

Assembly for Coventry & Warwickshire Voluntary & Community sector!

Know-how

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

Warwickshire CAVA is undertaking some work for the Coventry & Warwickshire Infrastructure Consortium (CWIC) to build an Assembly here in Warwickshire which will influence local, regional and national policies and practice.

The development of a Voluntary, Community Sector Assembly will create a frame work through which the sector can-

- Build sector capacity through sharing experience, skills and information
- Build links and alliances between organisations
- Have influence at all levels of planning and policy decisions
- Advocate on its behalf and on behalf of its users
- Enable effective consultation

We will start over the summer in mapping the sector's involvement and impact on planning/priority setting and key decision making in strategic and delivery partnerships. Forums! Networks!

Collaborations! Theme groups! LSPs! LAA's!

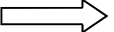
Community Plans! Sustainable Community Strategies!

How well are you engaged with policy and planning in your district? How involved do you feel?

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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**

June
2008

← This is an early warning that a questionnaire will be sent out to you over the summer your feedback is essential for us to be able to succeed in one of our core performance standards:-

Representation and Strategic Partnership Work

'WCAVA enables the diverse views of the local voluntary and community sector to be represented to external bodies, developing and facilitating structures which promote effective working relationships and two-way communication'

Thank-you in advance

Pauline Urwin

CAVA-Warwick Office

KAREN HIGGINS

Sustainable Partnership Action Network (SPAN)

Karen joined Warwickshire CAVA as the new Sustainable Partnership Action Network (SPAN) Co-ordinator on the 1st May 2008, and is based at Leamington town hall.

SPAN is a partnership of community projects working together in Warwick District, and it's current members are: Bath Place, Brunwick Healthy Living Centre, The Gap, Sydni Centre, Action 21 and MIND.

Many of you will have met Karen, whilst she was Projects Manager at Stratford CVS for the last 3 years, overseeing the Rural Outreach programme, governance and working with Stratford District Council on their Digital challenge programme.



In her new role, Karen works part-time (Tuesday - Thursday), and can be contacted on Tel: 0845 051 1170, or by email: span@wcava.org.uk

NARROWING THE GAP

Warwickshire County Council's "Narrowing The Gap" funding initiative, the priority areas for which are skills development, affordable housing and health inequalities, intends to narrow the gap between those individuals and communities in Warwickshire who "have" and those who "have-not". The total fund is £100k for the first year.

To be eligible, projects in Warwick District should demonstrate a partnership approach, help achieve Community Strategy/LAA outcomes, lever additional resources and demonstrate a satisfactory exit strategy.

If, after you have read the guidelines, you feel you have a project which would meet the criteria, please contact the appropriate Lead Officer to discuss your proposals.

Timescales are tight, so don't delay

For a copy of the guidelines and a proposal form, please contact Tim Healey, Localities and Communities Officer, Tel: 01926 456684, or e-mail timhealey@warwickshire.gov.uk



INSUFFICIENT POSTAGE!

Did you know that, if you don't put enough postage on the mail you are sending out, Royal Mail won't deliver it until the recipient has paid the difference plus a £1 handling charge?

Its easily done, we know – especially since the system of charging has changed – to stick a normal First Class stamp on a Large Letter. Unfortunately its not the sender who is penalised. Royal Mail sends a card to the recipient, informing them that there is an item of mail with insufficient postage waiting for them which won't be delivered until it is paid for. The recipient has no idea what the piece of mail is, or where it has come from. If there is no return address on

the letter or package, Royal Mail won't return the item to the sender, so unless the recipient pays up, neither party is any the wiser!

Over the past few weeks, our Warwick District Office has been charged for insufficient postage on several items of mail, sent to us by our Members. **This is not a good use of our limited resources!**

From now on, we won't be paying the charge so, if you want us to get your letter or parcel, please make sure you've put enough postage on it!

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELVES

Are you a new organisation no-one knows about yet?

Are you a long-standing organisation you think we might have forgotten?

Are you an organisation which has changed direction?

If you would like to make yourselves known to the Voluntary and Community Sector in Warwick District, please use these pages in "know-how" to tell us 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.)

Community And Voluntary Action
Warwick District

STRONG NEW APPROACH TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR SUPPORT IN WARWICKSHIRE

know-how
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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 1st April 2008 Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (Warwickshire CAVA) will be born, gaining 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 funds upon our support services have increased"

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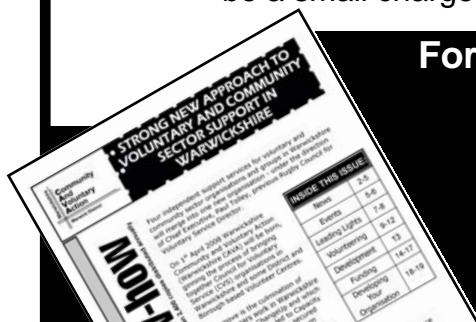
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April 2008

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 or owen@wcava.org.uk.

LOOK OUT FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF KNOW-HOW ON 7th August 2008 (ARTICLE DEADLINE 17th July 2008)

PROCUREMENT AND THE THIRD SECTOR

The Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (Acevo) and the DTA have undertaken a project commissioned by the Finance Hub on Successful Procurement & Negotiation in the Third Sector. The Hub has responded to the need for a greater national picture of co-operation between statutory and voluntary agencies to promote and standardise funding advice. This includes building understanding of good practice, and ensuring that the need for services to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector are aligned.

Improving the relationships between third sector organisations and statutory commissioners is widely regarded as the number one priority in order for the sector to be more effective in winning and delivering contracts. Improving the skills of third sector leaders in working with commissioners is vital in building these relationships. To that end acevo have launched 4 briefings to support the sector -

- **Tendering and Bidding Briefing:** Give your tender a winning chance
- **Impact Briefing:** Putting impact at the heart of the tendering process
- **Negotiation Briefing:** Effective negotiating to secure better outcomes
- **VAT Briefing:** VAT made simple when working in partnership

all found at: https://www.acevo.org.uk/index.cfm/display_page/Sucessful_Procurement2

Third Sector Leaders

acevo



RIGHTING LOCAL WRONGS



Communities Secretary Hazel Blears has outlined plans to give every citizen in England three new rights to have a greater say to trigger action on local issues they care about. The Community Empowerment Bill will give local people the right to ask for a stronger say on spending decisions that affect their communities; a right to ensure councils consider the sale or transfer of under-used properties, lands or parks to local community groups; a right to force a debate on specific local issues onto the council agenda.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/804997>

From NAVCA LINX

Bounce Back

Bounce Back is a new local support group which aims to help people who are coming to terms with having Breast Cancer.

Initially, we will be holding two meetings on 16th June at 6.00 pm and 17th June at 7.30 pm so that we can establish how best to make the group helpful and beneficial to those who attend.

If you are interested, please come along on the night to Brunswick Healthy Living Centre, 98-100 Shrubland Street, Leamington Spa or contact Val on 01926 422123.