

# The Chain

## Wokingham Borough's Voluntary & Community Group Newsletter

Every volunteer and community group is a link, in an ever growing chain and working together makes us all stronger

Hello! Welcome to this latest edition of the Chain. It has been a very busy year already as we approach the end of January and there is so much to look forward to in the next few months. We are in the process of completing a needs analysis for the voluntary and community sector across Wokingham and have already received some brilliant feedback. This survey is an opportunity for you all to let us know how we are doing as an organisation as well as tell us what you need more of. If you haven't received a copy of the survey then contact one of the team and we can send one across. Please note though, we need completed forms to be returned by no later than 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015!

What else is going on... involve will be hosting 2 further Voluntary Sector Network meetings on the 12<sup>th</sup> February and 16<sup>th</sup> March – further details are included in this edition of The Chain, and coming up in March we have 3 fantastic training courses taking place. There are also the following national/ international events taking place that you may want to look out for: World Cancer Day (4<sup>th</sup> Feb), Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year (19<sup>th</sup> Feb), St David's Day (1<sup>st</sup> Mar), International Women's Day (8<sup>th</sup> Mar), Mothering Sunday (15<sup>th</sup> Mar), St Patricks Day (17<sup>th</sup> Mar) and World Down Syndrome Day (21<sup>st</sup> Mar). There are many more key events that we could list but have just picked out a few.

As the new General Manager at involve, over the next few months I will be attempting to visit more of the great projects, charities and organisations working across Wokingham Borough. There is such a thriving community here, it is great to be a part of it and I hope that involve can continue to offer information, support and guidance to you all in order that the sector can continue to grow and flourish! If you want to make contact with me then please do, my email is detailed below. Well, a belated Happy New Year to all and thanks for reading!

Philip Cook, General Manager – involve - [Philip.cook@involve.community](mailto:Philip.cook@involve.community)

**SPRING**  **is on its way!**

**involve**  
making a difference locally

Come and join us for the  
**Voluntary Sector Network Meeting**

Thursday 12th February

12.30 – 2.30pm

@ Finchampstead Baptist Church

Gorse Ride North, Wokingham, Finchampstead, RG40 4ES

**A discussion for all:**

**Tell us what your funding challenges are at present and what support you need in the future and hear about some local opportunities of raising funds**

**Speakers;**

**Bruce Wright – involve, Gerry Mortimore – Unicorns,**

**Dave Soper – Berkshire Community Foundation,**

**Andy Nicholls – WBC**

To book a place please contact  
[clare.rebbeck@involve.community](mailto:clare.rebbeck@involve.community) by no later than  
**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb**

**N.B. The next VS Meeting is on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
10am – 12pm @ Loddon Hall, Twyford**

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[www.involve.community/](http://www.involve.community/)

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## Events Calendar

<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Place &amp; Community Partnership meeting</b>	<b>Shute End, Civic Offices, Wokingham</b>
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>GO! Kids 'n' Action</b>	<b>680 Eskdale Road, Winnersh Triangle, RG41 5TS</b>
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	<b>TV Police &amp; Crime Commissioner – victims support services event</b>	<b>The Gateway Conference Centre, Gatehouse Road Aylesbury. HP19 8FF</b>
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	<b>Kings Church – finance support</b>	<b>Kings Church, Kings Place, RG40 2AD</b>
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	<b>Autism Partnership Board - Coproduction meeting</b>	<b>Shute End, Civic Offices, Wokingham. GF2</b>
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Your Voice in Action – Coproduction meeting</b>	<b>Rose Room, Bradbury Centre (Methodist Church) Rose Street, Wokingham</b>
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Age Concern Twyford &amp; District – Carers Coffee Mornings</b>	<b>Polehampton Close, Twyford. RG10 9RP</b>
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Trinity Band Concert</b>	<b>Trinity Church, Lower Earley</b>

<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>GO! Sno-tubing</b>	<b>John Nike leisuersport complex, John Nike Way, Bracknell, RG12 8TN</b>
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Community Trust Soccer Schools</b>	<b>Various Locations</b>
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>CLASP – Big Breakfast</b>	<b>Bradbury Centre cafe, Rose Street, Wokingham</b>
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Westmead – Coproduction meeting, maximising independence through prevention and self-care</b>	<b>Westmead Centre Rances Lane, Wokingham RG40 2LH</b>
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February &amp; Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Wokingham, Bracknell &amp; Districts Mencap ‘Thinking Ahead’ Workshop for Carers</b>	<b>South Hill Park, Ringmead, Bracknell, RG12 7PA</b>
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Berkshire Apprenticeship Adventure 2015</b>	<b>Coppid Beech Hotel John Nike Way, Bracknell RG12 8TF</b>
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>GO! Horseriding</b>	<b>Bearwood Riding Stables, Mole Road, Sindlesham, RG41 5DB</b>
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>INVOLVE – VS Meeting</b>	<b>Loddon Hall, Twyford</b>
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Berkshire Community Foundation - Berkshire Charity Symposium</b>	<b>HSBC at Green Park 100 Brook Drive, Reading RG2 6UJ</b>
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Wokingham, Bracknell &amp; Districts Mencap – Sibs Open Event</b>	<b>Earley Crescent Resource Centre, Warbler Drive, RG6 4HB</b>

## **Place & Community Partnership meeting**

**29 January 2015 - 09:30-11:30**

**Location: David Hicks Room, Shute End, Wokingham Borough Council**

**To attend please reply to Lorraine Meylan**

**<Lorraine.Meylan@wokingham.gov.uk>**



**GO!** is a project run for children with additional needs and their siblings

**Come and play at Kids 'n' Action**

When: Thursday 29th January 2015

Where: Kids 'n' Action, 680 Eskdale Road, Winnersh Triangle, RG41 5TS

Time: 4-6pm

Age: Suitable for ages up to 18 Cost: £5 per child, £1 per adult

To book Call: 0118 907 6387 or Email: [bookings@greatopportunities.org.uk](mailto:bookings@greatopportunities.org.uk)

Siblings also welcome - Let's GO! Further events on page – and --

**SPRING** is on its way!

## One off events through February & March

### Victims support services event

#### Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner

Important Notice: local commissioning of victims' services

#### 1. Engagement event

We are pleased to confirm two new events in support of local commissioning of victims' services and to consult on service specifications, hosted by the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) on Monday

#### 2nd February 2015 at The Gateway, Aylesbury:

a) Third Party Reporting on Hate Crime, 10.30-12.30pm

Register online - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tvpcc-hate-crime-victims-service-tickets-15283399058>

b) Domestic Violence, 1.30-3.30pm

Register online - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tvpcc-domestic-violence-victims-services-tickets-15283750108>

### Autism Partnership Board - Coproduction meeting

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb

Room GF2 Shute End,  
Wokingham

10am – 1pm

Wokingham Action4Autism (A4A)  
Partnership for help

to review and redesign their approach to engaging people with autism, their families and other key partners.

**You do not need to be experienced in autism to contribute, just a commitment to addressing inequality in service provision**

**If you would like to attend please contact Jodie Reichelt**

[jodie.reichelt@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:jodie.reichelt@wokingham.gov.uk)

Tel: 05600 766 114

## The CAP Money Course

a money management course that really works, helping you get in control of your finances, so you can budget, save and spend.

Kings Church Wokingham on **Monday 2 February 2015**

Courses are held at Kings Place, RG40 2AD

Starts: 7:45pm

For information contact: Tim Randall (07528 705242)

## Your Voice in Action - Coproduction meeting

**Wednesday 4th Feb**

Rose Room - Bradbury Centre  
(Methodist Church) Rose Street,  
Wokingham

2-4pm

Your Voice in Action (YViA) are a small local group made up of mental health service users. They have some money available to them and want to put this to good use, by raising awareness of mental health and well-being issues.

Their aim is to run a community event during National Mental Health Awareness Week (11th - 17th May 2015). However, they are in need of some assistance. YViA are calling on the support, knowledge, and expertise of the Co-Production Network to help plan, organise and deliver this event.

If you would like to attend please contact Jodie Reichelt

[jodie.reichelt@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:jodie.reichelt@wokingham.gov.uk)

Tel: 05600 766 114

## Age Concern Twyford & District

### Carer's Coffee Mornings

These are now taking place every other Thursday of the month and are really being well attended.

Please come along and join in with some of the informal and informative Chats. It's amazing what information you can pick up from these informal sessions.

If you are caring for somebody, and don't want to leave them alone, bring them along – we will take care of them. The next Carer's Coffee mornings will be on

**Thursday 5th and 19<sup>th</sup> February**

Please call us for details and if you know of anybody who is caring for somebody please let them know they are welcome to attend.

**Gordon Holmes - Centre Manager**

**Tel: 0118 934 4040**



## Trinity Concert Band -February Concert

**Where:** Trinity Church, Lower Earley

**When:** Saturday 7th February at 7:30 pm

**Box Office Phone:** 0845 2263047

**Contact Email:** dave.robson@ntlworld.com

**Further Details:** <http://www.trinityband.co.uk>

The Concert will take place on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February** at 7:30 pm at Trinity Church, Lower Earley Our annual highlights concert is back! Come and join us in reliving our best musical moments from 2014 with music from Wicked! The Musical, My Fair Lady, "Somewhere" from West Side Story and Walton's rousing "Spitfire Prelude" to name but a few! Tickets are £10 up to 24 hours before the concert and £12 on the door. Children under 16 years are free when accompanied by a paying member of the audience. Tickets can be purchased from the Box Office (0845 2263047) or via our website ([www.trinityband.co.uk](http://www.trinityband.co.uk))



GO! Sno-tubing!

**When:** Saturday 14th February 2015

**Where:** John Nike leisuersport complex, John Nike Way, Bracknell, RG12 8TN

**Time:** 1&2pm, please choose which session when booking (1 hour slot)

**Cost:** £5 per person **Age:** Suitable for 6-18 years

**Access:** We use half the ski slope. Those taking part need to be able to walk up the slope before riding down in the tube. All those taking part must bring and wear gloves for protection.

**To book Call:** 0118 907 6387 **Email:** [bookings@greatopportunities.org.uk](mailto:bookings@greatopportunities.org.uk) **Wokingham Sno-tubing**

## Community Trust Soccer Schools

**From Monday 16th – Friday 20th February**

**Soccer school for children aged between 6 – 14 years, for full programme see website or**

**Tel:** 0118 968 1480

**Email:** [CMoss@readingfc.co.uk](mailto:CMoss@readingfc.co.uk)

**Web:**

[www.community.readingfc.co.uk](http://www.community.readingfc.co.uk)

## CLASP

### (Caring, Listening and Support Partnership)

is running their annual Big Breakfast fundraising event on

**Tuesday 17th February**

9:30am - 1:30pm

Bradbury Centre cafe, Rose Street, Wokingham

CLASP members will be teaming up with volunteers from the Church to serve delicious breakfasts. Have a full cooked breakfast for £5! Vegetarian and lighter options also available.

All money raised will be going to Daisy's Dream, a charity that supports children and their families who have been affected by the life threatening illness or bereavement of someone close to them. There is more information on their website: <http://www.daisysdream.org.uk/>

For more information about the event, contact Sarah or Ali at CLASP on tel: 0118 9796 364 or email: [admin@claspwokingham.org.uk](mailto:admin@claspwokingham.org.uk)

### Coproduction Network meeting

#### **“Maximising independence through prevention and self-care”**

A survey will be available to fill in for organisations and individuals who are interested in telling the Coproduction Network about the above topic – a workshop will also be held on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb** Westmead Centre from 1.30pm

If you are interested in discussing this topic and/or would like to attend the workshop please contact Jodie Reichelt  
[jodie.reichelt@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:jodie.reichelt@wokingham.gov.uk)  
Tel: 05600 766 114





**Wokingham  
Bracknell  
& Districts  
Mencap**

## ***‘Thinking Ahead’***

Workshop for Carers

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

**9.45am – 2pm**

**at South Hill Park,  
Ringmead, Bracknell, RG12 7PA**

This is the second in a series of workshops being run by Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap, based on the theme of ‘Thinking Ahead’ to help parents and carers of young people (aged 16+) and adults with a learning disability and/or an Autism Spectrum Condition, living in the Wokingham and Bracknell Forest Boroughs, plan for the future. Funding for the workshops has been provided by Bracknell and Wokingham Learning Disability Partnership Boards.

*This workshop will include:*

***Short overview of Appointeeship, Deputyship & Power of Attorney  
Circles of Support  
Wills and Trusts  
Planning for Emergencies***

*To book a place please contact Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap*

*For more details email [admin@wokinghammencap.org](mailto:admin@wokinghammencap.org) or telephone 0300 777 8539.*

*A second event is planned for 26<sup>th</sup> March.*

## Employers - hire your future apprentice!

**Berkshire Apprenticeship Adventure 2015**  
**Brought to you from**  
**The National Apprenticeship Service, in partnership with Learning**  
**to Work and Central Berkshire Education Business Partnership**

**Employers – do you want to recruit an apprentice?**

The event is being targeted at 16-24 year olds (including students in years 11-13, school leavers, parents and carers) and is offering young people the chance to actively seek current vacancies, meet employers like you who are looking to take on apprentices and learn more about Apprenticeships.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015 - 11am until 5pm**  
**Coppid Beech Hotel, John Nike Way, Bracknell. RG12 8TF**

This is a great opportunity for you to meet the 'talent of the future' and we are welcoming organisations from across Berkshire to come along have a stand and talk to young people who have already expressed an interest in apprenticeships.

The event is for any sized organisation wishing to have a stand who are looking to recruiting apprentice(s) now or in the future. If you would like further information or would like to book a space at this event please use the contact details below. For information contact Linda Moody on 01753 502384 or email [l.moody@learningtowork.org.uk](mailto:l.moody@learningtowork.org.uk)



GO! is a project run for children with additional needs and their siblings. Let's GO! Join us for a fun horse riding session! A half an hour walk out taster session. Children must be able to sit unaided and they must wear a hard hat for the duration of the ride.

**When: Saturday 7th March 2015**

Where: Bearwood Riding Stables, Mole Road, Sindlesham, Wokingham. RG41 5DB

Time: 3 slots at 3pm, 3,30pm and 4pm

Age: Suitable for ages 5-18 Cost: £5 per person

Booking is essential. Parents are required to stay with their children for the duration of the session GO! welcomes children and young people with a wide range of learning difficulties and disabilities who

live in Wokingham to enjoy these one off leisure activities.

To book Call: 0118 907 6387 Email: [bookings@greatopportunities.org.uk](mailto:bookings@greatopportunities.org.uk)



## **Berkshire Community Foundation**

### **The Berkshire Charity Symposium**

**10am – 3 pm on Friday March 20th 2015**

HSBC at Green Park, 100 Brook Drive, Reading RG2 6UJ

Keynote Speaker Eleanor Harrison CEO of Global Giving

To book please contact: Dave Soper –Charity Engagement Manager

Tel: 0118 930 3021 07729641450 dave.soper@berkshirecf.org @BCFDave

## **Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap Sibs Open Event**

**Saturday 28 March 2015 ~ 1pm to 4pm**

**Earley Crescent Resource Centre, Warbler  
Drive, RG6 4HB**

**An afternoon of free and fun activities for children with learning  
disabilities and their siblings**

**For more information and to book Phone: 0300 777 8539**

**E-mail: [admin@wokinghammencap.org](mailto:admin@wokinghammencap.org)**

## Regular activities and services through February & March

### Charvil Art Group

meet on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 pm to 9.30pm at The Jubilee Hall,  
Park View North, Charvil RG10 9QY

**Feb 4th-Reflections, Feb 11th-In house tutorial with Ken Docking Light and Shade = Tone, Feb 18th-Paint in Acrylic, Feb 25th-Life class with Bernadette**  
**March 4th - AGM and demonstration, March 11th-Paint Spring Flowers**  
**March 18th-Cafe Scene, March 25th-Tutorial with Helga Haflin**

We are a happy group of mixed ages and would like to welcome new members of any ability.

For more details about our club please contact Ken on 01189 690 274



**Want something to do on a Saturday morning? – then we've got the club for you!**  
**be fab on Saturdays at the bPhab youth club**

It's for young people with and without disabilities aged 9 – 18. There's a range of activities available, including games on the playstation or Wii, giving the club's robot mascot a seasonal makeover, getting sporty with table tennis or basketball, creating a culinary masterpiece or chilling out in the fantastic sensory room.

Siblings are welcome, and parents don't have to stay (although we are not able to provide personal care).

#### **When?**

Saturdays, 9.30am to 1pm - £3 per session

#### **Where?**

Berkshire Phab, MAPP Centre, 22 Mount Pleasant, Reading RG1 2TD

tel 0118 916 8413 web [www.berkshirephab.org](http://www.berkshirephab.org)  
email [info@berkshirephab.org](mailto:info@berkshirephab.org)



**WJSC is dedicated to offering FREE support and guidance to unemployed people living in the Wokingham Borough.**

WJSC prides itself on providing friendly, professional support in an atmosphere where you can spend time in a motivational, open environment which can help remove the feeling of isolation that job searching can sometimes bring. You can also interact with staff who are on hand to answer your questions and give dedicated support to you. So come along and see how we can help.

1 to 1 Advisor Support, CV writing, Interview techniques/skills/mock, Career Matching programme, Microsoft office / Internet access/free wifi  
Printing/telephone, Newspapers

**Workshops** have also become an integral part of the services that WJSC offer for **CV Writing, Interview Skills and and Over 50's**. They are run every 3 – 4 weeks from 10:30 – 12:30pm at The Cornerstone. Contact us to book yourself a place.

**The Cornerstone, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham. RG40 1UE**

**Tel: 01189 770517**

**Email: [Jobsearch@wjsc.org.uk](mailto:Jobsearch@wjsc.org.uk). Website: [www.wjsc.org.uk](http://www.wjsc.org.uk)**

**“When things go wrong. . . .”**

The NHS tries to do its best for all its patients, but things can occasionally go wrong. Independent Health Complaints Advocacy can help by supporting the patient-or family member or friend-through the NHS complaints process – helping them to communicate clearly what went wrong and what outcome they are looking for from their complaint..

Who are we?

**SEAP** – an independent charity, not part of the NHS – and provides a free service

What do we do?

Support you with health (NHS) complaints

How can we help?

Provide a self-help pack or an advocate who can help with letter writing, talking to the right people and support at meetings. The service is free, confidential, and independent of the NHS. It is funded by the local authorities.

How to contact SEAP?

Call: 0300 343 5734 Email: [Berkshire@seap.org.uk](mailto:Berkshire@seap.org.uk) or [jenny.lewis@seap.org.uk](mailto:jenny.lewis@seap.org.uk) if you'd like to discuss how we could support any of your clients or members.

## Youth Boxercise sessions Free of Charge!!

Thanks to Community First funding Boxercise sessions are available completely free of charge at Loddon Valley Leisure Centre

Tuesdays 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Ages 11 – 19

QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS, PADS/PUNCH BAGS, FOOTWORK, DEFENCE, FITNESS, EQUIPMENT PROVIDED, ABA PRELIMINARY AWARD

For more information contact:

Mark Edwards

medwards@readingfc.co.uk

Telephone - 01189 072161

## Regular Health Activities across the Borough

Healthy Cooking Classes: Resumes on Thursday 8 January at 7.00pm. New Directions, Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2. (Cost £10 for term this includes ingredients).

The following activities are Free:

**Zumba Classes**, Crescent Resource Centre: These classes will resume on Tuesday 13th January from 6pm to 7pm.

Norris Road: The classes will resume from Friday 9th January 6pm to 7pm.

**Swimming** at Academy Sports: Swimming will resume from Saturday 10th January from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

**Aquafit** at Bulmershe Leisure Centre: Aquafit will resume from Sunday 11th January from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

Alexandra Place, Southlake Crescent, Woodley: **Light Exercise for Older people** will resume from Tuesday 13th January from 11.30am to 12.30.

**For any clarification and further information please contact**

**Ashwani Gupta, Social Inclusion Officer, Community Services**

**Tel 01189746790 Mobile: 07825195503**

**Ashwani.Gupta@wokingham.gov.uk**

## News

**Reading Voluntary Action** are currently working to collate information to have an on-line directory of Victim Support Services as part of their project funded by the PCC. Here is the information from their website <http://rva.org.uk/service-directory-victims-of-crime-thames-valley/> Included here is a link to the short on-line form that agencies need to complete to have an entry in the directory <https://rvaforms.wufoo.com/forms/support-for-victims-of-crime/>

The **Faith Action Audit** will be an opportunity to measure the great work being carried out for the benefit of our communities by churches and all faith groups in over 50 areas in the UK



A survey will be carried out using an online questionnaire which will be accessible from January 2015 inviting all churches and faith groups across Wokingham to take part.

The aim is that the audit will **'strengthen the confidence of local churches and faith groups to work more closely together with local authorities, police and other agencies'**.

Results from all of the projects will be summarised in a national report which will be made available to the new government in May 2015. We will then be arranging an event in Wokingham Borough to showcase the results.

For further information or to receive the final report and attend related events, please contact

**Jeremy Sharpe, Faith Action Audit Coordinator**  
07970 100131 [jsharp.fic@gmail.com](mailto:jsharp.fic@gmail.com) [www.the-network.info](http://www.the-network.info)

### WBC Website Testers

Wokingham Borough Council is looking to improve the Health and Social Care section of the Council website. They would like to work with people who use websites to get feedback and ideas. To do this, they'd like to ask if anyone could spare some time in February to take part in some testing sessions using the website. This will be a one to one session with the Website Manager at the Council, Nick Spencer, and should take no longer than 60 minutes. If you're interested in helping please email your contact details to [nicholas.spencer@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:nicholas.spencer@wokingham.gov.uk) or tel: 01189 746 109. He will get in touch to organise a session at a time to suit you.



## HIV Testing Project Finalist in UK Sexual Health Awards

Time to Test, the innovative HIV testing project that is run by TVPS, has been selected as a finalist for the UK Sexual Health Awards 2015 in the category of Adult Sexual Health Service/Project of the Year.

Sarah Macadam, CEO of TVPS, said "We are absolutely over the moon. This is the second national award we have been short-listed for - last year this project was short-listed for the Guardian Charity Awards. Everyone has worked extremely hard to make this project a success and we are so proud to have this work recognised."

The winners of the UK Sexual Health Awards 2015 are being announced at an awards ceremony on 6th March.

If your organisation would like Time to Test publicity materials sent you, e-mail [test@tvps.org.uk](mailto:test@tvps.org.uk)

### Calling all front line staff and volunteers from across the Borough

The Development Workers Forum meet quarterly to share front-line news and learn about current local agenda topics

The next meeting is on Tuesday 7th April from 12.30 to 2.30pm The Rainbow Centre, Rainbow Park, Winnersh, RG41 5SG.

If you would like to attend please contact;

Rose Green, Community Development Worker  
Tel: 0118 908 8193

[rose.green@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:rose.green@wokingham.gov.uk)

### St. Nicolas Church 'Open Door Project' in Sutcliffe Avenue, Earley

St. Nicolas Church has the opportunity to improve the church buildings and site and would like to hear from local groups who are supporting the local people to ensure improvements are relevant to the local community.

If you are a community group or charity and work in the surrounding area and would like to complete a survey please contact

Anne Barnes  
St Nicolas Open Door Project  
[annec.barnes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annec.barnes@yahoo.co.uk)



### ***ABC to Read***

has released their annual statistics for 2013/2014, reporting a remarkable 97% improvement in reading confidence with the primary school children they work with. Among other figures, the charity reports an outstanding 99% improvement in general self confidence and a 97% improvement in children's attitude towards reading. An impressive 99% of responses recorded that the children who had benefited from an *ABC to Read* volunteer mentor showed improvement in their overall achievement, 57% of whom showed significant improvement. Importantly, the report also indicates that 98% of the children surveyed whose communication with adults was deemed to be an issue, demonstrated an improvement in this area.

The primary school children selected to work with an *ABC to Read* mentor are identified by the schools as those children who are struggling with their reading and would benefit most from one-to-one support. Just over 50% of the children that the charity surveyed are eligible for free school meals.

Marcia Rowlinson, *ABC to Read* Chief Operating and Development Officer, said: "This is the second consecutive year of fantastic results and I am very thankful to our volunteer mentors who are key to the success of the youngsters they work with."

There are still spaces available for any new volunteers to take part in training on 27 and 30 January.

*ABC to Read* are also looking for new schools to join the mentoring scheme. For more information about training days or joining the scheme as a school, contact:

[abctoread@btconnect.com](mailto:abctoread@btconnect.com)

### **Do you work with older people?**

#### **Please add Tax Help For Older People to your contact list**

We are a specialist charity of tax experts who give free & independent tax advice, information & provide advocacy to lower income older people anywhere in the UK. You may think that tax does not cause too many problems but life changes can start unexpected and often worrying tax situations. Divorce, bereavement & retirement are 3 such life changes. Even if you think that you are not a tax payer you would be surprised how much you might save now or in the future after a chat with Tax Help for Older People to check your tax code or your tax situation. If you are an advisor to older people, you might wish to keep a note of our number, tax is complicated & if faced with a tax question we recommend calling us. You will reach a trained professional (no phone menu items!) and we have a fast track number to HMRC which we can use in urgent cases. If we cannot help over the phone we can arrange a free face to face consultation with one of our tax volunteers. Tax Help for Older People, you never know when you might need a tax expert: **0845 601 3321**

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

## Care Act – big changes are on the horizon

### Better care and support in Wokingham Borough

From April 2015, care and support in England is changing. The new Care Act will introduce a number of reforms that primarily impact existing and new care users, their carers and families.

Many of us will need care and support at some point in our lives and, if people can afford to, they should pay at least something towards the cost of it. The new Care Act will help make the care and support system more consistent across the country, because for the first time everyone will be assessed by the same national standards. And this also means that more people will be entitled to care and support.

The changes are designed to help people plan for the future, and give them greater control over the help they receive.

Any decisions about their care and support will consider their wellbeing and what is important to them and their family, so they can stay healthy and remain independent for longer.

Everyone's needs are different. They may be physical or emotional. They may find that the support they need could be met by something else going on in the Borough. Wokingham

Borough Council funds a wide range of community based services such as physical activities, support groups and specialist advice and information. There are also numerous clubs, activities and help and support services offered by voluntary organisations in the Borough.

The Wokingham Information Network (WIN) is a one-stop online window to all the services and information about care and support

<http://info.wokingham.gov.uk/kb5/wokingham/info/home.page>

### Deferred Payment

Deferred payment is a scheme which allows someone who is eligible for social care services and who enters residential care to keep their property. The local authority helps with paying care home fees and recovers the money from the proceeds when the property is sold (either when the person chooses to sell their home or after their death). This means that people should not have to sell their homes in their lifetime to pay for their care. The Care Act opens this service to more people.

### More information

For more information about local implementation of the Care Act, please visit the website: [www.wokingham.gov.uk/socialcare/careact](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/socialcare/careact) and follow Twitter and Facebook.

See changes for Carers on the next page

## Care Act – big changes are on the horizon

### Changes for Carers

These national changes also benefit carers. 'Caring' for someone covers lots of different things, including taking them to regular appointments, or keeping them company when they feel lonely or anxious.

Carers may be able to get a personal budget to spend on things that make caring easier; or practical support like arranging for someone to step in when they need a short break. A carer's assessment will look at the different ways caring affects their life and work out how they can carry on doing the things that are important to them and their family. Carers can even have an assessment for help, despite the person they care for not being eligible for help from the Council.

## Opportunities, offers and requests



**Board and Screen to give away!!!**

Contact [Mark@deafpositives.org](mailto:Mark@deafpositives.org)

**SAMARITANS**BRACKNELL, WOKINGHAM, ASCOT  
& DISTRICTS

Most people have heard of **Samaritans** but ask them what exactly do Samaritans do, and they are not totally sure.

If you are one of those people, and are interested to know more about this charity that has been offering emotional support for more than 60 years, you would be welcome to attend an information event at the local branch.

Samaritans of Bracknell, Wokingham, Ascot & Districts is based in Bracknell, off Larges Lane which is, give or take a few steps, behind Bracknell & Wokingham College's roundabout site.

The next two information sessions are Saturday, 28th February, from 2 to 4.30pm and Thursday, 26th March, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

These events enable people to find out more about what is involved in being a Samaritans' volunteer, with an explanation of what is involved in becoming either a listening volunteer or a support volunteer; support volunteers assist the branch in all kinds of ways, from fixing a broken shelf to helping raise funds to IT and keeping our printer and copier in good working order.

For further information, look at [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org) or email [sams.selection@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sams.selection@yahoo.co.uk). Or you can email the branch at [bracknell@samaritans.org.uk](mailto:bracknell@samaritans.org.uk) or leave us a message at 01344 868808

## Age Concern Twyford & District

### Volunteers needed:

We need help in our kitchen from 12 midday to about 2pm, especially on Mondays.

– you won't be alone as there is always somebody else there, it is just that we need an extra pair of hands!

We are still on the lookout for volunteer drivers too!

For info contact  
Gordon Holmes  
Day Centre Manager  
0118 934 4040

**CROSS  
ROADS  
CARE**

Wokingham

Crossroads Care Wokingham has been awarded a grant from Berkshire Community Foundation to provide home based extended respite breaks to support carers of people with dementia.

[We are also looking for dedicated and caring individuals to join our care support workers team. Experience preferred but full training will be given.](#)

Our treasurer is retiring in May and we are seeking a qualified accountant or someone with financial/accounting experience to be our next treasurer.

For more information on all the above please contact Catherina Tam on 0118 979 5324 or [crossroads@wokingham10.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:crossroads@wokingham10.orangehome.co.uk)

**involve**  
making a difference locally

[www.involve.community/](http://www.involve.community/)



## Job Opportunities

**With The Get Active/Wokingham children's summer outreach playschemes**

### Job No. 1

Job Title: Holiday Camp Supervisor      Job Ref:  
Company: Get Active Sports      Salary: £8-£10 p/h

### Job No. 2

Get Active Sports are looking to recruit Fun, Energetic and Creative classroom teachers to join our successful team of Holiday Camp Coaches. Working at one of our holiday camps (Wokingham, Winnersh, Finchampstead, Lower Earley, Slough, Marlow & Uxbridge) you will play a key part in the development of children's social and creative skills over the holiday period, flexible hours considered.

### Job No. 3

Holiday Camp Playworker/Sports Coach  
Job Title: Holiday Camp Playworker/Sports Coach  
Company: Get Active Sports      Salary: £6.50-£7.50 p/h

For more information or to apply for these positions please email [sbarrable@getactivesports.com](mailto:sbarrable@getactivesports.com) or call 01344 860868. Please apply with your CV and a covering letter to indicate how your skills and experience are relevant to the post. Please ensure any gaps in employment are fully explained.



**National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society**

**Youth and Family Services Manager (JIA)**

**Salary:** £30,000 p.a. gross - 35 hours per week (9.30-5.30)

**Location:** 4 The Switchback, Gardner Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7RJ

For more info or full details please visit Web: [www.nras.org.uk](http://www.nras.org.uk)

Or Phone: 0845 458 3969

## Funding news and support

### **Bruce Wright, Funding Advisor, involve**

#### **Free funding advice!**

Provides weekly funding alerts direct to your email address

Telephone mentoring on funding opportunities – tell him about your organisational funding needs and Bruce can pull together a bespoke funding opportunities package to save you the search!

Critical friend reviews on your funding applications – receive a review and useful advice to help develop and create strong funding bids

To sign up to any of these services you can contact Bruce on 01626 867 604 or email him at [bruce.wright@involve.community](mailto:bruce.wright@involve.community).

### ***Give me 5***

From Wednesday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup> 2015, Localgiving.com are running the first of their ***Give me 5*** events

Any donation of exactly £5 will be going into a prize draw to receive a full match. This is a real opportunity to encourage people you know to give you a small donation. Make sure they apply gift aid where they can.

**You need to have a current subscription to Localgiving.com to take part**

**For details contact Dave Soper - Tel:  
0118 930 3021  
[dave.soper@berkshirecf.org](mailto:dave.soper@berkshirecf.org)**

### **Communication Support**

Does your organisation make an amazing difference to your beneficiaries? Do you struggle to put that difference into words which grant-funders recognise? The key to successful funding bids is matching the work you do and the impact you have to the criteria and requirements the funders are looking for. Telling your story in their language can be incredibly powerful.

If you are looking for someone to put together strong bids for your organisation, please get in touch. If you are looking for powerful writing to communicate what you do to other audiences, I can also help you with that.

Sarah Browning, Communications Specialist, Browning York Ltd  
[sarah@browningyork.com](mailto:sarah@browningyork.com)  
07740 861 293  
[www.browningyork.com](http://www.browningyork.com)

# Training for the sector

## Training Provided by involve – Wokingham Borough

### **New**

#### **involve Trustees Roles and Responsibilities Workshop**

Wednesday, 11 March 2015 The Oakwood Centre Headley Road Woodley Reading RG5 4JZ - 5.30pm to 8.30pm. Course Fee £20 or £25 for groups outside Wokingham Borough: Please be aware that there is a cancellation fee of £20 if less than 5 working days' notice is given for any cancellations.

The workshop, which will be led by Sarah Morland, will aim to clarify the roles and responsibilities of Trustees and Management Committee members.

What we will cover:

- What does the Charity Commission expect from trustees and what this means for you?
- Are you a trustee, management committee member or director and what is the difference?
- Specific roles including, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary
- The importance of your governing document
- The balance between governance and operations for trustees
- Induction and on-going development of trustees
- Action points for you individually and for your board/committee

The workshop will have a mix of presentation and discussion, and will include small group discussions, a quiz and action planning. The session will seek to address any questions and/or concerns that you have about your role as a trustee and will suggest further resources to use.

### **New**

#### **involve Risk Assessment Workshop**

Friday, 20 March 2015 Timings to be confirmed

Wokingham Library, Denmark Street, Wokingham, RG40 2BB

Course Administration Fee £20 or £25 for groups outside Wokingham Borough.

This is a four hour workshop led by Marrian Warren-Tibbetts, which is designed to give candidates an understanding of what a Risk Assessment is, what areas need to be assessed, looking at the people involved, as well as the activities they undertake.

## Learning Outcomes

Risk Assessment: terminology & definitions of Risk Assessments

The Five steps to risk assessments –

- identify hazards
- decide who may be harmed
- evaluate the risk
- control measures
- documentation and review

There is not a test at the end of this workshop, but an attendance certificate will be given on completion of the session.

## **NEW!**

### **involve Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Workshop**

The Bradbury Community Centre Methodist Church Rose Street Wokingham, RG40 1XS Tuesday, 24 March 9 30am – 12.30pm (Registration at 9.15am)  
Course Fee £20 or £25 for groups outside Wokingham Borough: Please be aware that there is a cancellation fee of £20 if less than 5 working days' notice is given for any cancellations.

This is a three hour session led by Ben Cross (Reading Children's & Voluntary Youth Services).

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) helps employers make safer recruitment decisions and prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups, including children. It replaces the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). Do you fully understand the changes that have been made?

This workshop will explain the background to the new Disclosure and Barring Service, the new definitions of Regulated Activity, how the new DBS checks work, the Update Service, and how you could practically implement these changes within your organisation – effectively. Everything you need to know, and everything you need to do about the new DBS process.

**For further information or to book a place on any of the above courses please contact Ali Coe, Training Coordinator via [ali.coe@involve.community](mailto:ali.coe@involve.community) or leave a message with involve reception on 01344 304404 and she will return your call as soon as possible.**



## Training Provided by the Earley Crescent Resource Centre

**For further information and/or to book a place, please contact Kate Long or Clare Arnaboldi, Neighbourhood Learning Centre, Earley Crescent Resource Centre, Warbler Drive, Earley, Reading, Berkshire RG6 4HB Tel: 0118 921 0555/email: [earleycrescent@btconnect.com](mailto:earleycrescent@btconnect.com)**

### **Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering**

Earley Crescent Resource Centre - Wednesday, 1 April 2015 - 9.30am – 5.00pm.

(9.15am Registration – Course starts promptly at 9.30am). Course Fee £40

(includes certificate fee of £18). Lunches available for purchase on the day.

This qualification will benefit anyone working in a situation where food is prepared, cooked and served; it is relevant to all catering operations. There is an examination at the end of the course and certificates will be issued to all who pass within 6 weeks of the course date.

### **Emergency First Aid in the Workplace**

Earley Crescent Resource Centre - Wednesday, 4 March 2015, 9.30am – 4.30pm.

(9.15am Registration – Course starts promptly at 9.30am). Course Administration Fee £25.

Intended outcomes: Knowledge of appropriate procedures, practical experience and certificate of achievement. Lunches are available for purchase on the day.

### **Further Skills in Word**

Earley Crescent Resource Centre – Wednesday, 25 February – 25 March 2015

10am - 12pm. (5 week course) Course Fee £45 (Payment Options Available).

### **Next Steps in Computing**

Earley Crescent Resource Centre – Wednesday 25 February 2015 – 25 March 2015.

1pm - 3pm (5 week course) Course Fee £45 (Payment Options Available).

### **Get to Grips With Your Tablet**

Earley Crescent Resource Centre - Thursday 26 February and 5 March 2015

1.00pm – 3.00pm (2-week Course) Course Fee £25

### **Introduction to Publisher**

Earley Crescent Resource Centre – Thursday, 26 February – 26 March 2015 – 10am -12pm.

(5 week course) Course Fee £45 (Payment Options Available).

## Training Provided by the Earley Crescent Resource Centre

### **An Introduction to Photoshop Touch Using a Tablet**

Earley Crescent Resource Centre - Friday, 27 February 2015 – 13 March 2015 – 10am - 12pm

A 3-week course using the Photoshop Touch App – A Photo Editing programme for Tablet use. Fee £30

### **Get More Out of Your Tablet**

Earley Crescent Resource Centre - Thursday, 12 – 26 March 2015 1pm – 3pm

A 3-week Course follow-on course from Get To Grips With A Tablet, or for those who are already familiar with a Tablet but would like to make more use of it. Fee £30

The Earley Crescent Resource Centre also offer regular free workshops in Preparation for Interview, Interview Skills and Group Interview Skills, IT for Job Search Skills, Confidence Building, Using LinkedIn for Job Opportunities. Dealing with unemployment and How to Create An Effective CV and Application Form. For further information and course dates please contact, Kate Long or Clare Arnaboldi Tel: 0118 921 0555. [www.earleycrescent.org](http://www.earleycrescent.org)

## Training offered by Berkshire Youth

Training Course	Date	Time	Cost
Universal Safeguarding Young People	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2015	10am or 6pm	£25 pp
Emergency First Aid at Work	4 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	10am or 4.30pm	£55 pp
An Introduction To Understanding & Managing Young People's Challenging Behaviour	12 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	6 – 9pm	£25 pp
How to Run a Successful Youth Club	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	6 – 9pm	£25 pp

## Training Provided by Wokingham Borough Council

If you are having difficulty, require assistance with making a booking (including on someone else's behalf) or have an enquiry please contact our L&D Team at: hrenquiries@wokingham.gov.uk or telephone: 0118 974 6116, opening times - Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm.

For password and access issues, technical problems, running or accessing any of the content on MyLearningPlace, please contact the Learning Pool IT Support Desk: support@learningpool.com or telephone: 0845 543 6033, opening times - Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, Saturday and Sunday 9am to 5.30pm, Bank holidays 9am to 5.30pm.

### **Adult Safeguarding Level 1**

- **17th March 2015**
- **14th April 2015**

You now have the option to apply to go on a waiting list for this course. Your name will replace a cancellation or be booked onto the next available course on a first come first served basis. Details are on the My Learning web page.

NB: Priority will be given to those applying for Support with Confidence and as identified by our Care Governance.

### **Adult Safeguarding Train the Trainer Level 1**

- **17th February 2015**

### **Adult Safeguarding Level 2**

It is a requirement for all delegates to have completed the Level 1 Safeguarding training within Berkshire in the past 12 months BEFORE booking a place on this course. You will be asked to confirm this when booking.

- **17th March 2015 – Spaces available**
- **26th March 2015 – spaces available**
- **28th April 2015 – Spaces available**

Further information and joining/booking details are at MyLearning:

<http://wokingham.learningpool.com/>

## Training Provided by Me2club

If you are a mainstream activity leader you may be interested in the following workshops run by Me2club. For booking or further information please contact Zoë Galani, Me2 Club Projects Manager, 0118 969 6369 or [info@me2club.org.uk](mailto:info@me2club.org.uk)

### **Autism**

Thursday, 19th March 2015 6.30-8.30pm, Reading

This workshop is delivered in partnership with the Wokingham Autism Partnership. An introduction to autism, looking at the challenges someone with autism may experience, and learning useful strategies to support and include them in a group setting.

### **Including Everyone in your Activity**

Monday, 18th May 2015 6.30 – 9pm Woodley

We examine the perceived barriers to including children with additional needs into mainstream activities and offer examples of different approaches to adapt the group so all children are involved to their own ability. There is the opportunity to put this knowledge into practice before finishing with a discussion on real life scenarios.

### **Supporting Behaviour Needs**

Thursday, 18th June 2015 6.00 - 9.00pm, Reading

At some point everyone has behaviour difficulties within a group setting. We can help you to examine the theory behind children's behaviour, focusing on effective methods to pre-empt and de-escalate challenging behaviour allowing all children to enjoy and benefit from the group.

### **Communication and the Non Verbal Child**

Please contact the Me2 Club via [info@me2club.org.uk](mailto:info@me2club.org.uk) for the training dates for these sessions

Imagine a world where you are unable to communicate what you want and need. Now imagine being part of a world that gives you a voice. This workshop will help you to recognise the range of communication methods used by non-verbal children and young people on a daily basis. We offer suggestions on a range of tools that can be used to effectively engage a child and give you the opportunity to put this into practice.

## Training Provided by Berkshire Autistic Society

Please note that is a snapshot of the training that is on offer from the Berkshire Autistic Society please visit [www.autismberkshire.org.uk/](http://www.autismberkshire.org.uk/) Please contact Ann Long if for further information or to book a place by phone 0118 9 594 594 or email [ann@autismberkshire.org.uk](mailto:ann@autismberkshire.org.uk).

**Disability Living Allowance (DLA) workshop, only £10.00 per person (BAS Members only)**, the next available date will be on **Monday 16th February 2015** from 10am - 1.30pm (**3 places left**). This will help you have an understanding of the information required to complete the claim form, for further information please click on link: <http://www.autismberkshire.org.uk/disability-living-allowance-workshop.aspx>

**NEW FREE "Confidence to Live Independently" workshop for Adults with ASC**, this will help those who want tools to manage their everyday money. The next date **to be advised as Monday 26th January 2015 is postponed (only 3 places left)** from 6pm – 8pm at our offices

**NEW FREE "Positive Thinking" workshops for Parents and Carers**, to help them or someone they support to Improve Self Esteem. This will be held on Tuesday 9th June 2015 from 10am – 12 noon at our offices in Reading

**ASC PROFESSIONALS - NEW - Edexcel qualification, Level 2 Unit - Introductory Awareness of Autistic Spectrum Conditions.** Will be held at our offices over two days (dates to be advised). If working with adults that have an autistic spectrum condition (care workers, teachers, social workers, support workers, etc.) then this is the course for you to be able to get a qualification while learning. At a small cost of only £200.00 per person. For further information - please see link: <http://www.autismberkshire.org.uk/qcf-level-2-qualification.aspx>.

## Training provided by CCB

Friday 27th February 2015 2.30pm -4.30pm at Brownlow Memorial Hall, Warfield. Alistair Dick - Cleland from Landmark Trust will run a seminar on building maintenance of interest to any volunteer responsible for running a village, community, church or other type of public hall, whatever it's age. Alastair is Acting Head of Historic Estate for the Landmark Trust which is a charity that rescues historic buildings which would otherwise be lost.

The seminar is free to attend - please contact Wendy Dacey, Community Buildings Adviser at CCB if you would like to come, email [wendy.dacey@ccberks.org.uk](mailto:wendy.dacey@ccberks.org.uk) or tel 0118 9612000.

## Business Skills Course for Charities and Social Enterprise

### The Henley Accelerator Berkshire Social Enterprise Accelerator

The Berkshire Social Enterprise Accelerator has been developed by the Thames Valley Berkshire Business Growth Hub specifically to support ambitious social enterprises. This three day programme is to prepare leaders of small businesses and social enterprises to quickly grow their businesses in an ever changing competitive environment. The programme delivers relevant learning for leaders of growing social enterprises. By the end of the programme, individuals will have a better understanding of their business environment and have greater clarity around their own aims and objectives. Throughout the programme participants work in groups to explore their strategy and will emerge with a clear focused business strategy for sustained growth and maximum social impact.

Who is the programme for?

The Berkshire Social Enterprise Accelerator is for the leaders of charities, CICs and social enterprises. To qualify for a place you need to be:

- Berkshire based
- Have the potential to grow over the next 2 to 3 years
- Have ambitious plans to address an identified market need or client group
  - Have the potential to scale-up
  - Have the potential to create new jobs

You can be at any stage of your business life cycle including pre-revenue.

Fee: For eligible companies, the Growth Hub is able to offer the Berkshire Social Enterprise Accelerator at a cost of £150 + VAT per delegate.

To apply for your place phone 0118 935 7115 or email [info@berkshirebusinesshub.co.uk](mailto:info@berkshirebusinesshub.co.uk)