



Nithsdale Council
of Voluntary
Service

NCVS News

'Your local community and voluntary sector support organisation'

October 2008

Dear Nithsdale CVS members,

I am pleased to advise that Nithsdale CVS has become one of only 4 CVS in Scotland to achieve accredited licensed PQASSO Mentor status from the Charities Evaluation Service, who developed and own the trademark and intellectual rights to PQASSO.

PQASSO is the acronym for **Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations**. This system is increasingly being seen by funders and stakeholders as the preferred quality assurance system for the voluntary sector. Funders are beginning to cite PQASSO as a requirement for organisations applying for grants. For example Perth & Kinross Council has moved to requiring all voluntary sector organisations applying for grants over £15,000 p.a. to have PQASSO in place.

Two key features of PQASSO are; a) it is a self assessment system which means it is more cost effective for voluntary organisations to implement and; b) it has been specifically developed by the voluntary sector for the voluntary sector so is more fit for purpose than other systems i.e. Investor in People etc. A kite mark externally assessed PQASSO version is being developed by Charities Evaluation Service as an option for organisations in England & Wales but this is not as yet being developed for Scotland.

If you would like more information about PQASSO please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to seeing members at the Charities Fayre being held on Saturday, 1st November 2008 at DG1 from 11am to 3pm. We have 60 stalls booked this year so it should be a busy day!

I also hope to see members at the Nithsdale CVS A.G.M.

Karen Lewis

Director

Nithsdale Third Sector Forum Update

The first meeting was held on 23rd October 2008 and an initial action plan was agreed.

The Forum is open to any community or voluntary sector organisation that provides services in Nithsdale.

If you would like to be involved or included in this new partnership network contact Katrina at NCVS on 01387 269161 or email info@ncvs.org.uk

Look out for regular updates and future meeting dates info in the NCVS newsletter!



Nithsdale Council of Voluntary
Service

A.G.M

**Tuesday 11th Nov 2008
at 6.30pm**

The Moreig Hotel
Annan Road
Dumfries

*Refreshments available from 6.00pm
Copies of the Annual Report & Accounts are
available prior to the meeting.*

All members welcome

aliverodio
Festival

Friday 7th November
7.30pm

OG One Leisure
Centre, Dumfries

Comedian
Syd Little
(from Little & Large)

acts from local Churches
The Walking Free Mens' Choir
musicians added from Oranford

In aid of Aliverodio - community made for Dumfries

*Locharbriggs Community Centre Association
Fund Raising Event*

Scottish Variety Concert
Locharbriggs Community Centre
TUESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

7.30PM

Tickets

£3.50 Adults ** £1.50 Children**

Includes Half Time Refreshments

Available from John Caskie 01387 710975

Proceeds to Centre Funds

ERADICATING CHILD POVERTY IN SCOTLAND

According to the recently released Scottish Households Below Average Income statistics, there are currently 210,000 children in low income households and an additional 120,000 children suffering from absolute poverty in Scotland.

In 1998, both the Scottish and UK Government pledged to eradicate child poverty by 2020. While some progress has been made, we are running the risk of not being able to meet these ambitious targets. Where do we go from here? What actions can we take now to get back on track to meeting these targets and keeping up the good work undertaken so far?

Attend this one day event and consider how we can embed the child poverty agenda in Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) and improve the take up of tax credits and benefits. Examine how best those in Government in Scotland can work with policymakers in London to make use of all economic levers available to us to eradicate child poverty by 2020. The key issues the conference will consider include:

- Embedding the child poverty agenda in the Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs)
- Identifying and overcoming barriers to sustained employment
- Improving the take up of tax credits and benefits
- How Holyrood and Westminster can work together to achieve the eradication of child poverty
- Areas of multiple deprivation and rural poverty
- The role of gender in child poverty
- Poverty in the school holidays
- Fuel poverty for children and families

Venue: Radisson SAS, 301 Argyle Street, Glasgow, G2 8DL

If you have any questions, please email
childpoverty@holyrood.com or call us on 0131 272 2133.



Digital UK has announced that the digital switchover the Caldbeck transmitter and all its dependant relays, serving south-west Scotland, will start on 24 June 2009 and conclude on 22 July 2009.

The Help Scheme will start operations in the area very soon to offer practical help to all those older people and disabled people who are eligible for assistance.

Digital UK are keen to work with local government, community councils and any local charities and voluntary organisations prepared to help them to spread the word about digital switchover amongst their regular clients and local communities. If you know of any organisations who are yet to meet with a member of the Digital UK team, and you feel would benefit from more detailed information, please call **08456 50 50 50**

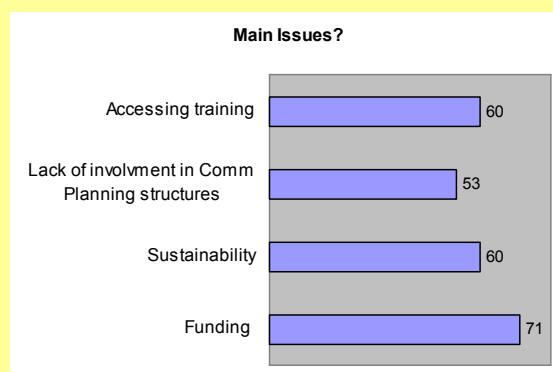
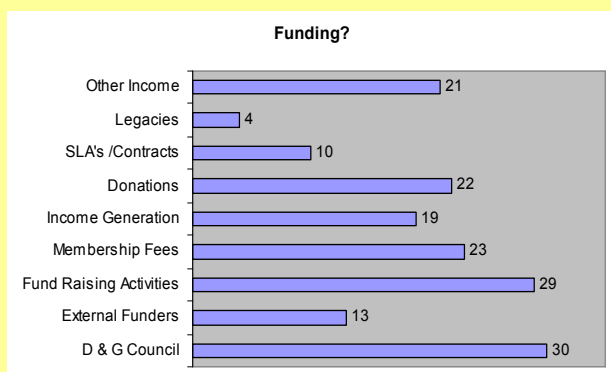
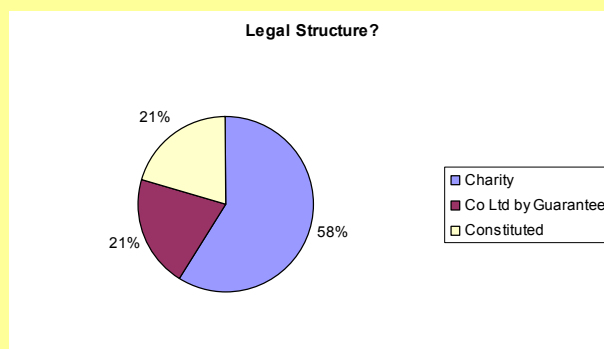
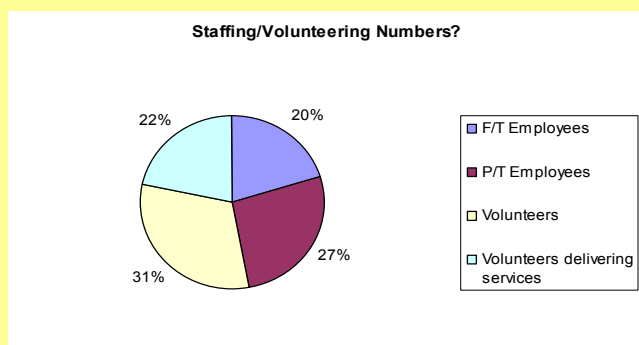
NITHSDALE CVS MEMBERS SURVEY 2008

Many thanks to all our members who participated in our annual survey. The full survey results will be available on the Nithsdale CVS website at www.ncvs.org.uk from 7th November 08.

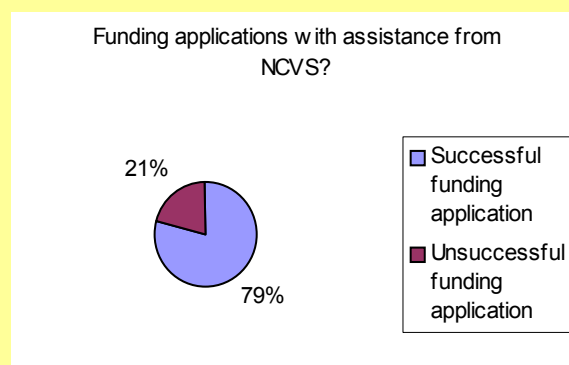
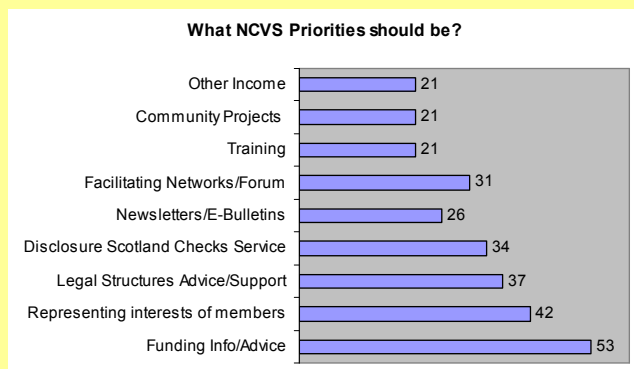
Key findings:

91 member organisations completed the survey from our 254 membership which gives a 36% response rate.

We asked a range of questions about our member organisations such as; their legal structure? how many staff/volunteers were involved? where their main sources of funding came from? what were the main issues facing their organisation?



We then asked member organisations what they thought NCVS priorities should be? If we had helped with funding applications how many had been successful?



The Scottish Government Central Heating Programme

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Well-being announced on 18th October 2008, additional funding was to be invested in the Scottish Government's Central Heating Programme this year to provide more central heating systems.

It was also announced that as from 27th October 2008 the prioritisation will be extended to cover the following pensioner households;

- those who have never had a central heating system;
- those who have a system that is broken beyond repair and are in receipt of the Guarantee Element of Pension Credit;
- those who have a system that is broken beyond repair and are aged 75 or over;
- those who have a partial or inefficient system and are in receipt of the Guarantee Element of pension Credit; and
- those who have a partial or inefficient system and are aged 80 or over.

The Cabinet Secretary also revealed that from April next year it is intended that the government's fuel poverty programmes are extended to include families on income support with children under five or with disabled children under 16.

For more information go to

www.scottishgas.co.uk/scotland

NCVS Members - NCVS carries out Disclosure Checks for the community and voluntary sector in Nithsdale on behalf of CRBS (Criminal Records Bureau Scotland)

For more information contact:

Suzanne Lafferty
on 01387 269161

suzanne.lafferty@ncvs.org.uk

THE HUNT FOR FUNDING!

Nithsdale CVS members do you know we have access to specialist software computer packages containing information on over 2,500 funders?

Nithsdale CVS can help you make a tailored search for a funder using this system which could assist your organisation in the hunt for funding!

To learn more about this service or to make an appointment to discuss your funding situation contact our Information & Training Advisor:

Katrina Branney
on 01387 269161

Email: katrina.branney@ncvs.org.uk

NITHSDALE CVS IS FACILITATING THE FOLLOWING TRAINING FOR NORTH WEST RESOURCE CENTRE

Your are invited to
MAKING GOOD FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Wednesday 5th November
North West Resource Centre
1pm - 4pm

Funder Finder *What are funders looking for?*

To book your free place
contact Debbie on 279279

How to write
good applications



Calling all Social Enterprises

Consultation meeting with Business People on the New Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement for Dumfries & Galloway 2009/10

Wednesday 19th November
Johnston room, Aston Hotel, Dumfries
5.30pm for a 6.00pm start to 8.30pm
Teas and coffees will be available from 5.30pm

If you would like to register to take part in the consultation meeting, please contact D&G Chamber of Commerce on 01387 270866 or email admin@dgchamber.co.uk

Nithsdale Council of Voluntary Service

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Old Assembly Close
Irish Street
Dumfries
DG1 2PH

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Website: www.ncvs.org.uk Email: info@ncvs.org.uk

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm (closed 1pm–2pm)

Director: Karen Lewis

Administrator: Suzanne Lafferty

Information & Training Advisor: Katrina Branney

Walking Works Co-ordinator: Vicky Vivers
(Dumfries & Lower Nithsdale)

Walking Works Co-ordinator: Graham Banks
(Mid and Upper Nithsdale)

Access to Work Co-ordinator: Ronnie Johnstone

Office Support Worker: Jeanette Murray

NCVS is a member of the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and works in partnership with other local CVS. NCVS is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland no: 81362 Charity no: SC008201

