

contact

Hertfordshire Children's Fund Continues to March 2008!

In August, Margaret Hodge wrote to Patrick Candler, Chair of the Children's Fund Partnership, to confirm that Hertfordshire will be allocated £4,999,154 for 2005 to 2008. This is an average of £1,666,384 per annum and ensures that initiatives to develop preventative approaches and services will continue beyond 2006.

Hertfordshire Children's Fund now needs to develop a 3-year plan to outline our proposals for 2005 to 2008. We hope that this will be approved by DfES in January 2005.

In the meantime, the budget confirmation has allowed us to proceed with a new initiative under the Healthy Living Programme, which aims to tackle childhood obesity and promote healthy lifestyles in children aged 5 to 13.

Update from the Editor

Welcome to the autumn issue of Contact. Firstly CSF would like to thank our voluntary sector partners for the very useful feedback that has been given about Contact newsletter - we are pleased that you find it informative and helpful.

In this issue you will find an update on the recently launched Counselling Strategy as well as important information about CSF's new policy for Looked After Children. The Children's Fund are also launching "Rufit4it?", a new funding programme for projects promoting healthy living and application details are included in this edition of Contact.

Please remember that the deadline for applications to the Hertfordshire County Council 2005/06 Funding and Support round is Friday November 19th at 6 p.m. Voluntary and Community groups interested in applying to any of the Herts County Council funds available as part of this process can access the application form and prospectus at www.hertsdirect.org/funding. Paper copies can be obtained by calling 01992 556222 or by emailing funding@hertscc.gov.uk.

Please remember to complete all sections of the application form and return your completed form by the deadline to Hertfordshire County Council, PO Box 24, Hertford SG13 8WE.

We look forward to receiving your completed forms!

On 11th October 2004, we are launching a new funding round RU Fit 4 it? Through this funding we want to support the development of initiatives and services that will address

childhood obesity. The full funding details are on page 2.

To register an interest for an application pack, please e-mail rufit4it@hertscc.gov.uk

Introducing the Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database.

As part of the implementation of the 1989 Children Act, Hertfordshire has maintained a register for disabled children. There have been many difficulties in maintenance of this register, and the recently published guidance helped us to see that a modernisation was urgently needed. Since March, a steering group of parents, representatives from voluntary Organisations and CSF have met regularly, and the work of this group is ready to be launched.

The Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database (HAND) will replace the disability register. A new form was designed, so that parents can tell us about the needs of their child.

A medical examination will not be required for parents to fill out the form and join HAND. A database has been commissioned, which will be maintained by one professional, to ensure that each entry remains confidential, and is updated annually. A new leaflet explaining who can join HAND, and how to do this, will be published soon.

There will be benefits to joining HAND:

- a card will be issued for each child, which parents have told us helps them to get assistance and understanding for their child in many different situations.
- a copy of Jigsaw magazine, which is published by Disability Information Service for Hertfordshire.

- the database will be a mailing list to inform and consult parents/carers and children about new services, play schemes, welfare benefits
- HAND will provide a picture of the needs of this young population for service planners
- statistical information for other agencies who plan services for adults. eg. Housing.

Sue Jaye wrote to the 1,500 parents and carers of children and young people who are registered on the old register to inform them of this work. The parents and carers who confirmed their interest, and their contact details will receive the form to join HAND directly. By November, forms and leaflets will be available from health clinics, schools, libraries, or on request from CSF for the parent / carer of any child who has additional needs.

Many thanks to Carers in Herts, Mencap, Scope, Hertfordshire Autistic Resource Centre and Disability Information Service for Hertfordshire for taking part in this new development.

NEWS FROM MECSS

Complementary and supplementary education provision has steadily expanded in Hertfordshire over many years and there is now a wide range of well-established supplementary schools and community language classes across the county. They offer a vital service which sustains the languages, cultures, religious beliefs and personal identities of the young people who attend the classes, whilst also supporting mainstream school learning and achievement. Resources and training to support this work have been

extended through the roles of the co-ordinators for complementary and supplementary education John Harris, Director of Children Schools and Families, has stated:

"There are over 178,000 children in Hertfordshire with a diverse range of needs and abilities, delivered by the Children, Schools and Families service. The work which is co-ordinated through our complementary and supplementary provision aims to meet the needs of over 22,000 children from minority ethnic communities for whom it is important to retain cultural and community values.

"A special issue of Inform, CSF's newsletter for schools, has recently been published, and offers both practical and ideological ideas about providing complementary and supplementary education. It aims to share good practice, provide contact details of those who are willing to share their experience and inspire others to set up similar provision.

"Much of the dedicated work that takes place is on a voluntary basis and CSF is grateful to the people who give their time and expertise to making complementary and supplementary schools an improving and successful enterprise."

If you would like to receive a copy of this Inform Extra edition please contact:

Zena Rashid, C&S OSHL
Co-ordinator, South Area
01923 231855 /
07957 481735
Nusrat Khan, C&S OSHL
Co-ordinator North, East and West Areas
01727 858351 /
07796 611026

New charity established to support Hertfordshire schools

Hertfordshire Educational Resources Trust (HERT) was founded in January 2004 when the five initial trustees signed the charity's trust deed at a ceremony in county hall. The deed was signed in the offices of John Harris, Director of CSF, one of the founding trustees. The other four are Charlie Watson, former Chief Executive of the county, Rob Gordon, Executive Member CSF, Tim Wilson, Vice Chancellor University of Hertfordshire, and the Chairman Neville Reyner, CBE, DL and Chairman of Exemplas Holdings Ltd. Registration was granted by the Charity Commission at the first attempt.

The initial objective of the Trust is to ensure that all secondary schools are able to apply for specialist status. In order to do this schools must raise £50,000 in sponsorship from parental and business sources. Whilst some schools manage this relatively easily, many schools struggle to find the necessary time to fundraise in addition to all their hard work in educating students. The Trust will provide an effective way for business to make donations which will enable schools to concentrate on what they do best: education.

Since 2001 Hertfordshire has been helping schools to achieve specialist status through the Dive provides additional advice and a network of support for schools. This has been hugely successful and has more than trebled the number of specialist schools in the county, to a total of 52 out of 76. This makes Hertfordshire the most successful LEA in the acceleration of the specialist school programme. This is significant as each school receives in excess of £600,000 in additional funding from central government over a four-year period. This allows each secondary to provide additional opportunities for young people, primary schools and their local communities.

Once the Trust reaches its target of enabling all secondary schools to become specialist it will continue to raise funds for the benefit of young people in Hertfordshire. Neville Reyner commented: "It is a great pleasure to be asked to Chair HERT. I am aware of what a good job Hertfordshire schools do. The Trust will play a part in improving the opportunities they are able to offer to our young people and will do so with the full engagement of local business. We will continue to raise funds for the benefit of young people in secondary education with the complementary support of business in Hertfordshire as well as

creating contingency for relevant gaps in future provision. I look forward to the Trust growing from strength to strength and contributing to education in the county for many years to come."

Further information can be obtained by emailing michael.lynes@hertscc.gov.uk

Raising the Ceiling - so what's that?

If you work with an organisation that helps people in Hertfordshire overcome barriers - described by some as a 'glass ceiling' - to getting paid employment, then read on. If you think you might benefit from free training, information and one-to-one advice sessions, then this new project could be just what you're looking for.

'Raising the Ceiling' is a new project helping organisations help people to help themselves. For many unemployed people, the journey to a job may seem long and difficult. They may be disadvantaged by disability, age or low self-confidence. Support from community organisations with local knowledge can be vital to help them take a first step in the right direction.

'Raising the Ceiling' aims to support staff, trustees and volunteers from Hertfordshire organisations wanting to consider ways they might work more effectively.

The project can help you explore potentially sustainable funding sources for your organisation, including earned income. If you want to monitor and meet the changing needs of your service users better, free marketing advice - through training, newsletters, and e-mail updates - might be useful. The project can also put you in touch with other like-minded organisations to learn from their experiences.

Partnership is an important element and the project works closely with local development agencies, such as Councils for Voluntary Service (CVS) and the Community Development Agency for Hertfordshire (CDA), to extend the impact and outreach of the 'Raising the Ceiling' project across Hertfordshire.

For further details, contact your local CVS, the CDA, or Chris Lee, on 01442 867211, e-mail chris.dcvcs@classmail.co.uk

HERTFORDSHIRE CHILDREN'S FUND

Healthy Living Programme Funding

1. What is the Fund for?

The fund is to support the development of initiatives that aim to tackle childhood obesity and promote healthy lifestyles in children aged 5 to 13 living in Hertfordshire. This initiative is part of the Hertfordshire Children's Fund Theme 'Feeling Good' and meets the national Children's Fund sub-objective - to reduce child health inequalities among those children aged 5 to 13 living in the area. 'Being Healthy' is also a Governmental priority outcome for children, as set out in Every Child Matters.

2. Priorities of the Fund

- Funding will be considered for projects or services that promote healthy eating and:
- promote physical activity
- promote and raise awareness of healthy lifestyles
- promote accessibility to healthy living initiatives. We particularly encourage applications that address all of the above priorities, but this does not exclude applications for a single priority area.

3. Criteria

Your application must make clear how you can provide the services within the timescales and will be assessed on this and how well the project meets the following criteria:

- addressing the priorities of the fund

- developing the project in a child-focused way
- evidence of local need (using research, local data, or organisational evaluation activities and experience)
- evidence of children's participation in the project
- promoting positive health outcomes for children and young people aged 5 to 13 years old
- clear aim, objectives and delivery plan
- clear evaluation plan
- clear plans for the future
- target localities identified through the 'Changing Children's Lifestyles' report on reducing childhood obesity in Hertfordshire
- activities must take place in Hertfordshire
- activities must benefit children aged 5 to 13 living or attending school in Hertfordshire

Project applications must also demonstrate a commitment to:

- actively promoting equal opportunities
- offering good value for money
- working in partnership with other agencies in the locality

Organisations making the application must meet the Hertfordshire Children's Fund insurance (£5 million public liability and £10 million employers liability) and policy requirements (health and safety, equal opportunities and child protection). There must also be a 'Safe Care' recruitment policy (that includes CRB checks on all staff and

volunteers working directly with children).

4. Who can apply?

Voluntary, community, faith groups, statutory services and schools can apply. We will not accept applications from commercial/profit-making organisations or individuals.

5. What can you apply for?

We are looking for innovative projects that aim to tackle childhood obesity and promote healthy lifestyles in children aged 5 to 13. Applications may extend or develop an existing service or be for new initiatives. We will consider funding staffing, premises hire (e.g. sports halls), equipment (up to £2,000), resources (e.g. posters), and running costs related to the service.

The minimum award will be £500 and the maximum £7,500. We anticipate that the average awards will be between £3,000 and £4,000.

6. Period of Funding

Funds will be allocated from January 2005 to September 2005.

Projects must start between January and March 2005, unless the project is for school holiday activities, and must be completed by 30th September 2005.

7. How will decisions be made?

Applications will be scored and evaluated by an appraisal panel from the Hertfordshire Children's Fund Partnership who will use the criteria in Section 3 above to rank the applications.

8. Timetable for Applications

Application packs available:
Tuesday 11th October 2004

Closing date:
12 noon Friday 26th
November 2004

**Applicants informed
of decisions:**
Tuesday 11th January 2005

9. Who to contact for more information

For an application pack please email a request to rufit4it@hertsc.gov.uk. To request by post please contact Elly Conway, Children's Fund Officer, 4 Porters Wood, St Albans, Herts, AL3 6PT, Tel: 01727 849144.

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

If you have any enquiries, please contact:

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

INFORMATION SHARING AND ASSESSMENT: How are we doing in Hertfordshire?

Hertfordshire was one of the 31 percent of authorities that were assessed as being behind in recently published research on progress by non-trailblazer authorities on information sharing requirements. Hertfordshire's overall rating was "Bit Behind", although we were "On Course" for some requirements. The researchers recognised that the complexity of each authority might affect their performance against the requirements and recognised that "some authorities that are a Bit Behind in some requirements may end up with a better product for not having rushed a quick solution". (Information Sharing and Assessment: the Progress of Non-trailblazer Local Authorities available at www.dfes.gov.uk/research/)

Lack of clarity over the legality of information sharing and consent to share information has impacted on the progress of many authorities. The lack of integration between different government initiatives such as how ISA fits with the integrated children system or e-patient records also delayed progress on some areas of the work.

Information Sharing and Assessment is being taken forward locally under the umbrella of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, through its Information Sub Group. Information Sharing and Assessment actions are also included in the all agency, all sector Herts Together in the Children and Young People objectives and action plan.

Information sharing databases

Progress on sharing of personal information is tied in to the progress of the Children Bill and advice from Government is not to commit to any IT systems at this stage but to await the outcome of consultation and final research of trailblazer authorities.

Following the progress of the Bill through the Lords the DfES has published revised policy guidance setting out the objectives of information sharing databases and how they might function.

"Our policy focus here is less on cases where child protection has already been identified as an issue and more on early and speedy intervention to help children who are vulnerable or in need of specialist services in order to thrive. This is key to the move from a reactive to a preventative approach. The database cannot support this if it is restricted to children already identified as being at risk of abuse or neglect."

"We cannot readily predict who they may be so we need to ensure that all children are included rather than limit the database to those whose needs are already identified to make sure that none slip through the net. And universal databases can help insure that all children receive the universal services - education and basic health care - to which they are entitled.

Information sharing databases are an important tool to encourage

better communication and closer working between different professionals and practitioners.

Members of the Information Sub Group are planning to visit groups in the county to explain more about ISA and hear the concerns and issues of practitioners and information staff. This will inform the way ahead for Information Sharing and Assessment.

Information sharing databases are not intended to provide an integrated case management system, replace case record systems already under development in health (NHS Care Records) or social care (Integrated Children's System), or record statements of a child's needs or observations about a child. Child indexes would be taken forward as a distinct but related part of a wider series of proposals to improve information sharing and assessment so as to identify earlier children with additional needs and to meet their needs sooner and more effectively.

A Common Assessment Framework

The Government is currently consulting on the development of a Common Assessment Framework that aims to improve the quality of diagnosis of a child's needs before referrals are made. The framework also intends to improve professionals of basic

assessments of a child's needs and to reduce the number and intensity of separate assessments that a child with additional needs has to undergo.

Consultation is being taken forward locally through the C&YPSP. Documents can be downloaded from

www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations

The Government wants training on information sharing to be available across the children's services workforce as part of a common core of training, embedded in initial training, continuous professional updating, and local change programmes across children's services. A steering group has been driving this work nationally and a new draft prospectus will be published soon. More information is available at

www.dfes.gov.uk/commoncore

Looked After Children - New Policy

As a result of work over the last year, CSF has recently published a new policy statement on Looked After Children. Hertfordshire County Council considers the promotion and protection of children's welfare as paramount and recognises the advantages for children who are brought up in their own families. A set of guiding

principles is set out within the policy statement including:

- every effort should be made to support families and to preserve the child's home and family links
- services will be provided in partnership with parents and will seek to enhance rather than substitute their capacity to care for their child
- no child should enter or remain in local authority care for need of a service that is within the Council's ability to provide
- for children who do become looked after, their need for long-term security will be the primary consideration
- disabled children are children first and where possible their needs will be met through mainstream services

The policy statement provides detailed standards around a range of related areas including:

- care planning
- contact
- education
- health
- placement
- personal support
- children's participation
- equalities

A copy of the policy statement can be found on the Hertfordshire County Council website www.hertsdirect.gov.uk or email

**CSFCommissioning/
HertsCC@HertsCC**

A CSF Strategy to accompany the policy statement has also been developed and both documents were approved by the Council's Cabinet on June

14 2004. The Strategy sets out action that CSF needs to take in order to implement the policy statement, ensure that children are not looked after unless absolutely necessary, improve services to support vulnerable children and to deliver services more efficiently. If you have any queries concerning the strategy please Denise Radley, Senior Planning Manager, Commissioning on 01992 556717.

A Directory of Services for Children

Every Child Matters identified a need for the development of a single Children's Services Directory in each authority to enable practitioners and parents, young people and children, to see what services are available locally, their eligibility criteria and to facilitate referrals.

As practitioners identify needs earlier they require access to comprehensive and up to date information about local services. The Information Sub Group has mapped a large number of existing directories and information sources in Hertfordshire and looked at good examples of directories in other areas. Despite all these resources Hertfordshire was assessed as well behind because the requirement was for there to be one single directory in Hertfordshire. The group is taking a practical approach and initially working to ensure effective signposting to existing information sources using the county-wide HertsDirect as a starting point.

The Information Sub Group has produced an information sharing protocol and is mapping what information partners collect, how it is used and what the information gaps are. In some cases information may be collected locally, sent to government and then not be available for analysis for several years.

As well as looking at the bigger picture members of the group are working in a more joined up way on current projects such as Childhood Obesity study and teenage pregnancy data. The Information Sub Group is exploring how the C&YPSP might make the best use of the Hertfordshire Observatory, which provides a repository of economic, demographic and social data, which can be accessed by all partners.

Herts Together Community Strategy

Herts Together, the countywide strategic partnership, is consulting on the Hertfordshire Community Strategy first draft action plans. The Herts Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (C&YPSP) is leading on the investing in children and young people theme and priorities.

The community strategy is not intended to supersede existing strategies, plans and priorities of partner organisations, but to enhance and align them to add value. The strategy was launched on 21st September. Copies of the strategy and accompanying draft action plans are available from www.hertsdirect.org or from Fiona Breaker-Rolfe (email) hertstogether@hertscc.gov.uk or Hertfordshire County Council, Economic and Community Development, County Hall, Hertford SG13 8DE)

Copies of the draft action plan for Investing in Children and Young People will be available from Dorothy Blatcher from the beginning of November.

Herts Together has agreed five key themes. These priorities are of common concern to communities in the county and are areas where Herts Together can add value to the partners work. The five key themes are to:

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- ensure that children and young people in the county

are protected from harm and helped to realise their potential

- increase learning, play, and leisure opportunities and promotion of healthy lifestyles for children and young people, thus improving their life chances as the adults of the future
- ensure that children and young people have equal opportunities for development and achievement
- take forward the Preventative Strategy to ensure that children and young people receive effective help as soon as they need it
- further develop joint planning and commissioning arrangements to promote co-operation to improve the wellbeing of all children

The key priorities reflect the five priority areas for children and young people set out in the Children Bill and guidance 'Every Child Matters: Next Steps'.

Following consultation on the draft Community Plan in March and April, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and Herts Together have identified five priorities for investing in children and young people:

1. Help children and young people be healthy: enjoying good physical and mental health and living a healthy lifestyle

- Promote emotional wellbeing and reduce mental

health problems

- Reduce obesity and promote healthy lifestyles
- Implement the National Service Framework for Children
- Targeted drug and alcohol education
- Reducing and preventing teenage pregnancy (Healthier Communities priority)

2. Help children and young people stay safe: being protected from harm and neglect and growing up able to look after themselves

- Safeguard children and promote their wellbeing
- Support children in their own families and reduce the percentage of children requiring public care
- Improve information sharing and further develop early intervention and effective protection
- Further develop strategies to reduce bullying

3. Help children and young people enjoy and achieve: getting the most out of life and develop broad skills for adulthood

- Increase percentage of 3 year olds receiving early years education
- Additional play, out of school or holiday childcare places for 3s to 14s
- Increase percentage of 11 year olds at or above national standards for English, maths and science
- Improve performance of

- pupils at GCSE or equivalent
- Improve percentage of care leavers in education, training and employment at age 19

4. Help children and young people make a positive contribution to the community and to society and not engage in anti-social or offending behaviour

- Develop a Youth Charter
- Further promote active citizenship
- Develop youth and school councils
- Strengthen schools' involvement with their communities
- Improve school attendance /reduce absence
- Reduce re-offending by young offenders
- Further develop diversionary and community based activities to help prevent anti-social behaviour

5. Help children and young people achieve economic wellbeing

- More affordable and flexible child-care places for 0-2's
- Increase money advice, financial literacy & benefits take up amongst disadvantaged families and parents of children with special needs
- Prevent homelessness and its effects

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (C&YPSP) has identified provisional actions and broad outcomes for each priority. Shared outcomes are being developed by the C&YPSP, on which the voluntary sector is represented. There is a focus on prevention, early intervention and working in partnership.

Hertfordshire Preventative Strategy

The all sector Preventative Strategy Co-ordinating Group has reviewed phase one of the Preventative Strategy and analysed where and how it was making a difference in Hertfordshire as at March 2004. These preventative strategy projects have been analysed on an Access database by the five Children Bill outcomes. Many projects have been led by the voluntary sector.

Phase One

In 2002, 27 all-sector Locality Preventative Strategy Groups identified initial priorities and began to identify projects and activities that would really make a difference to the lives of children and young people.

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership took over the strategy in 2003 and the work of the 27 groups has transferred to District C&YPSPs or youth networks, linking with their LSPs. The preventative action plans added value to other plans and strategies, such as local drugs action plans and the substance misuse strategy.

The Preventative Strategy Co-Ordinating Group was able to identify over 200 preventative actions/projects that were developed and implemented in Hertfordshire in addition to projects already planned. Many more ideas were taken forward through the Children's Fund and other funding and in District and countywide strategies.

Phase Two

The Preventative Strategy Co-ordinating Group has supplied to District Children and Young People's Strategic Partnerships data for their areas to assist with phase two preventative plans, as an integral part of local children and youth plans.

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has agreed that the framework for the next phase of the Preventative Strategy should be based on the vision for children's services set out in the Children Bill and Every Child Matters: Next Steps and the five priority areas:

1. Be healthy
2. Stay safe
3. Achieve and Enjoy
4. Make a positive contribution
5. Achieve economic well-being.

The strategy will include the preventative actions set out in Herts Together Community Strategy, particularly from the Investing in Children and Young People section and related children's objectives in other themes.

The framework will be developed in line with the work that C&YPSP has commissioned on developing Children's Trusts in Hertfordshire, particularly developing shared outcomes. The coverage of the Preventative Strategy will be widened to include all children's services: universal, targeted and specialist. This will bring the Hertfordshire Preventative Strategy into line with the Children Bill, Every Child Matters: Next Steps, the National Service Framework and draft guidance for the new joint inspection framework and a common assessment framework.

School Lets Fund

Voluntary and community groups that use school premises to provide activities for children, young people and their families are eligible to apply for the Children, Schools and Families School Lets Fund. Groups should have received application forms and guidance notes for this fund in August and the deadline for all applications is Friday November 19 at 6 p.m. It is very important that groups meet this deadline, as late applications cannot be accepted.

Completed application forms should be sent to PO Box 24, Hertfordshire County Council, SG13 8WE. Please do not send application forms direct to Julie Reynolds, Project Co-Ordinator for Community Use of Schools, as all applications have to be logged centrally before being sent to individual departments.

All relevant sections of the application form must be completed as applications are scored against the criteria for this fund and the information included on the form assists the appraisal panel with their decision making. The criteria are listed fully on page 16 of the Funding and Support 2005/06 prospectus.

This is the first time that the School Lets Fund has been included in the single application process and it is likely that more groups will apply for this fund. Applications will be

prioritised according to how well they meet the criteria and therefore it is very important that you clearly describe the activities your service provides and explain how they meet the needs of children and young people. Applications for services and activities that support vulnerable children, and children at risk of social exclusion, will be prioritised. If your application is unsuccessful CSF will try to identify possible sources of alternative funding and will send you the relevant information with your decision letters.

For 2005/06 only District Councils that provide holiday Playschemes in schools are also eligible to apply for this fund, although priority will be given to playschemes that are delivered in partnership with the voluntary sector.

All applicants will receive a receipt confirming that their application form has been received. Receipts cannot be generated until after the closing date and will be sent to applicants by December 10th. Please do not contact individual fund managers before the deadline to check whether your application has been received as they will not be entered on to the database until after November 19th. If you have not had confirmation that your application has been received by Friday December 10 please contact Julie Reynolds on 01992 555709. If you have any further questions about the application process please contact Frances Coupe, Strategic Partnership's Manager - Voluntary Sector on 01992 556966.

New Funding Opportunities

The Consultation Fund

The Consultation Fund is a central Government Fund that has been established to give children and young people a voice in the issues that are important to them, whilst at the same time raising the profile of participation and promoting an awareness of its importance among decision-makers.

Grants are available to voluntary and community sector organisations to run consultation activities for children and young people. The Fund has a particular emphasis on reaching children and young people who are excluded or hard to help.

This application round is for activities that are occurring before March 31 2005. Applications need to be submitted at least 2 months

prior to the activity.

Further information, including the application and guidance is available at www.dfes.gov.uk/listening-tolearn

There will also be consultation on the Hertfordshire Youth Charter from October to December. Please see the website www.hertsdirect.org/youthchannel or obtain a copy from MartinBailey@hertscc.gov.uk

Hertfordshire Young People's Partnership Grant for Substance Misuse Work

What funding is available?

Grants are available to support the implementation of the Hertfordshire Drug Action Team's Young People's Substance Misuse Plan 2002 - 2005. This year, £140,000 is available for projects to bid into. Applications up to £10,000 are welcome.

What is the fund for?

The overall aim of the Young People's Substance Misuse Plan is to help young people resist drug misuse in order to achieve their full potential in society. 'Substance misuse' includes the misuse of legal and illegal drugs including prescribed medicines, alcohol, and volatile substances.

Priority areas

- programmes or services that prevent substance misuse by targeting education, support and diversion programmes to vulnerable young people. Programmes can be provided to individuals and groups

- training to volunteers and paid staff to enable them to offer substance misuse services to young people competently
- providing accurate information to children and young people about substance use and related issues
- providing information and support to parents and carers
- deliver services that support young people who have developed problems with substance use and require a package of treatment and support
- projects that address other unmet needs and/or fill gaps in provision

Who can apply?

Voluntary, community and faith groups, as well as statutory and private agencies that work with children and their families in Hertfordshire can apply. This includes schools, colleges and other learning providers.

Who to contact for more information

Hazel Yabsley

Young People's Substance Misuse Project Manager
Telephone 01438 219419
Email
hazel.yabsley@hertscc.gov.uk

New guidelines for Carnegie Trust

Following a period of review organisations are now able to apply for grants of up to £30,000 under the Carnegie Trusts Young People Grant Programme. Priority is given to applications from voluntary/community groups that support the participation of young people (aged 10 - 25) in decision-making. The programme is open to organisations in the UK and Ireland. The next deadline for grant applications is January 1 2005.

For more information
www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/grant_policies

NEW ASIAN MOTHERS SUPPORT GROUP

Following a survey of need, a support group for Asian mothers of children with special needs has been set up in Watford and Three Rivers with funding from The Children's Fund. Mateen Nadeem is the Support Group Facilitator, who does all the arranging behind the scenes.

The group, which is called "Roshni", (meaning "light" in Urdu) began meeting in January 2004 and get together once a month at the Lemarie Centre

(near ASDA) in North Watford, usually on the first or second Thursday morning in the month. A crèche is provided for younger children.

At the group meetings, the mothers can talk about any issues of concern, and in addition speakers come in to talk about benefits, relaxation techniques, or any other topics of interest. Regular weekend activity sessions are being held for the special needs children, and their brothers and sisters, so the whole family can enjoy themselves. In addition, they have taken part in family outings, with activities for the

children, whilst mums can relax and enjoy themselves. And the mums have had their first own outing - just going out for a meal together which was very popular and likely to be repeated!

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Roshni Group, or would like more information, please either contact Maureen Mills, Health Visitor, at Peace Children's Centre on 01923 470600 or Mateen Nadeem, Support Group Facilitator, via The Avenue Clinic on 01923 234282.

Have you got adequate insurance cover?

Voluntary organisations often have problems finding affordable insurance coverage. High street insurance brokers are often not aware of the needs of the voluntary sector and often quote sums in excess of £800 for basic coverage. This is clearly beyond the budgets of many small organisations. At the same time the baseline requirements for insurance is rising. Currently Herts County Council requires organisations that are receiving awards or contracts, to have £5 million public liability and £10 million employers liability insurance.

How can small voluntary organisations afford to buy this level of coverage?

One answer is for voluntary organisations to affiliate to larger organisations that are able to provide cheap, specialist insurance. For example, local sports clubs often have national umbrella organisations. Many other activities are represented at the national level. A good example is the Pre-School Learning Alliance (PSLA). This is a specialist organisation that can provide good insurance deals for pre-school projects such as playgroups.

Not all activities have an umbrella organisation. However they can affiliate to a generic youth organisation such as the Hertfordshire Association for Young People (which is in turn affiliated to the National Association of Clubs for Young People).

The cost of insurance from HAYP breaks down into two elements. Firstly the cost of joining HAYP. This is £52 a year. Secondly organisations can choose a variety of insurance options based upon the number of days they are open

a week and whether or not the activities are hazardous.

The minimum insurance fee available (under written by Royal & Sun Alliance) is £62.79. This will provide an organisation who operates for one or two days a week with £5 million of public liability and £10 million employers liability insurance at a total cost of £114.79. This is the minimum cover required for organisations contracted by Herts County Council.

Is your organisation eligible to join HAYP?

Organisations are eligible if their main purpose is to provide activities for young people

Organisations that are hiring Herts County Council (HCC) premises, such as schools, can buy insurance at extra cost. Most schools can provide insurance for a fee equal to 5 per cent of the letting fee which in the case of low level letting fees or free lets must never be less than £1.00 per session. This will cover the organisation for £5 million public liability only. It does not provide employer liability. Organisations may need employer liability cover if it pays employees rather than uses volunteers. Volunteer workers are however covered by the HCC public liability cover.

Whatever insurance you choose you will need to ensure the coverage is right for you. Also check what the exclusions are. The HCC scheme for example excludes martial arts activities and loss to the hirer's property. There are also other exclusions around sports activities. For example, damage to property owned by a participant is not covered; neither is injury caused by a participant to another participant.

For further information about the HAYP insurance scheme contact: Stuart Pittman Herts Association for Young People Telephone 01438 219068

Email:

stuart.pittman@hertscc.gov.uk

For further information about the Herts County Council Insurance scheme please contact David Turner, Insurance Administrator on 01992 555583 or

david.turner@hertscc.gov.uk

News from the Voluntary Sector

SCOPE drop in taster day 6th November

SCOPE are organising a drop in taster day for disabled people of all ages, parents and their children and professionals in the voluntary and statutory sectors. The event, which will be held at Campus West, in Welwyn Garden City will feature a wide range of exhibitors and activities including Ability Net, Mencap, Remap, DISH, Carers in Hertfordshire, Network81, ParentPartnershi, Talking Mats, Funderfinder and Young in Herts.

The taster day is on November 6 from 10 - 3pm. For more information contact Sharon Cross on 01284 731600 e-mail sharon.cross@scope.org.uk

Hertfordshire ERainbow Network and website

The Hertfordshire ERainbow Network is looking for new members. Launched in spring 2004 this major new initiative aims to improve communication between voluntary groups with minority ethnic representation, and organisations such as the police, fire and rescue service, grant-making organisations and local authorities.

To date 51 organisations have joined the Network. Membership is free and open to minority ethnic community groups or statutory bodies in Hertfordshire. Current members include:

- Business Link Hertfordshire
- Cancer
- Hertfordshire Community Foundation (Grant-making/distributor)
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Muslim Welfare Association - Dacorum
- North Hertfordshire Ethnic Minorities Forum
- North Hertfordshire District Council
- Stevenage World Forum for Ethnic Communities
- Welwyn Hatfield Ethnic Minority Group
- Watford Race Equality Council
- Watford Indian Association

"The ERainbow website is the gateway to the ERainbow Network," said Moreen Pascal, the County Co-ordinator. "It offers a fully integrated website allowing voluntary organisations instant access to contact name and addresses, an interactive notice board as well as news and features. We will soon be publishing a calendar of networking events and workshops. This will provide opportunities for members to meet face-to-face, share their aspirations and mutual concerns. ERainbow represents an opportunity to achieve better information, communication and consultation on the needs, goals, types and numbers of black and minority ethnic community organisations in the county."

For further information contact Moreen Pascal on 01727 813551
email:
moreenp@exemplas.com

Supporting Childcare - the role of the Community Childcare Officers

Community Childcare Officers (CCO's) support all childcare providers including childminders, pre school nurseries and after school clubs. Many of the organisations they assist are in the voluntary and community sector.

The CCOs took over from the Under Eight's Officers after Ofsted assumed responsibility for registering and inspecting childcare. Their role is about supporting the growth of childcare rather than inspection. The CCO's help providers to understand the new national standards for childcare and work with the voluntary sector to develop their capacity to develop quality childcare. The CCO's can help groups to develop their services and can offer support about the status of the group and how to apply to become a charity. They also help with support around business plans, budgets, securing funding and recruiting staff and finding premises.

Community Childcare Officers can be contacted at your local CSF Community Teams:

North quadrant - (North Herts and Stevenage) 01462 704246

South quadrant - (Three Rivers, Watford and Hertsmere) 01923 274193

West quadrant - (St Albans, Dacorum) 01727 849144

East quadrant - (East Herts, Broxbourne, Welwyn and Hatfield) 01992 556929

CHeCC (Cross-Herts Community Counselling)

CHeCC is a new organisation in Hertfordshire, which consists of a network of generic Community Counselling agencies for young people, operating from within the Voluntary Sector.

Each of these agencies delivers counselling to young people aged 14-25, in a community context, where young people can access a range of services.

At present (during the Pre-pilot phase), 4 agencies are actively involved:

- Youth Talk (St. Albans)
- Signpost (Watford)
- Face 2 Face (Stevenage)
- The Women's Counselling Centre (Hitchin)

It is hoped that 3 more agencies may become actively involved at an early stage. These are:

- YPIC (Hatfield)
- Drop-in (Cheshunt)
- Urban Access (Hemel Hempstead)

Before the end of the Pilot phase, it is hoped that YES (Borehamwood), Bancroft (Hitchin) and other agencies may also have become included.

The CHeCC vision contains the possibility that eventually after a full rollout, there will be a comprehensive coverage of such agencies across the county. Such a network, operating in tandem with the school counselling services (CISS and CIPS) would effectively constitute a whole new layer of early-intervention and preventative Mental Health provision for young people. The network would close the loop of care around all young people (and especially the most troubled and vulnerable ones), so that none of them need fall through the net of support.

Currently, CHeCC is being developed via the:

- CHeCC Task Group, which is made up of representatives from CSF, Connexions and CMAHS. The group is developing the policy, business, administrative and financial framework for the CHeCC network
- CHeCC Agencies Steering Committee (CASC), which is a committee of managers of those agencies actively involved, together with the CSF Counselling Manager, who are working at development "on the ground"

CHeCC has commissioned a 'mapping exercise' of young people's voluntary counselling agencies. The outcome of this mapping exercise is a directory of young people's services in Hertfordshire.

If any voluntary counselling agency would like to be involved in the consultation process, please contact Kulbir Lalli on either 01992 588796 or kulbir.lalli@hertsc.gov.uk, by November 1st 2004.

For further details, please contact Steve Seaton on 01727 868684, at Youth Talk.

GRANTS AND BEYOND' - HERN FUNDING FAIR 2004

Wednesday 10th November 2004

10.00am - 4.30pm

**The Fielder Centre Hatfield Avenue,
Hatfield Business Park, Hatfield**

The theme for this year's Funding Fair 'Grants and Beyond' is in recognition that fundraising is an ever-changing environment and we all need to keep up with the latest thinking and techniques.

This year, as well as the popular introductory workshops covering core fundraising skills, we are running some advanced workshops geared towards those of you who want to find out more about contracts, loans and earned income. Also new for this year, a question time session will follow lunch.

The day is free, but advance booking is essential.

Don't forget that HERN has an excellent web site geared up to help facilitate your access to external funding which is available 24 hours of everyday!

www.hertsdirect.org/hern

Old Contacts

For past issues of Contact visit:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/hcc/csf/specialprojects/preventing>

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

alex.brace@hertscc.gov.uk