



LINKING COMMUNITIES'

NEWSLETTER

February 2004
Issue 4.1

What's happening on Friday 11 March 2005?

Voluntary and community organisations across Gloucestershire are being invited to attend the next event of the **Gloucestershire Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly**.

The Assembly was established just over a year ago to provide a voice and networking opportunities for the diverse range of organisations that exist in the County.

This event's theme is "Sustainability" and will allow small and larger organisations to explore ways of gaining and using resources most effectively through a series of presentations and workshops.

Further details about the event can be found in the flyer enclosed.

The event is being organised by the Partnership and Participation Team, steered by the local voluntary sector development agencies and is funded by Gloucestershire County Council.

The Partnership and Participation Team also has responsibility for the Compact – the agreement launched in May 2004 to improve the relationship between the voluntary and public sectors and facilitating sector representation on the Gloucestershire Strategic Partnership.

Partnership and Participation Team Leader, Hasnah Sheriff, who took up post last August says "2005 is going to be a busy and exciting year as the public and voluntary sector work together to develop and implement the Gloucestershire Compact and we also need to ensure that the voluntary and community sector has a strong and co-ordinated voice on the various strategic partnerships we are being asked to sit on"

If you or your organisation would like any further information about any of the above initiatives, please contact the Partnership and Participation Team on 01452 332424 or email Hasnah Sheriff, hasnah@gloucestercvs.org.uk or Roisin Harte roisin@gloucestercvs.org.uk

A BLACK & VISIBLE MINORITY ETHNIC NETWORK FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Funding News and Information

Please find below funding news and information about three local funders, the **Gloucestershire Community Foundation, BBC Children in Need and Zurich Cares**, who offer a range of funding grants that your organisation could apply for.

or darien.parkes@british-energy.com

Website : www.gloucestershirecommunityfoundation.co.uk

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You will also have the opportunity to meet all three funders at the **Capacity Building Programme 2005-6 and Funding Fair** which is a joint event organised by Linking Communities and CEMVO (Council for Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations).

BBC Children In Need Appeal gives grants to organisations working with disadvantaged children and young people aged 18 and under.

Particularly helping children who are disabled, ill or living in situations of abuse, neglect or distress, any kind of disability, behaviour or psychological problems and living in poverty or situations of deprivation.

The event is taking place on **Tuesday 8th March, 11:00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m. at the Trust Centre**. You can find further details of this event in the flyer enclosed or alternatively please call Varsha Patel.

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The Gloucestershire Community Foundation have just announced new funding grants including Sport Relief Programme and a further year's funding from the Local Network Fund that are available to voluntary and community organisations. Further information is included in this newsletter, or alternatively you can contact Darien Parkes or Sue Wright at the Foundation office on:

The next deadline for applying for funds is 30 March 2005. For further information please contact the regional office on 0117 974 6600 or log onto the website: www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey

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Zurich Cares offers a wide range of community programmes designed to help people move from dependence to independence for further information please contact Tony Martin at the Zurich Cares Community Affairs desk on:

Tel: 01452 656385 / 656386  
Email: [sue.wright@british-energy.com](mailto:sue.wright@british-energy.com)

Tel: 01452 221311  
Email: [tony.martin@uk.zurich.com](mailto:tony.martin@uk.zurich.com)

### Demonstrating Your Worth – building skills for useful evaluation

- Do you want to improve your funding opportunities?
- Do other agencies understand the value of your organisation's work?
- Do you really know what difference your organisation's work makes?
- Do you really struggle to collect the views of your service users?

Places are limited so please book your place as quickly as possible. Place are **Free** to small organisations and £25 for others.

For further information please contact the Evaluation Trust on 0117 968 011

\*All organisations must make a payment of £25 per organisation. For those organisations with an annual income of less than £70,000 your place will be **FREE OF CHARGE** if you attend the training.

If you answer Yes to any of the above questions the Evaluation Trust is offering a local programme of evaluation advice, support and training to build your skills.

### Health and Information session

A Health and Information session geared to older people is being held on Wednesday 30 March at St Catherine's Court, Wheatstone Road, Gloucester from 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. The Event is being organised by a number of

organisations including Barton and Tredworth Community Trust and Community Counts. For further information please contact Bren McInerney on 01452 544 933.

**LINKING  
COMMUNITIES**

Phone: 01452 308448  
Fax: 01452 504755

Charity Registration No.: 1087428

117 Barton Street  
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**Do you have Financial Management Skills?  
Do you have Strategic Planning skills?  
Or expertise within Marketing and Promotion?**

Linking Communities are currently seeking community members to be part of their existing management committee. We are looking for dynamic individuals who can bring skills and knowledge to the organisation.

If you are interested and would like to have a general chat please visit us at the Linking Communities offices or contact Shirley Palmer.



**Services On Offer...**

Linking Communities is a countywide organisation that provides support and advice to BME community and voluntary organisations. We provide a range of practical support services including:

- Funding advice on the latest funding initiatives, including helping you complete funding applications;
- Business Planning;
- Marketing and promoting your

organisation effectively; and,

- Advice on developing your community project.

We also provide a flexible service offering one-to-one advice sessions and we are more than happy to visit you at your community venue.

If you would like further information or a general chat please contact Varsha Patel.

**BME Code of Good Practice**

The next BME Code of Good Practice is taking place on Tuesday 1st March 2:00 pm—4:00 pm at Gloucester CVS, 75-81 Eastgate Street, Gloucester. If you would like further information

about the BME Code of Good Practice or would like to be part of the working group please contact Varsha Patel.

**Learning is Positive Plus Educational (LIPPE) Project**

The aim of the LIPPE project is to work with young people aged between 13 – 23 primarily from the African Caribbean, Mixed Heritage and Asian Communities.

The aims of the project are:

- To help beneficiaries of the project move into training, education or employment;
- To forge links with employers in the public and private sectors;
- To unlock additional and new funding for the project; and,
- To link with similar schemes in other parts of the country for the exchange of information and expertise.

have several volunteers from different ethnic backgrounds that have taken an interest in what we are trying to achieve with young people.

There are some new proposals for the LIPPE project starting in April 2005 with the development of ideas from young people, about where and what they would like to see implemented with their help. The involvement of young people on the Support Group and Management committee will be of great support when applying for other grant applications in the future. We are also producing future film or video project in one or more schools with BME young people taking the lead and playing a pivotal role in highlighting the situation which deteriorates our young people from the BME community.

Over the past 11 months young people from BME community groups and their parents have participated in the LIPPE project. We also now

For further information about the LIPPE Project please contact Errol Patterson.

**The BBC People's War Diversity Project: Can you help?**

We are writing to tell you about, and to invite your organisation to contribute to, an exciting new multimedia project with a special focus on the county's multicultural communities being launched by BBC Gloucestershire.

Our aim? To involve as many groups and individuals as possible in collecting for posterity the wartime memories of community elders for the BBC People's War Diversity Project.

The People's War is an ambitious BBC project to create the biggest-ever online archive of personal memories of the Second World War, so future generations will know what life was like in every community and every walk of life, from frontline to Home Front.

To ensure this project fully reflects the diversity of British life and culture, the BBC Learning Centre, Gloucester, is leading a drive to gather more stories from the multicultural community about how the war affected

their elders, whether living in Britain or elsewhere at the time. We are looking for ways to engage all age-groups and involve members of all Gloucestershire's BME communities in this project and would welcome your ideas and suggestions on how we can take this forward.

We need to collect as many stories, memories and photographs as possible by the end of March 2005 so that we can produce an audio series for broadcast on BBC Radio Gloucestershire, plus video diaries and online features to publish on our website [www.bbc.co.uk/gloucestershire/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/gloucestershire/) as well as the BBC People's War website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/ww2/> in time to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Ideally, we would want to celebrate this with a local exhibition too.

If you would like to get involved or would like further information please contact Simon Williams, BBC Gloucestershire on 01452 307 093.

**Welfare Benefits Take-up Campaign**

Last year in June 2004, the Welfare Benefits Take-up Campaign put a funding application to the Partnership Fund (Pension Service) to do Benefit Take-up for 60 and over. I am pleased to say that we have been successful in our bid and have been given a 2 year contract to start from March 2005 till February 2007. We were one of two organisations in Gloucestershire who got the funding. This is a great achievement for Gloucester City.

This campaign aims to address pensioner poverty by targeting hard to reach groups such as; members of the black & ethnic minority (BME), people with disabilities and those who are isolated and or housebound to claim their full entitlements to benefits. The project will use a range of innovative

approaches that work with the voluntary and statutory sector to reach those who are most isolated and also have a long term impact in Gloucestershire.

The Welfare Benefits Take-up Campaign would like to hear from Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) groups who would be able to assist in this project, as we will be providing training to groups to carry out benefit take-up work and form filling in their area. We will be able to pay volunteers to carry out this work.

For further information, please contact Mohamed Ginwalla on Gloucester (01452) 396979 or e-mail [MohamedG@gloucester.gov.uk](mailto:MohamedG@gloucester.gov.uk)