

Volunteer Centre Dundee Bulletin

September 2010 – Issue 35

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Dear

This is our first Bulletin since Wendy moved on to pastures new in June. That's our excuse for missing out the summer months altogether!

So, here we are in mid September with some Volunteering news and updates that will hopefully be of use to you in your work with volunteers. It's a good time for recruitment so remember to keep us up to date with your vacancies and training days. You can always pop in to our Open Day.

Like so many colleagues, we don't know what funding will be like for 2011 onwards so it's very important that we provide the most useful services to you. We have formed a partnership with Dundee Voluntary Action to create a 'one stop shop' service for organisational support, voluntary sector representation as well as your volunteering needs. We will be checking out our plans through consultation, starting with some sessions at Fit for the Future, Dundee's own voluntary sector conference.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at conference in the West Park Centre on 22 October 2010.

Kathryn

Please feel free to forward this bulletin on.

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[**Volunteer Centre Open Day**](#)

We are having an open day at

Number Ten, 10 Constitution Road, Dundee

21 September 2010

10:00am – 3:00pm

It's a drop in for people to come and find out about pretty much anything to do with volunteering.

Anne Leslie will be there with information about the Volunteer Managers' Forum, the Community Volunteering Qualification and other training events.

Fiona Bissett will be there to talk about volunteering as a route into employment and to talk to groups who want to offer short term and longer term volunteer placements for job seekers wanting to gain skills and experience.

Staff will be available to talk about designing volunteer opportunities, volunteer recruitment and day to day management of volunteers, and, of course, the Volunteer Friendly Award. (**Philippa Lyttle**)

We will also be providing information about our new services in partnership with Dundee Voluntary Action, PQASSO Training/mentoring and Independent Examination of Accounts. Looking forward to seeing you.

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Your very own local conference

Fit for the Future West Park Conference Centre on Friday 22 October 2010

Dundee Voluntary Action and the Volunteer Centre have joined forces to present a timely and exciting event for the voluntary sector. Timely, because of the high profile of the voluntary sector just now and the whole 'reduce the deficit/more for less agenda'. Exciting, because of the high calibre of speakers, workshop leaders during the day and the quality of hospitality and entertainment in the evening.

(Look out for the workshop on twittering your way to volunteer recruitment!)

Further information and booking forms available at www.d-v-a.org.uk

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Training and Forums Update

*** To book a place at any of the events listed below (except the open day on 21 September which is offered on a drop-in basis) please email anne@volunteerdundee.org.uk or phone 01382 305705 ***

15 September 2010 (10-12noon) – **Volunteer Impact Assessment Toolkit Information session** (at Number Ten)

Do you know how good your organisation is at involving volunteers? What is the impact of volunteering for your service users? Or on the local community? Come along to hear about this "ready to use" toolkit.

A great way to evidence the difference you are making to funders and other stakeholders.

21 September 2010 (10am – 3pm)- **Volunteer Centre Open Day** (at Number Ten)

Volunteer Friendly/Best Practice/Employability/Registration Advice and much more.....!

19 October 2010 (10am -1pm) – **Volunteer Managers’ Training “Introducing New Volunteers into your Organisation”**

(at Number Ten) **Cost: £25**

21 October 2010 (12noon – 2pm) – **Volunteer Managers’ Forum**

(at Bield Housing, Bonnethill Gardens, Caldrum Terrace, Dundee, DD3 7HB)

22 October 2010 (all day) – **Fit for the Future Voluntary Sector Conference** (at Westpark Centre, Dundee). See separate article

25 November 2010 (10am -1pm) – **Volunteer Managers’ Training “Learning and Development for Volunteers”** (at Number Ten)

Cost: £25

08 December 2010 (12noon-2pm) – **Festive Volunteer Managers’ Forum** (at Number Ten)

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Finding a needle (volunteer) in a haystack

Have you ever needed volunteers for a one-off opportunity and you don't know where to start advertising? The Volunteer Centre now has an email list of over 1200 volunteers who have told us they would be interested in one-off volunteering opportunities.

Recently Signpost International was looking for some more helpers for their 'Big Leaflet Drop'. As well as contacting people who had helped before, they asked the Volunteer Centre to use our contacts. It only took a few minutes to get the invitation out by email and three brand new volunteers came forward to help on the day. Easy peasy.

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Are you one of Dundee's Volunteer Friendly organisations?

Volunteer Friendly is gathering pace as a recognised symbol of good practice in working with volunteers. Congratulations to the 22 holders of the award so far: *Action for Children; Brooksbank Centre & Services; The Corner; Dundee Healthy Living Initiative; Dundee Independent Advocacy Support; Hearing Voices Network; The Peer Education Project; St Mary's Community Facility; Tayside Foundation for the Conservation of Resources; Under 12's Project; Whitfield Inclusion Network Group; Xplore; Youth Sport Development Project; The Brae RDA Partnership; Body Positive Tayside; Dundee Community Transport; The Factory Skate Park; Mid-Lin Day Care; Home Start Dundee; Lead Scotland Dundee; Finmill Centre; Dundee Industrial Heritage Ltd.*

Have you signed up yet? Contact Philippa Lyttle on 01382 305705 or philippa@volunteerdundee.org.uk

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Across Scotland with Volunteer Friendly

First Dundee, then the world, well the other 31 volunteer centres in each of Scotland's local authority areas. Our SCVO/Big Lottery funded staff Hilary George and Pat Cosgrove have until September 2011 to spread our locally developed award scheme across Scotland.

So far four 'Start-up sessions' have now been delivered to 12 Volunteer Centres so they can offer the Volunteer Friendly Award in their areas. We are planning one more 'Start-up session' this year, in Elgin in October 2010, for staff in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Highlands and Islands and Moray areas. In the new year we will be offering further 'Start-up sessions' for any Volunteer Centre staff across Scotland who have been unable to attend so far.

Congratulations to the staff in the four Volunteer Centres now licensed to deliver the award:

- Lidia Dye and Alasdair Alexander in Perth (PKAVS)
- Sandra Stewart in Arbroath (Volunteer Centre Angus)
- Joanne Channing, Fiona Hutchison and Jennifer Kerr in Stirling (Volunteer Centre Stirling)
- Stephen Adamson, Sarah Ballantine, Ron Nugent and Thomas Scott in Fife (Volunteer Centre Fife).

Assessor training sessions are about to begin for these staff, the first one running in Dundee on 22 September 2010.

We're now following up enquiries from Volunteer Centres in England.

The Volunteer Friendly website at www.volunteerfriendly.org.uk continues to develop, including regular news bulletins and new examples being added to the toolkit regularly. Feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive and we are always glad to hear thoughts and ideas on how we can continue to improve it.

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Volunteer into Work

Volunteer Centre Dundee offers an additional support service to individuals who wish to use volunteering as a positive step towards improving their skills and employability.

As part of **Volunteer into Work** we will provide individuals with additional support to access volunteering should they require it. We will offer them:

- Assistance to make contact with organisations
- Make enquiries on their behalf
- Support to complete any application forms
- Accompany them on placement visits
- Support and follow-up once they have started to volunteer.

The Volunteer Centre is part of the **Dundee Employability Partnership** so we can also advise and refer volunteers to other support agencies if they wish to access education, training and employment.

The Partnership includes agencies that can assist with money advice, short courses, CVs and application forms, health problems, childcare and finding a job.

This support is optional and volunteering will not affect any benefits the volunteer may claim.

If you want to help us make a difference to unemployment contact **Fiona Bissett** on 01382 305705 or email fiona.bissett@volunteerdundee.org.uk

Make a Difference Day

CSV Make a Difference Day wants to make big changes to people's lives in Scotland but they can't do it without you!

CSV Make a Difference Day - the UK's largest day of volunteering - takes place on **Saturday 30 October 2010**. Community groups, businesses, schools, families and individuals will all take part to improve their local community and encourage others to volunteer.

Why not get involved by:

- Cleaning up your local area or planting trees, flowers and shrubs
- Organising a volunteering event with your family and friends
- Giving time at a local charity
- Starting a campaign for something you care about or help individuals who might benefit from your time

- Sharing your skills with someone who can learn from you
- Organising events like a community Halloween party

The **FREE CSV Make a Difference Day** handbook will give you helpful hints about how to get involved, organise your own project, recruit volunteers and interest local media.

All activities will receive a **FREE** Action Pack, which includes t-shirts, posters, balloons, stickers and volunteer certificates as well as helpful ideas about how you can make a difference.

To register an activity, request a handbook or get more information on the event call **CSV Make a Difference Day** on 0800 284 533, email difference@csv.org.uk or visit www.csv.org.uk/difference

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European Year of Volunteering

The goals of the European Year of Volunteering 2011 are as follows:

- To help create **a more volunteer-friendly environment**, with more people participating in civic activities throughout Europe.
- To enable **volunteer organisations to be a more effective force** – to make it easier for people to volunteer and to foster greater cooperation among volunteer organisations and other sectors throughout the EU.
- To encourage the **recognition and compensation of volunteering activities**.
- To increase awareness of **the value of volunteering to the economy and society** – volunteering is not only enriching for the individual, but it is also a valuable expression of civic engagement that makes a significant contribution to society.

Who will benefit and how?

- The European Year of Volunteering 2011 will enable **volunteers all over Europe** to meet and learn about best practices in each European country.
- Public **authorities, volunteer organisations and businesses** will learn more about volunteering and how to make it easier for people to contribute.
- **People who have never heard about volunteering** will learn to appreciate what volunteers do and might become volunteers themselves one day.

Check Volunteer Development Scotland for soon to be updated information www.vds.org.uk

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Other information

TCA moving premises on Monday 20 Sept to: The Wishart, 50 Constable St, Dundee DD4 6AD. Tel. 01382 456102. Email enquiries@alcoholtayside.com

DIAS is experiencing technical difficulties with its email service and until further notice can be contacted on diasdundee@btconnect.com

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Contact

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Telephone 01382 305705

Regular news and training details are posted on our website at www.volunteerdundee.org.uk

All earlier issues of the ebulletin available for download on the news page

Find out more about Volunteer Friendly at www.volunteerfriendly.org.uk

Volunteer Centre Dundee is registered in Scotland as a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in Scotland as Volunteer Centre Dundee SC 257436. Scottish Charity Number SC027529.

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