



ISSUE 3 Autumn 2010

Manchester Community
Central's quarterly news

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Supporting our Voluntary and Community Sector

Call: 0333 321 3021

Welcome to the third edition of our newsletter. This issue has a supplement on Good Governance. In it you can find out a bit more about what governance is and what responsibilities trustees and board members have. If the copy of the newsletter you are reading doesn't have a supplement you can access it online or ring us and ask for a copy.

Remember that we have a central phone number for everything: **0333 321 3021**

The telephone information line is open Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm, calls are charged at the cost of a local call whether the call is made from a landline or mobile. You can also send us an email at any time to:

info@mcrcommunitycentral.org

Are you looking for information on how to set up a community group? Would you like to know more about management committees? Do you need support to identify and apply for funding?

Give us a ring on 0333 321 3021 and we will help you to identify ways to get your group where you want it to be.

The team is here to help and support you to find the information you are looking for or refer your enquiry to one of our Business Improvement Coordinators.

Our Business Improvement Coordinators are very experienced in the voluntary and community sector. Support will be tailor-made to suit you, everyone is different. Have a look at our case studies on page 3 for examples of how we have supported groups recently.

Finally, check out details of our BYO event on the back page. At our recent Thinking the Unthinkable event participants asked for further opportunities to share with others. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Tracey Rawlins - Programme Manager

Training

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the training needs questionnaire distributed in the last newsletter.

The response rate was excellent with important points raised around specific topics community organisations are interested in learning and also the barriers groups face in accessing training.

Following on from the results of the questionnaire, amendments to the training section of the website are currently in development.

One feature is the facility to register your interest in attending taster workshops taken from the most popular identified training topics within the questionnaires. Please keep visiting the website or call **0333 321 3021** for more information or updates.

A full summary of the questionnaire results can also be found by visiting www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/training-needs-questionnaire

Funding

Manchester Aiming High Fund

Grants are available to groups in Manchester to improve access to short breaks for severely disabled children and young people and should include children with complex support needs.

Fast track small grants of up to £1,000 and small grants of between £1,001 and £5,000 are available. Funding is available for both revenue and capital projects.

For further information, if applying from Wythenshawe, South and Central West districts, contact Community Foundation for Greater Manchester, on **0161 214 0940**, or email: enquiries@communityfoundation.co.uk

For further information, if applying from North East, North West and Central East districts, contact 4CT Limited, on **0161 230 1420**, or email: info@4ct.org.uk

For details of more funding opportunities please visit: www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/funding

Our Website

Information and Resources

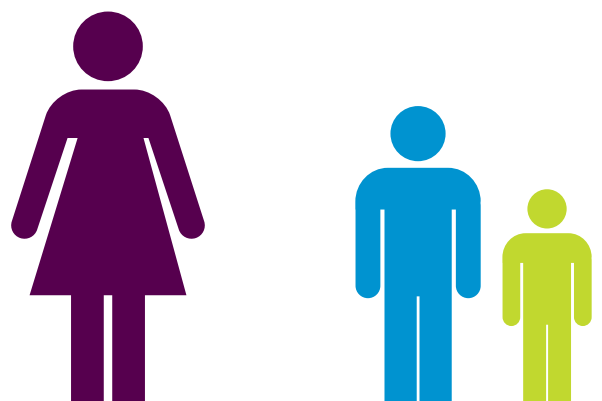
The Information and Resources section of our website contains a diverse range of useful resources, toolkits, and contacts to help you get your group to where you want it to be.



The section has information on the following areas:

- Starting a Group
- Finance
- Governance/ Management
- Managing Risk
- Enterprise
- Planning/Project Management
- Sector Information

Information and Resources are continuously added to our website to ensure the information is useful and relevant to the needs of voluntary and community sector groups.



Case Studies

The Good Companions Group

The Good Companions Group is a social club for the over 50's who meet every other Wednesday at the Waggon and Horses pub in Gorton. The group arranges trips to the theatre, seaside, meals out as well as holding social activities such as bingo and raffles.

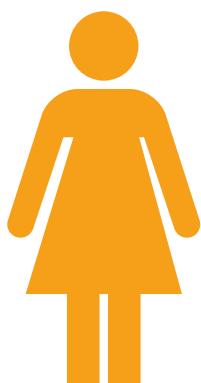
The group decided to contact Manchester Community Central as they needed help and advice with regards to the accounts side of running the group, information on funding available and support with running their first Annual General Meeting.

Through working with Manchester Community Central the group have received training from Community Accountancy Service and say that the support received so far has been an invaluable aid and is still ongoing.

Group organiser Lynne Buksh says "help is always on hand at the end of the telephone or email for support if I should need it".

When asked whether she would recommend Manchester Community Central, Lynne replied "Yes absolutely! I do and will continue to highly recommend you and your professional service to other like minded groups when and wherever I can".

For further information about The Good Companions Group please contact Lynne Buksh on lynne_tgcg@talktalk.net or telephone 0161 223 7834



Survivors Manchester

Survivors Manchester supports male adult survivors of child sex abuse and rape.

The group had worked with another infrastructure support agency and was looking round for other sources of help when Manchester Community Central was launched.

Duncan said "it can feel very lonely when you're trying to set up a group from scratch, looking for funding, and finding the right people to be on the Board. I originally wanted help with funding but Manchester Community Central have helped in so many other ways too."

In the first instance Manchester Community Central helped the group to run funding searches and decide which were appropriate funds to apply for. "There is a lot of support around in books and on websites which is great, but we needed more than that. We needed someone to talk to, a way of cutting through the fog by explaining what things mean so we could work out what we needed to do and when."

The group are under no illusions about never-ending support from Manchester Community Central. "It's been made clear to us from the start and we have agreed the point at which we will be ready to move on."

As part of this exit plan Manchester Community Central has used local knowledge and experiences to link Survivors Manchester to other groups and organisations, creating a new network of support. Duncan's advice to other groups out there – "pick up the phone. Ask the question, if they don't know the answer they will find someone who does."

For more information on Survivors Manchester visit their website www.survivorsmanchester.org.uk or send an email to info@survivorsmanchester.org.uk

Bring Your Own

- Are you new to the voluntary and community sector?
- Have you got years' worth of experiences and knowledge to share?
- Are you facing difficult issues, not sure where to go for answers?

None of us are "experts", but we can all learn from each other.

With this in mind we have organised a "Bring Your Own" (BYO) event on **Tuesday 21st September 2010** from **10am until 2pm** at **GMCVO** (The St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green).

There is no agenda, no speakers, we just want you to bring your own questions and experiences and be willing to get involved in conversations with others – we guarantee that you will come away with something useful – and the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped someone else with a problem that's been keeping them awake at night!

Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

*A £10 returnable deposit is required to book your place.

To register online for the event visit: www.manchestercommunitycentral.org. Alternatively contact **0333 321 3021**, or email: training@mcrcommunitycentral.org to request a booking form.

*If you will have difficulty with this please give us a ring

There will be a series of BYO events across the city – to find out where the next one is or for more information contact Cheryl McAlister our Training Co-ordinator: training@mcrcommunitycentral.org

Do you want your own copy of this newsletter?

If you're reading this in a library or at another organisation and you would like to receive your own version of the newsletter then email info@mcrcommunitycentral.org and we'll put one in the post and include you on future newsletter mailings.

Get in Touch

Calls are charged at the same rate as a local call, whether made from a landline or mobile phone

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