



Basildon, Billericay & Wickford | CVS

Supporting our local charities



Support

Develop

Collaborate

Influence



Voluntary Sector News – Spring 2017

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Welcome to the latest BBWCVS newsletter. You can download a copy of this edition and previous editions online in our member area. Please visit www.bbwcvs.org.uk

We hope that you make time to read this edition (and pass it on to other staff/volunteers) although we know that pressure on time is one of the biggest issues you face. That is why we are continually looking at ways on how we can improve this newsletter. So if you have any suggestions or ideas please let us know.

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THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER! Do you have anything that you want to say or promote?

If YES, then send your articles to the CVS Office (admin@bbwcvs.org.uk) and we'll include them in the next edition. (We reserve the right to refuse any item).

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Welcome to the Spring Edition of our newsletter. I did check and apparently Spring differs depending on whether you are using the meteorological or astronomical seasons.

In this edition we include our latest funding updates, volunteering news and the latest VCS diary.

Building a Shared Society

Nationally, the news continues to be dominated by Brexit, the Budget and now Scotland. You may therefore have missed the Prime Minister's welcome contribution to the debate to the role of voluntary and community organisation in the recent speech to the Charity Commission.



In the speech the Prime Minister stressed that working with charities, campaign groups and social enterprises is key to her agenda. As a result she has dropped the previous government's gagging clause – a tool that prevented charities in receipt of government grants from giving policy advice to government based on vulnerable people's experiences.

Whilst some will remain sceptical, for others it will be a relief that this Prime Minister has promised to be a "supporter" and "champion" of the sector at a time when it feels it has few friends.

Against this backdrop a recent survey of charity leaders reveal that one in five UK charities are 'struggling to survive'. Charity leaders are reported to be less confident this year about facing rising demand for services as the financial climate gets tougher.

"The research, shows that more than a third of charities had to dip into their reserves last year to cover a shortfall in income"

Source

The figure for smaller charities is more stark with more than a quarter "struggling to survive" in the face of growing demand and a tough financial climate.

The [survey of UK charity chief executives](#) published on 28 February by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), has revealed that 18% of all UK charities fear for the future of their organisation, rising to 28% of charities with an annual income of less than £1m. The research, shows that more than a third of charities had to dip into their reserves last year

to cover a shortfall in income, with 34% of the charity leaders in the survey saying that reductions in public and government funding is their biggest challenge.

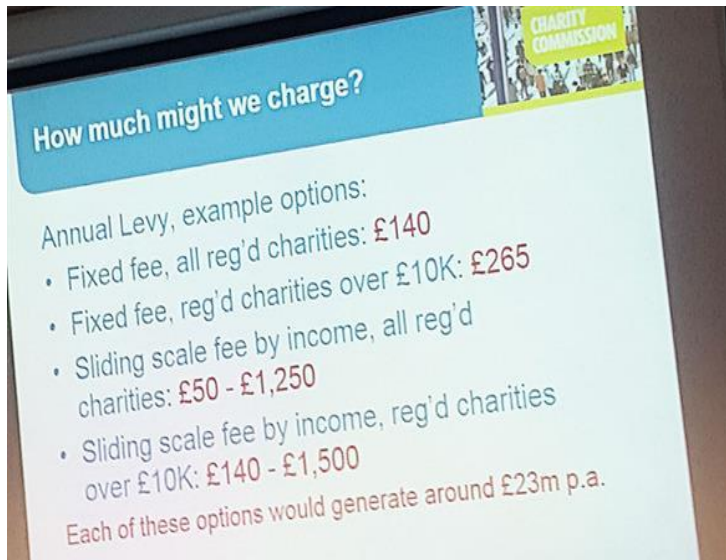
You can read more on this research published by the Charities Aid Foundation at <http://bit.ly/2mznjkJ>

As a CVS we are committed to undertaking a state of the sector report to assess the local position, so watch out for this.

Charity Commission gets Treasury go-ahead to consult on charging charities

A letter to the Lords Select Committee on Charities from William Shawcross and Paula Sussex, Chair and Chief Executive of the regulator, says a Charity Commission consultation on charities will be launched 'shortly'.

Whilst the scope of the consultation has yet to be published, early indications suggest that the Commission is looking at several possible mechanisms for charging charities for its services. This money will then be used to address its own funding shortfall as its funding has been roughly halved in real terms since 2008 to £20.3m a year.



Ideas previously mooted included a fixed annual fee of £140 for all registered charities and a sliding scale that would involve the largest charities paying £1,500 a year.

Unsurprisingly perhaps, charities have previously expressed overwhelmingly opposition to the plans.

Budget 2017 and the VCSE Sector

The final element of national policy round up relates to the Budget 2017. Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond has delivered the final Spring Budget before it moves to an autumn event later this year.

As expected, the Chancellor offered little in the way of direct support for the sector, making no specific references to charities, social enterprises or the sector in general during his speech.

However, a number of commitments were made including £20 million to be made available to tackle domestic violence and abuse against women and girls; and a range of women's charities across the UK will collectively benefit from £12 million as previously announced in the Autumn Statement. The list of charities will be published before the end of March 2017.

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chancellor also announced £5 million for projects to celebrate the Representation of the People Act 1918 - the centenary of women first getting the vote - and to educate young people about its significance.

While an extra £2 billion was announced for adult social care over the next three years, this figure is less than the £1.5 billion the cross-party Communities and Local Government Committee found was needed this year alone.

Charities may potentially benefit from the £300 million fund to provide discretionary relief on business rates.

The Spring Budget 2017 document is available on the GOV.UK [website](#).



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We are able to give funding advice and support on funding opportunities and approaches to fundraising.

This includes:

- **FREE** access to NCVO's Funding Central identifying possible sources of funding.
- Developing and discussing funding strategies.
- Commenting on and helping with draft applications.
- Identifying and monitoring outcomes in a straightforward way.
- Exploring the best way of improving your organisation's financial sustainability.
- Identifying other useful free funding search engines to assist you in your exploration for funding.

We offer this support either at face-to-face meetings, by phone and/or by email. We have good relationships with local funders and we can also help you review applications that have been unsuccessful or help clarify any issues or problems that crop up.

For further assistance please contact Catherine Sackey on 01268 294439 or email catherine@bbwcvcs.org.uk.

Arts and Heritage funding

For the past five months Nesta has been running [a pilot programme](#) to see if matched crowdfunding - that is funding bodies combining grant funding with multiple financial contributions from the crowd - can stimulate exciting and dynamic new projects in the arts and heritage sectors.



The match funding available is now 50 per cent of the campaign total for applicants to the fund on projects aiming to raise between £4,000 and £40,000.

Therefore, between **£2,000 and £20,000** is available per project, depending on their crowdfunding target.

Funding is available on condition that projects hit their originally stated target.

The funding is now available to all donations and rewards based projects that meet the basic eligibility requirements on Crowdfunder.

Sport England Offers Funding for Volunteering Through Sport

Sport England has launched two new one-off funds to support Sport England's new strategy (Volunteering in an Active Nation) which aims to get more people engaged in all types of volunteering through sport and physical activity.

FUNDING

Organisations can apply to the following:

- The **Opportunity Fund** aims to get people aged 20 years and older from economically disadvantaged communities to volunteer. The funding is for projects that benefit people facing disadvantage as a result of the community they live in – and that allow them to make a positive contribution to those communities. Projects could range from inner-city areas with high levels of crime and social exclusion to remote rural areas with few services.
- The **Potentials Fund** aims to create more opportunities that get people helping others from an early age. Projects should target children and young people between the ages of 10 and 20 years (particularly those between the ages of 10 to 14 years) who are interested in doing something to benefit their community through social action. Sport England is 'keen to test bold new approaches' to get young people involved in social action that includes sport and physical activity, especially those who haven't been involved in sport previously.

Both funds offer grants of between £50,000 and £150,000 which are available over three years. There is a two stage application process. The application deadline for expressions of interest (stage one applications) is 24 April 2017 (12 noon).



Full details, including Sport England's strategy (Volunteering in an Active Nation), can be found on the Sport England [website](#).

Greggs Foundation Launches Round 2 of its Local Community Projects Fund

The Greggs Foundation uses the money raised from the 5p levy on carrier bag sales in Greggs shops to provide grants to small not-for-profit organisations for projects that make a difference to local areas. Although any size organisation can apply, the Foundation is more likely to fund those with an income of £300,000 or less.

Grants of up to £2,000 are available for projects and providing equipment for people in need at the heart of local communities. Eligible organisations should be working with those who are:

- Disabled or suffering chronic illness.
- Living in poverty.
- Voluntary carers.
- Homeless.
- Isolated older people.
- In significant, demonstrable need.

Eligible projects should be able to show that they meet at least one of the following Key Performance Targets for their beneficiaries:

- Decreased social isolation.

FUNDING

- Improved health and wellbeing.
- Improved resilience/coping mechanisms.
- Improved life skills.
- Improved opportunities.

Projects should improve resilience within a community of interest and can include sessional activities/respite support, equipment for sessional activities, trips and residential breaks. The Foundation is also interested in new approaches and innovative ideas as well as sustainable approaches to supporting the community of interest.



There are two funding rounds per year. The deadline for round two applications is 24 June 2017. Groups will be notified if the Foundation is unable to accept applications.

Further information is available on the Greggs

Foundation [website](#).

UnLtd awards

The Do It Awards from UnLtd provide support and funding packages for individuals to run projects that have a positive social impact and have the scope to become financially sustainable.

To apply you must be an individuals aged 16 or over, live in the UK, are not part of an established organisation seeking funding for projects that:

- Have a real social impact
- Fulfil a clear need and demand
- Have clear outputs and goals
- Provide a learning experience or opportunity.



The maximum grant is discretionary.

Deadline: 27 March and 3 August 2017.

Services for Unpaid Family Carers in Essex (not Southend and Thurrock)

ECC is currently recommissioning services to support unpaid family carers in Essex (over the age of 18yrs) with a view to having a new service/s in place by 1st April 2018.

They will be undertaking a tender process to secure these services later in the year however, we wanted to make you aware that they will be hosting a market engagement event on 5th April 2017, 10am to 12noon in Chelmsford to test the potential model with providers.



If you would like further details about the event, please send an email to Simon Evans (Simon.evans@essex.gov.uk) to be added to the list for further information as and when it becomes available.

The Veolia Environmental Trust

The Veolia Environmental Trust provides grant funding to community and environmental projects in England and Wales through the Landfill Communities Fund, using money provided by Veolia. In the 20 years since it was established, the Trust has awarded more than £68 million to more than 3,000 projects.

The Trust will consider applications from constituted not-for-profit organisations with a bank account that have a project that addresses at least one of the following categories:

- Community buildings and rooms, including community centres, village halls, community spaces within religious buildings, and Scout or Girlguiding buildings.
- Outdoor Spaces, including public parks, nature reserves, community gardens, footpaths, bridleways and cycle-paths.
- Play and recreation, including play areas, skateparks, Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs), sports grounds, pavilions and changing rooms.
- Supporting Biodiversity, including the species related element of a BAP (national or local), the habitat related element of a BAP or HAP (national or local), and reintroduction programmes to a specific habitat.

The funding is to be used for capital improvement projects taking place at a single site.

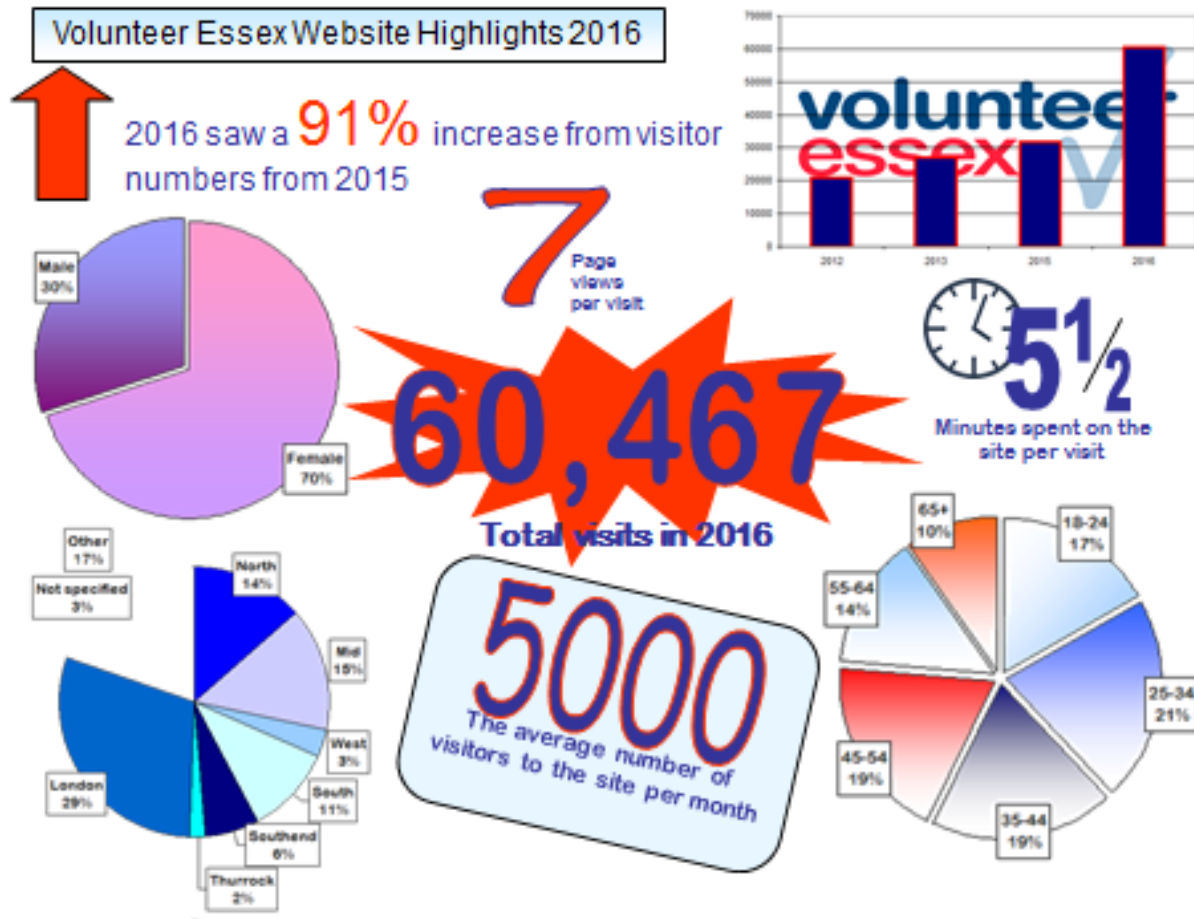
Grants of up to £75,000 are available to cover 80% of a project's total cost. Match funding of at least 20% is required. Groups requesting grants of £40,000 or more are required to provide a Third Party Contribution.

The next deadline for stage one applications is 25 May 2017 (noon).

Further information, including the postcode checker, can be found on the Veolia Environmental Trust [website](#).

VOLUNTEERING

The Volunteer Essex website continues to grow. The infographic below highlights this impact. If you want to fill your volunteering opportunities feel free to contact Emily at Volcentre@bbwcvcs.org.uk or call 01268 294420.



Our thanks to Sarah at Maldon CVS for compiling this data.

Volunteers' Week 2017: You make the difference

Volunteers' Week, the annual celebration of volunteering in the UK led by NCVO, will be on 1-7 June 2017. The campaign encourages organisations to tell volunteers about the impact of their commitment, and to inspire others to think how they can get involved.

The Volunteer Managers Forum has started discussions about ideas for this year so if you are interested in participating please let contact Emily on 01268 294420 or email Volcentre@bbwcvcs.org.uk

A NEW ANALYSIS OF VOLUNTEER BEHAVIOUR

Whilst on the theme of volunteering, you may be aware that the the Office for National Statistics has the recently released its latest volunteering data. A useful analysis of the latest headline data has been provided by the NCVO in a blog by Nick Ockenden, Head of research at NCVO. (16 March 2017)

It concludes that overall rates of volunteering are still high, steady and that volunteering is “resilient”. He suggests that “we should recognise that volunteering is a core part of our society that’s embedded in many, many people’s everyday behaviour”. The blog identifies a number of other issues including young people giving more.

Volunteers giving less time

Potentially one of the most interesting findings was that volunteers are spending less time volunteering, drawing data from the Time Use survey. It suggests that we “would do well to turn more of our attention to how we can best support, manage and retain existing volunteers, alongside recruiting new ones”.

Young people are doing more

Nick has previousl blogged about recent increases in volunteering by younger people last year (a rise which has since levelled off). The new data adds more to this trend.

The analysis found that just over half of those aged 16-24 volunteered for an average of 17 minutes a day, the highest of all age groups in terms of both average the time spent volunteering and overall rates of engagement. But it also managed to pull out some interesting things about the behaviour of students, who were more likely to volunteer and would spend more time volunteering than people in paid work. He concludes that it does show a highly-engaged group of young people and suggests an important role for schools, colleges and universities in facilitating volunteering.

What should volunteer-involving organisations do now?

The analysis helpfully concludes with a number of idaeas for what we can do now.

Firstly, take a look at the opportunities you offer volunteers and ask yourself how flexible they really are.

Secondly, explore some of the good practice about how to involve volunteers in new ways (family volunteering in the National Trust and micro-volunteering spring to mind) and ask whether you could do anything similar.

And thirdly, kick off a debate about volunteer management within your organisation. To what extent are you geared up to respond to the changing way in which people are volunteering, particularly if these trends continue?

[See NCVO Blogs for more....](#)

Public Health and the Voluntary Sector

The Local Government Association (LGA) has published a [report](#) in conjunction with Volunteering Matters highlighting where public health is successfully working with the voluntary sector across the country.

Catchily entitled "Public health working with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector: new opportunities and sustainable change" champions the need for supporting local voluntary sector infrastructure, stating they are "central to the VCSE relationship with public health" and contribute "massively to an extended role in service delivery".

It also includes good examples of how NAVCA members - such as Sefton CVS, Tower Hamlets CVS and Nova Wakefield - have enabled the voice of the local communities and voluntary groups to be heard at a strategic level.

Please feel free to share this report with your networks and let's celebrate this example of good collaborative working.



CONSULTATION

Have you recently visited A&E in Basildon, Chelmsford or Southend?

[HWE Insights](#) is conducting a research project which focuses on urgent and emergency care in Essex. The research aims to identify and understand what factors influence a person to visit A&E, and seeks to examine people's views on the proposed changes.

The [Essex Success Regime](#) has plans to change how urgent care services are delivered across the three hospitals (Basildon, Broomfield and Southend). The findings from this study will feed into the formal consultation process, helping to shape how the proposed changes will be implemented.

We're looking for people who have used A&E services in the last 2 months to take part in group discussions. During the group discussions participants will be asked questions about their experiences and opinions of urgent and emergency care, and the affects of the proposed changes. We expect the group meeting to last approximately 4 hours, including breaks and refreshments. We will randomly select participants so you may or may not be contacted to take part. Each participant will receive a £40 voucher in appreciation of their time and to cover any travel expenses. These meetings will take place at:

1. Basildon, Saturday 1st April, 10am – 1pm, Location TBC
2. Chelmsford, Tuesday 4th April, 5pm – 8pm, Location TBC
3. Southend, Saturday 8th April, 10am – 1pm, Location TBC

To take part in this study, you should live in Essex, be over 18, and have visited Basildon, Broomfield or Southend hospital A&E in the last 2 months. To register your interest in taking part please complete the form below:

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Brentwood Community Print CIC

are very proud to announce that they have been awarded a grant of £28,057 from Healthwatch Essex Fund and £5,552 from Malcolm and Beryl Crook Fund.

This grant will support an Essex Community Tree initiative to provide information and advice for people with mental health issues over 18 months

Our aim will be to strengthen the Brentwood Community Tree and create a County-wide network of Community Trees.

We are also very grateful to Brentwood Borough Council, who, in support, have this month, distributed 28,000 Community Tree leaflets to every household in Brentwood .

Having easier access to local mental health information will hopefully enable people to seek help earlier and avoid mental health crises.

Job opportunities:

New part time posts will be created for this project and anyone who feels they would like to apply for either the role of Project Facilitator or Project Assistant

please email audrey@brentwoodcommunityprint.org.uk with **ESSEX COMMUNITY TREE** in the subject line.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

VCS Calendar Forthcoming Events

South Essex Childrens Partnership Board Stakeholder Event

31st March at Wickford Collaborative Learning Centre (The Bromfords School & Sixth Form, Grange Avenue, Wickford, Essex SS12 0LZ from 9.30 to 12

The event is an opportunity to hear about what the partnership has been doing over the previous year and help inform the future direction. This coming year there will be on-going and new challenges and as a result it is even more important that partners work collaboratively to use resources as effectively as possible.

The event will be looking forward to new opportunities e.g. the new Pre-birth to 19 service, the development of Community Safety Hubs and other joint Community projects. If you wish to attend the event, it is great opportunity to network, please contact liz.martlew@essex.gov.uk as soon as possible

BASILDON MAYFEST

Saturday 13th May 2017

Basildon Town Square

between 9 am and 5.00 pm

Come and see local Charity and Community Groups in the Town Centre

Time to find out what is going on in the Basildon Community!



Organised by The Rotary Club of Basildon Concord



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

3rd Sector futures - Thinking on purpose event

What is the future for Essex: its people, its communities, and those working to make things better?

Speakers include Charlie Leadbeater, author and expert on frugal innovation, social entrepreneurship and the new economy, and Dan Corry (New Philanthropy Capital).

Friday 31 March, 10am-1pm. Fee of £10 - Included lunch and welcome coffee

For more details contact karen.smallwood@anglia.ac.uk



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

VCS Calendar Forthcoming Events

VCS Event Diary/Calendar 2017		
Date	Event	Contact
Wed 29 March 1-4pm	Basildon Disability Equality Forum St George's Suite	
31 March 9.30-12.	South Essex Children's Partnership Board Stakeholder Event Wickford Collaborative Learning Centre Grange Avenue, Wickford, Essex SS12 0LZ	
13 May 9-5	Basildon Mayfest, Basildon Town Square 9-5pm	
Wed 24 May 1-4pm	Basildon Disability Equality Forum St George's Suite	
Wed 21 June 10-12.30pm	Basildon CVS Networking Forum Committee Room 2 at the Basildon Centre, St. Martin's Square	Catherine@bbwc vs.org.uk 01268 294439
Tues 4 July 1-4pm	Basildon Disability Equality Forum Civic Centre Room 2	
Wed 13 Sept 10-12.30pm	Basildon CVS Networking Forum Committee Room 2 at the Basildon Centre, St. Martin's Square	Catherine@bbwc vs.org.uk 01268 294439
Wed 20 Sept 1-4pm	Basildon Disability Equality Forum Civic Centre Room 2	
Thurs 16 Nov	Basildon CVS Annual General Meeting	Chris@bbwcvs.org.uk
Wed 22 Nov 1-4pm	Basildon Disability Equality Forum Civic Centre Room 2	
Mon 11 Dec 10-12.30pm	Basildon CVS Networking Forum Committee Room 2 at the Basildon Centre, St. Martin's Square	Catherine@bbwc vs.org.uk 01268 294439

To book a place or for further information please use the identified contact.
This calendar will be regularly updated throughout the year, so if you have events you wish to add please let us know.

Contact Us

For more information on articles in this bulletin or to advertise an event, training or information about your organisation in our next bulletin, please call 01268 294124 or email admin@bbwcvs.org.uk