

## **Voluntary Action Harrow**

### **September Newsletter**

The National Council of Voluntary Organisations has published their Counting the Cuts Report, a detailed analysis of the Government spending cuts to the voluntary and community sector, estimated to be almost £3 billion over the next 3 years. Voluntary Action Harrow has continued to speak to groups about the needs and challenges being faced as a consequence of local cuts. Funding and volunteer recruitment continues to be high on everyone's agenda. It's hard to think positively with bad news about cuts and a possible double dip recession but members of Voluntary Action Harrow think that now is the best time for groups to reflect on their achievements and to plan for the next few years. This month we have opened some new services to help you review and develop.

### **Funding News**

Big Dance Micro Grants info event - tips on writing a strong application and the opportunity to talk through your project ideas. Grants of £1000 available.

When: 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011 4.30pm - 5.30pm / 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Where: Harrow Arts Centre, Uxbridge Road, Hatch End, Middlesex HA5 4EA  
More info: [www.bigdance2012.com](http://www.bigdance2012.com)

To book your place email [west@bigdance2012.com](mailto:west@bigdance2012.com)

Healthy Heart Grants support innovative projects designed to promote heart health and to prevent or reduce the risks of heart disease in specific groups or communities across the UK. Grants are from £1000 up to £10,000. More information, guidelines and application form are on the website. <http://www.heartresearch.org.uk/grants/healthyheartgrant>

Heart Research UK - Healthy Heart Grants Next Closing Date 31 August.

Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund is offering small grants of between £2,000 and £10,000 for charities who are working to tackle the causes of poverty.

Application deadline Friday 23rd September. More information and to apply visit

<http://dispossessedfund.communityfoundations.org.uk/>

Keep checking Voluntary Action Harrow's website during September for more funding news.

### **Good Charity Hallmarks – Our New Services Can Help You Achieve Them**

According to the Charity Commission the hallmarks of a good charity are:

1) Clear about its purposes and direction 2) Has a strong board 3) Have the structure, policies and procedure to be fit for purpose 4) Seeks to learn and improve its performance and efficiency 5) Has the financial and other resources needed to deliver its purposes and mission, and controls and uses them so as to achieve its potential 6) Is accountable and transparent

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Publications/cc10.aspx#h3>

Voluntary Action Harrow can help you achieve the hallmarks of an effective charity. This month we have opened two new services:

### **Policy and Procedure Checkups – Now Open!**

Our checkups are inline with legislation, regulation and good practice and we can give practical assistance in developing and implementing new and reviewed policy and procedures.

### **New Opportunities Researcher – Now Open!**

We can work with you to identify new opportunities for projects and developing new business and help develop this into a business or project plan you can then follow to develop your organisation or funding applications.

To find out more information about these services call us on 0208 861 5894

or email [contact@voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk](mailto:contact@voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk)

### **Partnership Works**

We've recently joined a partnership of local groups to work on a bid to the Big Lottery Transforming Local Infrastructure Fund. We are seeking your views or ideas on transforming support for the voluntary sector in Harrow. If you think you know what the voluntary sector needs let us know and we will contribute your views.

We are always happy to discuss potential partnership work with local groups so if you have a great idea and think we'd make a good partner get in touch.

### **Advertise Your Event**

If you have an event that you would like to add to our community events section of our website we will advertise this for free. We have lots of people visit our website each week so why not take advantage of this.

Send your event details to [contact@voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk](mailto:contact@voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk)

### **Visit Our Facebook Page:**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Voluntary-Action-Harrow/175449395840394>

## **Future Events:**

### **Responding to Austerity – Making the Transition Seminar**

Free seminar on key issues and challenges for charities including:

- Cutting the cost of services - Coming up with new business models
- How to restructure staffing to retain organisational knowledge
- Key financial issues, including VAT and tax issues
- Funding solutions and innovative approaches.

Bates Wells & Braithwaite, 2-6 Cannon Street, London EC4M 6YH on 7th September 2011 4.30pm - 7.00pm. For more information or to book a place follow the link below:

<http://www.bwblp.com/Seminars/Booking.aspx?SeminarID=328>

### **Social Entrepreneurship: New Models of Sustainable Social Change Seminar**

- What is Social Enterprise & How to Start & Where to begin?
- Understand the New Models to Sustain & Create Changes
- Charities are now able to move into Social Enterprises & which is bound to make communities stronger & self sufficient over time
- Three things needed for a successful social enterprise

Brent Town Hall on 26th September 2011 10am - 2pm  
FEE: £15.00 towards seat & lunch, Please book in advance.  
For further information please contact: Khaleda Khan Tel: 020 8811 1501  
Email: [selfdirectedcare@taha.org.uk](mailto:selfdirectedcare@taha.org.uk)

### **How you can contact Voluntary Action Harrow:**

**Fundraising Consultancy** [annadisney@voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk](mailto:annadisney@voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk)

**Virtual Volunteer Manager** [sarahkersey@voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk](mailto:sarahkersey@voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk)

**Trustee Training and Development** [rachelwright@voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk](mailto:rachelwright@voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk)

**CRB Service** [crb@voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk](mailto:crb@voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk)

**Web Design** [contact@voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk](mailto:contact@voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk)

**Call us on 0208 861 5894 or 07531 171 264**

### **Interested in Cooperatives?**

Voluntary Action Harrow is a Workers' Cooperative. Are you interested in find out more about what a cooperative is? Have you been involved in a cooperative? Please get in touch with us.

**Please feel free to forward our newsletter onto your colleagues and friends. If you have received this newsletter from a colleague or friend you can sign up to our monthly newsletter on our website [www.voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk](http://www.voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk)**

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