



Newsletter

February, March & April 07

Making a Difference Together

Community Connected: free PCs and Internet

Free computers with Internet access: that's the promise for Kingston residents. A partnership between KVA and the Royal Borough of Kingston (RBK) has secured a grant of £122,000 from the Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities fund through the South London Learning and Skills Council to provide people in three areas with free, simple broadband Internet access and a free, revamped computer. The areas are Norbiton, Chessington and the Kingsnympton Estate (off Kingston Hill). Already, a pilot installation has taken place on the Cambridge Road Estate and Cambridge Gardens.



Community Connected is being led by KVA's Superhighways team, who will refurbish PCs under the project name of PC Plus. Community Connected will also work with KVA's Community Furniture project, who will collect old PCs, store them and then distribute them when they have been refurbished.

The revamped PCs will be distributed either to people without home computers or to local community venues. Using the Internet at home is especially useful for people who are disabled or housebound or who are not near shops or banks. Everything from ordering your supermarket shopping, looking for jobs, learning a new skill, booking travel tickets, accessing your library to paying your bills online and running your bank account can all be done without leaving your living room!

Community organisations, libraries, schools and Kingston Adult Education will all be supported to maximise the potential of Community Connected. Depending on its success, it is hoped that the initiative will be extended to many more local people.



The Community Shop: a one-stop advice centre

A new Community Shop has been set up as a 'one-stop advice shop' on the Cambridge Road Estate. It has been developed by KVA working with the Community Action Partnership (CAP). The CAP has funded an extensive

refurbishment programme on the ground floor of the Maddingly block on the Estate to house the new Community Shop. Once open, it will offer a programme of outreach and drop-in services delivered by voluntary and statutory organisations. It's hoped that the sorts of services will range from health promotions, legal advice, volunteering advice, Citizens' Advice Bureau, etc.

Says KVA Chief Executive, Hilary Garner: "We have been well supported in this work by the CAP Manager and the Community Worker who are both based on the Estate. We also intend to link this into the Community Connected project by offering a new ICT service we are calling 'Wireless Wednesdays'."

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KVA Staff

KVA:

Hilary Garner, Chief Executive
Lynda Evans, Deputy Chief Executive
Jackie Bennett, Business Manager
Linda Palmer, Finance / Admin Worker
Barbara Riddell, Equal Support Worker
Maria Tunmer, Health & Social Care Manager
Zahida Saddiq, Community Development Worker

Kingston Furniture Re-use Development:

Jim Christmas, Operations Manager
Adrian Collins, Administrator
James Deane, Driver/Volunteer Co-ordinator
David Thompson, Warehouseman/Driver

Superhighways Partnership Team:

Kate White, Project Manager
Maher Al-Ugaily, Acting Project Manager
Marcus Otite, Paul Allen, Emmanuel Oduro, Yaarub Asia, Ngozi Mayo - ICT Support Workers

Kingston Volunteer Centre:

Maria Jarvis, Manager
Chris Guinness, Buddy Scheme Co-ordinator & Supported Needs Co-ordinator
Pat Stanley, Volunteering Outreach Worker

Partnership Worker:

Jacqui Finn, South London CVS Partnership Co-ordinator

Mission Statement

KVA leads community engagement creating opportunities for organisations and individuals to empower them to reach their full potential, so that they make a difference to their communities.

Newsletter Information

KVA's Newsletter is distributed free of charge four times a year to all known voluntary organisations in the Borough, key personnel in the statutory sector as well as local councillors. Copies are also distributed to libraries, doctors' surgeries and schools. The Newsletter provides an opportunity to promote your organisation or forthcoming events. We welcome material and comments for inclusion. Inserts can be included by prior arrangement. Insert costs are £35 for statutory bodies and £20 for voluntary organisations. The Newsletter can be put on tape if required. It can be downloaded from KVA's website in pdf format.

We are always looking for articles, news and information on matters affecting voluntary and community groups in Kingston. If you would like to submit an item to the Newsletter please contact Linda Palmer on lindap@kva.org.uk or phone 020 8255 3335. If you have an amendment to our mailing list please contact Linda Palmer.

Copy Deadlines

May, June, July - 20th April 07

August, September, October - 20 July 07

Disclaimer – information contained in the Newsletter & inserts come from a wide range of sources. Opinions or statements expressed may not necessarily reflect those of KVA. KVA aims to ensure all information is correct and up to date.



KVA Membership. Membership of KVA is open to all voluntary and community groups who are based or work in Kingston. For details of how to become a member contact Linda Palmer, email lindap@kva.org.uk



Do your staff find using PCs difficult? If any of your staff have disabilities or impairments, then this free workshop is for you.

The Access Learning Centre at RAKAT (Richmond & Kingston Accessible Transport) is holding a special session for staff and volunteers of all voluntary groups in Kingston on 14 February where you can learn how to use your PC happily and healthily. The Centre is fully equipped with all the latest assistive ICT technology. A trainer from AbilityNet (the leading authority on disability and computing) will demonstrate all the equipment and give personal advice on how to get the best from your PC. Changes often cost little or nothing and will help staff work more productively while ensuring your organisation complies with the law.

Workshop details:

Date: Wednesday 14 February

Time: 2pm to 4pm

Venue: The Access Learning Centre, RAKAT (Richmond & Kingston Accessible Transport), Richmond Road, Kingston. They can organise transport for people with disabilities (contact them direct on 0208 481 0031). The Centre is wheelchair accessible and parking is free.

Places available to: voluntary organisations in Kingston (staff, volunteers, management committee members and trustees only – not clients).

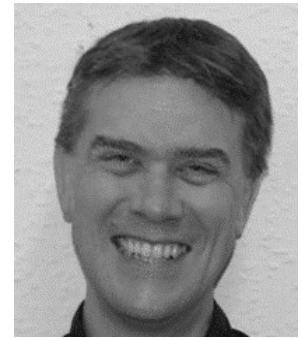
Contact: accessibility@superhighways.org.uk

Online training using IVY Soft training

Not something you'll find in the garden, but a new way of learning IT packages. Superhighways has bought 100 licences for voluntary organisations, which cost £30 each (£20 for five or more). The licences allow staff to learn a range of software packages online including Office 2003, Office XP, Office 2000 (introduction to advanced levels) as well as ECDL. Courses are available for staff, volunteers, trustees and clients/users of your organisation. The courses are easy to follow and can be done at your own pace. But apply fast as the licences run out in April! Contact Superhighways on 0208 255 8040 or email training@superhighways.org.uk for a demo first (you will need to have broadband to use the courses).

New Superhighways worker

Richard Exworthy joined us in January. His role is to promote membership of Superhighways and to secure sponsorship and donations. He has a wealth of experience in corporate and trust fundraising, and has also worked in the IT sector. He says: "I'm very excited to be joining Superhighways. New technologies can provide many different ways of working and can bring huge benefits to an organisation. But ICT can also be difficult to manage – and even harder to afford!"



Richard is married with two children and lives locally. When he's not at work he likes walking his dog and cheering on the local football team (the Kingstonians). Welcome Richard!



New driver at Community Furniture

David Thompson joined Community Furniture as driver/warehouseman in January. Community Furniture now has 13 volunteers and two people on job training placements.

Twelve of the project's workers have already done over 100 hours under the People Count project (a new project under a Local Area Agreement between RBK and KVC which allows the local authority more flexibility in how it allocates budgets to address community needs in volunteering). Well done to all! Arrangements are being finalised for a new partnership with RBK for Community Furniture to collect reusable furniture and appliances throughout the Borough. RBK will pay Community Furniture for their services and this should go a long way towards ensuring long term financial viability for the project.

Calling all Voluntary Organisations!

KVA Database: Please return the enclosed form to ensure that we have the correct details for your organisation.

KVA Membership: Voluntary groups who are affiliated to KVA will find enclosed with this Newsletter a renewal form for 2007/08. We would be grateful if this form could be passed on to your Treasurer for payment. For more details about becoming an affiliated member contact Linda Palmer at lindap@kva.org.uk

Local Bulletin



Kingston Centre For Independent Living

Independence for Older People

People aged 65 and over can use Direct Payments,

which pay for Community Care Services from local authorities, to enhance their independence. A new DVD explains what Direct Payments are, who can receive them and what they can be used for. It is suitable for professionals as well as people over 65, is available in Tamil, Urdu and Farsi and is subtitled. It costs £12.99 (including p&p, cheques payable to Kingston Centre for Independent Living) and is available from: Rosemary Green, Kingston Centre for Independent Living, River Reach, 31-35 High Street, Kingston KT1 1LF. Tel: 020 8546 9603. Email: rosemary.green@kcil.org.uk www.kcil.org.uk

A new service for bereaved youngsters has been launched by Kingston Bereavement Service. The Saying Goodbye Project offers one-to-one support at home, school or wherever the child or young person feels comfortable, or at the Service's offices at Welcare House, Canbury Park Road, Kingston. Other services include: information and advice for youngsters, parents, carers, teachers, social workers and all professionals who work with bereaved children and young people. Contact Lesley Mungur, Project Coordinator, on 0208 547 1552 or email her at sayinggoodbye@kingstonbereavementservice.org.uk



Kingston Bereavement Service
Support, counselling and understanding in bereavement

Are you a carer?

Kingston Mental Health Carers' Forum understands that caring for someone with mental health issues can be demanding and isolating. The Forum is run by carers, is a registered charity and assists everyone who looks after someone who uses local mental health services. They have good relationships with local health providers and RBK and with BME, homeless and substance abuse organisations.

Contact Kingston Mental Health Carers' Forum, c/o 55 Selwood Road, Hook, Chessington KT9 1PT or email them at kmhcf@bigfoot.com.



The cornerHOUSE Community Arts Centre in Tolworth has played host to a wide range of events. It is non-profit making and run entirely by volunteers.

One of the Centre's most important initiatives has been its Young People's Dance & Drama, where members undertake all aspects of production, from costume design to box office. For details of forthcoming productions contact The cornerHOUSE on 0208 296 9012, email info@thecornerhouse.org or visit their website www.thecornerhouse.org

YMCA widens scope

Kingston & Wimbledon YMCA

Angus McGregor, Programme Manager at YMCA Surbiton, is now managing programmes at YMCA Hawker Centre too. Activities include tennis, basketball, football, bowling, gym and healthy nutrition. For youngsters there is tots' cookery, baby ballet, drama and holiday clubs and the Hawker Centre has a Dance Room for 14-16 year olds and is Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) accredited. Instructors are additionally qualified for people with disabilities.

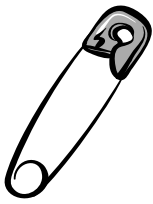
At YMCA Surbiton Angus manages classes and courses in pilates, indoor cycling, body combat, tap dancing and step, karate, Khai Bo, etc. There is a gym, before and after school clubs and a holiday club. YMCA programmes are open to people of all faiths or of none. www.kwymca.org.uk or contact

The Canbury Pavilion is for all the community.

This old bowling pavilion was rescued by volunteers from a derelict state four years ago and is now a vibrant meeting place for a wide range of Kingston residents. There is an older people's drop-in and a toddler drop-in. It has a piano, music system and toys and is close to the river in Canbury Gardens. The Pavilion is free to hire for voluntary groups. Call 0770 8667 590 or visit www.canburypavilion.org

Alfurat Arabic School, established by the Euphrates Education Foundation and supported by RBK, educates young people aged 4-16 years old about Arabic language, culture, art and history. Students from all ethnic backgrounds and beliefs are welcome. Details from Dr Mohammed Twaij on 07957 294455, or email alfuratschool@hotmail.com.

Recycling & Reusing



Real nappies are best

Eight million disposable nappies thrown away every day. They damage the environment and take hundreds of years to decompose in landfill sites. So it makes sense -

environmentally and economically - to use washable nappies.

Kingston & Merton Real Nappy Network (KMRNN) promotes real nappy use and their Nappuccino workshops offer low cost nappy trials.

Real Nappy Week runs 11 to 18 March with a display outside Bentalls Shopping Centre on Saturday 17 March, 10am to 4pm. Details from kingstonmertonrnn@yahoo.co.uk or visit www.kingstonmertonrealnappies.org.uk or phone 07949 628 148.

The Workplace

Offices can be extremely wasteful places. These tips should help your workplace to become more sustainable:

Reduce: Use stapleless staplers, share stationery such as hole punches and use solar powered calculators. Encourage staff to car share, use public transport, cycle or walk to work. Stop junk mail and subscriptions you no longer need. Take a packed lunch to work. Use natural cleaning products and energy saving lightbulbs.

Reuse: Buy second hand office equipment. Get your printer cartridges refilled. Use refillable pens. Buy cups and drinking glasses made from recycled materials.

Recycle: Collect stamps for charity. Order recycled stationery. Put milk bottles, coffee jars in recycling bins. Use scrap paper as notepads.

Make sure everyone in the office knows!

Recycle mobile phones, cartridges & PCs

Empty inkjet and toner cartridges can be recycled at Green Tech (email Trevor@gtrecycling.com for free labels) with donations to NCH.

Mobile phones can be recycled at:

- ♦ Mobile Phone Amnesty (freepost recycling bag from 0800 389 7199). Donations to the Missing Person's Helpline.
- ♦ BTCV (phone 0207 278 4294 for a free recycling bag or post to BTCV Phones, EMC Recycling, FREEPOST MID 23462). Proceeds will help improve nature projects.
- ♦ FoneAid will give your organisation £3 for every unwanted mobile (even if not working or in poor condition) and will use the phones in developing countries. Register your details at www.foneaid.org.uk or call 01625 667867.
- ♦ Also look in branches of Sainsbury's for free envelopes to recycle mobiles, with proceeds to Comic Relief.



Don't forget to remove your SIM card first!

PCs in working order can be recycled at www.computer-aid.org where they will be used in developing countries.

For other organisations see:

www.itforcharities.co.uk

www.wastewatch.org

Thought for the day ...

Did you know that, every day, the UK produces enough rubbish to fill Trafalgar Square to the top of Nelson's column, and enough to fill the Albert Hall every hour?

Reuse it, recycle it, refill it!

The Charities Bill is now law

It is now the Charities Act, having received Royal Assent in November. National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and the voluntary and community sector have been campaigning for this important reform of charity law for over ten years. The Act will be implemented in stages. Some of the key provisions, including the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) will require new regulations to be drafted and consulted upon first. It is estimated that it will be at least two months before any of the Act that directly affects charities will be in force – we will keep you posted on developments.

What is in the Act? Firstly, it updates the definition of charity (not done since 1601!). It also requires all charities to show they exist to benefit the public in some way. Previously, public benefit was presumed for charities existing in the areas of poverty relief, religion and education. This has been controversial because of the possible impact on independent schools as charities.

Other highlights of the Act include:

- increasing the threshold for registration to £5,000 income per year
- a new form of incorporated charity, doing away with the need, as at present, to register with and report to both the Charity Commission and Companies House
- allowing the Commission to excuse trustees from personal liability when they have acted 'reasonably and in good faith' (this was previously only a role for the court). On the question of public benefit, the Government has restated its intention that the public benefit test should be rigorously applied and will review this in three years' time.

NCVO will be monitoring the Government and the Charity Commission plans for the Act to ensure there is genuine implementation of the public benefit test. The aim of the Charities Bill is to promote public trust and confidence in the Charity 'brand'. By requiring all charities to demonstrate that they benefit the public in some way, the Bill will enable people to understand why charities are special and why they deserve the tax and other benefits they receive. Interested in reading more? NCVO will be regularly updating their website www.ncvovol.org.uk/charitylaw with the latest information.

Warning!

A recent case highlighted by the South West London Law Centre revealed that some community groups have not limited the liability of their trustees even though they have taken on substantial liabilities. Incorporating as a company limited by guarantee limits the personal contractual liability of trustees to such amount as the trustees undertake to contribute in the event of the company being wound up (usually £1). Unlike a charitable trust, a charitable company has separate legal personality and third parties contracting with the charity will generally only have a claim against the charity.

Any group taking on significant liabilities (for instance, employing one or more staff members or signing a lease for property) should incorporate. All unincorporated groups should seek advice to assess the risk of not being incorporated. Trustees of incorporated charities may still be personally liable if they breach their legal obligations under company law. They will also generally be responsible for breaches of criminal law. Incorporation does not protect against these risks. The Charity Commission has guidance notes for trustees: a) Vicarious Liability of a Charity or its Trustees and b) The Essential Trustee: What you need to know. Both are available from www.charitycommission.gov.uk

The recently passed Charities Act 2006 (see facing article) has created the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), although these will not be established until later this year. While there are costs involved in incorporation these costs are a small price to pay when compared with the potential damage to trustees' personal liability.

Charity Commission News. The latest edition of this twice-yearly newsletter is now available on their website in HTML format or a printable pdf format. Go to www.charitycommission.gov.uk/tcc/newslit.asp. The newsletter keeps trustees up-to-date with important issues affecting charities.

The Companies Act is the longest-ever piece of legislation in the UK. It has 1,300 sections and received royal assent on 8 November 2006. The Act repeals and either restates or changes about two-thirds of existing company legislation, and adds a lot of new law as well. And 1,300 sections is not the end of it - there are 16 schedules, and much of the detail will be in regulations made during 2007 and 2008. For web addresses for the Act and explanatory notes contact www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006



Reminder: New Guidelines from

Trust for London In the last Newsletter we reported on the new guidelines from Trust for London for 2007-2011. They will fund work which has one or more of these aims:

1. To challenge discrimination faced by disabled people
2. To promote the inclusion and integration of recently established communities
3. To strengthen mother-tongue and supplementary schools to provide creative educational opportunities
4. To address new and emerging needs.

Closing date for the October Grants Committee is 30 May 2007. For further details phone Trust for London on 020 7606 6145 or visit their website at www.trustforlondon.org.uk

Remembering slavery

Funds are available from the Heritage Lottery Fund for groups to run projects marking the two hundredth anniversary of the

Parliamentary abolition of the slave trade in British ships. Already 17 groups in London have been awarded grants totalling over £1 million. If your group would like to run a Remembering Slavery project a free booklet can be downloaded from www.hlf.org.uk or phone the Heritage Lottery Fund on 0207 591 6042.



Young Roots offers grants of between £5,000 and £25,000. The scheme aims to involve 13-20 year olds (up to 25 for those with special needs) in finding out about their heritage, developing skills, building confidence and promoting community involvement. Young Roots projects stem directly from young peoples' interests and ideas, harnessing their creativity and energy and helping them work with others in their local community. See www.hlf.org.uk for more details.

Rolling Grants from the Allen Lane

Foundation The Allen Lane Foundation offers support to unpopular causes including refugees, travellers, ex-offenders, older people, BME communities, migrant workers, people with mental health problems, those facing violence or abuse, and gay and lesbian people. They offer startup or project costs of up to £15,000. Visit www.allenlane.org.uk for details.

Threat to VCO funding from the Olympics

A request has come from the NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary & Community Action) to defend funding for the voluntary sector. They are asking voluntary and community groups to write to Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, telling him that the Government should fund the Olympics without depriving the National Lottery of funds needed to support the voluntary sector.

The Government is short of at least £900 million for the Olympics and is fighting over how to fund them. The Chancellor wants the National Lottery to provide the money and this could mean the voluntary and community sector losing out. Local groups can take action in one of four ways:

1. Write to Gordon Brown, telling him that the Government should fund the Olympics without depriving the National Lottery distributors of funds needed to support local voluntary and community group activities. His address is: Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ.
2. Write to Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport asking her not to take money away from the National Lottery in order to support the Olympics. Her address is: Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP, Secretary of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH.
3. Copy your letters to Ed Miliband, the Third Sector Minister in the Office of the Third Sector, and to Dawn Primarolo, the Paymaster General at the Treasury, who leads on the VCS for the Treasury. Their addresses are: Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP, Minister for the Third Sector, Cabinet Office, 70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS. And: Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Paymaster General, HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ.
4. Perhaps most importantly, write to our two MPs (addresses in the phone book) telling them why National Lottery funds are so important for the people served by voluntary organisations in Kingston.

Change is possible but only if the relevant Ministers receive heavy postbags from you!

Community Accountancy

Community Accountancy

Julie Woodhouse is your Community Accountant and can be contacted at KVA on Tuesdays and Wednesdays or e-mail her at juliew@kva.org.uk.

Julie offers support on a one to one basis or through workshops at your organisation. Additionally, KVA runs training courses throughout the year.

Do you have sufficient reserves and a reserves policy?

The Charity Commission has recently published a report 'Tell it like it is'. This can be downloaded from: www.charity-commission.gov.uk/Library/publications/pdfs/rs13text.pdf

The report highlights the results of a survey carried out by the Commission to see whether charities have reserves policies in place. Their findings show that 57% of charities do not have a policy, although this is an improvement from 69% in 2002. It also found that 8% of charities with income exceeding £250,000 held reserves without a policy.

Without a reserves policy charities are failing to be transparent, being unclear as to how their funds are being managed. To comply with SORP 2005 charities should publish their reserves policy in their Trustees' Annual Report.

It is also a popular myth that funders will look unfavourably on charities that hold large reserves. However, the Commission found this wasn't the case. What is key is not to hold excessive reserves and to have a stringent reserves policy.

When putting together your reserves policy it is wise to conduct this at the same time as a risk analysis and SWOT exercise. Consider all your legal obligations and your dependency on certain funders. For further ideas the following publications are available from the Commission:

- Charities Reserves (CC19)
- Charity Reserves (RS3)
- Small Charities & Reserves (RS5)

There is a reserve checklist within 'Tell it like it is'. Please contact Julie if you would like to discuss any of the issues raised here.

Community Accountancy Courses

1. Understanding Project Accounting

Date: Wednesday 7 March

Time: 1pm to 5pm

Cost: £10

Trainer: Julie Woodhouse

Venue: Access Learning Centre, RAKAT, North Kingston Centre, Richmond Rd, Kingston (for a map go to www.rakat.org.uk/myweb/contact.html)

Target learners: Treasurers and project managers

Course will cover:

- How project accounting fits into your annual budget
- Excel models
- Quickbooks & Sage

Course outcomes: At the end of the session you will be able to devise your own project budgets and understand how project budgets fit into your annual budget.

2. Preparing for audit or independent examination

Date: Monday 26 February

Time: 1.45pm to 5pm

Cost: £10

Trainer: Julie Woodhouse

Venue: Richmond CVS, 1 Princes Street, Richmond

Target learners: Treasurers, managers, trustees

Course will cover:

- Schedules you need to produce
- What to expect from an audit
- Accruals/prepayments
- Creditors/debtors
- Bank records
- Petty cash

Course outcomes: At the end of the session you will know what records and schedules should be produced and how to communicate with your auditor.

To book a place on either course: phone Richmond CVS on 0208 255 8500 (please specify if you have any access needs).

The Community Accountancy project in Richmond, Kingston & Hounslow is supported by London Councils.



Governance Training

Using the Code of Governance KVA can organise sessions in the following areas of governance:

Duties & responsibilities of trustees 30 mins

Learning objectives: participants should be able to describe the main duties and responsibilities of trustees.

The role of the board 30 mins

Learning objectives: participants should be able to describe the key roles of the board in governing the organisation.

Governing or managing? 30 mins

Learning objectives: Participants should be able to list the complementary roles of the board and staff/volunteers and describe the areas of overlap.

Understanding your stakeholders 45 mins

Learning objectives: participants should be able to: list the organisation's stake holders; describe how the board communicates with each one and involves them in their decision-making; agree an action plan for improving the relationship.

Thinking creatively 15 mins

Learning objectives: participants should be able to think creatively about the organisation they govern and its place in the world, keeping their motivation, passion and contribution to the board alive.

Building an inclusive & diverse board 30 mins

Learning objectives: participants should be able to: draw up a board profile containing ideal skills, knowledge and experience; carry out an audit of the current board membership; and create an action plan for recruiting board members.

Your role on the board 30 mins

Learning objectives: participants should be able to plan individual development, training or support needs.

Would you like to implement a Quality Assurance System ?

PQASSO (Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations) is the leading 'off the shelf' quality assurance system, designed specifically for use within voluntary and community sector organisations.

For further information on governance and PQASSO contact Zahida Saddiq at communitydevelopment@kva.org.uk

Want to know more about IIP (Investors in People)? Government funding is available for voluntary and community organisations to embark on the journey towards Investors in People. OMD Solutions Limited can access this funding and work with organisations to identify what actions are needed to achieve the prestigious Investors in People Standard. Services include:

- a free face to face briefing detailing the financial offer available to participating organisations
- a free Investors in People toolkit
- a free visit from a specialist advisor to plan what actions need to be taken to achieve IIP.

Contact Gary on 020 8240 4485 or at gary@omdsolutions.co.uk for information.

Children First: building a Children's Workforce in the Private, Voluntary & Independent Sector

This seminar will introduce the Children's Workforce Development Project and examine how it fits in with the local children's services agenda.



It will also explore workforce development issues within children's services and is recommended for all voluntary sector organisations who have some children's services and who would like to develop their staff.

Date: Wednesday 28 February, 10am to 12.30pm (lunch from 12.30pm), at Shiraz Mirza Hall, 76a Coombe Road, Norbiton (behind Norbiton station). **To book:** contact Julie Reay at cwd@kva.org.uk or phone KVA on 0208 255 3335. Please RSVP by **Tuesday 29 February** for catering purposes.

Planning for Spring & Autumn 2007 Training Programmes

KVA would like your ideas and suggestions on your organisation's training needs. This is to ensure your organisation has access to relevant training courses and to help us develop new training opportunities that meet your needs. Your views are important to KVA, so please contact Zahida Saddiq on 020 8255 3335 or at communitydevelopment@kva.org.uk

Training brochures giving details and booking forms will be sent out nearer the time (courses subject to funding).



Health & Social Care

From PPI Forums to LINKs: where are we now?

Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) are to replace the Patient and Public Involvement Forums (PPIFs) after the abolition of the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health later this year.

Over recent years the NHS has been undergoing significant change as part of a ten year Modernisation Plan. At each stage there has remained a duty to involve patients, carers and the public in health decision-making. To understand the processes and reasons behind the changes, here is a brief account of the recent history of patient and public involvement.

- Until 2002 patient involvement in health, from policy advice, powers of inspection and scrutiny to individual complaints, support and legal advice, came under the auspices of the Community Health Councils (CHCs). They were the local body responsible for involving people in all health service issues or concerns.
- After the abolition of the CHCs the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH) came into being. The CPPIH then set up PPI Forums, one for each NHS Trust in England and Wales. The PPIFs were responsible for locally 'Shaping Health' by their involvement in policy planning while retaining certain powers of inspection of health services.
- Complaints were dealt with separately by ICAS (Independent Complaints and Advocacy Service) as part of the Citizens' Advice Bureau service.
- In July 2006 the Department of Health published "*A stronger local voice*", which set out five key elements to enable a stronger voice for local people in influencing the health and social care services in their area. These plans included proposals to establish Local Involvement Networks (LINKs), which will gather the views and experiences of people on their health and social care services, as well as plans to update the requirements of NHS bodies to involve and consult patients and the public.

One of the most significant changes is that the structure of LINKs will allow a far greater number of people to become involved in shaping both health and social care services. This is vital in ensuring that providers, commissioners, Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the regulators take real account of LINKs' views.

Kingston LINKs?

The Kingston PPI Forums will play a key role in shaping the new LINKs for Kingston. While awaiting further Government guidance as to how LINKs will be set up, KVA and the PPI Forums are currently liaising with local communities and partner organisations to discuss arrangements to plan and prepare for the changes ahead.

If you wish to be involved in any of these discussions or for further information please contact Maria Tunmer at KVA (health@kva.org.uk) or the PPI Forum Support

Small Change, Big Difference

small change
big difference

The small change, big difference campaign encourages people to make minor changes in their lifestyles to give them a better chance of living longer, healthier lives. It is aimed at adults with a message that it's never too late to start, and that even small changes in diet and physical activity can make a difference.

The idea that small changes are not only a step in the right direction but have proven benefit in themselves is new. There is now clear evidence that people should not be put off making a change, just because they cannot see how they could manage the full five a day fruit and veg or participate in 30 minutes a day of extra exercise.

The research has identified that day to day activities, including what you do at work and at home can extend a person's life by up to three years. A number of organisations have set up initiatives and schemes to help people make small changes to their lifestyles.

Look at the Department of Health website to find out how you or your organisation could participate in this campaign and make a big difference.
www.dh.gov.uk

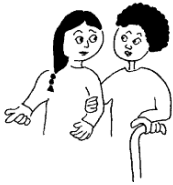
Fair access to care services— a consultation

Kingston Council is currently engaged in a public consultation on revising their Eligibility for Adult Social Care Services. They are looking to make changes to provision of services dependent on the defined category of assessed need.

The proposed approach would be to offer services to people whose needs fall within the **critical** and **substantial** category and to commission preventative services to support people who fit within the moderate and **low** category that they can access services directly themselves. At present Kingston offers services to all four categories subject to an assessment of the person's needs.

The implications of these proposals could potentially be enormous and far-reaching so if this concerns you or your organisation please consider responding. Contact Phil Levick at Community Care Services to find out more about the consultation or give your views.

Tel: 020 8547 6103 or email:
philip.levick@rbk.kingston.gov.uk



Carers' Directory

The Carers' Directory has been revised and copies sent out to social care teams, resource centres and local voluntary organisations.

The aim of the Directory is to signpost carers to local services and support and includes information about support groups, helplines, back care, learning opportunities, taking a break, and much more.

Carers are family members or friends who, without being paid, regularly look after someone who wouldn't be able to manage at home without help. Carers can be adults, young people or children either living with the person they support or elsewhere.

Many different services and types of support are on offer for people looking after a family member or friend living in the Royal Borough of Kingston. The directory is on the RBK website and can be downloaded by sections rather than having to do a full copy. http://www.kingston.gov.uk/browse/health/communitycareservices/caring_for_someone.htm

2007: make or break year for the NHS?

A failure to tackle rising costs and to invest in modern services means that 2007 is a make or break year for the NHS, according to a report by thinktank Reform.



They found the key developments in 2006 were:

- Failure to control costs
- Rising deficits
- Deceleration of reform
- New evidence of increased rationing, cutbacks on innovation and lengthening waits.

Also, that deficits are leading to 'innovation phobia' where Trusts cut back on all new innovations as well as the use of third sector providers.

The report says the Service's long-term strength has been sapped by the lack of an underpinning costed reform programme and the Service's immediate aim should be to settle deficits in 2007-08.

Recommendations include a 'write-off' of deficits with a new discipline in place to enable organisations to stay in balance. Also, Primary Care Trusts to shift provider functions to social enterprises with strict financial constraints and a move to independent Foundation status for providers.

The report seeks a move forward towards the 'new world' following April 2008: much more limited public funding and intense pressure from rising patient expectations. The key issue is whether the NHS moves to a mixed economy of care or stays within an NHS-provided monopoly with continued high long-term costs. The NHS is now deep into a make or break period of change and Reform is the crucial resource for re-engineering as the NHS moves towards competition and choice.

"NHS reform: the empire strikes back" the full report can be found on the website:
<http://www.reform.co.uk>

Notice Board

**Rooms to rent at Friends Meeting House,
78 Eden Street, Kingston**

Charges

	Voluntary Organisations	Commercial
Hall, ground Floor (seats about 50)	£9 per hour £25 for 3 hours	£15 per hour £40 for 3 hours
Upstairs Room (up to 12 people)	£7 per hour £20 for 3 hours	£12 per hour £30 for 3 hours
Meeting House	£14 per hour	£20 per hour

Enquiries: Monica Weeden, 0208 546 1353

J4B is a company offering research, information publishing and technology solutions for the public and community sectors. They are hosting a one-day event - '3rd Sector Delivering 4 Community' - on 13 February at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster. Cost £75. The event will help voluntary organisations to examine issues such as partnership working and innovation, capacity-building, marketing and how to access further funds. To book a place visit J4B's website at www.delivering4community.com or phone 01625 628007 and ask for Elizabeth Broomhall or Jan Foster.



Congratulations to Kate White, Superhighways Project Manager, who gave birth to a 7lb 3oz baby girl, Amelie, on 30 November. Mother and baby are doing fine.

The annual ASICS 16 mile Kingston Breakfast Run takes place on Sunday 1 April by the River Thames. Details and entry forms are available at www.humanrace.co.uk

On the move ...

KREC (Kingston Racial Equality Council) has moved to: Neville House, 55 Eden Street, Kingston KT1 1BW. Tel: 0208 547 2332, fax: 0208 247 1510, email enquiries@kingstonrec.org, website: www.kingstonREC.org

Sikh Association Kingston has moved to: 16A Kingsdowne Road, Surbiton, KT6 6JZ. Tel:

Run for The Fircroft Trust

Their annual Sponsored Walk (6.1k) is on 20 May and the London British 10k run is on 1 July. To take part and raise funds for The Fircroft Trust contact Susannah Horwood on 0208 399 1772 or email susannah@thefircrofttrust.org



Well done to the Volunteer Centre!

Kingston Volunteer Centre has been recommended for the Investors in Volunteers (IIV) Quality Mark. This is an important award for the Centre as it gives recognition for the way they work with volunteers and how volunteers are involved in the organisation.

The IIV assessment was rigorous, with volunteers, staff and trustees being interviewed and asked what it is like working for KVC. Fortunately, everyone was positive! The assessors' report now goes for approval. Once that has happened, Manager Maria Jarvis will become a partner of IIV and support other voluntary groups to work towards gaining this prestigious award. Well done to everyone!

