



# Wealden View

Newsletter for the Community and Voluntary Sector in Wealden

Provided by the SDCVS/EAVS Wealden Support Partnership

## Looking ahead for Wealden Groups

**South Downs CVS and EAVS are continuing to work closely together to deliver strong and responsive services for groups and organisations in Wealden District. See page 2 for more detail and the enclosed convergence update flyer.**

### East Sussex CVS Partnership gets national recognition

Matt Leach, the new Chief Executive of Capacitybuilders visited the offices of SDCVS recently to find out more about the work of the 4 CVSs in the county and how we are all supporting groups especially during the economic downturn. He particularly wanted to know more about the work on addressing the needs of groups in a difficult funding environment. Capacitybuilders is the national programme underpinning the local ChangeUp agenda. For more information see: [www.capacitybuilders.org.uk](http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk)

### RAISE Economic Downturn Survey Results

RAISE asked members to complete an online survey to

help understand the impact of the credit crunch on the voluntary and community sector which The SpeakUp forum contributed to on behalf of the East Sussex community and voluntary sector. The results show that over half of respondents (56%) have seen an increase demand for their services and nearly three quarters of respondents (72%) anticipate that sector funding will decrease over the next six months with 9% believing that it will increase. For a full analysis of survey results please go to [www.raise-networks.org.uk/inform/docDisplay.cfm?iDocID=1280](http://www.raise-networks.org.uk/inform/docDisplay.cfm?iDocID=1280)

### Recession Task Force

A Recession Task Force has been set up by East Sussex County Council to act on the current economical climate and its local effects. The Task Force members include representatives from County, District and Borough Councils, Jobcentre Plus, Citizens Advice Bureaux and Voluntary and Community Sector. The key rationale for the group is that by working together, we can achieve much more. Its main aims are to establish a shared evidence base drawn from national and local sources; to monitor and predict the impacts of the recession and to guide

action planning; to create a consistent message about local impacts to underpin lobbying and calls for action locally, regionally and nationally. The Task Force will act to maximise impact of the work of different agencies across East Sussex and make best use of available resources.

Two representatives from the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) are currently being sought through the SpeakUp Forum – East Sussex Countywide Forum for the VCS. For more information contact Miriam Miklaszewska, Speakup Development Officer, on 01273 483 832 or [speakup@southdownscvs.org.uk](mailto:speakup@southdownscvs.org.uk) The emphasis, after the initial meeting, will be on virtual working rather than through meetings. The Task force will produce regular updates.

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# 2 Outreach

## WELCOME

Welcome to Sue Shoemith who has joined South Downs CVS as the Wealden Information and Development Officer a role which she is combining with that of the Wealden Community Network development worker. Sue was previously with Sussex Careers Ltd for nineteen years in a variety of roles many of which involved delivering, managing or developing services either with or for the voluntary and community sector across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

Sue has lived in Blackboys for 22 years and prior to that in Lewes and Ringmer for 13 years which she feels gives her an understanding of the needs of the area and an insight to how the local communities within East

Sussex have developed over the last thirty years.

Sue's interests include gardening, walking and history, her family history research has uncovered the fact that her father's family originally lived in the Hailsham area three hundred years ago.



Sue can be contacted at South Downs CVS office in Lewes telephone 01273 483832, email: [wealden@southdownscvs.org.uk](mailto:wealden@southdownscvs.org.uk)

provide an ideal opportunity to discuss individual needs in more detail. Karl can always visit at a time convenient to you, whether in the daytime or evening.

Alternatively, groups are welcome to call into his office based at the Uckfield Volunteer and Information Centre. Karl is available Monday to Thursdays.

For further details, contact Karl on 01825 765136 or email: [wealdencommunity@btconnect.com](mailto:wealdencommunity@btconnect.com)

## WEALDEN PARTNERSHIP NETWORK SUPPORT MEETING

On 9 February 37 people representing 29 local community and voluntary groups attended the Wealden Network Support meeting at the Heathfield Community Centre.

The meeting was the second of three, held to consult members on the proposed convergence between EAVS and South Downs CVS, Debbie Matthews (director of South Downs CVS) and Adam Chugg (Chief Executive of EAVS) gave short presentations on the background and the details of the proposal, delegates then had the opportunity to give feedback on the proposals. The afternoon included presentations by reMEMber and Mediation+ and after tea there were workshops on "Funding" and "The Importance of Partnerships".

The next networking meeting will be on Monday 20 April 2009 at the Kings Centre, Grange Road, Uckfield from 10am until 2pm, the formal meeting will end at 12.30pm there will then be a networking lunch.

## LOCAL SUPPORT

The Wealden Community Support Officer, Karl Parks can help any local voluntary and community group to identify and access a wide range of funding sources, help complete funding applications and provide assistance with all aspects of organisational development, such as policies and procedures, constitutions and business plans, to make your group more effective.



One-to-one support sessions are available to all groups which



## Wealden Support Partnership:

### EAVS

Chief Executive: Adam Chugg  
01323 639373

Wealden Community Support  
Officer: Karl Parks, Uckfield  
Volunteer & Information Centre  
01825 765136

[wealdencommunity@btconnect.com](mailto:wealdencommunity@btconnect.com)  
Community Development Co-  
ordinator: Marie Tomblin 01323  
419788

### SDCVS

Director: Debby Matthews

Information Officer: Sue Shoemith  
[wealden@southdownscvs.org.uk](mailto:wealden@southdownscvs.org.uk)

ComNet: Sue Shoemith  
[comnetwealden@southdownscvs.org.uk](mailto:comnetwealden@southdownscvs.org.uk)  
Contact number 01273 483832

### Core Funders:

East Sussex County Council  
East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT  
Wealden District Council  
AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT

## **CAF Opens Financial Crisis Helpline For Charities**

The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) has opened a confidential Financial Crisis Helpline for charity leaders worried about their organisation's financial viability. Charity leaders concerned about their charity's financial situation can call CAF's helpline to request a one-off confidential discussion with CAF's experienced managers who will listen to charities' individual concerns and suggest steps for survival. There is no charge for this. The freephone number is: 0800 980 200. CAF is not able to offer financial support, and is also not authorised to give regulated advice on financial products and services. It is important to note that this free service provides an informal opportunity to discuss the options available to a charity facing financial difficulties with an experienced manager, but CAF cannot (and does not) advise you on the best course of action for you or your charity. Website: <http://www.cafonline.org/Default.aspx?page=16919>.

## **South East Region European Social Fund Community Grants**

The South East Region European Social Fund Community Grants are administered locally by Action in rural Sussex. Grants of up to £12,000 are available to third sector organisations to support the most disadvantaged individuals not in employment, to access further learning opportunities or progress to employment. The closing date for the second round is 12 noon on 22 April 2009. Details of the application form, criteria and guidelines are available at: [www.svcslc.org.uk/index.php?id=88](http://www.svcslc.org.uk/index.php?id=88). You can also obtain further information by contacting your local Community Grants office at Community Grants, Action in rural Sussex, telephone: 01273 407305, email: [communitygrants@ruralsussex.org.uk](mailto:communitygrants@ruralsussex.org.uk)

## **Free support for small charities**

The Small Charities Coalition helps charities access the direct skills, experience and resources they need to achieve their aims. The Coalition is like a voluntary sector matchmaking service, matching small charities with other organisations providing support. Becoming a friend is free; you need to be a registered charity, have an income of less than £1 million and be able to provide 24 hours of your time to share your skills, experience and knowledge with other charities. Visit: [www.smallcharities.org.uk](http://www.smallcharities.org.uk)

## **Giving to Sussex**

Sussex Community Foundation was set up 3 years ago and has given out a total of £1million in grants. It awards grants to local charities and community groups. By encouraging local philanthropy, money is raised from generous local donors and invested to provide a growing permanent fund for charities and community groups in Sussex. The Foundation has funded 374 organisations across Sussex. Most are very small groups, making a big difference with a small amount of money.

The Foundation now has an exciting opportunity to raise even more through the Government's Grassroots Grants programme in Sussex. This will match local donations pound for pound, dramatically increasing the charitable funds available for the future.

Groups interested in applying can contact Sussex Community Foundation on 01273 409440 or email at [info@sussexgiving.org.uk](mailto:info@sussexgiving.org.uk). People interested in donating to the Foundation can contact Kevin Richmond or Janet Ormerod at the same address. Further information is available from the Foundation's website [www.sussexgiving.org.uk](http://www.sussexgiving.org.uk). For more information, contact: Florence Bowman on 01273 409440 [info@sussexgiving.org.uk](mailto:info@sussexgiving.org.uk)

## **It's your Community**

Awards of up to £1,000 are available to local groups and individuals: the awards are independently judged and administered by The Conservation Foundation on behalf of O2. They support projects that bring people together and benefit your community. Project ideas can be found at: [www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk](http://www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk) and new ground breaking projects are welcome.

It's easy to apply for an award, download their criteria and application guide which will give you the information you need to fill in the application form. This is an opportunity for you to make a positive change in your community. Your application will be judged within a month and you can see if you were successful by logging back in to this site after the 10th of the following month.

## **Funding To Improve Local Communities**

Groups of individuals as well as small community and voluntary groups within the UK that want to improve their communities can apply for funding through the Wakeham Trust. The Trust supports neighbourhood projects, community arts projects, projects involving community service by young people and projects set up by those who are socially excluded. The Trust normally give grants to projects where an initial £75 to £750 can make a real difference to getting the project up and running. There is no application deadline. For more information go to: [www.wakehamtrust.org/](http://www.wakehamtrust.org/)

## **Funding sport in the community**

Sport England has published its new funding strategy, with four open-access funding streams, to deliver sport in the community. 'Funding sport in the community' is at: [www.sportengland.org/sport\\_england\\_funding\\_strategy\\_20090106.pdf](http://www.sportengland.org/sport_england_funding_strategy_20090106.pdf)

## 4 Training & Conferences

### **South Downs CVS Training Opportunities**

**Fundraising and the Internet** with Sussex Community Internet Project (SCIP), Wednesday 22 April 2009, 10am - 1pm at South Downs CVS, Lewes.

Funding is the lifeblood of every charity and community organisation and the internet is a great source of information whether you are a full-time fundraiser or an enthusiastic volunteer. This guided tour of useful websites will improve your fundraising skills, reveal key information to support your bids and show how the internet can be used to raise funds. Learning skills prerequisites: Experience of using the internet. Cost per person £25 – 35 depending on status (first 4 bookings free for groups with up to 3 full time staff). Closing date for bookings: Wednesday 8 April 2009

### **Presentation Skills - 2 day**

with SCIP, Wednesday 13 May 2009, 9.30am - 4pm and Wednesday 20 May 2009, 9.30am - 4pm (tea, coffee and biscuits included) at Action in rural Sussex, 212 High Street, Lewes. This two-day course will cover the essential skills needed to speak in front of others in a range of settings including presentations, training and meetings. It will help you to overcome anxiety; develop and enhance confidence in public speaking situations and to use Microsoft PowerPoint to enhance the messages that you want to put across to your audience. The first day will cover: calming down to prepare; delivering your message; developing energy and commitment in your voice; understanding your audience; and using a range of visual aids.

The second day will give you an opportunity to prepare visual aids using PowerPoint, and then to do a short presentation to the group and to receive feedback. Cost per person £40 - £65 depending on status (first 4 bookings free for groups with up to 3 full time staff). Closing date for bookings: Wednesday 29 April 2009.

For further details of the above courses and booking form go to [www.southdownscvs.org.uk/information-and-training/training.php](http://www.southdownscvs.org.uk/information-and-training/training.php) or contact Julia Fowler on 01273 483832, [info@southdownscvs.org.uk](mailto:info@southdownscvs.org.uk)

### **Other training and events**

#### **Adult Learners' Week**

2009 will celebrate the eighteenth year of Adult Learners' Week, with events and activities taking place from 9 - 15 May 2009. NIACE, who co-ordinate the campaign, is hosting an Adult Learners' Week Roadshow to give local providers the chance to see what it is all about and to encourage wider participation and more partnership activity.

If you know a learner or group of learners' that inspire you, nominate them now for an Adult Learners' Week Award. Visit the website [www.alw.org.uk/nominate](http://www.alw.org.uk/nominate). To order paper forms email [alw@niace.org.uk](mailto:alw@niace.org.uk) or phone 0116 204 4200.

#### **Charityfair 2009**

This year's Charityfair, organised by Directory of Social Change, will take place on 24 & 25 June at Central Hall, Westminster. Visit: [www.charityfair.org.uk](http://www.charityfair.org.uk), email: [cfair@dsc.org.uk](mailto:cfair@dsc.org.uk), telephone 08450 77 77 07

### **The Third Sector National Learning Alliance: Many Voices – One Vision**

The Third Sector National Learning Alliance (TSNLA) is a growing, national alliance of voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises involved in learning and skills. It is made up of organisations from the Third Sector, speaking on behalf of the Third Sector and using the website to share information with the Third Sector. Go to: [www.tsnla.org.uk](http://www.tsnla.org.uk). The new website will tell you all about the TSNLA: where it came from; what it hopes to achieve; up to date news for Third Sector Learning Providers and a wide range of resources.

### **ON THE WEB**

#### **[www.bbc.co.uk/raw](http://www.bbc.co.uk/raw)**

The BBC launches its ambitious, interactive adult basic skills website.

The raw website offers practical advice, inspiring activities that help to build self-confidence. It aims to empower and encourage people to take the next steps towards tackling their skills needs. The first subject areas to feature on the new-look raw website are 'raw money' and 'raw computers'.

#### **<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/campaigns/RealHelpNow/index.htm>**

The link takes you to the Directgov webpage where you can download this government booklet telling you what help is available. It covers practical information and advice; help with keeping your home; help with training and skills and with jobs and benefits; dealing with redundancy, help with budgeting and your finances, debt and borrowing money.

## CRB Checks: Guidance on volunteering

The Cabinet Office, Office for Third Sector has issued guidance aimed to show when it is appropriate and inappropriate for an organisation to request a CRB disclosure for a volunteer. The guidance may be view at: [http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/news/news\\_stories/080604\\_crb.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/080604_crb.aspx)

## Defending Local Grants

The Local Grants Forum is a partnership of national organisations formed in 2007. They campaign to protect grants for local third sector organisations and community groups. They have produced some resources you can use at local level which will help you to convince councillors, commissioning officers and procurement professionals that grants should

continue to be used to fund local organisations and groups. *Defending local grants - resources you can use* can be downloaded from: <http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/>

## ACAS Employment update

Acas has produced a draft guide to go along with their draft Discipline and Grievance Code of Practice recently released. [www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2124](http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2124)

*ACAS/CIPD Mediation an employer's guide* can be found at: [www.acas.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=949&p=0](http://www.acas.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=949&p=0)

## Make Equality Count

The Office of Government Commerce has published a new practical guide clarifying what

the existing public sector equality duties mean for public procurement and how equality-related issues can be addressed at each stage of the procurement process in a way that is consistent with EU rules. Visit: [www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Equality\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Equality_Brochure.pdf)

## Managing Without Profit (3rd edition) by Mike Hudson.

Guide to leading, managing and governing non-profit organisations. Sections on managing strategic partnerships and managing knowledge, also winning work from the public sector and tracking corporate performance. Available from: [www.dsc.org.uk/Publications/Managementandgovernance/@27740](http://www.dsc.org.uk/Publications/Managementandgovernance/@27740). Price: £24.95. The 2nd edition is also available in the South Downs CVS library.

## TOPICAL TIPS

### Volunteering and State Benefits

The positive effects of undertaking volunteering are well recognised but there is a lot of confusion over, and wrong information given as to whether volunteering affects state benefits. In actual fact the rules are quite simple. If a person is claiming state benefits they can be a volunteer and in nearly all cases, their benefits will not be affected. However, there are some cases where their benefits can be affected (for example, if they receive a subsistence allowance). Before a person receiving state benefits starts volunteering they should always talk to Jobcentre Plus to ensure they are clear about their personal situation.

Volunteering England and Jobcentre Plus both produce

excellent guides on volunteering and state benefits which take the reader through each benefit in relation to volunteering, they can be downloaded from: <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/Resources/goodpracticebank/Information/VolunteeringwhilstReceivingBenefits> and [http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/stellent/groups/jcp/documents/websitecontent/dev\\_015837.pdf](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/stellent/groups/jcp/documents/websitecontent/dev_015837.pdf). Follow the link to Volunteering Whilst Receiving State Benefits, this booklet is also available at Jobcentres.

### INSURANCE FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS

An appropriate level of insurance is necessary for any voluntary or community group to provide protection for staff, committee members, volunteers and members against any

liability which they may incur while undertaking activities for the group. However finding the right insurance, which covers all aspects of a group's work can seem confusing especially when so many policies are designed with businesses or individuals in mind. There are a number of specialist policies that are tailored to the needs of the voluntary sector and it is worth spending time finding the most appropriate cover for you.

Karl Parks has produced a useful fact sheet which not only helps to clarify this area but also signposts the reader to excellent sources of further help and advice. Karl's leaflet can be accessed via the South Downs CVS website at: [www.southdownscvs.org.uk/information-and-training/](http://www.southdownscvs.org.uk/information-and-training/)

## Have a voice in East Sussex - SpeakUp Forum

For the last six months Lewes and Wealden Districts have been represented on the newly set up SpeakUp Forum. It is a new countywide representation body for the Voluntary and Community Sector which supports groups to have a voice and be an influential partner with the statutory agencies in East Sussex.

Within the last six months SpeakUp has been strengthening access to information for all groups via the Ask CaSPer website – [www.askcasper.org.uk](http://www.askcasper.org.uk). The forum has also undertaken urgent work around “The Economic Downturn and its effect on the VCS”. Important feedback from this has been collated by CVSs around the county and is being reported directly to East Sussex County Council, to view go to: [www.southdownscvs.org.uk/policy-and-development/recent-consultations.php](http://www.southdownscvs.org.uk/policy-and-development/recent-consultations.php). The Forum has also secured representation for the Voluntary and Community Sector at the new Recession Task Force at the County Council.

SpeakUp is holding free events for groups to provide information sharing opportunities, workshops, training and discussions with statutory partners. For material published after the first event - “The Big Event” visit: [www.askcasper.org.uk/representation/speakup-countywide-forum](http://www.askcasper.org.uk/representation/speakup-countywide-forum). The second event drew together representatives from Black and Minority Ethnic groups to discuss how to best represent their views. Coming in June the “Partnership working” event will be packed with information and opportunities to discuss more with your Local Strategic Partnerships and East Sussex Strategic Partnership.

For more information contact Miriam Miklaszewska, SpeakUp Forum Development Officer on 01273 483 832 or go to: [Speakup@southdownscvs.org.uk](mailto:Speakup@southdownscvs.org.uk). You can also contact your local SpeakUp Forum representatives – Lewes District: Debby Matthews (Director at South Downs CVS) and for Wealden District: Sue Shoosmith (Wealden ComNet Development Officer at South Downs CVS). Visit: [www.askcasper.org.uk/representation](http://www.askcasper.org.uk/representation).

## East Sussex Compact

The aim of the East Sussex Compact is to improve the relationship between the public sector and voluntary and community sector, and to bring a position of shared understanding to the way that both sectors can work together more effectively.

The Compact Steering Group has produced an action plan for 2009/10 and a Compact Information Pack. The pack is available from the Compact Team [compact@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:compact@eastsussex.gov.uk) 01273 482911.

## ‘Putting People First’ - Changes afoot in Adult Social Care!

In social care and community support for disabled people what suits one person, won't necessarily work for another. ‘Putting People First’ (PPF) – the name of a new policy from the Department of Health – recognises this. It sets out radical changes to the country's social care system, based on individual choice, and the personalisation of services. The Government is clear that putting power in people's own hands is the way forward for social care. One of the main ways it is going to achieve this is through a new approach called *Personal Budgets*, a funding arrangement designed to give people more control over their own care.

Voluntary and community organisations also have a critical role in empowering communities to come up with their own solutions, offering preventative services, providing advocacy and access to other more ‘universal’ services that haven't previously been seen as being part of the social care market. To make sure ESCC capture all these things, and support the third sector to play as big a part as possible, it has created a special third sector PPF Reference Group. For further information about the programme contact Vicky Smith by emailing: [peoplefirst@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:peoplefirst@eastsussex.gov.uk) or view their website: <http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/peoplefirst>. SDCVS welcome the focus on people's needs, rather than asking people to fit into the service being provided. SDCVS will attempt to keep you up to date with these wide ranging developments. SDCVS sits on the PPF Reference Group to explore the implications of these changes on voluntary sector service providers. For a full copy of the above article go to: [www.southdownscvs.org.uk/policy-and-development/latest-policy-news.php](http://www.southdownscvs.org.uk/policy-and-development/latest-policy-news.php)

## East Sussex LINK

The East Sussex LINK is a network of like-minded individuals, organisations and groups from across the county who want to improve health and social care services within the community. Following the elections for a Core Group, the LINK is pleased to announce that ten individuals and six representatives from community and voluntary groups and organisations are ready to develop and implement the work programme, based on the views they have captured so far. Email: [info@thecountylink.net](mailto:info@thecountylink.net) Website: [www.thecountylink.net](http://www.thecountylink.net)

Wealden Community Network (ComNet) provides representatives to sit on different partnership bodies or planning groups. It holds an annual review and runs events on health improvement related topics. It is supported by East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT

## Exploring the future of ComNet?

**The two Community Networks, Lewes District ComNet and Wealden ComNet, have enabled statutory and voluntary sector workers groups to come together around a range of health and social care topics since 2001. Set up originally to support and encourage voluntary sector participation in the new partnerships that were being established – such as the Local Strategic Partnerships, the Crime Reduction Partnerships and Children’s Services Planning Groups – it now embraces Health Improvement topics, the distribution of small grants and provides links into the countywide representation structures.**

The community networks have been supported by a series of “community networkers” over the years – Mary Colato, Ralph Taylor, Val Biggs and, most recently for Wealden, Sue Shoesmith. The community networkers have reported to two steering groups – one for Wealden and one for Lewes District.

After eight years, it seems appropriate to review the effectiveness of the community networks and consider whether they are “fit for purpose.” To this end, we are intending to conduct a survey of local organisations to gather your views. We shall be asking you a range of questions and hope that you will be able to support this evaluation so that we can ensure that the networks are “fit for purpose”

Please look out for the survey in your in- box and let us have your views, so we can shape the service to meet your needs. Note the two e-mail address [lewescomnet@southdownscvs.org.uk](mailto:lewescomnet@southdownscvs.org.uk) or [wealdencomnet@southdownscvs.org.uk](mailto:wealdencomnet@southdownscvs.org.uk) both can be contacted via 01273 483832.

### **Welcome to the Race Equality in Mental Health Team**

Jaan Madan, Val Biggs, Sarb Heer and Jed Murray are the new Community Development Workers for this project, which aims to tackle discrimination in mental health services for all people of black and minority ethnic status.

The key focus of the project is to provide direct support on a range of health and social care needs and promote emotional well-being, to people of BME (Black and Minority Ethnic), Romany Gypsy, Irish Traveler, Roma and Showman backgrounds, migrants, people seeking asylum and refugees. In addition, this project will support service providers in developing culturally competent, inclusive and accessible services, to meet the diverse needs of the growing communities of East Sussex.

The team is moving premises soon, so for more information, please contact any of the team by email: [remht@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:remht@eastsussex.gov.uk) or telephone The Admin Team on 01273 481565

### **ESDA’S Local Groups**

ESDA (East Sussex Disability Association) has 18 local supports groups whose volunteer members focus on improving local services and providing support for disabled people within their own communities, currently Uckfield has no local branch and ESDA are looking for volunteers who can help with the local outings for young people, can you help. Your time commitment could be as little as making the monthly venue bookings. For further information on ESDA and their local branches or to sign up to become a member (which is free) and receive a copy of their new look newsletter please go to [www.esda.org.uk](http://www.esda.org.uk)

# Wealden Area News

## FREE TALKS AND TRAINING

Did you know that Wealden District Council offers free talks and training to community groups? Talks on the following are available:

- Benefits Awareness  
Jaki Hall, Benefits Liaison Officer 01323 443774
- Home Energy Efficiency  
John Proctor, Home Energy Officer 01323 443313
- Waste and recycling  
Julie Goodwin, Waste Management Officer 01892 602726

The benefits and home energy efficiency talks can be done together as benefits can make a difference to obtaining energy efficiency grants.

To find out more or to make a booking please give us a call.

## Polegate gives No Cold Calling Zone the thumbs-up

Residents in Polegate have given their No Cold Calling

Zone the seal of approval. The Zone was set up in March last year by East Sussex County Council's Trading Standards team working with Polegate Town Council, the Safer Wealden Partnership and local neighbourhood watch groups. Polegate Town Council sent its residents a questionnaire recently asking for their views on the Zone. Of those who replied, 78% said they feel safer in their own homes and 100% said they feel very confident or fairly confident about managing callers at their door. One resident said 'Just knowing someone cares is a great confidence booster'.

For more general information about the work of Trading Standards, please visit [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/consumeradvice](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/consumeradvice). For further information please contact: Martin Fitzgerald Tel: 01273 481691. Out of hours: 07974 427569. E: [martin.fitzgerald@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:martin.fitzgerald@eastsussex.gov.uk)

## WEALDEN YOUTH FORUM

The first Wealden Youth Forum event was held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at The East Sussex Golf Course. The day, which was led by James Davies and Laura Hickmott (Wealden East Sussex Youth Cabinet members) and Jeremy Leach from Wealden District Council, gave representatives from Wealden Community Colleges student councils the opportunity to work together to identify the key issues for youth in the Weald, the top three they identified were: having good friends; being involved in more decisions locally that affect young people and staying safe. Guest representatives from local

district council (members and chief officers), the Primary Care Trust, Federation of Small Businesses, SDCVS, the police and fire services joined the young people for lunch and the after-noon session. Discussions during the second session included a concern for the future of youth centres in the Weald which young people value, a request for an increase in the time allocated to P E in schools and a common identity card for all young people aged 11 upwards across the Wealden area. The invited guests offered suggestions as to how these issues could be taken forward, one outcome of the day will be the production of a step-by-step guide for young people on how approach and lobby their local councillors (parish, district and county) which will be available via the w4y website. A full report of the day and its outcomes can be found on the Wealden Youth website [www.w4y.co.uk](http://www.w4y.co.uk)

## DIARY

### April

**20** Wealden Community Network Event, Kings Centre, Uckfield  
**23** Care for the Carers 'Supporting Carers' at Kings Centre, Eastbourne  
**28** Wealden District Council Cabinet meeting Pine Grove, Crowborough

### May

**9 - 15** Adult Learners Week  
**13** Wealden LSP, Uckfield Civic Centre  
**19** ESCC Cabinet Meeting 10.30am County Hall

**Next issue copy date:  
Thursday  
28 May 2009**



Wealden View

Produced for Wealden  
by South Downs CVS (SDCVS)  
and Eastbourne Association of  
Voluntary Services (EAVS)

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