

NEW PROJECTS STARTING SOON!!

Following the completion of Count Me In, a successful project managed through the Volunteer Centres Devon, the Devon Consortium was asked to assign funding which Devon County Council has received from Central Government.

It was agreed by members of the Consortium and Devon County Council that this funding would be allocated to the following areas of work:-
Volunteering Support Services, Voluntary and Community Sector Representation, Service User Engagement, Community Hubs and Development of the 3rd Sector.

Under the banner of the **Stronger Communities Programme**, organisations have been awarded funding to carry out these areas of work following an application process, overseen by an independent assessment panel (including frontline organisations) as follows:

Community Hubs Project

Project lead: The Community Council of Devon in partnership with Exeter Community Initiatives (ECI) and Devon Association of Community Buildings (DACB)

Outcome: Devon's network of multi-purpose community facilities will be more financially sustainable and better placed to meet new challenges. Part of the aim is to enable more services to be delivered locally.

Developing the Third Sector

Project Lead: Teignbridge CVS (on behalf of DACVS)

Outcomes: VCS organisations will increase their ability to participate in local service delivery opportunities; community planning is better integrated and supported and leads to voluntary action at a local level; VCS organisations have accessible, effective infrastructure support.

This project will be delivered in tandem with the lottery funded 'Total Support' programme, which is also being led by Teignbridge CVS.

Service User Engagement

Project lead: Living Options Devon

Outcomes: Local people and special interest groups have increased influence on new and existing services; a holistic service user engagement policy for Devon is agreed between all partners; increased and effective influence on future strategy development.

The first phase of this project is to produce robust research from a user-led evidence base, identifying good practice and any barriers that users encounter from three pilot sites.

VCS Representation

Project Lead: Torridge Voluntary Services (on behalf of DACVS)

Outcomes: The VCS has the skills and capacity to participate in strategic countywide partnerships; VCS participants and statutory agencies recognize and follow representative processes and procedures; local people and VCS organisations have a greater awareness of, and more access to, their VCS representatives.

Volunteering Support Services

Project lead: Exeter CVS (on behalf of DACVS)

Outcomes: by 2012 there will be a volunteering support service which is fit for purpose and is accessible by all; everyone who wishes to do so will have access to opportunities to volunteer; barriers to participation will have been minimized.

Workplans for each project are being finalised and further details will be available shortly..



For more information please contact Devon Consortium on 01392 202055

info@devonconsortium.net or refer to the Consortium website www.devonconsortium.net

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Total Support Programme Update



LOTTERY FUNDED



The Total Support programme is rolling out a number of projects to support the voluntary sector in Devon in conjunction with Devon Consortium members. The Community Council of Devon is working with an external consultant to survey the voluntary and community sector in Devon as part of Total Support. For the first time we will have a comprehensive picture of not only the characteristics of the sector e.g. the number of people employed; the number of people supported directly by organisations, but also the issues facing the sector. The survey will be distributed widely in April / May this year, and will give us a clear picture of the voluntary and community sector in Devon.



Community Contacts

The Rural Volunteering Project is full steam ahead to be rolled out across Devon from June, currently working in four communities in West Devon with great success.

The project has been identifying and working with 'Community Contacts' i.e. a local volunteer to act as a contact for information about volunteering and ways to support their community.

Total Support is providing training directly to the voluntary and community sector in conjunction with the Devon Association of CVS. The 'Coping with Recession & Diversifying your Income' workshops run in conjunction with the Communities Enterprise Unit across Devon. Further dates are: 11th March in Tiverton; 25th March in Ottery St. Mary; and 6th April in Exeter. Good Governance training for trustees will be running later in the Spring, and the national support agency, NAVCA are running their excellent workshop on 'Empowering the Voluntary Sector' on the 28th April in Bideford, and the 29th April in Exeter.

All this work brings expertise to the voluntary sector, so for more information contact: totalsupport@teigncvcs.org.uk or events@navca.org.uk or speak directly to Beverly Jones on 01626 215914

Hands up if you would like help with managing your volunteers?



Managing your volunteers, making them welcome and valuing the contribution they make to your organisation is key to retaining them. A happy and fulfilled volunteer will advertise this fact and can be pivotal in 'spreading the word' and encouraging others to join you.

The Devon Association of Councils for Voluntary Service are offering **local** support to small/medium sized community or voluntary groups in Devon who are interested in developing their volunteer base or developing a co-ordinator's role.

Your local CVS offer

- * Personalised support with your volunteering needs
- * Help in developing a 'co-ordinator' role for your group
- * A free, handy sized guide for anyone responsible for managing volunteers containing invaluable advice - ranging from writing that 'eye catching' advert to recruit new volunteers, to support on the main issues affecting volunteering such as the vetting and barring scheme
- * An opportunity to network with other volunteer organisers locally
- * Regular e:bulletins providing updates on volunteering news, local training and much more.

Over 24 groups have already accessed this support since the beginning of March 2010, so don't miss out. To register your interest Jenny Fish on 01237 471136 or email Jenny at jennyf@torridgecvcs.org.uk who will arrange for a worker in your District to contact

Contact information: C/o Exeter CVS,
Wat Tyler House, King William Street, EXETER, EX4 6PD
Phone: 01392 202055 **Fax:** 01392 202054 info@devonconsortium.net
Visit: www.devonconsortium.net

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info@devonconsortium.net or call 01392 202055**