



AUGUST 2010

VolCanO



The Newsletter for Volunteer Coordinators and Organisers

VOLUNTEERING OSCARS 2010 ARE LAUNCHED

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The annual Volunteer Oscars for the Harrogate district are now open for nominations!

These awards pay tribute to and reward all those volunteers who do such amazing things in our community, and the search is on now to find the unsung heroes and heroines in our area.

The Oscars, in conjunction with the Ackrill Media Group and Councillor John Fox, are being supported by the Volunteer Centres, and we'd like you to nominate volunteers in your organisation who deserve a big thank you!

All nominated entrants will be invited to a special evening on 15 October at the Old Swan Hotel, with the winners being presented with an "Oscar" in addition to a beautiful carriage clock. The categories for the Oscars are:

Young Volunteer of the Year; Care Volunteer of the Year; Community Volunteer of the Year; Environment Volunteer of the Year; Sports Volunteer; Unsung Hero Award (Harrogate, Ripon, Nidderdale, Knaresborough/ Boroughbridge); New Volunteer of the Year; Organisation of the Year; Corporate Engagement Award; Volunteer of the Year and Lifetime Volunteer.

To nominate a member of your organisation, simply visit:

www.harrogateadvertiser.co.uk and click on the Volunteer Oscars mini site to nominate online. Alternatively, you can collect a nomination form from the Volunteer Centres, or call Ackrills on 01423 564321 for a form to be sent to you. Deadline for nominations is noon, September 20 2010 - so do it now before you go on your summer holidays and forget!

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VOLUNTEER RIGHTS INQUIRY INTERIM REPORT PUBLISHED

The findings of the Volunteer Rights Inquiry have been released today in a report published by Volunteering England. Whilst acknowledging the importance and benefits of volunteering, the report goes on to highlight a number of examples where volunteers have been mistreated or badly managed.

As well as pointing to the need for greater volunteer management and leadership within organisations, the report outlines several proposed options; including the establishment of an Independent Arbitration Service, Volunteer Complaints Commission or a Volunteering Ombudsman.

The Inquiry itself was set up as an independent group by Volunteering England after a number of people raised concerns that, when problems arise, volunteers have no rights in dealing with the organisations they give time to. It consists of volunteer managers, volunteer rights campaigners, large volunteer-involving organisations and existing regulators.

Having already held an evidence gathering exercise in drafting the current report, as a next step the Volunteer Rights Inquiry will be engaging with key stakeholders and organisations in order to discuss proposed options and agree a final 'call to action' later in the year.

Sukhvinder Kaur-Stubbs, on behalf of the Enquiry said:

“Members of the Volunteer Rights Inquiry heard from numerous volunteers recounting shocking stories of bad management, poor governance, bullying and improper behaviour. But the sheer scale and diversity of volunteering in its settings across the public, private and voluntary sectors, present some challenges in identifying a universal solution. In this report, our aim is to share the findings with those responsible for recruiting and resourcing volunteers. By working together, we are better placed to design solutions and fail-safes that are proportionate to the range of voluntary action, maintain the reciprocal nature of volunteering and which uphold parity of esteem between volunteers and paid staff.

The Volunteer Rights Inquiry report can be downloaded from Volunteering England's website at: www.volunteering.org.uk/volunteerrightsinquiry where you can also give feedback on the report and register for an engagement event taking place later in July.

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DIFFICULT TIMES AHEAD?

Volunteering England have called on the Government to 'place priority on the unique value of volunteering' following the Emergency Budget. Justin Davis Smith, CEO of Volunteering England, said "With significant spending reductions in most Government departments, difficult decisions will be made. The contribution of volunteers will be more important than ever in helping people cope with cuts in public services as well as cuts in benefits. Investment in volunteering must be protected to help people pull through in the tough times ahead."

However, as we are all starting to feel the impacts of spending cuts on services across the District, there is no doubt that the coming period is going to be one of great uncertainty, for both volunteers and service users as well as organisations.

If there are any issues affecting your organisation that we can help with, please don't hesitate to contact the Volunteer Centres in Harrogate and Ripon for further confidential advice and information.

Further Dates for FREE Volunteer Management Training— Book Now!

Following the information in the last issue of Volcano about FREE volunteer management training on offer from the Volunteer Centres, we have had an overwhelming response to requests from people wishing to take part. This is either on a one-to-one basis, or on the course of 5 sessions that we are running in September / October.

In fact, demand has been such for the 5 session course that we were fully booked within a matter of days, so have made a second series of dates available:

Tuesday 7th September - 10 - 1—The Volunteer Framework

Monday 13th September - 1 - 4— Recruiting Volunteers

Monday 27th September 1 - 4—The right person for the right Job

Wednesday 20th October 1 - 4— Support and Supervision

Tuesday 26th October 10—1—Dealing with Difficult Volunteers

To book your place email volunteer@harrogatecvs.org.uk or call 01423 509004 but act now as places are filling up fast!

FREE 2012 GAMES INSPIRATION AND RESOURCES

The 2012 games are not as far away as you may think (honestly!) and there are some great opportunities for organisations to be involved locally, in creating and promoting Games inspired volunteering opportunities.

What is a “Games Inspired Opportunity” you are probably thinking, and how on earth can it be relevant to the field in which my organisation works?

The answer is as easy as B-C-D-E -

- It's one that will **Benefit** your community now or in the future
- It will **Celebrate** the 2012 Games
- It will have a **Demonstrable** link with the 2012 Games
- And will be a practical **Expression** of the Games values of excellence, friendship and respect, and of the Paralympic values of courage, determination, inspiration and equality.

The easiest way to create Games inspired opportunities is to think about the values above, and how they can be linked into your organisation. How can you create opportunities to tap into the interest being generated nationally by the prospect of volunteering for the Olympics? Do you have existing roles that can be easily adapted? With only 70 000 opportunities for people to be directly involved, and already over 250 000 applications received, there are likely to be people in our area who are looking for other ways to be involved. Make sure you don't miss out! One story I heard was of an administrative position in a nursing home receiving the “Inspire Mark” from the Games Committee, so don't automatically think that the Olympic Legacy excludes you!

If you are interested in finding out more about being involved in the Games, and creating opportunities that are linked to and promoted as part of the Games, visit www.harrogatecvs.org.uk for more information and a free downloadable guide to getting started.