



Valley Messenger

**The Newsletter of Test Valley Community Services
Summer 2004 Edition**

This newsletter comes to you just as we celebrate 'Volunteers Week'. We held a very successful event at Andover Guildhall on Thursday June 3rd. Volunteers and representatives of many voluntary and community groups in Test Valley came to our Cheese and Wine party. We were pleased to welcome the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Test Valley Cllr and Mrs Peter Boulton., Romsey Town Mayor, Cllr Dorothy Baverstock and Sir George Young. We were also very pleased to welcome some of our statutory partners to this social event.

We are extremely grateful to local businesses that kindly sponsored the evening – Stannah, Twinings, Marks & Spencer, A & A Office Supplies and Testway Housing all generously supported us and their contribution ensured that all those attending had a super evening.

At TVCS we continue to support and strengthen the local voluntary sector in many ways. Recognising the tremendous contribution made by local volunteers is important to us and we know it means a great deal to the people wh, day in and day out, do so much in their community to help and support others. So to all volunteers in Test Valley we would like to say a very big 'THANK YOU'.

Last month we were sorry to say goodbye to two long-serving members of staff at TVCS – Lin Webb our Finance Officer and Pat White, Co-ordinator of Romsey and District Carers Support Service. The Carers Support Service is now being managed by Age Concern Romsey and Pat is now based at the Age Concern office.

We would like to welcome Patsy Macintyre who has replaced Lin Webb as Finance Officer.

I hope you find this edition of Test Valley Messenger interesting and useful and I look forward to seeing you all over the next few months at various meetings and fora.

Kind regards
Janet Blann
Chief Officer

TVCS Update

News from Dawn Elson, the Partnership Officer - A project managed by TVCS

The past ten months have been a time of attending many meetings, renewing old working relationships, creating new working partnerships and meeting many very interesting people & community groups.

My role is to provide a link between the Statutory Agencies - NHS & Social Services - and Voluntary & Community Groups, being a channel for information to flow both ways so that all concerned have a clearer picture of everyones views and opinions. To achieve this I am currently involved with many teams, groups and projects that can make a difference to the health & well-being of Andover people. These include statutory meetings run by the Mid-Hants PCT or Social Services and committees and groups from the Voluntary Sector; from attending these meetings I have become involved in projects or sub-groups looking at particular pieces of work that will be of benefit to local people.

One such project has come from my involvement with The Andover Domestic Violence Forum and will be resulting in a Child Contact Centre being set up for Andover parents and children. This will provide a safe place for children to meet with a parent who may be living apart from the family group and is desperately needed, as parents currently have to travel to Basingstoke or Salisbury to see their children. We have been approved for a grant of £7,000 from the Local Network Fund and are now working towards setting up The Andover Child Contact Centre.

I am happy to speak to Community Groups about my role, share relevant information and listen to concerns and views. These meetings can often lead to greater understanding on all sides and inclusion in pieces of consultation work.

For more information please contact **Dawn Elson at TVCS Andover on 01264 362600**

Village Links

We have 15 community noticeboards in villages throughout Test Valley. Local volunteers usually change notices on the boards monthly. The purpose of the boards is to inform villagers and isolated people of local, national and topical events and initiatives. We encourage local community projects to display information on them. Notices should be single-sided, A4 or A5, giving details of your project, who to contact and how people can find out more. We do not charge for displays. If you would like to make use of this service to publicise your work, project or an event please contact Viv Parsons at TVCS Romsey.

Items for the next Valley Messenger

We are waiting to hear from you...if you would like to share information about your organisation, project or community group please send information to us. We will include a feature or article in this newsletter. Please send information to Viv Parsons at TVCS Romsey either by post or email. Items for the next edition should be with us by September 1st 2004 – we look forward to hearing from you!

Test Valley Community Transport Scheme

Amongst the diverse range of groups and individuals we meet through our work in TVCS, one theme crops up time and again: Transport! Getting to and from meetings, the doctor's, shops, employment, entertainment – it's a problem for anyone who cannot easily access public or private transport. Those particularly affected include young people, those with disabilities, older people and young families, and they live throughout all areas of the Test Valley.

Hampshire County Council-funded **Test Valley Community Transport Scheme** was described to you in the last issue of the Valley Messenger. Since then, Dick Hewitt has been appointed as the **Community Transport Coordinator**, and has been getting familiar with the transport issues in Test Valley. "I have been out and about meeting those who provide transport and some of those who need it. I have been made to feel very welcome, and there are many more people still to meet!" said Dick.

"It is clear to me that providing a single point of contact and expertise about what already exists will be hugely beneficial. Those who need transport don't always know how to find it, and may not realise how much actually exists. There is no point in setting up new transport services where established services already exist. By working with those who have minibuses or run car schemes, and by understanding the valuable services they provide already, I can give appropriate advice to those with a need for transport and identify the gaps we need to fill!" Dick is keen to hear from anyone who either **has a minibus**, solely for their own use or potentially available to others; or who **needs access to a minibus**.

We know already that supply will not meet demand and are enhancing the current stock of minibuses available across the Borough by ordering four new accessible minibuses. The first vehicle (a Renault Master, with 14 seats including driver and a rear passenger lift) is already available for hire this summer.

More volunteer drivers are always needed. Dick will soon be qualified as a trainer in both MIDAS (minibus driving) and PATS (for Passenger Assistants) and will be running regular courses from July onwards.

In addition to the minibuses, 15 **mopeds** have been purchased for the Test Valley Wheels To Work scheme. Available to young people aged 16 to 25, who have difficulty finding either public or private transport to employment or work-based training, the first three mopeds will be hired out in June, with others to follow.

"I am also working closely with the Hampshire Voluntary Care Groups Advisory Service and the various car schemes throughout Test Valley. These are also a key part of the community transport provision in Test Valley. The task I have taken on is growing all the time, so please accept my apologies if it takes some time for me to contact everyone but in the meantime I would like to hear from anyone about any of the subjects mentioned above or any other transport issues". Contact Dick Hewitt, Community Transport Coordinator, direct on his mobile: 07834 680292 or via email:

dick.hewett@virgin.net or via the TVCS offices in **Andover 01264 362600 or Romsey 01794 519998**

Community Resource Project



More groups get more money for more voluntary action!

The Community Resource Project continues to support local voluntary groups throughout Test Valley. In the first half of 2004, the second year of the project, 14 groups have had positive responses from funders with a total of over £200,000 received collectively (These figures are based on feedback given to us – if your group has received funding where we have helped, please tell us!). The groups involved provide services to many different types of community project including: Older people, supporters of mental health, Children and young people, Family learning and Pre-schools. All of the projects mentioned provide support and services to people in their community, whether that is in towns like Andover and Romsey or in the many isolated villages that lie in between.

The project has also helped with group support involving: constitutions, promotional work, linking small rural groups with larger organisations. In Grateley a new village group now meet monthly after joint working between local volunteers, this Project and other partners.

Maybe you have often wondered whether your group can apply for grants to support your work or feel that not having a constitution means you cannot apply – this may not always be the case. There are many funding sources for small groups working in the community. Greg Alexander and Viv Parsons are keen to support more projects in Test Valley by offering information and guidance on all of the issues in this article.

For more information please contact Greg or Viv – Tel 01794 519998
or email: romsey@tvcs.org.uk

Printing Services for local Voluntary Groups

As part of the Community Resource Projects' link with local businesses Roy Johnson of Maybush Printing has offered to support local voluntary and community projects by offering reduced rate printing. Services include: Newsletters, booklets and stationery items. Anyone interested should contact Maybush Printing direct and please tell them that you were referred by TVCS.



Maybush Printing, 69 Lancaster Road, Maybush, Southampton, S016 5DN. Telephone: 02380 783911

Funding Advice

During the last 18 months Greg Alexander has offered information, advice and guidance on funding applications to many groups in Test Valley. This has resulted in groups large and small receiving grants which has enabled them to develop or continue to offer valuable services in the community. If you have received information and advice and you have been successful with your application – please tell us and share your good news! Please call Greg Alexander on 01794 519998.

TVCS Voluntary Sector Forum

The forum met on June 8th at Longstock Village Hall. This meeting saw the launch of a new source of funding for the voluntary sector in the north of Test Valley. The Health Improvement and Social Inclusion Budget (HISI) has money available for projects that address issues around health improvement and social inclusion. The application form is fairly straightforward, looking for your project aims and outcomes and how they will tackle each or both issues. It is hoped that groups new and old and large and small will apply to the fund for grants. Lynn Callan, Health Improvement Partnership Manager at TVBC would like to hear from groups and will give as much information as possible to those interested in making an application. Lynn can be contacted at TVBC, Duttons Road, Romsey – 01794 527913.

Dates for your diary...

TVCS AGM – Venue TBA

Tuesday October 12th 11.00 am – 1.00 pm Including lunch

Come and meet the staff and Trustees of TVCS. An opportunity for you to hear about our work during the last year and network with the many voluntary groups and organisations in Test Valley.

Next Voluntary Sector Forum

Longstock Village Hall

Thursday 30th September 2004 – 10.00am – 12.00 noon (hall available until 1.00pm)

Venue TBA

Wednesday 15th December 2004 – 10.00am – 12.00 noon (hall available until 1.00pm)

TVCS Volunteers – Not only do we help other groups to find volunteers. We also have our own small team of dedicated volunteers who, on a regular basis, make a massive contribution to our work. We would like to thank: Jo White, Dee Ewart, Zoe Bussian and Hilary Alexander for their continued support of our work – **Thank You!**

Volunteers' Week 2004

Throughout this newsletter we have mentioned Volunteers' Week 2004. We have listed below all of the groups that were represented at our Volunteers' Week Cheese and Wine party held on June 3rd at Andover Guildhall. Well done and thank you to you all for supporting our event.

23rd Scouts (Andover), Age Concern (Andover), Age Concern (Romsey), Andover Advocacy Alliance, Andover Pensioners Fellowship, Andover PHAB, Andover Police (Special Constables), Andover VIPs, Andover War Memorial Hospital Volunteers, Andover Young Carers, Arthritis Care (Romsey), British Heart Foundation (Andover), Countess of Brecknock Hospice, CRUSE Bereavement (Andover), Hampshire Association for the Care of the Blind, Learning Links (PALS), Oakbank Family Centre, Romsey Carers Forum, Romsey Disability Forum, Royal Air Force Association, Southern Test Valley Voluntary Transport Scheme, SUHT Hospitals Trust (Southampton), Victim Support (Andover) VOICES (Horizons), WRVS (Meals on Wheels).

Volunteering Information

Volunteers' Week 2004 - There has been a lot going on over the last few months. First, and most important - Volunteers' Week! In Test Valley the vital and irreplaceable contribution that volunteers make is recognised annually at a celebratory event. Following discussion about previous events, this year TVCS hosted a joint Romsey and Andover Cheese and Wine Party in Andover Guildhall during the evening of Thursday, 3rd June.

Volunteering England - The next piece of news is that the national volunteering bodies have combined into one, now called Volunteering England. They have rebranded with a new logo (see www.volunteering.org.uk) and aim to "increase the quality, quantity, contribution and accessibility of volunteering" throughout the country, becoming a stronger voice for volunteers through offering a co-ordinated approach and unifying lobbying, research and policy development. Test Valley Volunteer Centre is a member and will share information from Volunteering England. They are, at present, redrafting a code of good practice – watch this space!

Concern over Police-Checking Volunteers - Volunteers and councillors in the Test Valley area have raised the concept of a 'Volunteer Passport'. At present, where CRB checks are needed, volunteers have to make separate applications to the Criminal Records Bureau for each group or organisation with which they are involved. This is expensive for groups and time-consuming. Tina Waterman-Roberts is following up the possibility of volunteers being issued with their own personal check. More later.

Councillors Challenge - Test Valley's Councillor Sandra Hawke, Social Well Being Portfolio Holder, has issued a challenge to Borough Councillors and voluntary groups. She is interested in encouraging local councillors to take part in the activities of local groups to increase awareness of the work of volunteers. Councillor Hawke commented: "There are many small voluntary groups in Test Valley who are doing great work, but receive little or no publicity. This challenge will help them to receive due recognition." So, are there any groups out there who would like to raise their profile with the Council and get local representatives involved with what they do? Please contact Tina Waterman-Roberts at the Romsey office.

Supporting Voluntary Groups and Volunteers – Our Volunteer Centre is as busy as ever. We are currently placing new volunteers with community projects in both Andover and Romsey. We also work with local groups and advise on issues around volunteer management, induction and development. Please contact Tina Waterman-Roberts if you need any help and information on all aspects of volunteering.

Practice, Plans and Policy Do you have any issues about managing volunteers? Or, do you have good practice to share? The final half-hour of the Voluntary Sector Forum will be available for discussion on managing volunteers. Tina is also happy to talk to volunteer managers about volunteer development and training on a group basis.

Tina Waterman-Roberts can be contacted at TVCS' Romsey Office on 01794 519998, or email romsey@tvcs.org.uk. She visits Andover regularly and is happy to meet there.

Focus on Local Groups & Organisations

Andover Advocacy Alliance - Speaking up and speaking out

Andover Advocacy Alliance was established as one of the first projects of TVCS and has for the past ten years been providing a dedicated independent advocacy service to the residents of Andover and North West Hampshire. Advocacy is about recognising that everyone has rights and needs but that some people are unable to express those rights and needs, or to have them heard by others, without support. In that time Andover Advocacy Alliance has provided advocacy support to many hundreds of vulnerable people on a wide range of issues, including housing, care programmes and treatments, money matters, benefits claims, disputes, appeals and complaints. The service operates an open referral system and is free to users. A team of some twenty trained volunteers work as advocates on a one-to-one basis with people to help them resolve identified issues in their lives. The critical and distinguishing feature of the Alliance is that its advocacy is independent of statutory agencies and other service providers; conflicts of interest are thereby minimised and the client can be assured that the advocate's primary loyalty is to them. The Alliance's position within a development agency such as TVCS provides an important guarantee of this independence.

Andover Advocacy Alliance is always looking for ways to reach new groups and to improve access to its service. A current and exciting initiative involves a focus on advocacy for people with high support needs. As part of the Valuing People programme for people with learning disabilities, the Alliance has been awarded a two-year contract from the Department of Health to develop its work with people who have more severe learning disabilities and who could not be expected to access our service in conventional ways. In the first phase of the project we have trained up teams of volunteer advocates who are now linked to three residential homes for people with high support needs. The aim is for these teams to build relationships with the residents over longer periods of time so they are then available to deal with identified advocacy issues for individuals as and when they arise. This represents a modification to our existing casework approach but it is one which we believe is better suited to providing advocacy support to people who have more complex needs.

If you would like to make a referral, or are interested in becoming a volunteer advocate, or would simply like to know more about us and about advocacy in general, please contact -

Roland Matthews, Advocacy Alliance Manager, Cricklade House, Charlton Road, Andover SP10 1EJ. Tel: 01264 336380 or email: andoveradvocacy@freenet.co.uk

The Romsey and District Furniture Group

The group continues to receive and distribute items of furniture in the Romsey area. During the last year the group has received grants from: Test Valley Borough Council, Romsey Extra Parish Council, Romsey Town Council and Romsey Lions. This has enabled the project to continue serving people in the area. We are always short of storage space and sometimes are unable to take furniture offered by the generous people of the Romsey area. We do however try to find alternatives so that good quality furniture does not end up being disposed of. For information on the group please contact Viv Parsons at TVCS Romsey – 01794 519998

Focus on Local Groups & Organisations

WESSEX CANCER TRUST - JANE SCARTH HOUSE

Jane Scarth House is a warm, friendly and comfortable place where those affected by cancer can access emotional support. It is a free service for patients, family members and carers, staffed by dedicated volunteer befrienders who are professionally trained to sit and listen when they are needed.

Services:

- * Comprehensive information service and library
- * Befriending
- * Complementary therapies
- * Aromatherapy
- * Reflexology
- * Professional one-to-one counselling



Open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4.30pm

We are looking for new volunteers, so if you are someone who has the time to sit and listen and you are able to be there for someone else, please contact us:

We are at: 39 the Hundred, Romsey, Hants Tel: 01794 830374

LIFELINE – HELP AT THE PRESS OF A BUTTON



For some people, both young and old, living alone can be a daunting challenge and one that may be impossible to cope with.

Testway's Supported Housing Team believe that living safely and confidently at home is everybody's right and they are there to support people who need a little extra help to do this.

Lifeline is a personal emergency alarm system that plugs into a standard home telephone. The user carries a discreet button around with them. If they need help they simply press the button.

They will automatically be connected to a dedicated call centre which operates all day, every day.

Customers can choose the level of support to meet their needs: A lifeline alarm, and visits from a Community Support Advisor and sheltered housing with the support to of the scheme manager.

There is a charge for the Lifeline Service

For information please contact: Jim Lampard
at Testway Housing on 01264 405614



Local Network Fund

DOES YOUR GROUP HELP CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?

If so it may get a grant from the Local Network Fund of

up to £7,000

The Local Network Fund can help local groups that want to do something to tackle poverty and disadvantage amongst children and young people aged 0 to 19 years. The Local Network fund wants to support new activities, or improvements to activities that will make a difference to the lives of children and young people.

To be eligible groups must:

- ❖ Be a voluntary, community or self-help group managed by local people.
- ❖ Have volunteers involved in the activity they want the grant for.

IF YOU NEED MONEY FOR CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES THEN RING

0845 113 0161 for an application pack NOW

TVCS CAN HELP WITH YOUR APPLICATION

If you need help – please call Greg Alexander

01794 519998

unLtd Millennium Awards

UnLtd's Millennium Awards provide practical and financial support to people who have both the ideas and commitment to develop projects which will benefit their community. It is people who are important to UnLtd - that's why, through our awards, we only offer support to individuals not organisations. We know that there are thousands of people who have the ideas and the vision to make a real difference. We also know that many of them need encouragement and support, contacts with others just like them, and access to training to help them grow and give their projects the best chance of success. That's why you don't just get money from UnLtd. If you win an award you will get a package of support designed just for you as well as financial support.

Financial Support - UnLtd currently offers two levels of award:

Level One: Awards of between £500 and £5,000 (expected average of £2,000)

Level Two: Awards of between £5,000 and £15,000 (expected average of £10,000)

UnLtd Millennium Awards are funded by the income from a legacy of £100 million granted by the Millennium Commission. This legacy has to be carefully invested so that the income can be obtained for awards for the future - this is what is called a permanent endowment.

The Millennium Commission is the only distributor of lottery funds to good causes who, some time ago, decided to provide awards to individuals. Around 25,000 of these have been made so far and they have been so successful that they decided to provide the legacy to UnLtd to carry on this work for the future. Details available from: Head Office/London Office:

Funding Information

governmentfunding.org.uk



A new fundraising tool that provides a single point for accessing Government grants.

It is for anyone who works in a voluntary or community organisation who is looking for funding. Whether you are a professional or a frontline worker, this is the site for you.

What grants are available?

The Portal already covers all available grants from the Department for Education and Skills, Department of Health, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Home Office and the nine Government Offices for the Regions.

You can use the website in a number of ways such as:

Search for grants: The portal allows visitors to search for grants in a number of ways: grants specific to your organisation's location or area of interest; grants available from a specific funder; or by browsing all the schemes available on the site.

Once you are registered, you can **apply online** which couldn't be easier. The details stored in your profile are automatically entered into new application forms. You are able to save past or unfinished applications and, once your application is submitted, updates from the funding body will enable you to track its progress.

Also when you have registered, the portal will email you **updates when new grants become available**. And, because you have stored a profile, you will only receive news that is relevant to you.

Making applications should no longer be so daunting; the website has many sections with **help and advice**. It provides a guide to the sources of funding available, an A-Z glossary to explain complex terms and information on how the application process works.

As the website is under constant development, with more Government departments planning to use the portal and new facilities being added all the time it means you will always have access to all the latest information.

Register now so that you don't miss out.

To find out more, or to register, simply go to: www.governmentfunding.org.uk

Barrow Cadbury Trust

As a result of a review of its grant making programmes, the Barrow Cadbury Trust is to consolidate its funding into three new programme areas:

- Communities
- offending and early intervention
- global exchange

www.bctrust.org.uk/grants/grants.htm

Funding Information

AGE Concern Grants to Voluntary Organisations

There are 3 types of grants available to voluntary organisations. These are:

Small Service Development Grants

These are one-off grants of up to £2,000 for new or expanding local projects providing services for the direct benefit of older people. Examples include new activities at day centres and lunch clubs, home repair and maintenance services, respite for carers, health and fitness programmes and visiting schemes.

Applications may be made at any time, and grants are allocated every month.

Small Grants to Clubs

Any club for older people may apply for a one-off grant of up to £120 for new equipment or activities. Such things as tea urns, crockery, games and bingo equipment and craft materials can be bought with one of these grants.

Applications may be made at any time and grants are allocated every month.

Opportunities for Volunteering scheme

Age Concern England is an agent for this Department of Health scheme. Grants are available for new projects which involve volunteers in providing services of benefit to older people in the fields of health and social care. Many grants are used to employ a volunteer organiser, to develop services for ethnic minority groups, or to fund activities such as Home from Hospital or befriending schemes. The maximum grant is £20,000 per annum and no project may be funded for more than 3 years.

Applications must be received by the end of July for funding in the following financial year. Application packs for grants for 2005/6 are available from the Grants Unit with an accompanying booklet of information. Contact the Grants Unit at the address below.

To request further details of any of these grants, please contact:

The Grants Unit, Age Concern England,

Astral House, 1268 London Road

London SW16 4ER,

Tel. 020 8765 7738 - Fax. 020 8679 9154 Email: grants.unit@ace.org.uk

Grants for adapting the homes of disabled children

If your child has a disability and your home needs to be adapted to make it more accessible, you may be eligible for a **'disabled facilities grant'**.

The grant can help cover the cost of installing a stair lift, for example, or adapting a lighting/heating/a bathroom. Another kind of grant — the **'home repair assistance grant'** may also be an option. For more information on this kind of assistance, contact your local housing authority. For Housing Services at Test Valley Borough Council please telephone 01264 368000.

The Hallmarks of an Effective Charity

The Charity Commission's latest guidance on managing a charity "The Hallmarks of an effective Charity" is aimed particularly at trustees of larger charities (annual income of

£250,000 and above) but isn't meant just for them
www.charitycommission.gov.uk/http://digbig.com/4bccr

source: VolResource 150, 31 March

Funding Information



Tesco Charity Trust – help for charities from Tesco

Tesco helps local and national charities as well as voluntary organisations to provide practical support for children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Tesco Charity Trust Community Award Scheme - The majority of appeals from local community charities are handled through the Tesco Charity Trust Community Award Scheme. This scheme distributes some £360,000 each year to charities in communities where Tesco has stores. Community Awards benefit charities that deliver practical benefits to children's welfare, children's education, the welfare of elderly people and people with disabilities. Donations generally range between £1,500 and £5,000.

Charities concerned with children's welfare and educational projects should write with details of their projects for funding by the end of January each year and *charities concerned with elderly people and people with disabilities should write with details of their projects by the end of June each year.*

Tesco Staff Fundraising - The Trust also adds 20% to all approved fundraising carried out by Tesco staff in respect of charities or the community. This applies to the Tesco Charity of the Year as well as other local charities. In total, the Trust made cash grants of over £470,000 in 2002 to local and national charities.

Community Gift Vouchers - Each Tesco store holds a number of Community Gift Vouchers to support local groups requiring support for their fundraising events, such as raffle prizes.

Tesco Community Gift Vouchers - These may be redeemed at checkouts at any Tesco store in the same manner as ordinary Tesco Gift Vouchers, but may not be exchanged for cash.

Charities should apply in writing to the Customer Service Manager at their local Tesco store, explaining about their charity, the event they are organising and how they intend to use the vouchers.

Local community sponsorship - Tesco is committed to supporting its local communities. To underline our belief that "Every Little Helps", we support projects and initiatives at store level which give practical benefits to children, education, people with disabilities and the elderly. These include initiatives such as the purchase of high visibility tabards for children involved in a winter road safety campaign.

Regeneration – Tesco's regeneration schemes aim to bring together public services, employers and community groups to yield social, economic and environmental change in deprived urban areas. They are based around the development of a new store to serve the local community. By investing in these areas we hope to attract other companies to invest there too, thus bringing improvements in economic prosperity.

Tesco Charity of the Year - Tesco has chosen **Help the Hospices** as this year's Charity of the Year. **Charity Collections at Stores** - Tesco stores are regularly asked by charities to allow them to collect at their local stores. However, the number of charities requesting collection dates far exceeds the number of dates available for booking. More information and guidelines for grants are available by post or from the website: Tesco Charity Trust, Tesco Stores Ltd, Delamare Road, Cheshunt EN8 9SL. Website: www.tesco.com/everylittlehelps

Guides, Helplines & Resources

Out of hours changes on the way



As part of the new GMS contract, GPs will be able to opt out of the responsibility for patient care outside normal surgery hours.

It is anticipated that all GPs in Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT will decide to transfer responsibility for out-of-hours care to the PCT and planning for this change began last year. Recently this has involved a series of focus groups with patients and the public to test out the PCT's plans.

April 1 is the date set nationally for the new GP contract to be implemented in all practices. However there will be no change to out-of-hours services in Hampshire on this date and patients should continue to contact their GP service just as they always have done outside surgery hours.

Local changes to out-of-hours services will come into operation on July 1 and are likely to include a telephone triage system, new primary care centres across the area and a GP-led visiting service.

If you would like any further information or wish to be more involved in the development of this new service, please contact Andrew Asquith on 023 9074 7445

Older People - A Changing Approach - Independence and Well-being

This report, prepared in collaboration with Better Government for Older People, looks at meaning 'Independence' for older people and how ideas are shifting from preventing dependency to actively promoting well-being.

Independence often means interdependence with others to help each other to maintain their morale and self esteem. One of the important aspects is choice and control and the report looks at the key issues of housing and the home, the neighbourhood, social activities and networks, getting out and about, income and the extra cost of growing older, and information which is the key to choice, health and healthy living.

It reports what older people have identified they need and looks at the national policy framework and how this can help communities to reshape services locally.

It makes recommendations to government, local authorities, their partners and providers of care

Copies of all the reports for the Audit Commission are available from www.audit-commission.gov.uk or to order a printed copy

telephone 0800 502030 - Stock code GXB3 194

Your Rights 2004-05

The latest edition of Age Concern's annual publication Your Rights has been published. It covers State Pensions, income related benefits such as Pension Credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit, disability benefits such as Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance. The book also covers other sources of financial help for older people such as bereavement benefits, help with health costs and household bills, insulation and repairs.

Your Rights 2004-05 - a Guide to Money Benefits for Older People by Sally West.

208pp. Price £14.99 (plus £1.95 p&p). Available from Age Concern Books, Units 5 and 6, Industrial Estate, Brecon, Powys LD3 8LA. Tel: 0870 442 2120. Fax: 0870 800 0100.

SOURCE: AGE CONCERN ENGLAND



Holidays for Older People

Age Concern has published the 2004 update of its Information Sheet giving advice for older people on how to choose, book, plan and enjoy a suitable holiday. It includes contact details of other organisations which can provide help and advice.



Holidays for Older People: Information Sheet IS/6. 8pp.

Individual copies of this and other Information Sheets and Factsheets are available free from Age Concern FREEPOST (SWB30375) Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7ZZ.

Tel: 0800 009966.

Also available on the Internet at:

http://www.ageconcern.org.uk/AgeConcern/information_127.htm

SOURCE: AGE CONCERN ENGLAND

Government becomes biggest sector funder

Government funding is now the voluntary sector's single biggest source of income, according to research from NCVO. But a new report confirms that charities are maintaining their independent, campaigning stance.

The UK voluntary sector almanac 2004, published on 18 February, reveals that government funding now exceeds income from public donations and sales of goods and services, providing more than one third of the sector's annual income.

The shift is largely due to big national charities receiving payment for the delivery of public services in areas like health, training and education and care.

But while large charities have maintained their income growth, small and medium-sized organisations' income has shrunk. On average, small local charities receive just 11% of their income from government and 50% cent from the public. Charities' increasing involvement in public service delivery has sparked debate about sector independence. But a study from NCVO, *Standing apart, working together*, launched on 18 February 2004, says high levels of state funding have not prevented charities from campaigning to oppose or influence government policies and public opinion.

"In order for charities to maintain the public trust and confidence on which they depend, they must continue to protect their independence from government," said NCVO Chief Executive, Stuart Etherington. The report findings were backed up by an ICM opinion poll, in which eight out of 10 respondents said they did not think there had been any decline in political campaigning by charities. The almanac also reveals the extent to which charities' balance sheets have been hit by the volatile financial climate in recent years. The sector's total assets declined by £4.7bn to £70.1bn during 2001/2. For further information or to order the UK voluntary sector almanac 2004, £25 (£20 NCVO members) call the NCVO HelpDesk on 0800 2798 798.

The Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT Publication

has published its **Local Health Delivery Plan for 2003-2006**.

It sets out 12 programmes and how these will be achieved. A summary booklet can be obtained by e-mailing publichealth@etvspct.nhs.uk


Training & Events

TVCS Training - During the coming months we will be planning training events for the autumn and winter. We are keen to hear from voluntary groups who have specific training needs. During the last year we have facilitated many individual training sessions in response to requests from local groups. We have covered – Volunteers and the law, Trustee Workshops, Media and Press Releases and Equality and Diversity. We are happy to continue arranging training – the important thing is that we want to deliver the training that you want and in a place that is convenient for you to attend.

As a follow-up to our successful Funding Information day held in March we would like to have your opinions on whether we should hold a similar event soon – this time the day would be focussed on ‘Getting money for your charity from rich individuals. As Ian Kerr intimated at the March even – there is money out there, we just need to know who to ask and how to approach them. So if this interests you please contact us as soon as you can and we will, subject to interest, organise a days training accordingly.

During the coming autumn and winter we also hope to run a series of half-day workshops on Funding. These workshops will be aimed at small to medium sized voluntary groups and will cover: Having a Funding Strategy, Preparing to apply for Funds, Writing an Application that stands out, Managing your Grant and monitoring and evaluation. We plan to employ an external facilitator to deliver this training. If you are interested in attending funding workshops or have any other training needs please contact Greg Alexander or Viv Parsons at TVCS Romsey.

Are you Deaf or hard of hearing? Do you need some support?

 Hearing Concern Romsey is a self-help group for people with hearing difficulties. New members are always welcome. Meetings 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month (except 24th August) 2-4 pm at The Appletree Centre, in Romsey Library grounds. Do please contact either: Ann Perrett - Secretary: TXD:
(dial all this number) 18002 01794 511812 or Joan Crosier - Chair: 01794 512669

A New Compact for Test Valley COMPACT CONSULTATION EVENT

On 30th April we held a Compact consultation day in Andover Guildhall. This event was organised in partnership with Test Valley Borough council. More than 50 people joined in a very lively discussion. As most of you will be aware Hampshire County Council has a compact with the voluntary sector. We are now looking at having a compact with the Borough Council and the Primary Care Trusts.

At the meeting we discussed a set of draft principles that we hope we can sign up to with our statutory partners in Test Valley. From the meeting a Compact development group has been formed to finalise the principles and work on the Codes of Practice for funding, consultation, volunteering and partnership working.

We will keep you all informed of progress through the Valley Messenger and our

Voluntary Sector Forum meetings. If any one would like to know more or is interested in joining the development group please give me a call. Janet Blann

The Trustees and staff of Test Valley Community Services would like to thank the following for their support:



Test Valley Borough Council - Grant towards central costs
Hampshire County Council - Grant towards central costs
Romsey Town Council – Continued Support
Romsey Extra Parish Council – Continued Support

Can you help us to reach the community? Articles and events are always welcome from voluntary and community groups - please contact us:

01794 519998

The views and opinions expressed in The Valley Messenger are not necessarily those held by the staff and management of Test Valley Community Services. We are always pleased to include contributions from any of our readers and welcome articles and information. We are not able to recommend any of the services offered through advertisements in this publication.

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DTP & Typing Services - Dee Ewart (volunteer)

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Greg Alexander	Community Resource Manager	Romsey Office
Patsy Macintyre	Finance Officer	Romsey Office
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Lynn Guyatt	Administrator	Andover Office
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Debbie Forder	Administrator	Romsey Office
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