

# contact

## Grantnet comes to Herts

**“Many voluntary organisations have already benefited from using Grantfinder,” said Norman Leeds from Grantfinder, at a recent HERN sponsored training event at the Fielder Centre on the 15th of March. “Grantnet is an add on system which offers even more advantages for voluntary organisations and local authorities.”**

“The current Grantfinder is an online system which matches voluntary organisations to appropriate funding opportunities,” explained Norman. “It works by asking the organisation a range of questions such as how many people does it employ, what it does and the amount of funding it is looking for. Voluntary organisations across Hertfordshire can access the existing Grantfinder system by going onto the Internet and accessing either the county council website and many of the district council websites who subscribe to the service.”

“The new Grantnet system works by giving feedback to the local councils about the use of their local Grantfinder services,” explained Tricia Pope who is the external funding manager for Herts County Council. “Now every enquiry is emailed to a central point in each of the council areas who subscribe to Grantnet. The advantage to the

voluntary organisation is that the enquiry can be followed up by a council officer who may be able to give more detailed information and support.

“Grantnet is far more than just an information service,” said Tricia. “It’s more of a two way process and it allows us to know what organisations are looking for and what their current issues are. We’ll be able to give organisations better support. For example the Grantfinder system may not know about local funding streams and opportunities. Also it would allow us to tell organisations if their project was already being identified as a priority in the area by partnerships such as the local strategic partnership or preventative strategy groups. This partnership dimension could greatly increase the likelihood of success when they put together a bid.”

Grantfinder can be found  
[www.hertsdirect.org/hern](http://www.hertsdirect.org/hern)

## Update from the Editor

Welcome to Issue 7 of Contact, the quarterly newsletter promoting partnership work within the voluntary and community sector in Hertfordshire. This is my first newsletter as editor while Frances Coupe is on maternity leave. Frances had a girl named Emily in February and both mother and baby are doing fine.

In this edition you will find profiles about the work of the Herts Association of Young People and Parentline Plus. There are also updates about the Children Bill, the Children’s Fund and the work of the Herts Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership.

Additionally there is information about how to apply for the School Lets Fund if you use school premises. There is also an article about the Local Network Fund, which gave out 78 grants of up to £7000 to voluntary organisations in Hertfordshire last year: the second year funding round has now started.

On an international theme, we have a news item about Japanese visitors who spent a day in Hertfordshire to look at partnerships between local authorities and voluntary and community organisations.

If you have any feedback about this issue of Contact, or ideas for future articles, please contact:  
**Mike Smith** Acting Strategic Partnership’s Manager - Voluntary Sector 01992 556966 or [mike.smith@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:mike.smith@hertscc.gov.uk)

# Funding Opportunities

## Cash Boost to Encourage Volunteering (England)

Voluntary organisations are being urged to apply for a share of £5.4 million to help them attract more volunteers. A total of £4 million over the next two years is being made available through Group Dynamics grants to increase group volunteering and outreach grants which are aimed at engaging people who don't normally volunteer.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/comrace/active/item.asp?ID=35>

## Lloyds TSB Foundation Announces Priorities for 2004 (England and Wales)

The Trustees of the Lloyds TSB Foundation have announced the priorities for their grant giving programme for 2004 at both the national and regional level. During 2004, the priorities will be refugees and asylum seekers; supporting diversity and inclusion for charities working with people from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities and capacity building for charities, in particular, those charities with an income of less than £100,000.

[http://www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk/england\\_wales\\_wide/england\\_wales\\_funding\\_plan2004.html](http://www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk/england_wales_wide/england_wales_funding_plan2004.html)

## AOL Innovation in the Community Awards 2004 (UK)

Community groups and registered charities in the UK that are seeking funding for Internet related projects are being invited to apply for the AOL Innovation in the Community Awards. AOL UK and Citizens Online are offering 30 awards of £2,000 to projects that can demonstrate how the internet can make a real difference to their community.

<http://www.aol.co.uk/about/community/innovation/>

# Local Network Fund Enters Second Year

“Voluntary sector organisations will be able to bid for funding from the Local Network Fund from this April,” said Lesley Smith, the Herts local network fund co-ordinator. “This will be the second year of the fund. In the first year we funded 78 voluntary organisations for a total of over £420,000.”

Voluntary groups can bid for up to £7000. The type of activity the LNF support falls under four main headings:

- aspiration and experience
- economic disadvantage
- isolation and access
- giving children a voice

“Sometimes these headings can seem a bit daunting to small community groups,” said Lesley, “but they shouldn’t be put off from applying. For example ‘aspiration and experience’ is about giving

children and young people the opportunity to do something they otherwise wouldn’t have been able to do. Last year we funded a skate park in Hatfield which otherwise wouldn’t have happened.

“Similarly ‘economic disadvantage’ is about supporting groups who may not have the money or resources to undertake projects or activities,” explained Lesley. “Last year we funded a drum majorette project where we paid for new equipment which allowed them to take part in competitions they otherwise wouldn’t have been able to do. Under ‘isolation and access’ we gave a grant to fund a number of rural villages in the east of the county who wanted to hire a bus and use a sports centre in Ware. Often children who live in rural areas can’t get access to sports centres and there might not be enough youngsters in a village

to form a team. Under the heading of ‘giving children a voice’ we funded a number of projects including youth councils.”

To apply to the Local Network Fund you need to ring the national call centre on 0845 1130161. “The applications are considered locally,” explained Lesley, “and they are administered through the Hertfordshire Community Foundation. However you have to go through the call centre number because this is a national funding stream which needs to be monitored centrally.”

Lesley Smith can be contacted on 01707 251351

e-mail:  
lesley.smith@hertscc.gov.uk

For applications forms ring  
0845 1130161

## Voluntary Groups Get a Boost From County Council's 2004/2005 Awards

Hertfordshire is giving £816,869 in awards to voluntary and community organisations to help them carry on their good work over the next year. The

majority of awards which range from £250 to £20,000, have been given to 148 groups and projects. Details of the awards are available on [www.hertsdirect/funding.org](http://www.hertsdirect/funding.org)

# Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership

Developments in the way that services for children and young people are planned and co-ordinated look set to bring major benefits to children and young people across the county. A countywide partnership, set up in early 2002, is working collaboratively to meet children's needs and co-ordinate services. The Hertfordshire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership brings together organisations and major partnerships working with children and young people from across the county - statutory and voluntary.

The partnership, chaired by John Harris, CSF, has identified shared objectives, which reflect the Government's Next Steps agenda: be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well being. HC&YPSP will play an important part in meeting the aims of the Children Bill for effective co-operation across services and sectors.

## How does the Partnership work? And requests for help!

The Partnership is the theme group for children and young people's issues, working with the countywide strategic partnership, Herts Together, and all sector Sub Groups:

- Children's Fund Partnership, chaired by Patrick Candler, North Herts District Council - developed the 2003-6 Children's Fund Plan (to provide increased and better co-ordinated preventative services for 5-13 year olds at risk of social exclusion) and responsible for its implementation.
- Preventative Strategy Co-ordinating Group, chaired by Tim Theaker, Beds and Herts Strategic Health Authority - developing a framework for the second phase of the preventative strategy, to ensure overall coherence and countywide coverage, to co-ordinate major local, district and countywide strategies for prevention, ensuring that countywide strategies have local impact and that local issues are addressed

## Voluntary sector representatives on the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership

Cherry Hambrook, SCOPE

Kathy Dale, pre-school Learning Alliance

Mohammed Fawzi, Dacorum Multi-Cultural Association

Jean Beswarick, Community Development Agency for Herts

Ailsa Wright, Voluntary Sector Standing Conferenc

Peter Milson, Councils for Voluntary Service (Hertsmere)

There are also representatives from the UK Youth Parliament

and to ensure that preventative action addresses priorities for children and young people.

- Participation Sub Group, chaired by Wendy Bristow, Connexions - involves young people in decision making, minimises duplication in consultation, leads work on youth charter for Herts Together.
- Information Sub Group (chaired by Andrew Simmons, Connexions) - Steering inter-agency development of identification, referral and tracking, establishing information sharing protocols to support this and exploring the potential of the Herts Observatory for the future development of information sharing. Simon Gentry at Connexions would like copies of directories of services for the new project manager, Margaret Marshall, to compile a countywide information resource, working with the Children's Information Services and others.

In addition there is a countywide Children and Young People's Reference Group, facilitated by CSF Participation Team led by Martin Bailey - a forum for children and young people to discuss their issues and raise them with C&YPSP.

## Joint work on partnership priorities

**The partnership is currently working on:**

- Health - mental health and emotional wellbeing, healthy schools, obesity - children and

young people have told the partnership that they want bullying tackled and stopped

- The preventative strategy for Hertfordshire and Children's Fund projects
- children's trusts and information sharing
- A youth charter - rights and responsibilities
- The preventative strategy and housing needs
- A community strategy for Hertfordshire: investing in children and young people (for progress see [www.hertsdirect.org/hcc/partnerwork/LSP/ht](http://www.hertsdirect.org/hcc/partnerwork/LSP/ht))

Other themes in 2004 include children's play, review of children's health services, healthy living programme, teenage pregnancy and the Youth Arts Strategy.

## Cross cutting district/borough children and young people's partnerships

As reported in the winter issue of Contact, the HC&YPSP is encouraging the establishment of local children and young people's strategic partnerships or networks as part of local strategic partnership structures. Arrangements for consideration of cross cutting children and young people's issues are established in Broxbourne, East Herts, Hertsmere, Dacorum, St Albans (includes Harpenden) and in Watford and Three Rivers, which have a joint forum through the Health Partnership Board. Partnerships are being set up in Stevenage, North Herts and Welwyn Hatfield. Partnerships are reviewing phase 1 of the preventative strategy and will be developing phase 2.

Contact for HC&YPSP - Dorothy Blatcher, HC&YPSP & CSF,  
[dorothy.blatcher@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:dorothy.blatcher@hertscc.gov.uk)  
01992 588762 or Lisa Sargeant

Contact for service directories - Simon Gentry, Connexions,  
[simon.gentry@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:simon.gentry@hertscc.gov.uk)  
28 Castle Street, Hertford, SG14 IHH 01992 551953

Contact for consultations with children and young people -  
Martin Bailey, CSF [martin.bailey@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:martin.bailey@hertscc.gov.uk)  
or Wendy Bristow (Connexions, 28 Castle St)

Contact for Herts Together Community Strategy -  
Fiona Breaker-Rolfe  
[fiona.breaker-rolfe@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.breaker-rolfe@hertscc.gov.uk) 01462 438082

# Children's Fund Update



children's fund

## Hertfordshire

### Introduction

The Children's Fund aims to prevent the social exclusion of children aged 5 to 13 years through the development of preventative services for children, young people and their families. This is a funding stream from the government, and it is managed in Hertfordshire by the Children's Fund Partnership, a sub group of the Hertfordshire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

### Phase 1

As reported previously, 34 projects have been established as part of the Children's Fund Phase 1 implementation process. These range from small, local projects (e.g. Interarts, a theatre project in the West) to larger countywide initiatives (e.g. Sparks, supporting Gingerbread groups in targeted wards). Projects are delivered by a wide range of partners and partnerships including Voluntary Sector, health, police, Youth Justice, District Councils and CSF.

### Phase 2

In Phase 2, the Children's Fund Partnership prioritised projects that addressed theme 2 'Feeling Good'. These are initiatives to develop children's emotional behaviour, build emotional wellbeing, and address mental health through counselling and support.

There was a delay in moving forward on the applications submitted under this phase due to a review of the Children's Fund nationally, following a mistake made centrally by the Department for

Education and Skills in managing the budget. Children's Fund Partnerships were told not to take on any new commitments in December 2003, pending the outcome of the review. The budget for 2004/05 was finally announced at the end of February 2004, and £1.9 million has been allocated to Hertfordshire (representing a 17% cut).

Whilst this reduction is significant, the Children's Fund Partnership can confirm that this will not affect any of the services currently funded in 2004/05. We are also now able to proceed with several exciting Phase 2 projects that we hope to establish by July, including:

- Hertfordshire Fruit Scheme (county-wide)
- Hertfordshire Anti-Bullying Information and Support (county-wide)
- Counselling in Primary Schools (in targeted wards county-wide)

In addition, under Phase 2, the Children's Fund Partnership is also exploring the issue of children's physical health and promoting healthy lifestyles in line with the current high public profile of childhood obesity. The intention is to develop a funding initiative in the autumn to encourage and support projects around this theme, based on feedback from a focused research project that will help to identify the priorities.

### Phase 3

Due to the cut in funding, and lack of clarity about budgets for 2005/06, the Children's Fund Partnership has

put Phase 3 implementation on hold. This will be reviewed when the budget situation is clear.

### For more information

If you want to find out more about Children's Fund Projects in your area, please contact the quadrant based Children's Fund Officers:

#### Community East

Jean Chappell, Room 28,  
County Hall, Hertford SG13 8DF  
Tel: 01992 555870  
Fax: 01992 556930  
e-mail: jean.chappell@hertsc.gov.uk

#### Community South

Frankie Mitchell  
Langleybury Lane, Hunton Bridge,  
Kings Langley WD4 8RW  
Tel: 01923 274169  
Fax: 01923 274101  
e-mail: frankie.mitchell@hertsc.gov

#### Community North

Ola Sijuwade, Old Grammar School  
Broadway, Letchworth  
Herts SG6 3QG  
Tel 01462 704385 ext. 24385  
Fax 01462 704300  
e-mail: ola.sijuwade@hertsc.gov.uk

#### Community West -

(Recruitment in process)  
4 Porters Wood, St. Albans AL3 6PT

### If you have a general enquiry, please contact:

Hertfordshire Children's Fund  
c/o Children, Schools & Families  
Herts County Council  
County Hall, Pegs Lane  
Hertford SG13 8DF  
Tel: 01992 588753  
e-mail: childrensfund@hertsc.gov.uk

# Supporting voluntary youth organisations

Partnership work with the voluntary sector has always been a major feature of the county youth service. “Voluntary organisations can often make a big impact on the lives of young people,” said Chris Garcia, head of the Herts Youth Service. “The Youth Service and the voluntary sector complement each other well. We’re all in the same business of improving the condition of young people.”

“The main way we support the voluntary organisation is through facilitating two voluntary sector network organisations,” said Chris. “They are the Herts Council for Voluntary Youth Service and the Herts Association of Young People.”

The Herts Council for Voluntary Youth Service is a federation of voluntary youth organisations, profiled in the last edition of Contact.

“The difference between HCVYS and HAYP is that we cater more for individual youth projects and organisations,” said Stuart Pittman, director of HAYP. “We’ve existed in our current form since 1994 when we were created as a result of a merger between the Herts Association of Young People and the Herts Association of Boys Clubs. We’re a growing organisation. Currently we have over one hundred and twenty clubs who are affiliated to HAYP. Hertfordshire is the fourth largest shire county affiliated to UK Youth, which is one of our national umbrella organisations. Our other umbrella organisation is the National Association of Clubs for Young people.”

“Many of our members are small, local organisations and we support

them in all sorts of ways,” said Stuart. “Traditionally we have been known for providing an energetic programme of countywide activities for our member organisations. We do a lot more than this though. Funding is a big issue for voluntary organisations. We can provide grants to local organisations both through HAYP at a county level as well as access to national funding from our two national umbrella organisations.”

“We can also give advice on health and safety. We can also give access to CRB checks for staff and volunteers as well as good practice advice about child protection. We also provide a good quality and affordable insurance scheme for clubs.”

“Training is a developing area for us. We facilitate staff training that is accredited to the Open College Network. We also support senior member training and an adventure education leadership course. The big breakthrough for us with training was when we started delivering training on site. In the past we expected people to come to us. Now we base our training around clusters of clubs in local areas. This has meant training is more accessible and the take up of training has consequently increased. Basing training on clusters has also helped organisations to network and to make valuable links.”

In March 2003 HAYP took over support of over twenty rural clubs from the county youth service. “This was made possible due to a generous grant from the DfES ‘Transforming Youth Work’ fund,” said Stuart. “Taking over the rural

projects has meant a big expansion for HAYP. We now employ a staff team of two full time development officers and three part time field officers.”

“Young people in rural areas don’t have the same access to life opportunities and this is why this work is particularly important to me,” said Stuart who has a background in rural youth work. “People often have an image of a rural idyll where the quality of life is so much better than it is in towns. The reality is that the stereotype of the well off rural area often masks pockets of deprivation, low wages, isolation and problems with transport. Young people often miss out on life chances and don’t have the chance to mix with young people of their own age in their leisure time. Helping local communities to provide youth clubs in rural areas is plugging a significant gap in services for young people. It’s something which voluntary sector organisations are potentially good at delivering because they are in touch with local communities and their needs.”

For more information about support for voluntary sector youth organisations please contact:  
Chris Garcia Herts Youth Service  
on 01992 555780  
e-mail: [chris.garcia@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:chris.garcia@hertsc.gov.uk)  
Geoff Kirby Herts Council for Voluntary Youth Service on  
01438 219069  
e-mail: [geof.kirby@hertcc.gov.uk](mailto:geof.kirby@hertcc.gov.uk)  
Stuart Pittman Herts Association of Young People 01438 219068  
e-mail: [stuart.pittman@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.pittman@hertsc.gov.uk)

# The voluntary sector and the new Children Bill

**The eagerly awaited Children Bill was introduced into the House of Lords by Baroness Ashton in early March. Officials hope it will be on the statute book by the summer and will have royal assent in November. The Bill follows extensive consultation with local councils and voluntary sector organisations on its green paper 'Every Child Matters.'**

The Children Bill will have a big impact on how local authorities deliver children's services and the way they work with a range of partners including voluntary and community organisations. There will be an increased emphasis on partnership and preventative work. The government's vision remains very much in line with thinking of the all-sector Herts Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (HC&YPSP), being about joined up services and putting the child at the heart of everything we do. Below we identify key differences between the green paper and the Children Bill.

## **Children's Trusts**

More time is being given to the development of Children's Trusts. The green paper proposed that these should be in place by 2006. The Children Bill recommends that most areas should have Children's Trusts by 2006 and all areas by 2008. It will not be a statutory requirement to form Trusts, but the Bill does encourage and facilitate their development. Although the forming of Trusts will not necessitate structural change, the government does want all local authorities and Children's Trusts to consider co-locating health, family and parenting support services. A HC&YPSP task group is considering options for Children's Trusts in Hertfordshire, learning from a pilot in Stevenage. The voluntary sector representative in this task group is Peter Milson, Hertsmere CVS.

## **Partnership**

The Bill places duties on every agency to work together to deliver common outcomes. It creates a statutory basis for partnership working and involving all partners, including the voluntary sector and the community sector. There will be a requirement on local authorities to make partnership

arrangements with key partners and other relevant agencies. Reciprocal duties to co-operate in these arrangements are placed on the Police, Health, Probation Service, Connexions, Learning and Skills Council and District Councils. There will be statutory guidance.

The Bill is accompanied by a document called 'The Next Steps' which recognises that schools have a critical role in raising the achievement of Looked After Children and other under-achieving groups. The government is looking for closer collaboration between schools, communities and specialist services with a desire to integrate closely education, social care and health services. The National Services Framework will cover the interface with education and will play a key role in the change programme.

## **Information sharing**

The Children Bill provides the framework to set up information sharing systems. Secondary legislation will call for the establishment of databases containing basic information about all children - although the detail of this is yet to be published. All sectors will be involved in Hertfordshire through the Information Sharing Sub group of the HC&YPSP.

## Legislative requirements

- Establishment of a Children's Commissioner
- Director of children's services
- Lead Member for children's services
- New integrated inspection framework
- Legislative basis for sharing of information
- New duties to ensure child welfare is highlighted in the work of all relevant agencies

- Statutory Local Safeguarding Children Boards replace non-statutory Area Child Protection Committees. Ultimate responsibility for ensuring adequate safeguarding arrangements lies with the local authority
- Specific duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children
- Measures in place to strengthen the notification scheme for private fostering

## Youth Justice

The bill does not legislate specifically on youth justice issues but the emphasis will be on preventing offending and tackling the factors that underlie it.

## What next?

The Hertfordshire Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership has an important role in bringing all sector together in planning the future of children's services and addressing issues in the Children's Bill and 'Next steps' document

# Hertfordshire shows Japanese visitors what working together can achieve

**When Japanese policy makers wanted to learn more about the benefits resulting from partnerships between the UK's local authorities and voluntary organisations, they opted to visit Hertfordshire.**

Members of the Shimin 21 Forum, which is developing guidelines for similar partnerships, have spent a day in the County to find out how the Hertfordshire Compact brings voluntary, community and statutory organisations together to help improve the quality of life for residents.

### ***Their visit included:***

- presentations from and discussions with representatives of the County Council's Economic and Community Unit, and Stevenage Council for Voluntary Service on how we work together.

- a trip to Hemel Hempstead where they met staff from Dacorum Borough Council and Dacorum Council For Voluntary Service and discussed the development of their Compact.

"We were delighted to offer our Japanese guests an opportunity to learn from our experiences," said County Councillor Michael Janes, Executive Member for Partnerships. "All of us, whether we represent local government or the voluntary and community sector, believe that by working together at both county and local level we can help our community thrive,

"The projects that arise from this initiative - from improving a children's playground to tackling vandalism - aim to make a positive difference. That's what the Hertfordshire Compact is about."

# Parentline Plus

Parentline Plus has a long history in Hertfordshire according to Sandra Hiller, the area manager. "We started off as Parentline UK over twenty five years ago. Four years ago the national charity merged with the National Step Families Association and Parent Network to create Parentline Plus."

Now based in Hatfield, and offering services across the county, Parentline Plus is well known for its telephone helpline for parents which is available 24 hours a day for seven days of the week. "We offer support to a broad spectrum of parents and carers who look after children," said Sandra. "But we're particularly interested in working with hard to reach groups. In the past these have included ethnic minority groups, lone parents, asylum seekers, young mums and mothers in women's refuges."

"The helpline is our main activity but we also offer a range of other support services," explains Sandra. "We can offer individual telephone

support if the caller needs further support from a named worker. We also offer parenting groups around a big range of topics. These include 'new baby in the family', 'understanding bullying', 'resolving conflict in the family', 'less shouting more co-operation' and 'Dealing with anger'.

"Other services include an interactive website and we're also piloting an e-mail service for parents as an alternative to the helpline. Another service designed to access hard to reach parents is online telephone groups for people who have problems accessing our parenting groups. This could be a good alternative for parents and carers, who are geographically isolated, are disabled or unable to leave their home. We can accommodate up to 4 to 6 parents per telephone group."

"A fairly recent development from success with our Children's Fund Application are the appointments of our outreach and development workers, Marcus Muir and Sue

Campbell," said Sandra. "Their appointments have enabled us to take forward projects such as the anti-bullying initiative at Cavendish School in Hemel Hempstead. A DfES funded project developing community approaches to bullying prevention and support. We're extending this initiative into local feeder schools, having recognised that bullying needs to be tackled before children go to secondary school."

"Parentline Plus is a thriving organisation and currently we are in touch with around ten to twelve thousand parents and carers in the county each year. We have approximately 55 volunteers working for us locally as well as nine paid staff."

Sandra Hiller can be contacted on 01707 270696

The Parentline Plus web site is available at [www.parentlineplus.org.uk](http://www.parentlineplus.org.uk)

## The HERN Funding Fair

**The next annual Funding Fair will be held on Wednesday 10th November 2004, at the Fielder Centre - Hatfield.**

For further information please contact Tricia Pope on: 01992 555252  
e-mail: [tricia.pope@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:tricia.pope@hertscc.gov.uk)

<http://www.hertsdirect.co.uk/hcc/environment/ECDU/hern/hernevents/aff2004/>

# Hertset Supports Local Enterprise

A new network called 'Hertset' has been launched to promote the growth of social enterprise in the county.

"Many people are involved in social enterprises without realising it," said Sue Nelson from the HCC Economic Development Unit. "Many social enterprises are also voluntary organisations. Often people don't recognise the support that is available for this growing sector of the economy."

"Social Enterprises are all very different," said Sue, "but they have one objective in common. This is the use of trading income to support social and community objectives. They can be found in all walks of life from training, education, care, leisure, employment of disadvantaged people, recycling, retailing and even financial services.

"Many of us support the development and operation of such businesses without giving a name to the sector they inhabit. But as the social enterprise sector nationally becomes more organised it is becoming better supported. In Hertfordshire there are a number of support services already in place, delivered by a number of statutory and voluntary sector partners. They can provide specialist business support and training, access to appropriate forms of micro finance and development of trading mechanisms. "

"In addition the Economic Development Unit supports the

development of social enterprises in a number of ways. We promote the development of social enterprises and welfare to work activities. The unit supports the development of the Herts Community Action Network. We also promote the development of HCC policy on social enterprises and the co-ordination of the Hertfordshire External Funding Network."

"Hertset will complement the existing support mechanisms," explains Sue. "It's a new countywide network which will support the development of these activities by listening to the experience of social enterprises themselves. The network aims to be a 'voice' for the sector both locally and regionally by its close links with Social Enterprise Eastern Region (SEEE). Hertset will develop a 'toolkit' for the development and support for the sector. Membership is aimed at social enterprises, support agencies and those voluntary and community enterprises that wish to develop trading to sustain their future."

For more information on Hertset, contact Kirsty Tanner  
e-mail: [kirstyt@exemplas.com](mailto:kirstyt@exemplas.com)  
For more info on the business support available, contact Helen Marini  
e-mail: [helen@exemplas.com](mailto:helen@exemplas.com)  
Sue Nelson can be contacted on 01992 556248  
e-mail: [sue.nelson@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:sue.nelson@hertscc.gov.uk)

## Can you help?

Connexions are co-ordinating the compilation of a countywide information resource of services for young people on behalf of the Hertfordshire Children & Young Peoples Strategic Partnership. In the spirit of not wanting to reinvent the wheel Connexions would like to incorporate any existing directories or mapping exercises. So if your organisation has already produced a directory of services either in the county or your local area, Simon Gentry would appreciate a call at Connexions on 01992 531953. Alternatively mail your contribution to Simon Gentry, 28 Castle Street, Hertford, SG14 1HH  
e-mail: [simon.gentry@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:simon.gentry@hertscc.gov.uk)

## Useful sites you may want to visit

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/hern>

HERN stands for Hertfordshire External Resources Network. It is a network of organisations and initiatives which are intended to increase the amount of external funding (money from outside the County) that is attracted into Hertfordshire.

# New appointment

Julie Reynolds has been promoted to the post of Project Co-ordinator, Community Use of Schools.

“This is a new post focusing on the co-ordination and development of CSF’s Community Use of Schools Strategy and School Lets Fund,”

said Julie. “We are in the process of changing the School Lets Fund to reflect the priorities of the Preventative Strategy. We want to encourage voluntary and community organisations to use school premises for activities which will have a positive impact on the lives of

young people.” These new priorities were identified in the last issue of Contact.

Application forms for the summer round of the School Lets Fund will be sent to groups from the last week of April and the beginning of May. The closing date will be the 16th July.

You can contact Julie on 01992 555709  
e-mail: [julie.reynolds@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:julie.reynolds@hertscc.gov.uk)

## Have we got your details right?

Please remember to let CSF know if your organisation changes address or personnel.  
Please inform Alex Brace of any changes to your contact details.

Alex Brace 01992 556988 e-mail: [alex.brace@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:alex.brace@hertscc.gov.uk)

Organisation: .....

Contact Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Telephone: .....

E-mail: .....

### OLD CONTACTS

For past issues of Contact visit:

<http://www.hertsdirect.co.uk/hcc/csf/homelife/familyproblems/preventing/>



**Hertfordshire**