

Criminal Record Checks

The new screening system for people who work with children and adults will begin in October 2009.

Applicants will only have to pay once and will not need new clearance when changing jobs or places of work.

For volunteers and the organisations taking them on, the process will be free. However, if a volunteer with ISA (Independent Safeguarding Authority) clearance later begins paid employment, they will be required to pay.

The CRB will be responsible for gathering information on applicants and transferring it to the

ISA. The ISA will then decide whether a person should be barred from working with children or vulnerable adults.

GRANTnet

To assist local groups in their search for funding, Lincolnshire County Council has joined forces with Grantnet.

Organisations such as community and voluntary groups, schools, social enterprises, small businesses, sports and other clubs are now able to search across a huge range of funding sources thanks to the launch of the free scheme.

The searchable database of funding opportunities ranges from European funds through to Lottery Awards and Charitable trusts. Visitors to the site at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/grantnet simply register their details and obtain a password in order to search the system for funds appropriate to their project.

VCS NK is able to assist with funding application searches, application checks (critical friend) and other general advice and information. Please contact us on the number below for further assistance.

Volunteer Centre NK – What we offer

Brokerage - We offer a “brokerage” or matching service. Together we can help you find volunteering opportunities suited to your individual needs.

Why volunteer? - Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills, get back into the workplace and meet new people. Spare time to fill, bored with your current job, recently retired or a student looking for work experience?

Be involved - You can do something that you are passionate about, get yourself involved in the local community, learn new skills, enjoy yourself and really make a difference!

Looking for something new? - There are lots of organisations that would appreciate your time!

Get in touch with us at the number below to see what opportunities are currently available.

If you are a voluntary or community group or organisation and require assistance or advice, telephone 01529 308450 or email info@volunteercentrenk.org.uk

Adrian McAllister, chief executive of the ISA said the new system would not allow every detail about a person's life to be passed to the ISA.

“If someone was found not guilty in court, or a case was discontinued, there are many possible complex explanations – it may come down to vulnerability of a witness, for example,” he said. “The decisions about what information to pass to the ISA will be taken very seriously and will be appropriate, proportionate carefully considered and consistent.”

However, don't worry because we will be offering information and training on this.

Please note that VCS NK is able to assist with your CRB check.



Newsletter July 2008

Volunteers and Organisations benefit from the new Volunteer Centre in Sleaford

As a volunteer centre we have got off to a good start with a number of volunteers successfully placed. As well as opportunities at the Volunteer Centre we have made successful volunteer placements with Sleaford Art Event, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, The Source and Children's Links. In addition we have produced a toolkit for groups covering most aspects of a group's life from start up to dissolution. Some of the groups we have worked with include Friends of Swaton, Anwick VEG, Metheringham Animal Welfare Society, Sleaford Toy Library and 3D youth services. Assistance has included funding applications and advice, constitutional advice and publicity.

Should you require any advice, information or support or have an opportunity to involve one or more volunteers please do not hesitate to get in touch.

MEET THE TEAM

Caty Collier – Area Co-ordinator
caty@volunteercentre.org.uk- Direct Dial: 01529 308453

Tim Barzycki – Project Officer
tim@volunteercentre.org.uk- Direct Dial: 01529 308456

Steph Bristow – Project Support Officer
steph@volunteercentre.org.uk- Direct Dial: 01529 308454

Kerry Wint – Youth Volunteering Advisor
kerry@volunteercentre.org.uk-Direct Dial 01529 308451

Free websites for community groups

Community groups across Lincolnshire can benefit from free help with setting up and running their own websites.

Support is being offered by Lincolnshire County Council's web team, who are extending the scheme to community groups who do not have the technical ability or the money to set up their own sites.

For more info, fill in the online form at:

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/communitysites

Community Technology Innovation Awards

This year's TalkTalk Innovation in the Community Awards are open for entries. This enables charity and community groups throughout the UK to harness the power of the internet, with 30 winners

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Fax: 01529 419084

Email: info@volunteercentrenk.org.uk

www.volunteercentrenk.org.uk

VCS NK Supporting the voluntary and community sector

Jenny Preston – Volunteer Advisor

Michelle Hayward – Volunteer General Admin support

Denise Knott – Volunteer Receptionist

Anja Williams – Volunteer Advisor / IT support

receiving grants of £2,000 each to fund technology related projects and five overall winners will also get technology equipment of their choice. Last year's winners ranged from chat rooms on health issues to web-based support networks.

If you are a UK based not-for-profit organisation or community group looking to extend your work through the use of the Internet you could be eligible for one of 30 cash grants available. Five overall winners will also win technology equipment of their choice and a one-to-one workshop with celebrity Dotcom entrepreneur and co-founder of lastminute.com Martha Lane Fox. The Awards are administered by TalkTalk and Citizens Online.

See <http://www.talktalk.co.uk/innovation> and apply by 30th September

CSV Make a Difference Day is the UK's biggest annual day of volunteering!

(Community Service Volunteers)

It takes place this year on Saturday 25 October 2008.

It's a chance for you to make a difference in your community by organising a project with friends, family, your workplace or place of worship.

Free Action Packs! - Free Activity Organiser's Guides! - New volunteers!

Contact us

CSV Make a Difference Day, Freepost LON 18410, London N1 9BR.
Freephone: 0800 284533 (Mon-Fri 10am - 5pm)
Email: difference@csv.org.uk

CSV's IAVM 2008 Residential: 10 Year Anniversary Event

Wednesday, 12th - Friday, 14th November
@ The Barcelo Palace Hotel in Buxton, Derbyshire



The power of volunteering

Below is a note from a volunteer to show the difference volunteering can make to an individual.

"I have lived in the Sleaford area for the past three years. After an illness I found myself unable to work and it was suggested that I try volunteering for a few hours a week to gain some confidence. I spotted an opportunity to do what I had always wanted to do and I contacted the new volunteer centre in North Kesteven (VCS NK).

I now volunteer for a few hours a week doing a variety of administrative posts with help and support from the staff at the volunteer centre. The overall experience of volunteering has made me feel more confident in learning new skills. I had already worked in the community as a volunteer and wanted to make a difference to the community and by volunteering it gave me the chance to retrain.

I have started to accomplish a multitude of skills and am looking forward to achieving a NVQ in Business Admin and I now have a much more positive outlook on life."



Do you manage volunteers or a volunteer programme?

Would you like to involve more people and communities in the work of your organisation? Do you want to develop your management and leadership skills and brush up on your knowledge?

CSV's 10th Annual IAVM 2008 residential provides you with a unique opportunity in which to hone your core volunteer management skills.

(Institute for Advanced Volunteer Management)

IAVM 2008 information brochure and booking form are available to download from www.csv.org.uk/iavm

[New research from CSV shows improved wellbeing of mental health service users who volunteer](#)

A report published by CSV in April underlines how volunteering can help improve the health of people living with mental illness following two independent research studies into schemes based in London and Nottinghamshire.

CSV's report "Mental Health, Volunteering and Social Inclusion" can also be downloaded from www.csv.org.uk



Training Updates

As mentioned in our last newsletter, here are the details of up and coming training days.

Information Day in conjunction with Community Lincs

30th September – Metheringham Village Hall
1st October - Helpringham Village Hall

To include: Fundraising advice, Insurance and Parish Planning. There will also be information about reducing environmental impact through 'Every Action Counts', with workshops, plenty of networking opportunities and more.

If you are interested in these please contact Community Lincs on 01529 302466 or office@communitylincs.com

Social Enterprise and Community Interest Companies

10th September at VCS NK, 26 Carre Street, Sleaford.
Provisional times 10am to 3pm. To book contact VCS NK on 01529 308450 or email info@volunteercentrenk.org.uk

VCS NK Mailing lists and Directory

We are putting together our own mailing lists and directory of local organisations and groups. You have probably already received a newsletter or a survey or both from us already. Consequently we already have some information about your group. Therefore it is our intention to use this information in a directory. If you do not wish to be included in the directory or if you wish us to display a different address or email please contact us as soon as possible.

LCDP BME (Lincoln Community Development Project/ Black and Minority Ethnic Communities)

Drop In for a chat – staff will be here to help with information on:

- Housing, money, childcare and health system
- Help accessing services/support groups
- Listen to your needs and signpost to relevant agencies
- Give you support when needed

You can find us at: Volunteer Centre North Kesteven. 26 Carre Street, Sleaford
Tuesdays 11am – 4pm or call Lilliana on: 07826736948

Music copyright exemptions for charities

The UK Intellectual Property Office has started a consultation on certain copyright exemptions which "principally allow not-for-profit and charitable organisations, in certain specific circumstances, to play copyright sound recordings in public without being required to pay a license fee for use of those sound recordings or the performances they contain". The Office of the Third Sector is encouraging charities to respond, with one option being to exempt only small charities from having to purchase licenses or even repeal of the exemptions.

[OTS news item](#) or go direct to <http://www.ipso.gov.uk/consult-musiclicensing.htm>.
Runs to 31st October.

Warning!

Please be aware that a company called KHI (Keep Heat In) are cold calling within the district to get people to sign up for loft and cavity wall insulation. NKDC would like you to know that they are not affiliated to the council in any way even though they may say they are. Please advise anyone concerned that the council do not work with this company and not to open the door to them unless they have an appointment.

Funds for Community Sport

Sport England is looking at possible changes to the way it distributes National Lottery money for community sport. Views are welcomed on ways to improve the application and award processes as well as any particularly valued features of the current Community Investment Fund. Go to http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_funding/homepage-lottery_consultation.htm and respond by 12th September. Sector support umbrella body NAVCA has welcomed the consultation - <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/sportfunding.htm>.