

Winter 2011/2012

AGM Invitation



Exploring how healthcare reform will affect the voluntary and community sector

The 3VA Annual General Meeting will be held on **Thursday 1 December**, and the theme of this year's event will be 'Healthcare Reform and the Voluntary and Community Sector'. Before the formal business part of the meeting, we have arranged to have presentations and discussions on a topic of great relevance to many of our members, the government's NHS reforms.

Each speaker will give a short presentation, followed by a question and answer session. There will be a cross-section of speakers from significant organisations involved in upcoming reforms:

- NHS - Claire Quigley, Director of Delivery (QIPP) and Sara Geater, Head of Engagement and Equality, NHS Sussex.
- GP Consortia – Martin Writer, Chairman, Coastal Commissioning Group.
- Representation and NHS changes – Miriam Miklaszewska, Development Coordinator, SpeakUp Forum
- ACEVO will offer a national perspective on the proposed changes and the implications for voluntary and community groups.

More information on the AGM will be made available through the 3VA eNewsletter and website.

Invitation

The 3VA Annual General Meeting will take place from 3.30pm on Thursday 1 December at All Saints Church, 21a Grange Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4HE.

Formal invites and voting forms will be sent to all 3VA members soon, though all groups are welcome to attend. If you are interested in becoming a trustee please see the 3VA website. 3VA members will have voting rights at the AGM, and will elect our new trustees.

Introduction

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About Us Volunteer Information Group Information Events News Contact Us Guides

Welcome to Volunteer Centre East Sussex



We offer a FREE, quality service to anyone interested in volunteering and to any organisation, no matter how big or small, that involves volunteers or would like to.

Our aim is to promote, support and develop volunteering across East Sussex.

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How 3VA has supported groups so far this year

Dear readers,

In challenging economic times, few things can be more important than getting the right support at the right time. This is at the core of what we do; supporting and developing the local voluntary and community sector so that it can grow, become sustainable and have a voice, and it's been a busy few months.

We're now halfway through the year and we wanted to share the headlines of this work. In the financial year to date we have:

- Supported 8 new groups to begin their development.
- Given support and advice to over 185 groups
- Hired out our meetings rooms in Eastbourne for over 2,200 hours
- Delivered 14 eNewsletters and two hardcopy 3View newsletters
- Supported 111 groups with funding advice
- Organised 16 training courses
- Held networking forums in Eastbourne, Lewes District and Wealden
- Supported local groups with funding applications that amount to over £2.5million

We've also recently looked at how we can develop the services we provide to ensure that what is on offer is what you need most. We did this by asking our members to tell us the skills they needed within their organisations and work, and where they felt they had gaps. Thank you to all those who responded.

The results are now in and the top three skills you identified as the most important for your work in the sector were: fundraising, staff/volunteer management and communication/PR (to see the results in full turn to page 10).

In the next few months we're going to be working with our members and partners to develop the best possible support for the areas of need identified by our research.

So watch this space!

Best wishes,

Adam Chugg,
3VA Chief Executive

Images on pages 6 and 7 © Val McManus

The key to successful funding bids

There is no magic formula to successful bids, but you can improve your chances with some simple steps.

Getting Started

When seeking funding consider these questions:

- Have you identified a clear need for your project, including any information to prove this need?
- Who within your group will plan/run the project and do they have capacity or expertise to do this?
- What difference will the project make to people's lives, and what are the realistic outcomes?

These are just some of many questions worth asking before beginning the application process.

Research

The next step is to research and draw up a list of potential funders for your project – 3VA can help with this. To stand a chance of success your application must meet the funder's criteria, so be aware of what is required to qualify.

Writing the Application

When completing an application, it is useful to consider the application from the funder's point of view: don't make the mistake of assuming a funder knows anything of your organisation or project.

All applications need to consider:

- A project title that describes what you want to do
- A clear summary
- Who you are and what you do
- An assessment of the issue being addressed
- How you plan to carry out the work
- A budget
- A funding plan
- Financial documents and supporting evidence

For a more in-depth analysis of each of these components of a funding application, please see 3VA's 'Essential Guide: Writing Successful Funding Applications' (details below).

Pre-submission

Once you have completed your application ask someone unconnected with your organisation to read it and make suggestions for improvements. 3VA has helped many groups make successful funding applications and can help in this respect.

■ *This information was taken from 3VA's Essential Guides series. Other topics include 'Monitoring and Evaluation' and 'Writing a Business Plan'. The series is available free to all 3VA members upon request.*

The Funders' Perspective

We asked funding bodies what mistakes they see on applications, so you can avoid them.

- Speaking in relation to people applying for 'Awards for All' grants, Kate Sawdy, Regional Manager for Development, Big Lottery South East noted the five most common errors:
 1. Applying to the wrong lottery distributor
 2. Applying for ineligible items
 3. Not clearly showing why your project is needed
 4. Not clearly identifying the change your project will have on target beneficiaries and showing how this links to our programme outcomes
 5. Not completing the application form fully

"Evidence of need and outcomes [3 and 4] are the main reasons why applications fail for both smaller and bigger funding programmes," Kate commented. "Beneficiary involvement is also an important factor, particularly for larger grants. We like to see how those who will benefit from a project have been consulted and involved in the planning and execution so that it is clear that the project meets their needs."

- "The most common error is lack of clarity," Mary Carruthers from Sussex Community Fund observed. "It is important that the benefit to the community is explained and is integral to the project – sometimes applications can give the sense that they want to do the project and the 'community' is added on as an afterthought.

"Sometimes costs appear disproportionately expensive given the costs of the overall project. Lack of supporting documents or a general sense of disorganisation in accounts or constitution do not help give a sense that the group can make the project work.

"A surprising mistake is with budgets which often do not add up or simply state the amount requested with no breakdown. It is worth putting care into this as it helps us gain a good insight and, if we are not able to fund the whole project, we can decide if part funding is appropriate."

Contact details:

- Big Lottery Fund www.biglotteryfund.org.uk
email: general.enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk
- Sussex Community Fund
www.sussexgiving.org.uk

Courses Coming Soon – Book Now

A Treasurers Handbook – Part 1

Date: Wednesday 23 November, 9.30am–2pm

Location: Council Chamber, Uckfield Civic Centre, Uckfield, TN11 1AE

Course tutor: Pat Weaver

Details: This session will help you to understand the role of the treasurer, including: tasks and responsibilities and financial controls; the legal aspect, including monetary thresholds and end-of-year requirements; reporting to the Committee (management reports) and understanding accounts.

Cost: FREE

Covering your Costs

Date: Wednesday 7 December, 9.30am–4pm

Location: Town Council Offices, Inglenook, Market street, Hailsham BN27 2AE

Course tutor: Maureen Anstey and Lyn Faulkner-Leppard

Details: This workshop will be split into two sections. The morning will look at preparing and using budgets; the difference between project and core costs; understanding the language involved and how to cover all your project costs. The afternoon will focus on identifying and calculating project costs and core costs, with emphasis on including hidden costs. There will be plenty of practice and advice to help you.

Website: www.3va.org.uk

Conflict and Mediation

Date: Wednesday 7 December, 10am–4pm

Location: 3VA's Annexe, 8 Saffrons Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1DG

Course tutor: Mediation Plus

Details: This brand new course is being delivered by a 3VA member organisation. Drawing on their expertise, this course explores the concept of conflict and how it affects people. It also looks at the triggers and responses to conflict and how these can be dealt with to avoid misunderstanding and negative outcomes – one not to be missed.

Website: www.3va.org.uk

54

Twenty people received the RSPH Understanding Health Improvement Award through a course organised by 3VA and have already advised 54 people in three months

Free Course Places

If your organisation has expertise to share then we want to hear from you!

3VA are offering a free place on the upcoming 'Train the Trainer' course to any of our members who are interested in developing a training course for 3VA's 2012 programme.

No prior experience of delivering training courses is necessary. All that is required is expertise in your field and a willingness to share this with others. We will just need to agree the topic of training you're looking at providing and your trainer fees before booking you on to the 'Train the Trainer' course.

The 'Train the Trainer' course will take place in the new year. For more information about this offer and the training course please contact Julia Fowler (details below).

Training

For further details of any of the training courses outlined on this page please visit the 3VA website www.3va.org.uk.

If you have any questions on a particular course, or would like to discuss a training course not currently provided by 3VA, please contact Training Officer Julia Fowler via email to julia.fowler@3va.org.uk or telephone 01273 483832.

Funding latest

Community Transport Grants

East Sussex County Council have opened a one-off grant scheme for community transport providers with both small grants of up to £1,000 and large grants of up to £12,000 available. The fund is aimed at helping providers develop and improve services for local people: either using the funding for improvements to existing schemes, or as a contribution towards new schemes.

For more information, please visit the 3VA website – the closing date is **28 November**.

Eastbourne Community Grants

Eastbourne Borough Council have opened their Community Grants Scheme Fund for applications. Grants can be applied for to cover core costs e.g. day-to-day expenses, project costs or one-off costs such as equipment, but applications must demonstrate how they help meet the Council's corporate priorities. For more information, please visit Eastbourne Borough Council's website – the closing date is **2 December**.

Wealden Community Grants

Wealden District Council have opened their Community Grants Scheme Fund for applications. They welcome both small grants for grants between £1,000 - £3,000 and capital grants between £2,000 – £10,000, and are particularly keen to see applications which support a wide range of community needs and from organisations which have not been funded by the Council before. For more information, please visit Wealden District Council's website – closing date **30 November**.

South East Region ESF Community Grants

Action in Rural Sussex are managing this grant scheme, and they welcome applications of up to £12,000 for developing the skills of local people and supporting people into employment. Priority will be given to groups who work with: lone parents; women; people with health/disability issues; older people (50 years plus); and people from ethnic minorities and diverse communities. The closing dates for applications are **17 February 2012, 24 August 2012 and 11 January 2013**.

Free Advice In Wealden

3VA is holding a free surgery to provide advice on all aspects of funding and organisational development to start-up, develop and sustain your project or group.

We have 30-minute time slots available to discuss your specific issues on Wednesday 23 November from 5pm to 8pm at Crowborough Town Council. Pre-booking is essential for these popular surgeries.

For more information or to book a place, please contact Karl Parks, 3VA Community Development Officer for Wealden on 01825 765136 or email karl.parks@3va.org.uk.

Recent Success Story

3VA member group Dancing for Fun and Fitness was recently awarded an £800 grant from the local PCT under the Choosing Health programme. The application was made with the support of 3VA's funding adviser for the Lewes District, and the funding will help the twice-weekly low-cost dance sessions for older women in Newick and the surrounding area to continue.

"This tiny project makes such a difference to members' lives," says coordinator Patsy Bailey.

The group helps women improve their body image and general well-being and also receive support from Sport Relief, Henry Smith charity, Trusthouse Foundation, Age UK and Sussex Community Foundation.

For more details call Patsy Bailey on 01825 722590 or via shimmyandshake@yahoo.co.uk.

Date for Your Diary

Adult Social Care and the Primary Care Trust have confirmed that a second Commissioning Grants Prospectus will be published in 2012. The Prospectus will be published in February, with a submission deadline for applications on 26 April 2012. Any groups working particularly within health and social care should make sure these dates are in the diary so you're ready to make your application.

In the last 6 months alone, we've worked with local groups on funding applications totalling over £2.5 million. If you need support with funding bids, contact: (Lewes District) Lorna Stagg 01273 483832; (Wealden) Sue Shoosmith 01273 483832; (Eastbourne) Maureen Anstey 01323 419788

Stronger Representation For The



How your voice is being heard

Community sector representatives are speaking up for your interests locally on several partnership groups, and recent training will help them in this role

Background to Representation Across East Sussex

The Voluntary and Community Sector across East Sussex benefits from enthusiastic representation from dedicated local community representatives.

Eastbourne Community Network (run by 3VA) is represented on the Eastbourne Strategic Partnership (ESP) and sub groups by Community Representatives. The ESP brings together reps from the public, private and voluntary and community sector to produce and deliver a Community Strategy for Eastbourne that will improve the quality of life for everyone in the town.

The countywide SpeakUp Forum (hosted by 3VA) meanwhile is represented on East Sussex Strategic Partnership (ESSP) and other Countywide partnerships by SpeakUp reps. ESSP brings together reps from different sector organisations, who work together to plan local services, tackle the issues that matter to local people and improve the quality of life in East Sussex.

Representatives are drawn from voluntary and community sector groups to make sure that the sector's interests and views are heard on these important strategic planning groups.

Helping Voices Be heard

To help the representatives develop their skills in the role, Eastbourne Community Network and SpeakUp Forum (co-funded by Awards for All, from the Big Lottery) recently organised 'Skills For Representation', a two-day residential training course. The training was a huge success and is reviewed on the opposite page.

SpeakUp and ECN are seeking opportunities to develop and deliver this local training package to a wider audience in the future. For more details call 01323 419788.

Voluntary And Community Sector

'Skills For Representation' training reviewed

The training weekend on Friday 14 and Saturday 15 October enabled participants to develop a wide range of representational skills, including: partnership working, being strategic, people skills, enabling others, problem solving, practical and personal skills and precisising information.

Representatives learnt about 'best practice' in gathering views from other organisations and feeding back, and had the opportunity to explore how and where it is best to exert influence. The training also included information and participative sessions on current national issues and how they may affect community representation, and on ways to influence countywide and local decisions. One delegate added: "I got a great deal of useful information from the pack our hard working trainers had compiled."

Combining the training into a residential programme and having local representatives participating alongside their countywide counterparts helped to develop the peer support structure beyond the training itself. Newer reps were able to talk with longer serving reps and gain an understanding of working for the benefit of the whole community, and getting to know their colleagues means reps will feel more able to turn to each other for support in the future. One rep reflected that they made "lots of positive contacts".

Reps also benefitted from a talk by guest speaker Peter Kyle, Deputy Director of the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO). Peter spoke about current challenges groups face and how to prepare yourself for what's ahead. He suggested a few approaches and explained what help is available.

Through this training course the ECN and SpeakUp reps strengthened their skills and knowledge to better represent groups in Eastbourne and across the county. Reps are also well equipped to inform the community of local and countywide issues.

■ *To find out more about Eastbourne Community Network and the Community Representatives visit www.3va.org.uk, or for details of the SpeakUp Forum visit www.askcasper.org.uk/speakup. A video of Peter Kyle's talk will be available through the 3VA website.*



Reps had opportunities to network



The training sessions were informative



SpeakUp and ECN worked together



ACEVO provided the national picture



Sharing experience was a key factor



Representation skills were put in focus

News From Across The 3VA Region

We take a look at a story which may affect the voluntary and community sector from each of the Districts and Boroughs 3VA operates within

Community Space in Lewes – St Anne’s School Site

The site of St Anne’s School on Rotten Row in Lewes has been offered for interim (three-year) community use by East Sussex County Council. After two public meetings and an open day, a steering group has now been formed to act as a guardian and promoter of the site, and to be the decision-making body for agreeing how the site will be used.

The site has a number of green spaces and the Steering Group will be looking for great ideas of how the community can use the space that is available.

It is an important project that seeks to demonstrate how the community could benefit from using local assets. 3VA are pleased to be part of the Steering Group and look forward to being part of this community-led project.

For more information contact Katherine Perrin on 01323 639373.



Non-urgent Patient Transport

From April 2012 NHS Sussex will only provide non-urgent patient transport to those patients who have a medical need for it. Anyone else travelling to hospital will have to make their own way there. If people don't have access to a car or public transport, they will need to rely on community transport and car schemes.

This development has huge implications for remote locations, and so people in parts of rural Wealden are among those set to be most affected.

East Sussex County Council has asked 3VA to bring together community transport providers, the NHS, county council and car scheme providers to try and find solutions. Over 30 groups that provide community transport and statutory sector representatives attended a meeting in September to look at the picture of health transport in the coming year. A smaller working group is planned that will look at where providers of community transport fit in and identifying major challenges, as well as producing some concrete proposals. For more information contact Jenny Watson on 01323 639373.

Housing Benefit Reform is Addressed in Eastbourne

The Government is reforming housing benefits, including capping how much can be claimed from next year. Recent and planned reforms have potentially huge implications for VCS service users.

Eastbourne Community Network hosted an event in September where Simon Parkin, the Benefits Operation Manager for Eastbourne spoke to attendees about the cuts that have taken place and some that are still to come. The group discussed how cuts are likely to affect many voluntary and community groups' service users in and around Eastbourne and ways to help them, or at least prepare them for future changes.

After full and frank discussions, groups agreed to monitor the situation in their own environment and record how the changes affect people. In a year another ECN event will look at the results and see what action needs to be taken.



Volunteer Centre East Sussex is a countywide service that offers support and advice to groups who involve volunteers in any aspect of their work. You can contact VCES by email to info@vces.org.uk.



If you've not yet seen it yet, the new Volunteer Centre East Sussex website is now up and running at www.vces.org.uk.

Following months of development, the website offers anyone interested in volunteering the option to search for opportunities in their area. Alternatively the site also holds all the contact information for the VCES team, should people wish to book a brokerage appointment with the Volunteering Support Officer for their area.

The website is also a useful resource for any volunteer-involving organisation – including community groups, charities, statutory bodies and social enterprises. Groups can register with VCES free of charge through the website and then any volunteering opportunities they have will be promoted by the VCES team throughout East Sussex. The website also features the latest news relating to volunteering and and upcoming events.

Changes to VCES team, but familiar faces maintain support

There have been a few changes recently within the Volunteer Centre East Sussex team. Sarah Hodgetts, the County Volunteering Development Coordinator who heads the Volunteer Centre is currently on sabbatical leave and this has led to a reshuffle within the team.

Subsequently Lee Shepherd will be the acting Coordinator until Sarah's return in April 2012. Lee has been with VCES since April 2010 as the Volunteering Support Officer (VSO) for Eastbourne and the Lewes District.

Stepping into Lee's role as VSO for Eastbourne and Lewes District is Patrycja Cycz, who has also worked for VCES for the past eighteen months, in the role of Projects Officer. Completing the team are Brenda Bruzon, VSO for Wealden and Susan Reece, who is VSO for Hastings and Rother. The

Projects Officer role is currently vacant.

Lee Shepherd said: "I am pleased that the VCES 'sabbatical team' is taking shape. We do ask everyone to bear with us in what is a transitional period for the Centre. We admit that some queries may take a little longer to respond to than we would usually like, but rest assured we will respond to everyone as soon as we can."

Patrycja Cycz added: "I am very pleased to act in my new role and support new and existing volunteer-involving organisations in developing good practice. I would like to encourage participation in the Volunteers Coordinators' Forums and I hope the new Projects Assistant (recruitment underway) will bring much needed support to the team."

If you have any questions please contact VCES on 01323 301757 or info@vces.org.uk.

ESFRS Community Volunteers Project Update

Since the last newsletter, the project has recruited additional volunteers throughout Lewes District, Brighton and Hove, Hastings, Rother and Eastbourne. These volunteers are going through Induction and will soon join the more experienced Wealden volunteers in supporting East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.

As the scheme has developed, the need for additional administrative support has been identified and East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service has agreed funding to employ a part-time Administrative Assistant. Further details will be given in the next newsletter.

3VA Skills Survey: The Results

Many community groups completed our skills survey, which will inform our work with local stakeholders. Here are some of the highlights...

Skills in Need

The top 5 skills deemed most 'in need' (ie either very significant or significant) in groups' operations were...

Fundraising - 88.9%

Staff/volunteer management - 57.7%

Communications/PR - 52%

Financial Management - 40%

Lobbying & Influencing - 40%

These results indicate many local voluntary and community groups are concerned they lack the skills to sustain their work on current/future levels of funding. 3VA already offers free funding advice and help with application processes, and we will consider other ways we can help in the future.

Make Up of the Sector

In total 77.7% of groups that answered our survey said they had fewer than five employees – this reflects the mostly micro-organisational make-up of the local voluntary and community sector.

Such organisations have limited resources to increase skills levels, and so 3VA is committed to providing affordable training for such groups.

One way we have explored of keeping training courses affordable is by training individuals from within the local VCS to train others in their areas of expertise (such as with our upcoming 'Conflict and Mediation' course – see page 4 for details).

Interestingly almost one in three groups (66.4%) responded that they would be willing to provide skills training to others or train people in what they do, and we will pursue this cost-effective approach to training in the future.

The Next Steps

3VA is working with local stakeholders to see how best we can provide voluntary groups throughout Eastbourne, Lewes District and Wealden with the skills they need for sustainability and development.

This survey is important because it helps us identify what groups need. We are meeting with both local voluntary sector groups and local businesses to see how best to meet these needs in the future, and are committed to seeking resources to fund this vital work.

One example of this work is that 3VA is seeing how groups involved with the MP Commission in Eastbourne can help to take this forward.

This work is still in the early days, but the level of interest from a range of stakeholders is strong and we will keep you up to date with developments as part of our support to you. It is crucial we give the sector the support, resources and encouragement it needs as its role is more important than ever in these tougher economic and social times.

40.7

Though respondents said fundraising was a key skill they needed for their group's work, 40.7% of groups said they were insufficiently skilled in this area (ie having no, very low or low levels of skill)

Do you have skills shortages within your organisation?

If so we would like to hear from you. Please contact Julia Fowler to discuss any training courses you might benefit from via email to julia.fowler@3va.org.uk or by calling 01273 483832.

In Focus: Welfare Reform Bill 2011

Jenny Watson outlines some of the key aspects of this important Bill, and how the proposed legislation is likely to affect community groups

Described by the prime minister, David Cameron, as "the most ambitious, fundamental and radical changes to the welfare system" since it was created, the Welfare Reform Bill is currently going through the House of Lords. The aim is to save £5.5 billion over the next four years, provide incentives to work and sanctions for those turning down jobs.

One of the major reforms is the introduction of Universal Credit, where all benefits, such as income support and child tax credit will be amalgamated into one credit, with the aim of simplifying the system; thus saving money and also providing incentives to work.

While many groups have welcomed the principle of a simplified system, a variety of organisations – ranging from the Royal College of Psychiatrists to Shelter – have expressed concern that measures designed to get people back into work and off benefits will disproportionately impact on people with disabilities, cancer patients, families on low incomes and people with mental health problems.

The Welfare Reform Bill is likely to increase demand for many of the services provided by voluntary and community groups. Therefore it is worth being aware of the likely impact on your services as you plan for the future. Some of the key components of the Bill are:

Employment and Support Allowance

This benefit replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on incapacity grounds for new customers. For those assessed as being capable of work, the contributory element of the employment and support allowance will be limited to 12 months; after which it will be means tested. The Child Poverty Action Group, among others, is concerned that this destroys the principle that people who have paid National Insurance contributions will be supported if they become too ill to work and point out that the government's own estimates show that 94 per cent of claimants will need the support for longer than a year.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

The DLA will be replaced by Personal Independence Payments which will be targeted at those with the most severe conditions, and the time claimants must wait before they are able to receive support will be extended from three to six months.

While disability groups have welcomed a simplification of the system, many are deeply troubled by the government's decision to cut (by 20 per cent) funding for disability payments and to target those with the most 'severe conditions'. Carers UK points out that the fraud rate for Disability Living Allowance is 0.5 per cent, so 'it is clear that a 20 per cent cut would result in the reduction in, or removal of, disability benefits for large numbers of legitimate claimants.'

Cap on Benefits

The Department of Work and Pensions estimates that (nationally) about 50,000 households will be affected by a plan to cap total benefits. Included in the calculation is housing benefit, so it will affect disproportionately those living in areas where housing is expensive. Organisations such as Shelter are concerned that, together with the previously announced changes to housing benefits, claimants will be forced to move to cheaper areas in search of affordable accommodation but where there may be fewer employment opportunities and people will be uprooted from their communities.

Childcare and Free School Meals

The amount of money available for working parents under the bill will be greatly reduced. Under the universal credit system the government is considering two options for childcare, both of which would mean that instead of parents receiving 80 per cent of £300 per week for childcare, they will receive 45 or 50 per cent.

■ *Jenny Watson is a Senior Community Development Officer at 3VA, and can be contacted via 01323 419788 or jenny.watson@3va.org.uk.*

Upcoming Network Meetings Discuss Welfare Reform

Welfare reform will be discussed at the Wealden Network meeting on 17 November and the Lewes Network meeting on 6 December. The Wealden Chairs' Lunch on 28 November will focus on 'Annual Reports: Trustees' obligations' and the Lewes Chairs Lunch on 23 November will look at 'Volunteers and the Law'.

Welcome newest members

We would like to introduce the latest member groups of 3VA and encourage others to apply

Dravet Syndrome UK: exists to fund medical research into Dravet Syndrome, raise awareness of the syndrome within the medical community and support families.

The organisation said they joined 3VA in order to network with other charities and get information.

■ For more information visit www.dravet.org.uk

Lewes FC Community and Education Scheme: supports members of all ages and abilities, regardless of their age, gender, race or background, throughout the Lewes District.

The scheme uses football as a vehicle to deliver community-based initiatives around health, wellbeing, education and participation. The reasons given for applying for membership were to widen the promotion of their provision and maximise support provided by 3VA.

■ www.lewesfc.com/community

Wealden Hidden Talents: contribute to improving mental wellbeing and reducing health inequalities within the Wealden Sheltered Housing Schemes by helping set up and develop arts and crafts groups. The Trust applied for membership to receive information and notifications about valuable funding opportunities, and information about training courses.

■ For more information email hiddentalents2010@gmail.com.

Enjoy Free 3VA Membership And Benefit

As the Council for Voluntary Service for Eastbourne, Lewes District and Wealden, 3VA is a membership organisation counting hundreds of voluntary and community groups as members.

There are many benefits to membership of 3VA, including:

- Discounted rates on certain services, including room and equipment hire and 3VA's programme of training courses.
- The opportunity to influence the work of 3VA; including the right to vote at the AGM and the right to vote at elections for the Community Networks.
- Membership of your local Community Network, which gives voluntary and community groups a say on issues which concern them – playing their part along with statutory partners in shaping plans for the local area.

To apply for free 3VA membership voluntary and community groups operating within Eastbourne, Lewes District and Wealden need to fill in an application form. To qualify groups need: a clearly defined purpose; a governing document (such as a constitution); a clear decision-making mechanism (such as a committee); appropriate financial records and a bank account in the name of the organisation; and any necessary insurances (such as Public Liability) and policies (such as confidentiality).

To find out more about 3VA membership contact Sharon Rose via sharon.rose@3va.org.uk.

Contact Us

Notices of publications, events and services do not necessarily carry an endorsement by 3VA, nor do they represent the view of 3VA

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3VA is a Member of the National
Association for Voluntary and
Community Action (NAVCA) and
a Member of the National
Council for Voluntary
Organisations (NCVO).

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East Sussex Downs and Weald
Primary Care Trust, East
Sussex County Council, Lewes
District Council and Wealden
District Council.

The CASCADE Project and
specialist funding advice are
funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

3View is also available through
the website: www.3va.org.uk.