monthly newsletter  
distributed free to voluntary and  
community organisations in the  
Warwick District area by CVS-WD  
**Views and opinions expressed in  
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CVS-WD has the right to edit any  
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**CVS—Warwick District is a  
member of the  
Following organisations:**



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