Working to Support the Community in Havering
Our mission Statement:
Havco exists to support, promote and empower the voluntary and community sector in Havering

HAVCO

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changing faces, changing times!

I have often written in this editorial about the many changes that face local organisations and groups and we at Havco experience that too. We can often face change if we have some control or influence over the change and the pace that the change comes to us. What can also help is having the tools/experience or training to deal with the changes that we need to make in order that the organisation can continue/move into new areas/respond to new needs etc. The work that Havco seeks to do in the community is to help you to do your work with the right tools for the job.

The training that we offer is that which we believe will help you and I am pleased that we are in the middle of a package of digital inclusion training which has been specifically designed to help local groups. I am pleased that we have also designed a Voluntary Sector Conference for this year which will help local groups with commissioning and partnerships. We have invited speakers from the private sector who have experience of working in partnership with their community to speak about corporate social responsibility which I hope will inspire you to work collaboratively with local businesses. This session will be one of the workshops on offer so there will be the opportunity to ask questions. Our other workshop will be led by local health and social care commissioners and again will be interactive for those of you who work in that area. There is a full page advertisement in the newsletter giving more details about the venue/date and times.

Lastly for those of you who work with volunteers, I would be interested to know if any of your volunteers have been “forced” to volunteer as a result of the recent changes to the welfare benefits system. We have not come across this with our volunteers but I am aware that other Volunteer Centres in the country have so Havco has recently signed up to the Keep Volunteers Voluntary Campaign.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting and we as always appreciate your feedback.

Kim Guest
CEO

This newsletter is produced by HAVCO, a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee.

HAVCO is committed to providing help and assistance to voluntary and community organisations in the London Borough of Havering.

DISCLAIMER:
Inclusion of articles in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by HAVCO, nor does HAVCO accept any liability for error or omission.
MPs critical of Charity Commission

The House of Commons’ Public Accounts Committee has published a critical report on the Charity Commission. The Committee Chair, Margaret Hodge MP says that the Charity Commission is not “fit for purpose” as it has persistently failed to tackle abuses of charitable status properly. The Committee say that the Commission’s leadership has “consistently failed to tackle poor performance” and they “have little confidence on the commission’s ability to put right its problems and failings”.

Judicial Review climbdown

The Ministry of Justice has backed down on proposals to remove the ability of charities and campaigning groups to bring judicial review claims on behalf of individuals. NAVCA has led the way in supporting charities to use Public Law to challenge bad decision-making by public bodies. Although we are pleased to see this plan dropped we still have concerns that the proposals do not address the fundamental issue; the best way to reduce the use of judicial review is to reduce poor decision making by public bodies.

Neil Cleeveley, NAVCA Director of Policy and Research, said, “As is so often the case, what appears to be a dull and uninteresting consultation can have serious implications. Judicial Review is not red tape, it is a way of protecting people from bad or unfair by public bodies. A fundamental part of our democracy.”

Pension auto-enrolment

During 2014, employers which had between 59 to 500 employees on 1 April 2012 will have to start auto-enrolling employees in the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) or another qualifying pension scheme. Those with fewer than 59 employees on 1 April 2012, or who did not have PAYE employees until after that date, will have to start auto-enrolment in 2015-2017. More information can be found on Sandy Adirondack’s website.

Total income of registered charities up by £3bn last year

Charity Commission reports a figure of £61.43bn in 2013, compared with £58.48bn in 2012. The total income of registered charities in England and Wales rose by almost £3bn last year, figures from the Charity Commission show.

Data published on the regulator’s website show that the total income of charities registered with the commission was £61.43bn in 2013, compared with £58.48bn in the previous year. The number of charities registered with the commission increased by almost 800 to 163,709 over the same period. The figures show that the sector’s income has more than doubled since 2002, when it was £29.45bn. The proportion of the sector’s income earned by charities with annual incomes of more than £10m a year has steadily increased from 44.3 per cent in 2002 to 58.4 per cent last year.

The number of charities with incomes of more than £10m has also increased from 421 to 1,005 over the same period.

Charities are not keeping up with surge in text donations, survey suggests

The latest Digital Donor Review by the online platform ‘Give as you Live’ finds that only a quarter of charities use SMS as a method of fundraising. Donations by text message have increased in popularity over the past year but only about a quarter of charities use SMS as a method of fundraising, according to a new survey by the fundraising platform.

Give as you Live, which enables online shoppers to donate to charity using money from retailers’ marketing budgets, surveyed more than 3,100 people for its latest Digital Donor Review.

The proportion of people who said that donating by text was their preferred method of giving increased from 9 per cent in 2012 to 11 per cent last year. And the proportion of people who said they preferred to donate by purchasing items from charity websites increased to 9.5 per cent from 8 per cent in 2012.

But despite the growing preference among donors to give by text, a separate Give as you Live survey of 375 charity workers this month found that only 26 per cent used SMS to fundraise and 83 per cent did not have a mobile strategy.

Original article by Ian Griggs, Third Sector Online
Acevo calls for ‘community recovery fund’ to help sector organisations cope

Sir Stephen Bubb, head of the chief executives body, has written to George Osborne, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in advance of next month’s Budget

The chief executives body Acevo has called for the government to create a “community recovery fund” to help voluntary sector organisations that have seen a “relentless upturn in the demand for their services”.

In the letter to George Osborne, Sir Stephen Bubb, chief executive of Acevo, says the fund would have a similar function and structure to the Cabinet Office’s now-closed £100m Transition Fund, which opened in 2010 to help voluntary sector organisations that face cuts in funding because of reduced government spending.

The new fund would provide a source of investment for struggling voluntary organisations, including those affected by local spending cuts, says Bubb.

Bubb also calls for a doubling of the funding for the £10m Investment and Contract Readiness Fund, which is managed by the Social Investment Business on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

This short-term funding would help to “buttress our nation’s social infrastructure”, he says.

Charities raise concerns about proposal to cap welfare spending

In a letter to the Treasury, the NCVO, Age UK, Barnardo’s and others say the proposed cap would compound hardship for many people, particularly those with disabilities.

The letter, to Nicky Morgan MP, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, sets out the organisations’ concerns about the annually managed expenditure cap, which will place annual limits on social security spend and reduce the scope for future discretionary increases to working-age entitlements. The charities, which also include the homelessness charity Crisis, the Child Poverty Action Group, Oxfam, Mind and Scope, warned that the cap was “a blunt measure” that would compound hardship for many individuals, particularly disabled people.

The letter, sent before the Budget on 19 March, also highlighted a statement from the Institute for Fiscal Studies, which said last week that the welfare cap would not in itself make for “better policy-making” and would depend on how expenditure was managed as a result of the cap.

National Lottery price hike ‘not to blame for fall in donations to good causes’ at end of 2013

Camelot says that returns to good causes in the same period in 2012 was boosted by an unclaimed £64m EuroMillions prize.

The National Lottery raised almost £121m less for good causes in the first three months after Lotto ticket prices doubled than in the same period in the previous year.

Figures from the National Lottery Commission, the lottery regulator, show that £417.2m was paid out to good causes by the National Lottery between October and December 2013, compared with £538.1m for the same period in 2012.

Lottery ticket prices increased from £1 to £2 in October 2013 as part of series of updates to the game. The amount raised for good causes between October and December 2013 was 11 per cent higher than the £378m raised between July and September 2013.

A spokesman for Camelot said in a statement that the amount of money was down because the previous year had been “a unique period that saw National Lottery sales reach record levels across the board”. He said that returns to good causes between October and December 2012 had been boosted by an unclaimed £64m EuroMillions prize.
Acevo head urges party leaders to repeal parts of the lobbying act

Sir Stephen Bubb writes to David Cameron, Nick Clegg and Ed Miliband, saying the act ‘commits a grave injustice against civil society’

Sir Stephen Bubb, chief executive of Acevo, has urged the three main political parties to repeal the parts of the lobbying act that “exert a sinister influence on the charity sector’s voice”.

The head of the charity chief executives body has written to David Cameron, Nick Clegg and Ed Miliband, calling on them to repeal Part 2 of the act, which contains the sections that charities are most concerned about, as part of their manifestos for the 2015 general election.

The Transparency of Lobbying, Non-party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014 gained Royal assent last month, despite voluntary sector concerns that the legislation would significantly affect their ability to speak out on issues that could be regarded as party political in the run-up to elections.

In a statement, Bubb said the act “commits a grave injustice against civil society, and has seriously damaged trust in politics”.

He said the act was “an injustice perpetrated by government”, and urged the three main parties to rectify it and to “stand up for community action, liberty and democracy”.

“Stand up for our country’s great charitable and campaigning organisations, and ensure that the unfair and unworkable provisions of this act are repealed at the earliest opportunity,” he said.

“The new legislation will exert a sinister influence on the charity sector’s voice, limiting it in its duty to speak out on behalf of our society’s most vulnerable people, and further damaging the relationship between government and civil society.”

The letter says charities must be open and transparent, but “we will not and should not accept that the government has the right to muzzle charities in this way and chill democracy”.

Aceco helped set up the Commission on Civil Society, a coalition of more than 130 charities and campaigning groups set up in response to the legislation. The commission is also calling for the parts of the act that affect campaigning by charities to be repealed.

Lobbying Bill gets Royal assent

The Lobbying Bill received Royal Assent on 30 January and so it is now law. Unfortunately this was after two key amendments were overturned by the Government, one of them only after a tied vote. This means that these changes, affecting staff costs and constituency limits, will not be made to the Bill. Despite these not being passed, NAVCA and other charities campaigning on the Bill have managed to win some concessions that will help smaller charities.

In particular the threshold to register activity has been raised to £20,000 (from £10,000) and rules around coalition charities will mean smaller charities will not be responsible for registering their activity.

Despite the hard won concessions it is still a bad bill for local charities and democracy. The Electoral Commission has said it expects to produce guidance on the act for all non-party campaigners by early July. NAVCA plan to use the promised review following the 2015 General Election to fight for further changes to exclude charities from this bill that restricts the freedom to campaign.

A couple of updates on the Lobbying Act:


2. Labour has announced that it will repeal the Lobbying Act if it wins power, in an attempt to make elections and lobbying of government more transparent. www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/apr/03/labour-pledge-repeal-lobbying-act-transparency

Original article by Jenna Pudelek, Third Sector Online
Jobless forced to ‘volunteer’ or risk losing benefits

Harsh rules to drive the long-term unemployed into work have come into force which state they will only receive their benefits if they either show up at a jobcentre every day or commit to six months of voluntary work.

Those who fail to comply with the rules, which also offer signing up to a training scheme as a third option, will have their jobseeker’s allowance docked for four weeks for the first offence, and 13 weeks for the second. Under the previous system, people were only required to attend a jobcentre once a fortnight.

The idea behind unpaid community work is that it will help the long-term unemployed learn the discipline of observing office hours and being part of a team.

One major part of the scheme has run into immediate trouble. A group of leading charities, including Oxfam, has announced that it is boycotting the new mandatory work placement scheme on the grounds that volunteering should be genuinely voluntary and not something that the long-term unemployed are forced to do under a threat of losing their benefits. They have launched a campaign to ‘Keep Volunteering Voluntary’, forming an alliance of groups who have all agreed not to sign up to the scheme.

A Department for Work and Pensions spokesman has been quoted as saying “There are a number of charities and other organisations who will be coming forward, who see this as a valuable initiative.” The sort of work that the Government thinks the long-term unemployed could be doing includes “gardening projects, running community cafes or even restoring historical sites and war memorials”.

The full article can be found at http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/jobless-must-sign-on-every-day-government-to-dock-money-from-longterm-unemployed-if-they-do-not-comply-9294586.html

Keep Volunteering Voluntary Campaign is Launched

In response to the Governments new scheme a campaign and website have been set up to show the level of feeling that Volunteering should be voluntary and not compulsory along how unfair it is for the unemployed. It also covers how the expectation that Charities will be able to accommodate job-seeking volunteers for a minimum of 6 months in the roles and numbers anticipated is unrealistic and that again the Voluntary Sector is being expected to pick up the pieces without even being properly consulted.

Over 120 organisations have signed up so far including Oxfam, NAVCA, LVSC and Unison. Havco will also be signing up following agreement from our board.

The keep volunteering voluntary agreement:

"As charities and voluntary organisations we know the value of volunteering. Volunteering means people independently choosing to give their time freely to help others and make the world a better place. Workfare schemes force unemployed people to carry out unpaid work or face benefit sanctions that can cause hardship and destitution. We believe in keeping volunteering voluntary and will not participate in government workfare schemes."

Organisations wishing to sign up to Keep Volunteering Voluntary can do so at http://www.keepvolunteeringvoluntary.net.
Barts Hearts

Peter (and Christine) Runchman have written an open letter sharing their thoughts and experiences of how they came to join Barts Hearts

In May 2006 I had a triple Bypass at Barts Hospital, and since then have been a member of the Cardiac Heart Surgery Patients. During June 2012, I was asked along with my wife Christine to join Barts Hearts Committee and became funders plus website support. Our main objective is to support current and past patients for heart related issues, to improve their well-being and to support the Cardiac Wards of St. Bartholomew’s Hospital London.

We both had experience on the committee for the Queens Hospital Cardiac Support Group, and raised £10,000 in funding to help over 500 membership past and current cardiac patients, for their support, well-being, plus heart related issues.

We joined Barts Hearts after we were ‘Head-Hunted’. With Barts bourn money raised will go and be used for the patients only. Our committee at Barts has anumber of Havering patients like myself on it, supporting local cardiac patients, being referred from King Geaorges Hospital, Redbridge and the Queens Hospital, Romford Hospital for surgery. We are local people trying to make a difference for Havering patients treatment and surgery at Barts.

If anybody would like to support our work or find out more after reading this article please call us on 01708 746477

HAVERING SAMARITANS

Havering Samaritans are delighted to have been accepted as one of the chosen charitable organisations to be supported by The Liberty Shopping Centre in Romford for the next two years. We aim to use The Liberty as a venue to publicise our services and to promote good emotional health. With direct access to people using the shopping centre, we can provide information to those who might not otherwise think of using the Samaritans service.

Havering Samaritans offers emotional support by telephone, email and face-to-face, and has been giving this service in Havering and surrounding areas for almost 50 years. Being in a public place, we hope to attract an interest in our service, so that people might consider volunteering with us. We also hope to raise funds which are necessary to help keep our branch at 107 North Street, Romford running.

Marion,
Deputy Director, Havering Samaritans

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU (FREE WEEKLY CAB SERVICES)

Havering Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) services available at your doorstep!

Circle Housing Old Ford in partnership with Havering CAB is offering Havering residents a free confidential advice service. Havering CAB can provide help and advice on:

- Rent arrears
- Debt advice
- Benefit advice
- Housing
- Employment problems
- Legal advice
- Relationship issues

The CAB services are now offered from the Orchard Village Estate Office, 149 – 151 Lowen Road, Rainham, Essex RM13 8QD from 10am to 12pm every Monday

This is a free, confidential & independent service.
For further information please call Monica Paul on 07807 958 578

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Diabetes Uk - HAVERING GROUP

ARE YOU A PERSON WITH DIABETES?

DO YOU KNOW A PERSON WITH DIABETES?

‘Why not come along to your Local Meeting for talks, chats and information on both diabetes and general topics in a relaxed and friendly group’

Our Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month (not August) at 8.00 pm. at:

The Large Hall
24 North Street, Hornchurch RM11 1QX
(corner of Westland Avenue, opposite Iceland)

We would very much like to see new members joining our Group! Details can be found by contacting either the Chairman, Miss Debbie Broom at debbie.broom@tesco.net or 01708-473314 or the Secretary Mrs. Ann Prescott at ann.prescott@talktalk.net or 01708-572782

Volunteer Achievement Awards from the Mayor of London

Now’s the time to nominate your volunteers for an award from the Mayor of London as part of the Team London 2014 Achievement Awards – nominations close on Friday 20th June 2014, with the ceremony for winners taking place at City Hall on 17th September 2014.

Volunteers can be nominated in one of five categories, with awards for volunteers under 25, volunteers over 25, and people who volunteer in a team. The winners will be presented with their award at the prestigious ceremony in September.

The judges will be looking for volunteers who’ve shown outstanding enthusiasm and commitment, who’ve given exceptional service or contributed particular depth of experience, or who have achieved great impact through their volunteering.

If you’ve got volunteers you’d like to recognise then follow this link http://greaterlondonvolunteering.org.uk/site/awards/ for the simple nomination form and more details about the awards. Good luck!
The first of our Marketing Masterclasses focused around the Internet and Social Media took place on the 8th April. Titled ‘Introduction to Social media’ was facilitated by Kevin Baughen, of Bottom Line Ideas, who also led the very popular workshop on Marketing and Augmented Reality at last years Voluntary Sector Conference.

The day was fully booked and Kevin kept the attendees engaged with a comprehensive but easy to understand workshop

Some of the points Kevin Raised incuded:

Be careful about using/mixing private and work Social Media.  
Social Media is only a tool, so use it appropriately.  
Ask if, what, how and which Social Media can do to achieve goals  
We all can use Social Media but it doesn't mean we should or have to. If it doesn’t do something for achieving targets it is just a distraction.  
Social Media is a conversation not a broadcast.  
The conversation should be driven by our audience not us, you should give more than you take.  
You cannot be everything to everybody all the time - be specific what you want to achieve and who to.  
Social Media is about experience, interaction and involvement.  
You don't have to reciprocate follows and don’t expect other to return your follows.  
Be careful about using/sharing pictures - get permissions, use group shots.

If you were unable to attend this workshop but are still interested let Michael at Havco know via michael.dunlop@havco.org.uk, and if there is enough interest we will try to arrange another date.

Details of the second in the series of workshops are below.

Our next Funding masterclass is about using the internet to fundraise and will be held on Tuesday 15th July 2014 between 1.40pm and 4.30pm at the Forest Row Centre, Collier Row, Romford RM5 2LD

It is being facilitated by Howard Lake Publisher of UK Fundraising (www.fundraising.co.uk), trainer & adviser to charities in fundraising with digital media

The day will cover such topics as:
* getting the most from your website to boost fundraising
* why photos and images matter for your online fundraising
* your online fundraising questions answered

And is aimed at:
* small charities and voluntary groups
* those with not enough money, time, people or skills to do much with online fundraising - but who feel they need to do something
* those who want some practical ideas that focus on the fundraising rather than the technology

Places are limited so to book your place contact Sharon at sharon.leeson@havco.org.uk or Tel 01708 742881. Although the event worth over £100 is being funded by Havering Adult College there will still be a nominal but mandatory £10 charge to cover refreshments etc.
Start the day with a Smile

Voluntary Sector Forum Breakfast

Wednesday 18th June
8.30am to 10.00am

Meet up for networking or even just a chat whilst enjoying a delicious cooked breakfast

speakers: tbc

Jubilee Restaurant
Quarles Campus
Havering College
Tring Gardens
Harold Hill
RM3 9ES

To book your place contact Sharon on
Tel: 01708 742881 or email: sharon.leeson@havco.org.uk

Havering Community in Action Portal

Involved with a voluntary or community group in Havering?

Looking for new members or service users?

Want some free publicity?

Join over 400 other groups in the searchable directory on the Havering Web Portal.

www.haveringcommunityinaction.org.uk

If your voluntary or community group is not included in the database and you would like to be, or you would like your details to be amended or expanded, please contact Michael at Havco at: michael.dunlop@havco.org.uk
Volunteer Centre

Havco Volunteer Centre - Volunteer Information Desk
It is now just over a year since the Volunteer Centre moved its brokerage service to Romford Central Library to provide an accessible and comprehensive ‘one stop shop’ for people who want to volunteer in their local community, and for community organisations who need volunteers.

People choose to volunteer for a variety of reasons. For some, it offers the chance to give something back to the community or make a difference to the people around them. For others it provides an opportunity to develop new skills, or build on existing experience and knowledge. This can be particularly important when jobs are so hard to find. You may be retired or not in paid employment and wish to stay active and feel part of a team.

Havco Volunteer Centre is responsible for managing the Havering volunteering opportunities, and promoting them on the national volunteering website do-it.org.uk and at our outreach services. There are currently 237 volunteering opportunities being advertised and promoted in Havering in a wide variety of fields, which are constantly being updated. In November alone over 2500 registered volunteers have been contacted with details of these voluntary opportunities. We are fast approaching 4000 registered volunteers. That equals a lot of valuable work going on in Havering. Many of our voluntary organisations could not exist without these brilliant people, our local ‘unsung heroes’.

Why are we based at Romford Library?
We work in partnership with Havering Libraries to select volunteers who are able to provide extra services in all of Havering’s public libraries including, IT support and Reading Schemes for children. In turn, by allowing us to locate our services in a main library, we are much more visible to the general passing public. Registrations for new volunteers have shown an increase of 15% in the first two quarters of 2013 as compared with the same period in 2012.

Think you might like to become a Volunteer?
The volunteer desk is staffed on Tuesdays and Fridays between 10am – 3pm. You can book an appointment to meet with an adviser to help you find the right role(s) for you or you can view available Volunteering Opportunities on www.do-it.org.uk

Need extra help or support?
You may also want to find out about training courses, or require extra support to enable, or help to prepare you to volunteer. You may not feel ready to volunteer yet, or need several meetings before you can find the right role. You may want to find out more about volunteering before deciding, or just find ways of socialising with others in your local area. We are happy to talk to you. If Havco can’t provide the service, we usually know someone that does, and can signpost you to the right people who can help you. We continue to run our popular “Getting Set to Volunteer Workshop” since January this year we have had 62 attendees and various guest speakers from our Local Community organisations.

“I represent a local voluntary organisation and think I could benefit from having some volunteers “
Representatives from community and voluntary organisations are always welcome to talk with the advisors to help shape voluntary roles and work with us to recruit the volunteers you need. The desk is available for booking, for a nominal fee, on weekdays (other than Tuesdays and Fridays). You could set up a recruitment day to interview your own volunteers or publicise your organisation’s services. If you cannot get to the library, our advisers will come to see you or give advice by phone or e-mail.

“Can you help us raise awareness of our organisation?”
Our permanent information stands display leaflets, photographs and posters on behalf of community organisations. People come to Romford Library to access all kinds of services, and is widely used by many local people. We can publicise your events and also help provide volunteers to help you support and run them from our pool of Community Action Network (CAN) volunteers. If you would like to talk further about any of the services mentioned above, come along to enquire at the desk, telephone us on 01708 742881 or e-mail on volunteering@havco.co.uk
Interview with a Volunteer

1. Tell me a bit about your story?
I'm 38 years old was born in Ukraine, have moved to UK over 8 years ago. Have been working as a Cleaning Manager in a large building Company for past seven years. I lost my job in the beginning of last October and was looking for the opportunity to get involved in a Charity Work/ Volunteering in Romford area as it was something I enjoyed doing for past few years in the City, close to my ex-working place (use to work at weekends at Oxfam shop in Covent Garden)

2. Why did you decide to start volunteering?
When I lost my job it has become too expensive to go to the City to Volunteer and plus I had much more free time, which was not good as I felt so stressed due to my unemployment.

3. How did you get involved with volunteering?
At the time I had to see someone at PASC in Romford, who I said to about my wish to Volunteer, and it was then I was told about your organisation and where I can find you.

4. What did you like about being a Volunteer?
It is great possibility to meet new people, learn new skills and forget about our own troubles by helping others.

5. What benefits have you got from volunteering? (eg. Opportunity for paid work)
From October 2013 I have been Volunteering at a Charitable organisation called Care Point, which provides advice around adult health and social care for Havering residents. Through the work I have met new people, who (I hope) would become my friends.
Now I'm having paid job (maternity Cover for 6 months)

6. Would tell your family and friends to give Volunteering a go and if yes why?
Certainly would recommend to get involved in Volunteering- quality time with unexpected benefits!

7. What do you see as a need in your local community (any ideas for things that the volunteer centre could support)?
I think that our local community would greatly benefit from Befriending Service for housebound, elderly and lonely; providing help and support for isolated people, Volunteering services in that area would appreciated
Noticeboard

How will you be celebrating Volunteers Week 1st - 7th June 2014?
We want to know what you are up to so we can shout about it.

This year will be the 30th Anniversary of Volunteers’ Week: it is a time to celebrate the successes, achievements and commitment of your volunteers. It is also an opportunity to advertise and promote your volunteer opportunities to potential volunteers.

During volunteers’ week we will be holding an open house for potential volunteers at our offices in Eastern Road on Wednesday 4th June from 10am to 4pm. We would be pleased to see your organisation represented at the Volunteer Centre either personally or by providing us with your promotional literature.

Please let us know of any plans you have for this special occasion!
If you are interested in attending our event, please register your interest by calling Sharon Leeson on Tel 01708-742881 or email to Sharon.leeson@havco.org.uk

Charity Number 11088267

Havering session
This is a practical training workshop for groups that want to work with young volunteers, or for groups that already involve young volunteers.

It covers good practice on safeguarding young volunteers, designing rewarding roles and recruiting and retaining young volunteers.

It will take place at a local venue in Havering.

The training is free, but booking is necessary. Details of how to register will be provided.

Free Training: Involving young people as volunteers

If you are interested and would like to be placed on the mailing list or have any questions, contact Sharon on 01708 742881 or email her at sharon.leeson@havco.org.uk
Voluntary Sector Conference 2014

This year’s theme:
Commissioning & Partnerships

Thursday 10th July 2014

Registration from 9.30am
10.00am to 1.30pm
followed by lunch

St. Lukes Church & Hall
201 Front Lane
Cranham, Upminster, RM14 1LD

Confirmed Speakers:
Debra Allcock Tyler
Cheryl Coppell
Dr. Atul Aggarwal
More details to follow

To confirm your attendance contact
Michael at michael.dunlop@havco.org.uk
or Sharon at sharon.leaseon@havco.org.uk
or Tel on 01708 742881
Funding

This section contains a mixture of funding opportunities for your information.
If you know of a funding opportunity that I haven’t included or there is a particular area of funding that you think is missing and would like me to investigate then let me know:
T: 01708 742881
E: michael.dunlop@havco.org.uk

New Lloyds Foundation programme

Lloyds Foundation’s new grant programme is open - INVEST and ENABLE will help charities supporting people to break out of disadvantage at critical points in their lives, and promote practical approaches to lasting change. Support will be adapted to the needs of small and medium sized charities (income between £25,000 and £1 million) that are committed to delivering work which breaks or prevents cycles of disadvantage. INVEST - A flexible, long term core funding programme for organisations delivering clear, targeted outcomes for disadvantaged people (Grants up to £25k per annum and up to six years); ENABLE - A smaller and shorter grants programme for organisations that have identified clear development needs (Grants up to a total of £15k over two years). ENHANCE - allows for tailored in-kind support to strengthen and develop charities funded through invest or enable. They operate an online application process.

http://www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk/

Our Place

£4.3m package of support and grants for neighbourhoods has been made available by the Government to help communities influence the delivery of local services. It will offer direct support - consultancy/coaching support tailored to meet the needs of your neighbourhood; grant payments to develop schemes; and shared learning opportunities.

http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/our-place/

Infrastructure support

Big Assist can provide infrastructure organisations between £2,000-£7,000 in vouchers to buy organisational support. This includes support to develop your organisation’s training and development, trading arms, marketing strategies, writing business plans and make positive improvements in the way you demonstrate impact. To access the programme complete the online self-assessment questionnaire.

http://www.bigassist.org.uk/

Local assets

The Social Investment Business is making capital grants between £100,000 and £500,000 available to organisations ready to take the next step in acquiring a local asset. Organisations with innovative and ambitious plans for community asset ownership or management will be able to apply for these grants until 26 June which will help with its purchase or refurbishment.


Give it up fund

This fund from Comic Relief is now open for applications to fund abstinence-based work in the UK. Grants of up to £5,000 will be available to support work which helps those who are in recovery to sustain abstinence. Applications are especially welcome from groups run by people who are in recovery. Closing dates for applications is 25 June.

http://www.comicrelief.com/giveitup
The Community Investment Fund, launched in February 2014, provides loans and equity to community based social enterprises and charities in England. The Fund invests between £250,000 and £1m in community based, locally led social enterprises and charities, which are providing essential support and services to improve the well-being of local residents, developing the local economy and creating positive social change for all individuals in the community.

http://socialandsustainable.com/community-investment-fund/

DEFRA Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) supports rural communities in England to develop renewable energy projects which provide economic and social benefits to the community. The fund provides up to approximately £150,000 of funding for feasibility and pre-planning development work to help projects become investment ready.

http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/rural-community-energy-fund

Inspired Faciltities - open again

This scheme from Sport England helps local community and volunteer groups to improve and refurbish sports clubs or transform non-sporting venues into modern grassroots sport facilities. Grants of £20,000 - £75,000 are available. There will no longer be separate rounds to this scheme. Decisions will be made twice a year, firstly in September 2014 for applications received prior to the 6 June.

http://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/inspired-facilities/

Football Facilities Fund

Grants of £10,000 - £500,000 are available to support the development of new or refurbished local football facilities in England. Funding is available for projects that:
• Improve facilities for football and other sport (pitches, clubhouses or lighting)
• Sustain or increase participation among children and adults
• Help children and adults to develop their physical, mental, social and moral capacities through regular participation in sport.

An opportunity to apply for smaller grants is expected to be available in summer 2014. Applications may be submitted at any time
www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund/

Gift Aid

The Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme has been up and running since April 2013. Take a look whether your charity would be eligible to receive a top up payment of up to £1,250 in Gift Aid on your small cash donations.

www.hmrc.gov.uk/CHARITIES/gasds/index.htm

HMRC has updated guidance on the scheme, including information on connected charities and community buildings - if you have small groups operating independently within your structure, they may be able to claim extra

www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/gads-helpsheet.pdf
Out There

Community shops
The Plunkett Foundation and Ecology Building Society have launched a bespoke mortgage package for community-owned shops.
http://www.plunkett.co.uk/newsandmedia/news-item.cfm/newsid/724

Trustee Finder
Small Charities Coalition has relaunched Trustee Finder, a key service for charities recruiting new trustees. Trustee Finder is a free trustee searching and posting service that syndicates with the Do-it.org national volunteering service
http://www.smallcharities.org.uk/trustee-finder/

Recipro
Recipro, is an online exchange for construction surplus and re-usable materials. Community projects can promote their construction projects, highlight what building materials they require and provide updates on their project.
recipro-uk.com/

Just Act
CDF has launched the Just Act website. A new website providing and signposting practical information for people wanting to make a difference and improve their community. It features a combination of crowd-sourced content, links to other websites and a forum where people can chat and ask questions.
http://www.justact.org.uk/

Volunteering
The Department for Culture has published data from the latest Taking Part survey. It includes data on Arts; Archives; Digital Participation; Heritage; Museums and Galleries; Libraries; Olympics; and Volunteering and Charitable Giving.

Analysing data
Clinks and NPC’s have a guide that introduces you to the increasing number of software tools that may help you to better collect and analyse data and raises some issues to consider.
http://www.clinks.org/support-evaluation-and-effectiveness/practicalities-research

£2,000 NI Employment Allowance
HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has published guidance for businesses and charities on how to claim the Employment Allowance, which will reduce employers’ Class 1 NICs by up to £2,000 every tax year.
Employers will be able to claim the Employment Allowance from 6 April 2014 through your payroll software. Further information on the allowance, along with guidance on eligibility and how to claim it, can be found on the HMRC website.
https://www.gov.uk/employment-allowance-up-to-2000-off-your-class-1-nics

Unit cost database
No, really, it’s brilliant! This Government database brings together more than 600 cost estimates in a single place, covering crime, education and skills, employment and economy, fire, health, housing and social services. How does that help groups? If you want to demonstrate the value of what you do to funders or public bodies, this gives you the cost of things like someone attending casualty, going to court, or staying in residential care for a week. You can use this as hard evidence of savings to public funds if you can show that your work can prevent these things happening
http://data.gov.uk/sib_knowledge_box/toolkit

How to guides for small charities
The Guardian Voluntary Sector Network is producing a series of How to guides for small charities.

Charity Commission podcasts
The Charity Commission has published two new audio podcasts designed to help charity trustees understand their duties under charity law.

Disclaimer: Havco neither recommends nor endorses any of the products, services or companies listed on this page. We would always advise you to make comparisons with similar companies, read any associated terms, contracts or conditions carefully and not to download anything unless you are confident of the supplying website.
Out There

This article is to update you regarding changes to the DBS service that HAVCO provides. Last year our CEO Kim Guest announced that the council were no longer funding us to carry out the DBS checking service from 31/12/13 and would contact you to advise of any changes that are necessary in the light of this.

We carried out an analysis of the service and in order to try to continue, we proposed that as from Monday 3rd February 2014 to charge for the service before the check is carried out. Many organisations have now implemented this change with us, and it is working well.

There are a number of ways in which we can ensure the check is not delayed, which I have outlined as follows, but we want to work with you to ensure it meets your needs.

- Send a payment in advance to us for any appointments that are booked on behalf of your organisation
- Set up a credit account with us and the payments will be allocated against the applications and we will contact you if any further top-ups are required
- Arrange for your volunteers and/or staff to pay us directly and then you can reimburse them in line with your expenses policy

We have also been advised by Social Services that they cannot offer the service to third parties as they are not a DBS umbrella service, however organisations can do their checks online.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Jane Easman via jane.easman@havco.org.uk

**A reminder of our charges for DBS checks:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration charge for voluntary organisations with a turnover of less than £500,000</td>
<td>£20 per disclosure for volunteers £6 per person, £50 per person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration charge for voluntary organisations with a turnover of more than £500,000</td>
<td>£50 per disclosure for employees £50 per person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration charge for profit-making business and Local Authorities</td>
<td>£50 per disclosure for employees £50 per person.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DBS checks are only undertaken via a booked appointment, unfortunately we are unable to undertake ‘drop-in’ requests.

It is important that people are aware of the documentation they need to bring with them to be checked.

If you want to book a DBS or need reminding of the suggested documentation, please ring Jane Easman on Tel 01708 742881 or email: jane.easman@havco.org.uk

High Quality Printing Charges

- A4 Colour —£20 per side
- A3 Colour —£50 per side
- A2 Colour or Black & White —£9 (single side only)

Photocopying (Black & White only)

- A4 —£8 per side
- A3 —£15 per side

Prices are for standard white 80gsm paper, higher quality, coloured, glossy or heavier papers may incur an additional charge. (NB A2 posters are printed on Semimatte 250gsm paper)

Laminating

- A4 —£25 per item
- A3 —£35 per item

Prices correct at time of going to press.
Join us for a Masterclass in Marketing where you will learn about utilising online fundraising resources to unlock their full potential within a Voluntary Organisation.

The course (worth over £100) has been funded by the Havering Adult College and will be led by Howard Lake, of UK Fundraising (www.fundraising.co.uk)

There will be a fee of £10 to cover refreshments.

There are only 15 places available so book now!

* getting the most from your website to boost fundraising
* why photos and images matter for your online fundraising
* your online fundraising questions answered

**Tuesday 15th July 2014 1.30pm – 4.30pm**

Forest Row Community Centre, Lodge Lane, Collier Row, Romford, Essex, RM5 2LD

Full details supplied upon confirmation of booking.

This course is aimed at small charities and voluntary groups with not enough money, time, people or skills to do much with online fundraising - but who feel they need to do something and want some practical ideas that focus on the fundraising rather than the technology