

Linksline

The Newsletter of Links: The Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Service and Action Limited.

January 2016

Issue 156

Links Annual General Meeting Press Release 2015

**“Practical and informative” – “All the speakers were excellent, inspiring stuff”
Some of the comments after Links AGM on Tuesday December 8th 2015.**

Links CVS held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday December 8th 2015 at the Asian Association/Big Local Hasland Hub in Chesterfield. As well as the usual business items there were presentations from the following organisations focusing on Equality and Diversity issues.

- Talent Match – this programme supports young people between the ages of 18 and 24 who are not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). The Work Fund offers a financial incentive to VCS employers who employ young people under the programme
- Links BME (Black & Minority Ethnic) work – the BME Forum comprises 9 BME groups that cover various areas over Derbyshire. Links has been contracted by Derbyshire County Council to co-ordinate the BME Forum to engage and consult with BME communities across Derbyshire.
- Unite Union – Cheryl Pidgeon from Unite the Union spoke on the inequalities and unethical practices that take place at Sports Direct in Shirebrook. These include bullying & intimidation or sanctioned for spending too long in the toilet. Unite are campaigning for respect and dignity for all workers, decent health & safety practices, permanent contracts and a minimum pay of £7.85 per hour.
- Partnership alliance with Derbyshire Law Centre and Derbyshire Unemployed Workers’ Centre – Teresa Waldron talked about the joint bid with the Help with Crisis Fund. The project will help to stabilise individuals in need and the funding is £500,000 over 5 years. The decision will be made in February.
- Derbyshire Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) + Formerly Derbyshire Friend – Connor Fittal talked about the discrimination faced by the LGBT community, this is often disproportionate to the discrimination that others face.



Click link below to see a fuller account of the AGM

<http://linkscvs.org.uk/sites/default/files/AGM%20Press%20Release%202015%20FINAL.pdf>

Links Core Service

This service is funded by Derbyshire County Council, Chesterfield Borough Council North East Derbyshire District Council and earnings by staff. It is only available to groups operating in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire

Minimising the risk of conflict in your group

Running and being part of a group can be a fulfilling and rewarding experience. However it can also be frustrating and unpleasant; fortunately these negative instances are less frequent than the positive involvement that most people experience.

Unfortunately we cannot legislate against people being uncooperative, acting against the best interests of the group and its members or behaving maliciously. In extreme cases this can lead to fraud or members feeling they have no option to involve the police or courts.

There are ways to minimise problems in groups and these include:

1. A clear and concise governing document e.g. a constitution or Memorandum and Articles of Association.
2. All members have a copy or sight of a copy and agree to comply with the clauses in the document.
3. The governing body i.e. management committee, board of trustees or board of directors are elected by the membership and in accordance with the governing document.
4. The governing body refers to the governing document on a regular basis and ensures that any actions that it takes comply with the governing document.
5. All decisions are made in accordance with the governing document and clearly minuted.
6. Decisions are not made outside meetings or by a few people without approval of the governing body.
7. Clear financial procedures that are adhered to and not carried out by one person without checks and balances.

Sometimes we hear at Links about groups that are struggling to function. This can be due to a range of factors:

- Bullying by an autocratic Chair/ Officer who others members are afraid to challenge.
- Harassment of some members by other members.
- A few members running the group for their own benefit and not for the whole group.
- Funds misappropriated and used for purposes not for the benefit of the group.
- Small groups of people making decisions without consulting the governing body or wider membership.

We are not an enforcement body so cannot place sanctions on groups but we can offer advice, provide an impartial ear, listen to both sides of the story and hopefully help groups to come to some kind of resolution.

We offer training to governing bodies on running meetings, taking minutes, managing money and generally running your group.

These services are free to all groups operating in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire.

For more information visit our website www.linkscvs.org.uk or email linkscvs@btconnect.com or phone 01246 274844

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MAKE SURE YOU ARE RECEIVING OUR INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

There have been many changes at Links over the last two years particularly to our Core Service. We have fewer resources in terms of staff time and funding, however Links is still committed to providing free services to groups in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire.

Link to Leaflet below

<http://linkscvs.org.uk/sites/default/files/Links%20Leaflet%20A4%20Website%20Version%202.doc>

To make sure that you continue to receive our Bulletins and Newsletters make sure that you have updated your information on our database. If you have already completed a database form, thank you. If not you can complete one by clicking the link:

<http://linkscvs.org.uk/node/173>

Links Groups Adviser, Sandra Pink works flexibly so that she can meet with groups at the most convenient time to suit them. She is also available by telephone 07889726846 and email sandra.pinklinks@yahoo.co.uk

If you have a query about funding or about running your group you can complete a Funding Questionnaire - <http://www.linkscvs.org.uk/node/98> or a General Advice Questionnaire - <http://www.linkscvs.org.uk/node/99> and return it to us electronically.

We understand that some of you do not use computers or the internet so you can contact us by phone 01246 274 844 or even write to us: Links CVS, No.1 Rose Hill East, Chesterfield, S40 1NU.

We just want to stay in touch!!

Congratulations



Congratulations to Joe Roberts, who has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours list for his community work. Joe can often be seen around the area working for the Staveley British Legion.

He raises funds for, and organises, the annual Staveley Armed Forces and Veterans event at Poolsbrook Country Park and has worked tirelessly on many other local projects.

In his spare time (!), Joe is the Vice-Chair of the Staveley Remembers team which is working towards a project to revitalise the Garden of Remembrance at Lowgates.

Congratulations Joseph Roberts.B.E.M.

By Courtesy of Staveley Remembers

Funding Information

THE LAST SEMINAR IN THE LINKS TRAINING PROGRAMME 2015/16

Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the 5.5 million people living in Britain's former mining communities. Many of these communities still require support due to the huge impact the closure of the mines had upon them.

The Coalfields Community Investment Programme (England) is a £500,000 fund created to support activities that tackle some of the key challenges that still remain in coalfield communities. The fund is open to projects that deliver in the top 30% most deprived coalfield communities **link to eligible wards** –

<http://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/East-Midlands-R7-Eligible-Wards-2015.pdf>

and that will make a positive difference in addressing the following themes:

Skills: Growing the skills of people in order to increase their opportunities

Employment: Developing pathways to increase the number of people in work

Health: Supporting activities that improve the health and wellbeing of all age groups

The total fund value of £500,000 will be committed over the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 at four decision making Committees which will take place quarterly (£125,000 allocated to each Committee). The first of these will take place in April.

To help us manage demand, each Committee will only consider applications that address a particular theme outlined above. The Committee schedule is as follows:

April 2016 Committee (Skills)

July 2016 Committee (Employment)

October 2016 Committee (Health)

January 2017 Committee (Skills)

The deadline for the April decision making committee is 18th March 2016. Any application that does not deliver a skills project, is incomplete or has not supplied all the necessary supporting documents by this deadline will be automatically withdrawn.

Links will be running a seminar with Stephen Abson and Lynn Utting from Coalfields Regeneration Trust on March 16th 2016 at Grassmoor Community Centre. To book a place please click link below to view the flier and complete the attached booking form.

<http://linkscvs.org.uk/sites/default/files/CRT%20Funding%20Workshop%20Booking%20Form.doc>

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Updates from voluntary organisations and community groups

We welcome groups wanting to share their latest news such as new services, activities, and up and coming events. If you are interested please email us the information and we will try to include it in the next issue of Linkslines. However, we reserve the rights to vet any information sent to us and to refuse publishing information which may contradict Links' central value or compromise Links' charitable and company status.

Congratulations to Temple Normanton Playscheme

The playscheme was set up in 1974 and is still running today. It started with a small committee and a budget of £84 it is currently £15,000. The playscheme runs for 2 weeks during the summer holidays with a range of activities including crafts, games, outings to the seaside and places of interest including zoos and theme parks and visits to London and York. To celebrate our 30th birthday we spent a week in Wales. Grant funding has been essential to our survival and has meant that we can offer a great range of activities & experiences to our children. Funding bodies include Derbyshire County Council, BBC Children in Need, The Lankelly Trust, The Duke of Devonshire, Big Lottery Awards For All, The Prince's Trust, Rykneld Homes, NDVA and many more. There is money available, but we need to access it to enable us to provide for the needs of our children and young people and to give them the best that we can - without the money we can do very little. I have to say that if it was not for the advice of Links and the support they provide I would not be able to give this account of our success. We have a volunteer force of 15 and a waiting list.

Stephen Wright
Temple Normanton Playscheme



Pictured are some of the volunteers, children and parents with the presentation cheque for £3695 awarded to the playscheme for the London project by Awards for All



Comments on published articles & suggestions for future article topics

As a CVS (Council for Voluntary Service), we always try to ensure that our newsletter “Linkslines” is useful, informative, relevant and reflective to the needs of local voluntary organisations and community groups. Therefore, we would welcome comments on articles published and suggestions for future article topics. Please send us your comments or suggestions by post or email. Our contact details can be found on the back page of Linkslines.

Links

The Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Service and Action Ltd.

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Officers of the Board:

Chair: Barbara Arrandale
Vice-Chair: David Wallace
Treasurer: Lorraine Dung

Staff:

Chief Executive &
Company Secretary: James Lee
Groups Adviser: Sandra Pink
ICT Support: Martin Conlan
Administration Assistant: Jon Wynn

Freelancers:

Velma Scott: Freelance BME Engagement Co-ordinator
Sushri Wells: Freelance BME Engagement Co-ordinator

Links has as its central value a belief in equal opportunities. It recognises that many groups and individuals within society have been and continue to be discriminated against, both directly and indirectly, on the grounds of, for example, their race, nationality, ethnic or cultural origins, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, political belief, social class, employment status, low income, mental health, marital status, HIV/AIDS status, appearance, refugee status, caring responsibilities and unrelated criminal conviction.

Links recognises that passive policies are inadequate as a means of combating discrimination. It therefore commits itself to taking positive action to address barriers experienced by people who are discriminated against in the above ways.

Links is financed by Derbyshire County Council, Chesterfield Borough Council and North East Derbyshire District Council and Social Enterprise Earnings.

Linkslines is written and edited by the staff of Links. While every effort is made to check the accuracy of the information in Linkslines, no liability can be accepted for any error or omission. The opinions expressed are the views of the author and not necessarily those of Links.

Have we got your correct contact details?

If you have recently changed your contact details that are your postal address, email address or telephone number (landline and mobile) please let us know immediately.
We want to make sure that you are getting all the information that we send out.