



WINTER 2006

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Does Your Community Group Need Transport?

If so read on.....

Winchester Area Community Action Transport Services has just added to its fleet of minibuses that can be hired by ANY community group with the addition of a new minibus located at Swanmore, in the Southern Parishes.

The buses can be used by ANY community group for virtually any activity, meeting the needs of all ages. Whilst they are fitted with power lifts and wheelchair restraints so that no one needs to be excluded you do not need to have people with mobility impairment to hire them - they are for all community groups. The only restriction is they cannot, for licensing reasons, be taken overseas.

There is a charge of £1.10 a mile. This covers insurance, wear and tear, maintenance and

all fuel. For longer trips the charges are reduced after the first 100 miles to cover just fuel.

We will try to provide drivers, however they are volunteers and this cannot be guaranteed. You can use your own drivers. If you have someone who is

willing to drive we can provide MiDAS training (which is not hard to do, it is fun and provides confidence in using the vehicle and equipment), and we

may be able to help with the cost of the training. If you have someone who wouldn't mind driving but is unsure about driving a minibus we can help with this to.

To find out more or make a booking contact:

Community Transport Office
(01962) 852602

or
email

communitytransport@waca.org.uk



Winchester Area Community Action

Winchester Area Community Action (WACA) is an independent organisation promoting community and voluntary activity throughout the whole Winchester district, and is part of the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA).

Our work focuses on four key areas of activity: providing support services, such as information, advice and training; promoting partnerships and networking between voluntary, community, private and statutory sectors; representing local groups and organisations in consultations on policy and practice; and initiating and developing services to meet specific needs in the community.

The WACA Community News & E-bulletin provide an opportunity for voluntary and community groups across the whole district to share information and news. If you would like to contribute to The Community News or to our interim E-bulletin please contact Hannah Williams Voluntary

Central Services: (for details contact 01962 842293)

- Management of The Winchester Centre
- Payroll Services & Accountancy/Book-keeping Advice
- Office Space
- Training/Meeting Rooms
- Photocopying, Open Access Computers & other office services

Projects / Activities Managed by WACA (all prefixed 01962)

Advocacy Project - Dave Capps.... **848023**

Community Transport and Dial-a-Ride - Jackie Lea.... **852602**

Shopmobility - Roger Harris.... **842626**

Voluntary Groups Service - Hannah Williams **848019**

Partnership Officer - Ian Milsom.... **848041**

Rape & Sexual Abuse Counselling - Lizzie Nowosielska.... **848018**

Winchester Black & Minority Ethnic Engagement Project- Lois Hutchinson (No prefix) **07715596660**

Volunteer Centre - Sue Heath-Caldwell and David Bradshaw.... **848030**

Out of Schools Childcare Development Worker - Marie Brewer.... **848014**

Learning Development Worker - Hilary Fellows.... **848020**

Please Note: All opinions expressed in COMMUNITY NEWS are not necessarily those of Winchester Area Community Action's Trustee Board, staff or members. We are always pleased to include contributions from any of our readers and welcome articles and information, although WACA retains the right to edit articles as necessary.

The Data Protection Act: WACA is registered under the Data Protection Act. If you would like to inspect information held about your group, please contact the Central Services Team on 01962 842293.

WACA Complaints Procedure: WACA has a formal complaints procedure which applies to all WACA projects. A leaflet explaining the procedure is available from our offices in The Winchester Centre or contact the Central Services Team on 01962 842293.

Local Issues

Hampshire County Council's Adult Services - a partial victory but continuing challenges

Hampshire County Council is currently having to deal with a major deficit in its adult care services budget. Consultation began on 1 September, to seek views from organisations and individuals upon the proposals to change eligibility criteria to restrict care support services to people assessed as having critical needs. This generated widespread concern among voluntary organisations across the county that the loss of services for people with substantial care needs would have a severe impact on very vulnerable people and undermine the whole concept of preventive services. There would be increased pressure to pick up services for people who HCC have dropped and funding to many projects who do not deal with critical cases would be at risk.

WACA joined with the other councils for voluntary service in Hampshire to organise a meeting of voluntary organisations in Eastleigh on 20 October. The meeting, which was called at short notice, was attended by over 80 voluntary/ community organisations, supporting some of the most vulnerable Hampshire residents. By then the County Council had announced its decision to end the consultation on eligibility criteria and suggested that discussions with the voluntary sector should take place to look at the most effective ways of delivering these services. However there were still major issues raised by voluntary organisations at the meeting. They were concerned about the impact on existing services to clients:

- Are stricter eligibility criteria being applied anyway?
- Are services at risk because of a lack of referrals?
- Are enough services available to keep people out of residential care?

and on the impact on VCS providers

- Does HCC merely see the VCS as a cheap provider?
- Does full cost recovery for the VCS exist?
- Is there a level playing field on pricing between voluntary and statutory providers?
- Are contracts to the VCS being cut because it's easier?

We are glad that HCC have recognised the role of voluntary organisations and service users in this process. However this is only a partial victory. It is becoming evident that a number of important voluntary sector projects and contracts are being cut, and that individual clients are feeling the effect of the cutbacks in delays and other restrictions in care needs assessments.

We appreciate that there remain severe financial restrictions and issues about the allocation of resources to care services and believe that the voluntary and community sector can make a substantial contribution in terms of planning and delivery of these services. As a result of the meeting a small group was formed to work with HCC in finding an alternative solution to changing the eligibility criteria. We believe that there are many aspects where we could make a positive contribution, including exploring other ways of delivering services. We have written to Cllr Patricia Banks, the HCC Executive Member for adult services, and joint meetings are being set up.

If you want to be involved in this ongoing discussion please contact Ian Milsom, WACA Partnership Officer (imilsom@waca.org.uk; 01962 848041)

Local Issues & Events

Winchester Youth Counselling

Training event subsidised by Hampshire Children's Trust

Social Abuse

How to avoid the retraumatism of vulnerable young people with learning disabilities.

Saturday 20th January 2007

9.30am - 1pm

(Refreshments provided during the morning - lunch not provided)

The Winchester Hotel (free parking and disabled access)

Speaker: Valerie Sinason

Adult Psychoanalyst and Child Psychotherapist Director of the Clinic for Dissociative Studies.

Aim: to reach a wide range of professionals working with young people with learning disabilities and those who would like to know more about this area of work.

Fee: £20 per person

Places are limited to secure a place please contact Winchester Youth Counselling 01962 82044

Your Questions Answered

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Your Questions Answered

[Redacted]

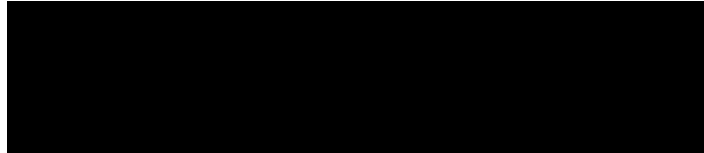
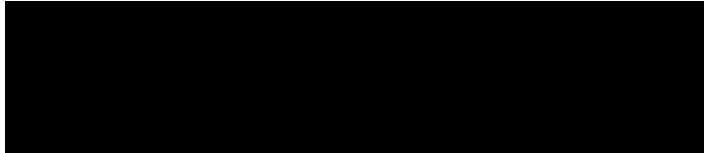
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News from Members



Other organisations based at The Winchester Centre (all prefixed 01962)

Age Concern and Help in the Home....840667

Caring in Crisis....848033

Citizens Advice Bureau....848000

Hampshire Music Space....848036

Olive Branch Christian Counselling....848028

RELATE....861336

SNAPS....848026

Southern Focus Trust.....848016

Wells for India....848043

Workers Education Alliance....848038

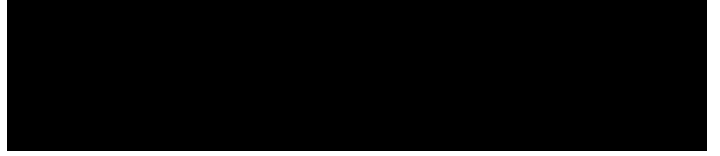
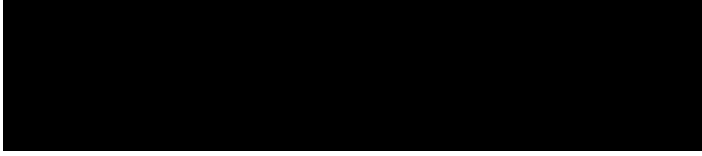
Wessex Users Group....848022

Winchester Young Carers Project848039

Winchester and Andover Carer Centre842034

Crime Reduction Initiative (until June 2006) Room 1.20

Funding



Funding

Learning & Training



WACA Learning

WACA LEARNING

The first year of the Learning Development Project, funded by the Big Lottery, has been very successful. Established as WACA Learning, with its own logo and house style, it has organised and run 24 courses, attended by nearly 250 people between November 2005 and October 2006. The Learning Development Worker, Hilary Fellows, has visited a wide range of local voluntary and community groups to discuss training needs. Training plans have been prepared for 14 organisations, and many of the courses included in the training programme have been in direct response to the needs identified. Next year we hope to work with even more local organisations, and continue to organise training courses and workshops requested by our contacts. Increasingly we are using venues out in the community, so if you would like to host a workshop, please get in touch. We are also working co-operatively with LearningNet, a Hampshire wide project, which is similarly

involved in carrying out training needs analyses and signposting organisations to training providers, including WACA Learning.

We are continuing to add to our resources library here at the Winchester Centre, so if attending a course is difficult, we have a range of useful information sources, which can be borrowed.

In the spring we are hoping to offer a free Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) course, over a number of weeks, which will allow you to work towards the Level Two certificate in IAG. Hilary is also developing an accredited course with the Open College Network, so that members of the local community can have the opportunity of gaining a relevant qualification in recognition of their contribution as active citizens. Watch this space!

Supported by
 The National Lottery®
through the Big Lottery Fund



Learning & Training

LearningNet - Meeting *Your* Needs



LearningNet is a workforce development project created by a consortium of Voluntary Sector organisations. Whose aim is to identify and meet the learning needs of staff and volunteers in voluntary organisations within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The lead body is Community Action Hampshire and the project is funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Learning Net is supported by local Councils for Voluntary Service (CVS) including Winchester Area Community Action, Test Valley Community Services and Eastleigh Community Services.

LearningNet trained representatives can help your organisation, by discussing your learning/training needs and identify where the skills gaps are within your organisation for both paid staff and volunteers.

LearningNet understands Voluntary and Community Organisations and all the staff have experience of working in the sector. Whatever the size of your group Whether you are a little community group run entirely by volunteers or a large charity with lots of paid staff, we're here to help you.

The service is completely free and is flexible to suit the needs of your organisation, (Note conditions apply.)

Contact:

Mary Whitworth is the Area Development Worker for Test Valley, Winchester and Eastleigh. Mary is based at the offices of TVCS in Andover. Tel: 01264 362600 (to leave a message) Mob: 07736 806037
Email: mary.learningnet@tvcs.org.uk

Sue Heath-Caldwell at WACA is a LearningNet representative covering the Winchester District.
Tel: 01962 848030 Email: suehc@waca.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

TITLE	DATE	VENUE	WHO TO CONTACT
2006			
Winchester Voluntary Sector Forum/Southern Parishes Network (Combined meeting)			Ian Milsom Partnership Officer 01962 848020
2006			
Domestic Violence Forum		Training Rooms The Winchester Centre	Diana Wooldridge Chief Executive 01962 848010
2006			
Winchester Community Network		Training Rooms The Winchester Centre	Ian Milsom Partnership Officer 01962 848020
Inclusive Housing Forum		Training Rooms The Winchester Centre	Gareth Tracey Central Services 01962 848040

***Please note: meetings and events listed in this page may be subject to change of dates**