

## NEWS FROM HASTINGS VOLUNTARY ACTION

### Finding A Voice for Health

**healthwatch**  
East Sussex



**NHS**  
*Hastings and Rother  
Clinical Commissioning Group*

This

#### Hastings Community Network Event

is scheduled for:

**Thursday 11th July, 9.30am – 1.30pm**

St. John's Parish Hall, Brittany Road, St. Leonards on Sea, TN38 0RD

**A chance to get your voice heard in a new joint HCN collaboration with Healthwatch East Sussex (delivered by East Sussex Community Voice), and Hastings & Rother Clinical Commissioning Group.**

The event aims to inform and engage with VCS Organisations from Hastings and Rother on the work and statutory powers of Healthwatch East Sussex such as 'Enter & View' (and how you can get involved), and the role of the Hastings & Rother Clinical Commissioning Group and their community engagement plans.

- Receive an update from the local Clinical Commissioning Group about their community engagement plans.
- Healthwatch East Sussex wants to hear about your experience of health and social care services, whether these are positive, criticisms or improvement suggestions.

#### **You will also hear information about:**

- Enter and View powers.
- The Advocacy Service.
- How your information will be used to influence local and national commissioners and decision makers.
- The information and signposting and helpline services.

**Book your place via HVA's website:**

**[www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/hcnevent](http://www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/hcnevent)**

**or call Carolyn Jackson on 01424 444010.**

## Clean Seas Please!

Did you know that in 2015 the new standards for the quality of our sea bathing water, set by the EU, will come into force?

Do you know what effect that may have?

We believe that the sea and beaches of Hastings and Bexhill play a vital role in our community and economy. We want to not only meet the new targets but exceed them and become Blue Flag beaches if we can rather than have beaches with warning signs that the water is not safe to bathe in.

To help us do this, HVA and RVA are working together on an 18 month project, funded by the Environment Agency, called "Clean Seas Please".

In order to make a change we all need to consider what we dispose of through the drainage system. It's very easy to pop things other than toilet paper and human waste into the toilet and flush them away, or scrape used fat and food waste into the sink, without worrying what happens after that.

Some of our waste water does not go through a treatment process, this should just be rain water. However in some premises waste water, for example from dishwashers and washing machines, is connected to the wrong pipe meaning that the dirty water, food waste and bacteria flow straight out to sea. Thinking about our actions and altering the way we behave will change the bacterial content of the sea water and help us achieve that Blue Flag status.

Our campaign will start on Saturday 13th July at St. Leonards Festival and we will be attending other events throughout the summer.

Look out for the website and Facebook pages, sign up and follow our twitter and blog – all coming soon.

For more information contact Jan Cutting:

[jan.cutting@rothervoluntaryaction.org.uk](mailto:jan.cutting@rothervoluntaryaction.org.uk)

or telephone 01424 217259.

## Adult Social Care Event

Hastings Voluntary Action in collaboration with the East Sussex County Council's Adult Social Care Department organised a workshop in Hastings with local community leaders, public service providers and neighbourhood groups.



As part of a county-wide roadshow the event looked at how community resilience could be fostered and the support local organisations needed to deliver services promote volunteering and foster a sense of community.

Over 50 organisations were represented and were able to offer their views about needs in their community and how to build on the strengths of neighbourhood work.

A report will be compiled summarising the information which came out of the five workshops held across the County and this will be published in a future HVA bulletin

## New Payroll Service

In response to the introduction of HMRC's Real Time Information (RTI) reporting in respect of payroll, HVA has set up a new Payroll Service to relieve member groups of the burden imposed by the new rules.

This is part of the Community Accountancy Service in partnership with RVA and 3VA. If your group employs even one person, compliance is mandatory, so please check out the link at:

[www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/payroll](http://www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/payroll)

## Welcome to the New FLAG Animator

HVA are pleased to welcome Stephen Dodson as a new staff member.

Stephen comes to us with a wealth of experience and will be playing a highly specialised role supporting the Fisheries Local Action Group or FLAG.

This role will help develop projects which will support and extend the role of the local Fishing community and will lead to the investment of just under £1m of money from the EU which will make a critical difference to an industry which boasts the largest beach-based fleet in Europe and a history of fishing from the Stade for over 2,000 years.

"I am delighted to be appointed to undertake this crucial work. Fishing plays a significant part in the life and culture of our Town and the funding we have represents a unique opportunity to support and develop the work and reputation of one of our most well known industries."

For more information email:

[hastingsflag@hvauk.org](mailto:hastingsflag@hvauk.org)

## Please help North East Hastings Residents to Have Their £1m Say



The next opportunity for residents to give their views will be at a roadshow on Thursday 11th July 2013 at Ore Community Centre, Old London Road from 10am – 2pm and 6pm – 9pm. All are welcome.

Suggestions and questions can also be sent via the Big Local leaflet, web site, Twitter and Facebook.

Through roadshows, resident surveys and individual conversations we are beginning to get a feel for what is important to local people.

In addition to the next roadshow we will be working with young people and reaching out to under-represented sections of the community. We need as many people as possible in North East Hastings to give their views and get involved.

“A good opportunity to share ideas and talk about our area” was how one resident described last Saturday’s Big Local road-show where local people from North East Hastings gave their views on how a £1 million Big Local investment coming to the area should be used.

A large cross-section of residents aged from 3 to 85 years old took part in discussions and activities at the Adventure Playground to contribute their views and ideas about how their area could be improved. This followed a successful Gateway Event earlier in June which brought together local community groups, schools and other organisations to find out how they can help build a plan for spending the money over the next few years.

Hastings Voluntary Action is leading the “Getting Started” team this summer, to raise awareness of the Big Local in North East Hastings, and to consult with local residents.



The Big Local Area includes Red Lake, Downs Farm, Ore Village, Halton, Farley Bank, Broomgrove, Ivyhouse Lane and The Ridge (East).



If your group is based in or serves North East Hastings we would be grateful if you would help spread the word so that local residents can give their views.

Let us know if you would like to circulate some leaflets, or if you want an article to distribute to your members.

Further information can be found at:  
[www.biglocalnortheasthastings.org.uk](http://www.biglocalnortheasthastings.org.uk)  
 or follow us on twitter:  
 @biglocalhasting!

## Give and Gain Event – 15 May 2013

Hastings Voluntary Action and Rother Voluntary Action, working in partnership with 3VA and AiRS teamed up with the Business in the Community programme funded by Lloyds TSB Bank to organise a networking opportunity for local businesses and community groups in Hastings on 15 May.

The first of its kind held locally, this event was sponsored by and held at Azur. Run on the basis of a “speed-dating” evening, the event hosted 22 businesses and 24 community groups who, by the end of the night, had made 111 connections.

**Speaking after the event Carole Dixon from Education Futures Trust said:**

“The Give and Gain event enabled the Trust to make a number of new links with local businesses. We are very grateful for the support that has materialised, including bursaries for young people on a summer school behind stage tours at the White Rock and a cookery session for parents in the Azur kitchen”.

**Marc Fewell – Total Decorating Solutions said:**

“I came along with an idea of what I could give in the way of free paint and have ended the evening offering to mentor young people, something that I had not considered before.”

A full report of the evening and a list of businesses who pledged will be available via the HVA website.

## HVA’s Role in the Hastings and St Leonards Academies

When the Hastings and St Leonards Academies were created Hastings Voluntary Action were asked to chair a series of public meetings to enable local residents and stakeholders to have their say about this important development.

Subsequently HVA’s Director Steve Manwaring was asked by the University of Brighton to join the Trust Board to help support the development of the institutions and the new buildings which are now taking shape.

Recently both academies were simultaneously inspected by OFSTED and were rated “good” institutions.

**Speaking after the announcement HVA’s Director Steve Manwaring said:**

“This is a key milestone in the educational progress being made locally. The staff and

students have worked incredibly hard to achieve this result and have done so at the same time as managing a building programme. This is significant not just in terms of the academies themselves but in the wider regeneration of the Borough.”

## Comprehensive Spending Review

As part of our service to our members Hastings Voluntary Action produce briefing notes on Government announcements and other initiatives to provide accessible information and highlighting key changes which may have implications for the VCS or the people we serve.

Our latest briefing note is on Comprehensive Spending Review Announcement 2013.

The Spending Round 2013 sets out how the government will spend £740 billion pounds of taxpayers’ money between April 2015 and April 2016.

This will include detail on the choices the government makes to find savings of over £11 billion as they seek to close the gap between what is raised in taxes and what is spent on public services and infrastructure investment.

The HVA briefing paper can be accessed on HVA’s website:

[www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/node/2442](http://www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/node/2442)

or in hard copy format by contacting HVA’s admin team on 01424 444010.

## City of Culture

With other public sector and community colleagues HVA were pleased to be part of the working group which submitted the Hastings City of Culture 2017 proposal and advised on some of the governance arrangements.

It was a high quality bid put together in rapid time which generated ideas and interest from all parts of the community.

**As Hastings Council leader Cllr Jeremy Birch said after the Hastings bid failed to make the shortlist:**

“Just going for the City of Culture has put us on the map, and has raised the positive profile of Hastings in TV, radio and the press. We couldn’t have paid for the publicity it has brought us.”

HVA will be participating in the symposium which takes place on 15 July which will look at how some aspects of the bid such as the links with education can best be taken forward.

## Looking for a Meeting Room?

**Come to HVA! Our town centre meeting rooms are still at inflation-busting 2011 prices, with spaces to suit 2 to 30 people.**

Hot drinks are included in the prices, as is equipment such as a digital projector or a flipchart.

We also have free wifi in the main meeting room, and we can arrange catering or minute-taking on request.

For more details contact 01424 444010 or visit:

[www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/rooms](http://www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/rooms)

## NEWS FROM ELSEWHERE

### National Minimum Wage

HVA members who employ staff are reminded that the government announced on 16 April 2013 that from 1 October 2013 the national minimum wage (NMW) for workers aged 21 and over will go up 12p, from £6.19 to £6.31 per hour.

The rate for 18-20 year olds will go up 5p from £4.98 to £5.03 per hour.

To keep up to date with this and other employment law changes ACAS have an extensive website offering advice guidance and leaflets on all key employment issues:

[www.acas.org.uk](http://www.acas.org.uk)

### Changes to Gift Aid

In a recent press release, HMRC confirmed that more than 12,000 charities registered for the new online service in the eight weeks since the system was launched.

From 30 September, HMRC will stop accepting Gift Aid repayment claims on R68i forms and users will be required to use the Charities Online service to make claims.

The new system for charities called Charities Online went live on 22 April 2013. The new online system replaces the R68(i) Gift Aid and tax repayments claims form.

Charities that submit claims online are usually paid within three working days compared to 26 days using the old paper form.

Charities Online introduced three new options for charities and CASCs to claim payments from HMRC.

1. Claim online.

2. Claim using external software/own database.
3. Claim using a paper form – for charities without access to the internet, a new paper form called ChR1 is available replacing the R68(i) form.

*Copy supplied by Ashdown Hurrey LLP*

## Garden Charity Awards: for Social Welfare Charities

The annual Guardian Charity Awards are open to applications, and seek to recognise and encourage small and medium-sized charities that are improving social wellbeing in its broadest sense by delivering clear benefit to people who are disadvantaged by poverty or disability or are marginalised in some other way.

Eligible charities must have been registered in the United Kingdom for more than two years and have an annual income of between £5,000 and £1.5 million. Winners each receive an equal share of the £25,000 prize fund, an iPad mini, one year's free NCVO membership and a tailored package of support from The FSI and Media Trust.

The deadline for applications is 19th July.

Find out more via:

<http://digbig.com/5bhpmn>

## NEWS FROM GROUPS

### Mediation Training Course

The Hastings and Rother Mediation Service will be holding a training course for new Volunteer Community Mediators in October 2013 and are now accepting applications for this course.

Suitable applicants will have the following qualities:

- A desire to help people resolve disputes with their neighbours
- Good listening skills and an impartial, non-judgmental approach
- The capacity to volunteer for an average of 2-3 hours a week
- A commitment to work towards accreditation recognised by the College of Mediators

For further information and full details please contact Hastings and Rother Mediation Service on 01424 446808 or [hrmediation@aol.com](mailto:hrmediation@aol.com)

## New School Uniform Bank for Local Families

A new joint initiative by Citizens Advice 1066 and Hastings Advice and Representation Centre (HARC) has been launched this month.

Families with children entering or already attending local secondary schools will now be able to buy good quality second-hand school uniform at reasonable prices from the HARC charity shop, 186 Queens Road, Hastings.

Charlotte Bishop, Social Policy Coordinator for Citizens Advice 1066, explained,

“It costs a lot to make sure secondary school-aged children are kitted out with all the things they need for school, especially if a family has more than one child in secondary education.

Some of our clients come to the Bureau asking for help as they are falling behind with bills or rent because they need to pay for school uniforms.

In some cases, families haven't enough money left for food and have needed to ask for food vouchers to see them through this period.

Parents and their children are often too embarrassed to ask their school for help. The new facility run by HARC will avoid this and help eliminate situations where some families are being forced to choose between falling into debt or their child being punished for not being in uniform.”

The two advice agencies are asking local parents to donate clean, undamaged items when they are outgrown by their children.

**Parents can make a difference in our local community by doing this simple thing.**

If you have items to donate, please drop them off at the HARC shop in Queens Road.

## Working with Vulnerable People to Improve their Quality of Life

Seaview Project is a charity based in St Leonards that works with some of the most vulnerable people in our local community.

Seaview provides a range of open access services to over 300 people a month.

We have a gym at the project and are currently looking for volunteers to assist us in running this.

Do you have a Level 2 qualification in fitness and

could spare a couple of hours to help run our gym?

If you feel you can help, please contact Sandra on:

[seaviewhastings@gmail.com](mailto:seaviewhastings@gmail.com)

[www.seaviewproject.co.uk](http://www.seaviewproject.co.uk)

## FUNDRAISING

### Sussex Community Foundation

Some six years ago Hastings Voluntary Action became one of the founder trustees of Sussex Community Foundation.

The Foundation started with less than £150,000 and aimed to offer services to donors and distribute grants to community groups on their behalf. It also launched a campaign to build an endowment fund sufficiently large to enable grants to be given from investment income thus achieving a permanent and sustainable source of funding.

A few weeks ago HVA's Director Steve Manwaring took part in an reception at Goodwood House bringing together all current and former Trustees of the Foundation to celebrate the fact that the foundation has distributed over £5m in grants and build up an endowment fund of a further £5m.

Over 2,000 charities and community groups have received grants of between £1,000-£5,000.

Steve Manwaring said:

“I am absolutely delighted to have been part of the development of a Community Foundation for Sussex. Its board staff and supporters have done a simply amazing job which is achieving tangible results for local community groups”.

If you would like to attend a workshop to learn about Sussex Community Foundation's latest funding streams and how to access their funding, contact:

Peter Thorpe at [peter@hvauk.org](mailto:peter@hvauk.org)

or 01424 444010.

Connect to HVA's website for regularly updated information:

[www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org](http://www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org)

With RSS feeds and Google calendar.

## Commissioning Grants Prospectus decisions

ESCC and local NHS have recently announced the 2013 awards in the Commissioning Grants Prospectus.

Almost £3million was awarded to 21 organisations, and full details can be found at:

<http://digbig.com/5bhppmm>

We are reviewing the 2013 process, and so if you have any feedback about any aspect of the registration, application or communication contact Peter Thorpe at [peter@hvauk.org](mailto:peter@hvauk.org)

## Garfield Weston Foundation

Garfield Weston Foundation supports a broad range of organisations and activities that share a commitment to making a positive impact to the lives of the communities in which they work, and that are driven by a desire to achieve excellence.

They make grants across the UK to organisations in the following categories:

- arts
- education
- youth
- health
- community
- environment
- religion
- welfare.

You can apply at any time. For more information visit:

[www.garfieldweston.org](http://www.garfieldweston.org)

or phone 02073 99 6565.

## Free Funding Resources

If you are looking for funding, you may find the following free resources are useful:

HVA's Small Grants Guide:

<http://digbig.com/5bhppmq>

ESCC's Funding News:

<http://digbig.com/5bhppmq>

GRANTnet, provided by ESCC:

<http://digbig.com/5bhppmr>

Funding Central:

[www.fundingcentral.org.uk](http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk)

## TRAINING

### HVA Training Programme

HVA are planning to run several training sessions over the next few months aimed at volunteers, staff and trustees of voluntary and community groups.

Topics include:

- Training for treasurers
- An introduction to public speaking
- Fundraising

For more details pick up a flyer from HVA's reception, visit the website:

[www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/training](http://www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/training)

or phone 01424 444010.

### What Training do you Need?

Do you want to improve your effectiveness and the services that you provide? What about your trustees, staff and volunteers?

Hastings Voluntary Action is currently planning its training programme for the autumn.

To help us to do this, we want to get an indication of the current training needs within the voluntary and community sector in Hastings.

Let us know what training you need by completing this form

[www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/node/1167](http://www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/node/1167)

or contact Peter Thorpe on 01424 444010.

### Welfare Reform Training

ESCC Adult Social Care have organised a series of training sessions this summer about the welfare reforms.

These have been fully booked, and when we promoted it at April's HCN meeting on the same topic, some members said they would have difficulty accessing the training as few sessions were in Hastings or Rother.

So due to popular demand, ESCC are running some extra sessions during September, many of which are in the Hastings area.

<http://digbig.com/5bhppmk>

Contact:

[asct@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:asct@eastsussex.gov.uk)

for more details or a booking form.

## Job Advertisements Service

If you advertise your jobs with HVA, they will get noticed by people who; presently work in the voluntary sector, work closely with the sector (maybe as statutory sector employees), or have significant past paid/volunteering experience in the sector.

For a small charge, we will put your job advertisement on our website and publish a link to it in our next e-bulletin or PDF newsletter (which ever is published sooner). Additionally, we will notify people of your vacancy through our social media networks (on twitter, facebook and through our blog).

Our e-bulletin and newsletter are sent to over 1050 people and we have been using these mechanisms to successfully advertise posts within the sector for many years.

Voluntary and community sector vacancies – £25 per vacancy

Public/private sector vacancies – £50 per vacancy

For more details about this service please telephone John Humphries (Information Officer) 01424 444010 or email [john@hvauk.org](mailto:john@hvauk.org)

## Paid Advertising in Hastings Community News

Over 1050 voluntary sector recipients, partners and stakeholders now get our newsletter, which means it reaches the third sector niches other publications fail to reach.

Consequently, other organisations frequently ask us to distribute their artwork as attachments, which we now carry out as a chargeable service.

You can ask us to email your artwork (files under 1 megabyte) which will then be sent to our newsletter readership immediately after our newsletter is sent out.

The cost of this service not only covers the costs involved in producing Hastings Community News, but also contributes to us maintaining an accurate mailing list of recipients. The costs are as follows:

HVA Members £30

Voluntary/community non-members £60

Statutory Sector – £100

Private/commercial £150

For further details of distribution dates or more detailed circulation information please contact John Humphries on [john@hvauk.org](mailto:john@hvauk.org) or phone 01424 444010.

We reserve the right to refuse advertisements that do not clearly benefit the voluntary and community sector.

## Project Manager – The Snowflake Trust

A Project Manager is being sought by The Snowflake Trust to manage its Emergency Winter Night Shelter project for homeless people in Hastings & St Leonards.

The post is for the 28 weeks between 1st October 2013 and 14th April 2014. Closing date for applications is noon on Saturday 3 August 2013.

The full advert for this post can be downloaded from the paid job ads section of the HVA website:

[www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/jobs](http://www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/jobs)

### Editorial dates:

Next copy deadline – 27th August

Paid attachments deadline – 2nd September

Copy to: John Humphries

Email: [infoworker@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org](mailto:infoworker@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org)


### Newsletter Distribution dates:

Email distribution – 3rd September

Hastings Voluntary Action Website:

[www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org](http://www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org)

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