

Voluntary Centre
Services
North Kesteven

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Delivering support
services to the voluntary
and community sector
and supporting
volunteering



Voluntary Centre Services North Kesteven and Volunteer Centre North Kesteven are services of Urban Challenge Ltd.

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Training Updates

First Aid Appointed Persons

run by British Red Cross
Tuesday 20 October
9.00 am -5.00 pm
(free lunch provided)

Introduction to Clubmark

Wednesday 21 October
6.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Workshop aimed at sports clubs thinking about applying for Clubmark status. It will look at the roles required within the club, describe the policy and procedures required, look at the additional training requirements and consider the advantages of obtaining the Clubmark award

Monitoring and Evaluation

Thursday 12 November
10 am - 1.00 pm

A short course to introduce the concepts and approaches to monitoring and evaluation, its benefits

More VCS NK news

Following the most recent round of Grassroots Grant applications we thought we would update you with some of funding successes on behalf of groups in North Kesteven. A sports club in Branston received £1200 towards the cost of new equipment to enable them to recruit new members, an art group in Sleaford received £1500 which is the full cost of buying display boards to enable members to display their art work at exhibitions and another sports club received £1000 towards the cost of hall hire.

Other funds achieved recently on behalf of groups was a yoga group receiving almost £3000, a gymnastic club getting £2000 and a heart group receiving two separate grants of £500.

and pitfalls and their importance as an organisational learning tool

Effective Volunteer Recruitment

Wednesday 18 November
10.00 am -3.30 pm
(free lunch provided)

A course designed to look at why people volunteer, what puts them off and what organisations can do to recruit more volunteers and make their recruitment material more effective.

Managing Time

Wednesday 9 December
10.00 am - 1.00 pm

An introduction to simple methods and techniques for taking control or workload and other pressures on our time

All of the above courses take place at VCS NK. For more details or to book a place on any of the above courses please contact VCS NK.

The next Review and Refresh event takes place on Friday 16 October at VCS NK from 1.00pm - 4.00pm. Topics for discussion include events, training and funding. Other suggestions include Quality Standards, Marketing, Pro Help, LSP/consultation and Business in the Community, .

Make a Difference Day (MADD)
31 October - please let us know if you are doing anything for MADD in order that we can assist with publicity and promotion. Events can take place between 24 Oct and 7 Nov. For more information about the day look at <http://www.csv.org.uk/Campaigns/Make+a+Difference+Day/About/> or ring on Freephone 0800 284 533.

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VCS NK newsletter

Due to the seemingly ever increasing number of attachments and information that we produce or are asked to circulate we have decided to incorporate as many as possible into the newsletter itself rather than sending as attachments. We hope this will make the newsletter and the other documents more

manageable and easier to access. However your feedback would be appreciated whether this works for you or in particular if it doesn't. Otherwise the newsletter retains its original format for which we get lots of positive feedback. We thank you for that and again welcome any feedback on content, layout, delivery etc.

VCS Community Fund

Another quick reminder of this. VCS NK together with our sister organisations in West Lindsey and Lincoln are trying to establish a new community fund in order to be able to support groups with small amounts of funds (as Urban Challenge have previously done). This comprises using the following specific fundraising websites and search engines <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> and <http://www.easysearch.org.uk>. So abandon Google etc and start using easysearch.

You can also help by recycling your print cartridges to benefit VCS Community Fund. We have registered with Cash For Cartridges and Recycling Appeal. If you wish to recycle cartridges for the benefit of this fund call us. Or if you only get through one cartridge occasionally drop it in to us. We can also recycle your old mobile phones. Your group may then be able to benefit from the fund in the future.



Make a Difference Fair

Looking for more volunteers?
Need volunteers with particular skills?

Council Chamber, Sleaford
26th November 2009
9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Don't miss this chance to promote your volunteering opportunities directly to over 400 council employees!

Volunteer-involving organisations are invited to take part in the Make a Difference Fair. This is a great chance to:

- Spread the word about your organisation and its opportunities
- Recruit new volunteers
- Highlight the benefits of volunteering – for people, for society and for the environment
- Focus on the feelgood factor

VCS NK have been asked by staff on the council's health and wellbeing group to co-ordinate this event as part of a programme highlighting all aspects of wellbeing, including the 'feelgood factor'. The event will be promoted to all staff based at the district and county council offices in Sleaford.

There may be an opportunity to run short presentations or demonstrations, particularly over the lunchtime period.

If you are interested in bringing a display board, banner, leaflets or other promotional material to the event, please contact Caty at VCSNK on 01529 308450.

If you can't spare anyone to attend, but would still like to be represented just make sure we have up to date information about your volunteering opportunities and we'll do the rest!





Community websites?

If you are a non profit organisation in Lincolnshire and would like to have your own website then Lincolnshire County Council can help. The Council provides a facility for communities to create and manage their own website via the internet.

How is it delivered?

With the help of the county council's web team you will be able to create a professional looking, accessible website based around your organisation and receive full training on how to maintain it. You will be able to edit and publish new content, insert images, change the navigation and more.

What costs are involved?

There is no charge for the creation, maintenance or hosting of the site and it

Money for Play

The Lincolnshire Playing Field Association is pleased to announce a change in its grant eligibility criteria. They will now accept applications from Parish Councils (provided there is no other independent body managing play space in their community).

They have already awarded grants to community groups to pay for equipment, repair community facilities and contribute to large projects. As long as the outcome is that more people participate in some form of play, then the Committee will consider funding or contributing, to the project costs. Projects may also be eligible to receive funding from Grassroots Grants or Sport Relief.

Eligibility: Groups should be not for profit; volunteer led; have a governing document;

Energy Saving Week—Monday 19th to Sunday 25th October 2009

Energy Saving Week is the Energy Saving Trust's nationwide campaign week to encourage people to save energy and help reduce their carbon emissions.

Energy Saving Week is designed to help people adopt energy saving measures to reduce their impact on climate change.

will be created to meet all guidelines for web accessibility.

Further information

This opportunity is open to any non-commercial community organisation within Lincolnshire.

Who to contact

If you are interested in having your own community website, please 'register your interest' by filling in the form provided on the council's webpage or you can e-mail your details to communities@lincolnshire.gov.uk

If you have any further queries please send an e-mail to the address above or telephone Gemma Fairless on 01522 553964.

bank account and relevant policies and procedures

Grants can be awarded for up to £500.

What can be funded? Play equipment costs, one-off events, volunteer training, match funding costs and activities that meet an identified need.

Aims and objectives: To increase opportunities for play and sport to help build stronger, more active communities.

Process: Application deadlines: 1st April, 1st July, 1st October, 1st January in each year. To obtain an Application Form or to check eligibility, please contact Sue Fortune on 01529 305825. Lincolnshire Community Foundation staff will be available to assist applicants throughout.

Each day of Energy Saving Week will have a 'mini-theme'. Partners will be encouraged to support the whole week, but can also just support a day that lends itself to their specific interest. To find out more visit:

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/What-can-I-do-today/Support-our-campaigns/Energy-Saving-Week>



Freerunner network invites applications

Fifty community groups and 500 charities are being offered the chance to receive free wireless connection to the internet.

[Freerunner](#), a network that provides free public wi-fi, has asked members of local communities to apply and will offer to install it in any local community building.

It has also joined forces with donor website [Justgiving](#) to offer free wi-fi services to some of its charity members.

"Our team is on standby to install an initial 50 hotspots across the UK no matter where

they are and are working to find commercial sponsors for future locations," said Owen Geddes, chief executive of Freerunner.

"We're also determined to support charities, which play an invaluable role in our communities."

Community groups interested in receiving a free hotspot should send 150 words explaining where and why they want the connection to Freerunner at connectmenow@freerunr.com or phone 0800 860 0815.

Lincolnshire Co-operative supports local charities and community groups

Community Dividend Donations

Local community groups and charities can apply for anything from £10 raffle prizes up to £500 towards things like sports kits and new equipment. There is no formal application form for this but applications need to be in writing. There are 9 members groups that make decisions on donation requests received. The groups are made up of local staff and members and meetings take place 4 times a year.

Community Dividend Grants

Applications for this fund are considered quarterly and groups can apply for up to £2,000. There is an application form for these grants but it is preferred that groups write or call to request the forms so the

application can be discussed. Requests are often received for grants to help towards refurbishing community halls and equipment for schools or community groups. Unfortunately the fund is unable to support running costs.

Community Dividend Card

Similar to the Dividend Card for individuals, groups have the opportunity to have a Community Dividend Card where you can collect points every time you shop at the Coop. The difference is that groups are able to apply for several cards to give out to their members or friends that all collect towards the same cause. At the end of the year, for every £1 the group has collected the Coop will match it and send the group a cheque.

National Lottery- Changing Spaces

Groundwork UK are running Changing Spaces programme Community Spaces on behalf of the National Lottery. We have been informed that they would welcome more applications for the small and medium programmes and in particular applications from Lincolnshire. This offers small grants of between £10,000 - £25,000 and medium grants of between £25,001 - £49,999.

Community Spaces will provide funding for community groups across England that hope to create and improve their local environment.

The following are some examples of projects that Community Spaces will fund:

- community gardens and parks
- informal sports areas and multi-use games areas
- nature reserves
- squares and village greens
- creation or improvements to churchyard gardens
- ponds and projects which improve the local community's access to green space.

Application packs for small and medium grants are available via the website, please follow the link to <http://www.community-spaces.org.uk/default.aspx?page=23> or the Advice Line 0845 3 671



New Small Fund Alert

Lincolnshire based housing association Acis Group are looking to give a helping hand to the local community through the Acis Community Fund scheme.

As part of their ten year anniversary, Acis are launching changes to their community funding.

Acis are giving charitable organisations and groups the opportunity to apply for a small grant for use in the local community. Applications for up to £2,000 are being invited for projects or initiatives.

The type of bids that would be eligible for consideration include activities which encourage people to participate in and make a positive contribution to life in their

Funding Central

Funding Central is a free website for the whole voluntary and community sector, including social enterprise, providing access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities, plus a wealth of tools and resources supporting organisations to develop sustainable income strategies appropriate to their needs.

If you are completely or relatively new to fundraising, Funding Central provides a guided search enabling you to identify the most appropriate funding and finance

Community Development Grant

Lincolnshire County Council have a Community Development Grant for small groups. Grants may be for between £500 - £2500 and the scheme will fund up to 90% of total project costs. The remaining 10% can be in cash or in kind. Grants can be awarded for projects that support::

- Regular volunteering
- Harmony and integration in the community
- Opportunities for training or personal development

community, support for community resources and centres for disadvantaged people, support for people experiencing social exclusion, support for lifelong learning, activities tackling worklessness and to promote healthy lifestyles. While this list is not exhaustive, it gives an idea of what will be looked for in the applications."

Applications will be accepted from 1 October 2009 with the closing date for applications on 22 October 2009. Successful applicants will be notified within 14 days of application closure date. Acis will be inviting applications again in April and October 2010.

For more information visit:
www.acisgroup.co.uk

opportunities that best suit you and the beneficiaries that you support.

As an experienced fundraiser, you can drill down through thousands of opportunities to identify the most appropriate funding or finance for your organisation using the advanced search.

You can visit this new website at: <http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/Page.aspx?SP=6063>.

VCS NK can also help with your funding search.

- Quality networking opportunities
- People involved in decision making
- Increase access to services and information Promote healthy lifestyles

For application and guidance notes, full list of criteria and panel dates please see:

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/section.asp?catid=2886&docid=77959

**Foundation in Fundraising Practice Course
16th 23rd 30th Nov, 7th Dec 2009**

Fundraisers in Lincolnshire have the opportunity to attend the Institute of Fundraising course, without having to go to London. This course will be run over four Mondays in November/December and will be held in Newmarket.

This four-day course provides one of the most comprehensive introductions to fundraising available. The programme is updated on a regular basis and has been designed to develop and extend participants' knowledge and skills of the planning and practice of fundraising.

The course follows the fundraising cycle and therefore provides delegates with a framework which will assist them greatly in planning and carrying out as well as monitoring and evaluation of fundraising activities.

The course is suitable for anyone involved in fundraising who requires a structured induction to fundraising and their role in fundraising as well as people who have been working in one particular area and wish to expand their knowledge and

Snippets**Stepping from informal group to official organisation**

Voluntary Arts Network has a new briefing on 'Taking the next step: from an informal group to a registered organisation', giving an overview of things to consider. Although written for arts organisations, it may be a helpful overview for any group in this situation. Download direct the pdf from <http://www.voluntaryarts.org/uploaded/map11462.pdf> or call 029 20 395 395.

Meanwhile Space

Got ideas? Empty shops? Meanwhile Space CIC supports individuals and organisations to bring buildings and land that has become temporarily redundant into constructive use. It offers support to the owners and to community and enterprising organisations to help create a positive and temporary use - www.meanwhile.org.uk or call 07810008526 or 07834400240

Advice for employers of lone workers
A leaflet from the Health and Safety

understand some of the 'theory' behind fundraising. It is also suitable for people who want to use it as a refresher or route to the Certificate in Fundraising Management.

Financial support is available for those interested in the CiFM or working towards the Foundation Course. The East Anglia region of the Institute of Fundraising are offering a limited number of £300 bursaries (£100 towards the costs of the training course and £200 for the registration and assessment of the Certificate).

If you wish to know more about this or to make an application for the bursaries please contact Gill Jolly, Director of Achieve Consultants on 01449 612660 or e-mail at gill.jolly@achieve-consultants.co.uk.

NB. Deadline for bursary applications is 31st October 2009 or to book a place on this course please contact:

The Fundraising Programme 24 Stephenson Way, London, NW1 2DP Tel: 020 7391 4805 Fax: 020 7391 4808 or e-mail: thefundraisingprogramme@dsc.org.uk

Executive, giving advice and guidance on how to keep lone workers healthy and safe, has been updated. Download 'Working Alone Health and Safety Guidance on the risks of lone working' in pdf, from <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg73.pdf> or contact HSE 0845 345 0055

New law will allow reduced drainage charges

The government has announced legislation to allow water companies to apply concessionary charges for community organisations such as scout groups, amateur sports clubs and faith groups. This follows the uproar over the huge increases such organisations have seen in surface water charges on the move to a new way of calculating bills based on size of premises/surface area. The law will be brought in as part of the Flood and Water Management Bill coming before Parliament in its next session. Official news item at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2009/090928a.htm> or call 08459 335577



Free Organisational Mentoring

Organisational Mentoring is a project which is funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and Lincolnshire County Council. This project is run by Lincs2gether, a partnership between Urban Challenge, Community Lincs, South Lincolnshire CVS and VAEL (Voluntary Action East Lindsey). The mentoring scheme will offer free, informal, confidential guidance to small/medium voluntary and community organisations across Lincolnshire. Support available will vary from each mentor. It might include advice on quality monitoring, training and development, tendering processes, partnership working, equality and diversity, budget and finance management or bid writing.

Who are the mentors?

Mentors are experienced voluntary and community sector professionals who have an understanding of the opportunities and challenges in delivering and partnership working on public sector contracts.

Who are the mentees?

Mentees are small/medium organisations within the voluntary and community sector

who would like to gain knowledge and support from other organisations across the County. They may also be looking to work on public sectors contracts but are not confident in identifying the best route forward.

How do I enrol as a mentor or mentee?

The first thing to do is contact the Training and Partnership Development Officer, who will discuss what you would like to contribute or achieve from the mentoring scheme.

Training

As part of the project there is also a training brochure produced which incorporates all the training available via the partner organisations. For those organisations that take part in the mentoring scheme there is FREE organisational mentoring training for both mentors and mentees. For further information on how to benefit and contribute to the Lincs2gether project please contact:

Wendy Coy, Training and Partnership Development Officer, Community Lincs, The Old Mart, Church Lane, Sleaford, NG34 7DF

Funding Fair - 14 October, Billinghay Village Hall

Don't miss the last chance to book your place at VCS NK Funding Fair at Billinghay Village Hall on 14 October.

Representatives from Lincolnshire Sports Partnership, Groundwork (Full Cost Recovery), National Lottery, Lincs Community Foundation, Lincs Cooperative

Development Association, Community Lincs, LCC (Grantnet, PIP, Community Development Grant, Capital Grants), Tax Effective Giving and much more... will be present to explain how you qualify for funds. To book your place contact VCS NK as soon as possible.

Need free Professional Help? ProHelp could be the answer

ProHelp is a group of professional firms who have formed to provide free professional services to voluntary and community organisations in their local area.

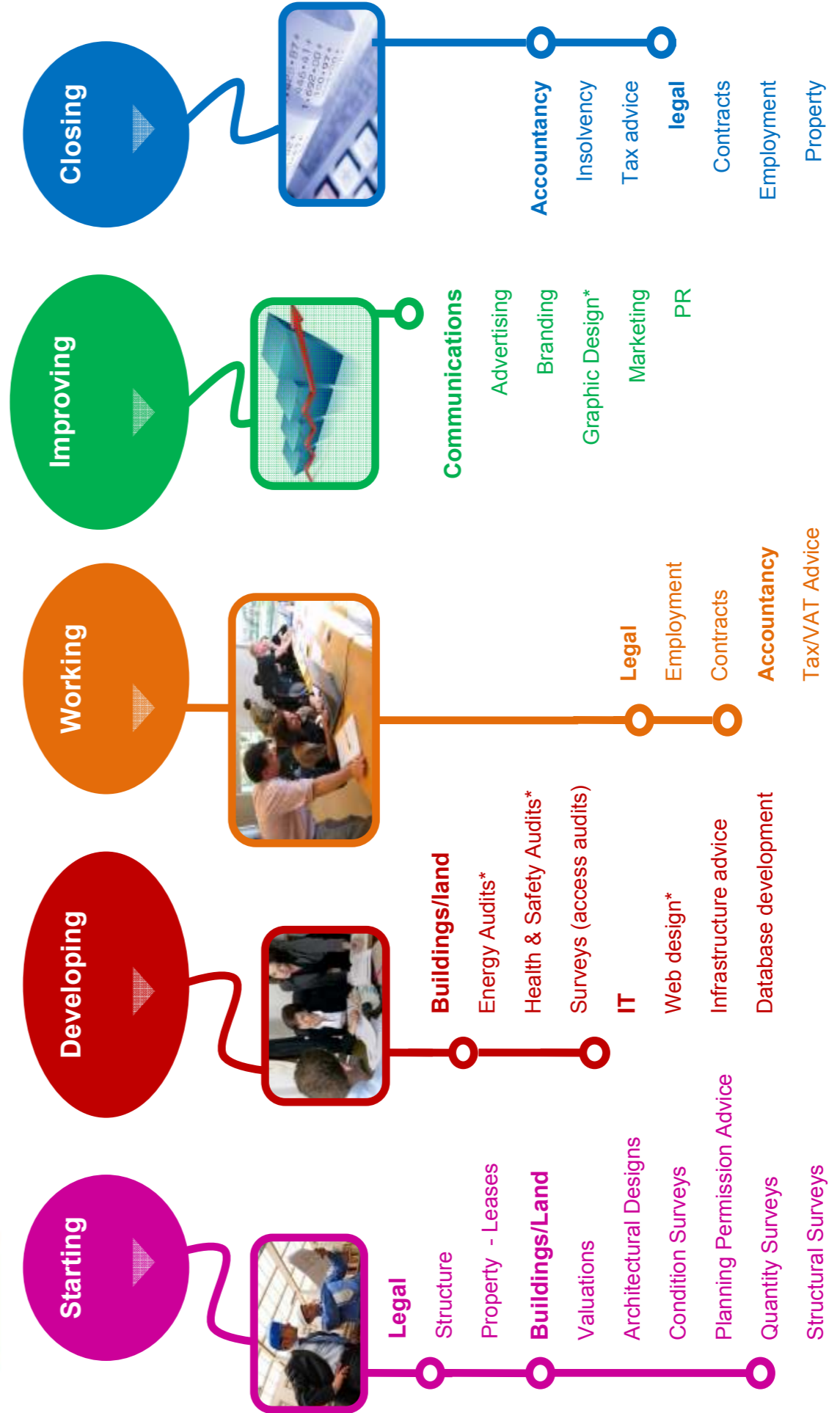
Members of ProHelp approach the work in the same way as they would any other fee-paying customer. The only difference is that the community client is not charged for the work undertaken.

The professional firms undertake one-off projects, which could include feasibility studies, structural surveys, developing PR & marketing strategies and business plans, legal and accountancy advice and property valuations.

If you are a community based, not-for-profit group working for the social regeneration of your local area and need some professional help then please call Lezli Hall at Business in the Community on 0115 924 7404 for an application form or see web site www.prohelp.org.uk



Professional Advice/Support Map



*support limited