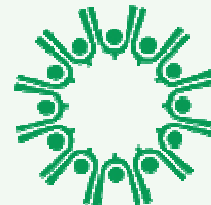


## WELCOME TO OUR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

It's business as usual in our bumper December edition – reporting on news and activities from VANEL, our members and the community sector as a whole.

December 2013




Read on, enjoy your Christmas, and we'll see you in January 2014 (for some new year resolutions).

# voluntary action

## Looking back at TLI: Changing Volunteering - Volunteer Profiles

Part of the **Transforming Local Infrastructure (TLI) project** allowed VANEL to take a new and fresh look at ways the Volunteer Centre could support and encourage volunteering. One of our project outcomes was to *“redesign volunteering brokerage services to improve the quality of volunteering opportunities provided for frontline organisations for volunteers, resulting in more people being involved by reaching out to greater numbers in our community”*.



 One of the most visible aspects of this has been the creation and rollout of the now familiar Supporting Volunteers Award (SVA) which nearly 100 groups across North East Lincolnshire are now involved with.

But a second aspect under TLI was to build **“Volunteer Profiles”** for individual volunteers to enable an even better service in matching volunteers to suitable host organisations. To date, over 200 volunteers have offered and promoted their personal and professional experience via their profiles to volunteer host organisations as opposed to simply responding to volunteering opportunities that we advertise. For individuals, this has changed the way their talk about their experience and their interests, and for host organisations it has enabled them to think differently about the opportunities they offer and promote. Experiences with Volunteer Profiles has so far been very positive and we shall continue to create and use profiles in this way. We have further to go in capitalising on and promoting the way they work and we'll continue to share information about the profiles through this newsletter and online.



If your organisation is a Member of VANEL and you are unfamiliar with the profiles then please do speak to the staff at the **North East Lincolnshire Volunteer Centre** (01472 231123) to learn more.

Volunteering is ever evolving and our work on SVA and Volunteer Profiles is part of our ongoing approach to improving volunteering for both individuals and host organisations. Another interesting current theme is in **micro-volunteering**. NCVO have recently issued a report looking into micro-volunteering and we're sharing it and some information online in our news pages. We'd be interested in knowing what our member organisations think about micro-volunteering and whether it is relevant to them.

Funded by  
 **CabinetOffice**  
Office for Civil Society

Please feel free to let us know what you think via [volunteer@vanel.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@vanel.org.uk). You can read the report online here <http://bit.ly/18eCS5Q>

Delivered by



This article and a more complete report can be downloaded from the VANEL website. Each of our TLI reviews and reports will be added to the website each month. Visit [www.vanel.org.uk/tli](http://www.vanel.org.uk/tli)

# MEMBER NEWS...

A small selection of news from VANEL and our members. Visit the VANEL website to read much more news relevant to our sector. If your organisation is a VANEL Member or Friend then you can advertise any news you have via our website. [editor@vanel.org.uk](mailto:editor@vanel.org.uk)

## It's Nearly Christmas !

Unsurprisingly, members and friends are holding festive events across North East Lincolnshire in the build up to Christmas. We've already been told about a number of community days, concerts and other cheerful goings-on.

There are too many to list here - and our list would probably be out of date by the time you read this. But we've posted an article on our website with the details we know about. Go to [www.vanel.org.uk/xmas2013](http://www.vanel.org.uk/xmas2013) and take a look at what the community is up to (and we'll try to keep it up to date). Also take a look at our events calendar to see what Member events we have posted there.



One of the Christmas events that the **Enfuse** team at VANEL are actively supporting is the Winter Wonderland Weekend at **West Marsh Community Centre**. Enfuse are helping the team down at West Marsh put on a festive fun filled weekend with loads of activities including sports, arts & crafts, real live reindeers and much more!!! It starts on Thursday 5th November until Sunday 8th November so get down and enjoy some fun.



For more info and details contact Sophie Johnson on [sophiej@vanel.org.uk](mailto:sophiej@vanel.org.uk).

Winter Wonderland  
Weekend **free**  
Come join us for a weekend full of fun and festivity

**Thursday 5th - Sunday 8th December**  
**at West Marsh Community Centre**

Thursday - 9:30am until 5pm  
Saturday - 10am until 5pm  
Friday - 1pm until 7pm  
Sunday 10am until 3pm

Lots of fun activities on across the weekend including :

- Winter Sports
- Christmas Crafts
- Festive Face Painting
- Enchanting Food and Drinks
- Meet Santas Magical Reindeers

free entry  
for everyone

Merry Christmas

**enfuse**

## SVA AWARDS

New groups are regularly working through our SVA scheme and achieving levels 1 or 2. Back at the VANEL AGM in November we were pleased to be able to hand-over the certificates to a number of groups on the day.

Photos here are of:

- ◇ NEL Childrens Centres
- ◇ Women's Aid
- ◇ Scouts
- ◇ Salvation Army
- ◇ Guides
- ◇ Climb4 Ltd

All receiving their awards from Allen Young, VANEL chair (apart from the last photo from Kelly Bryant, Volunteer Centre Manager.)

Congratulations to all of them on their excellent volunteer support work and on receiving their SVA's.

If your group has missed out on a 'photo opportunity' or has not received your certificate then please do get in touch with VANEL and we'll make some arrangements. (Call us on 01472 231123).



## MEMBERS...

From January we will be profiling a member organisation in some depth each month.

This is an opportunity for your group/organisation to tell everyone else what you do. The opportunity is always there for you to promote yourself via our website and event calendar, but there will be a chance to get an article into our monthly newsletter.

If you would like to take the opportunity then please contact the Editor, Karl Elliott, direct on 01472 235311 or via [karl@vanel.org.uk](mailto:karl@vanel.org.uk).





# THE ENFUSE NEWS PAGE...

The Enfuse team continues to deliver on a wide range of youth and community focused initiatives, so here are a few updates from the past month or so...

## 'Times Past' fundraising

**Times Past** was our charity event here at The Elms and it was a great success. The Enfuse team did all the organising on the day and we were pleased to have raised over £250, with half going to **Children in Need** and half going to Enfuse' **Sponsor a Child** campaign which we are running to help the teenagers and mothers currently staying at the Women's Refuge. Everyone really got into the spirit of things and really made the effort and The Elms really did go back in time! Thank you for everyone who donated gifts and money and enjoyed cake on the day. Your money is going to help some great causes this Christmas!



## Equipment Services

VANEL still holds a range of equipment which Members and Friends can borrow (often for free, for a deposit or a small charge). We have display boards, laptops, projectors, cameras, videos and more. We also have occasional PC's which we refurbish and redistribute. Andrew Dodd at Grimsby Minster says, "our office has 2 PC's via VANEL which, although old, give us useful office admin capability without the costs of new equipment". If your group could borrow something short-term from our equipment or would need a refurbished PC when one becomes available, just contact Karl at VANEL ([karl@vanel.org.uk](mailto:karl@vanel.org.uk))

## Payroll Services

For 1 or 100 employees, we can process Payroll for you. We're ready to help you with the HMRC RTI monthly filings, just give Angela a call at VANEL to discuss. [angela@vanel.org.uk](mailto:angela@vanel.org.uk)

## WebClub

The last WebClub of 2013 will be Tuesday 10th December (4pm-6pm) at the Elms. We start again in January on Wednesday 15th and then on Tuesday 4th Feb. Contact Karl Elliott on 01472 235311 if you are interested.

**Enfuse**

Enfuse, the  
Young Community  
Development  
Worker team at

**enfuse**  
Helping Young People. Help Communities.  
Help Themselves

VANEL, are regularly out and about in the community engaging with young people to find their views and promoting initiatives.

To meet the team and find out more about what they do why not come along to one of the events that they attend.

You can contact **Enfuse** on 01472 315437, via email on [enfuse@vanel.org.uk](mailto:enfuse@vanel.org.uk), look at the webpage [www.enfusegy.org.uk](http://www.enfusegy.org.uk) or follow on Twitter [@enfusegy](https://twitter.com/enfusegy)

## Local Democracy Conference

Some of the team attended the Local Democracy 2013 Conference on Friday 22nd November. The event was aimed at young people trying to get into work and was organised by some local youth led groups like Council for Young Reporters and Young Advisors. The day was great and we gave some great advice about volunteering and the potential benefits that it could bring to young people trying to gain employment. The day was a success with over 75 students from local schools attending.

## High Sheriff award

We are happy to say that Sophie Wilson from the Enfuse team has now been awarded her money from the High Sheriff's Tribune Trust. The High Sheriff is very pleased with the work that is being done and can't wait to hear the benefits the funding has brought to the scheme. The focus of the scheme is to help sustain a drop-in for offenders hosted at Second Avenue Resource Centre in Grimsby and run by Sophie and the Humberside Probation Trust. All feedback so far has been really positive and the funding is a useful boost for the project. If you need more information then please contact Sophie direct via [sophiew@vanel.org.uk](mailto:sophiew@vanel.org.uk).



## Mind Works success

**A PROJECT set up to help people with mental health problems get into volunteering has already smashed most of its three-year targets, just 10 months after being established.**

**Mind Works** is a scheme run by Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire (**VANEL**) and funded for three years by the Big Lottery.

It was launched to help those suffering with mild or moderate mental disorders get voluntary work and ultimately paid employment.

The project was given a target of getting 10 people into work over three years. Just 10 months in and the number of service users helped into paid employment stands at 15.

In addition, Mind Works has also helped 31 people into voluntary placements and exceeded its target for the number of people it has trained up as mentors. VANEL's Ian Disley, mental health development worker for Mind Works, said the organisation had identified a clear need to support people with anxiety or depression into voluntary placements.

VANEL's Volunteer Centre was constantly getting people coming in who wanted to volunteer but were quite anxious about it.

"They might have been out of work for some time and had developed anxiety, and needed additional support and some form of befriender or mentor."

Mind Works provides support through a buddy system in which a mentor will accompany the service user on their first day in their placement and offer support and advice thereafter.

Mind Works also runs a wellbeing workshop every Tuesday afternoon in which service users are taught essential life skills to help them cope when they have a stressful day.

There is also an art group every Thursday afternoon, which gives people an opportunity to try their hand at arts and crafts, drama, music and creative writing.

Since last December the project has received 110 referrals from various agencies, including Navigo, the Change Programme, Mind, Open Minds, as well as directly from VANEL's Volunteer Centre.

One of those to have used the service is Annemarie Stones, 34, of Cleethorpes.



She said: "I had one job for 13 years and was made redundant and I didn't have a lot of life experience. My confidence was a big barrier. This has been ideal for me to build my confidence up."

She began volunteering at Age UK and is also starting a placement at North East Lincolnshire Credit Union.

She is studying for a Level Four qualification in accountancy with Premier Training and her ultimate aim is to get a paid job with an accountancy firm.

"I go to the Tuesday wellbeing group and we learn a lot of different techniques to cope with depression and anxiety; for me it is writing things down.

"Meeting different people has given me a bit more of a social life. I see my mentor Lisa for an hour a week. That's good because I can discuss any problems at my workplace because I am a bit anxious at times." Her mentor Lisa Sandford said: "I support clients that have anxiety and depression, that are looking to get into voluntary work but aren't feeling ready.

"Some clients who come in find it hard to get out of the house. Seeing them move forward is very rewarding. They don't have a lot of a social life so getting them out speaking to people regularly is a big deal. It's good getting them out there, building their confidence up and getting them to meet people who have the same issues as them."

**This article and photograph reproduced from the Grimsby Telegraph (25th Nov 2013).**

Anyone with a mild or moderate mental health disorder who would like support to get into volunteering can call in at the Volunteer Centre or call 01472 231123. Contact Ian Disley at VANEL via [ian@vanel.org.uk](mailto:ian@vanel.org.uk). There is more information added about the project and occasional blog articles from Ian on the main VANEL website [www.vanel.org.uk](http://www.vanel.org.uk).



# MORE VANEL NEWS ...

## VANEL Staff & Trustee News

This month we've said goodbye to **Lisa Gibson** who was our Rural Advisor under the TLI project and latterly supporting our recycling initiatives. Lisa will be taking up a new role locally and we thank her for her work and wish her well.

Following the VANEL **AGM** in November there have also been changes on the VANEL Executive Board. Two of our Trustees have stood down, and so our thanks go to **Vic Goose** (East Marsh Community Trust) for his two years on the board, and to **Phil Thames** (Shoreline Housing Partnership), Vice-chair, for his (too many to mention) years on the board.

### New Trustees

So we have now been joined on the board by two new Trustees. **Neil Barber** from West Marsh Community Trust joins us, as does **Theresa Neul** of Booth House Salvation Army. They will be attending their first Board meeting later in December and we look forward to their input and support.

### Congratulations

Finally, a personal congratulations to **Jenny Hodson** who has just been shortlisted for final trials for the England over 55 Hockey Team. Well done Jenny. Was that a result of our Healthy Workplace initiative? (We'd like to think so.)

## Xmas Opportunities Needed

It's getting ever closer and we still have volunteers contacting us who would like an opportunity to volunteer on Christmas Day. So if your organisation is running over Christmas and needs support, please contact the Volunteer Centre and let us know. We'll try and match you up with volunteers who could help you. Thanks.

Contact the Volunteer Centre team on 01472 231123.

## Do you need a PC?

We've just handed over three refurbished PCs to Care4All to put to use in their office and internet café. But we still have a number of older PCs that are looking for a good home. They are very basic but are ideal for use as community computers or for basic office tasks.



Member or Friend organisations with a need should contact Karl Elliott on 01472 235311 ([karl@vanel.org.uk](mailto:karl@vanel.org.uk)) to discuss your requirements.

## Winter Planning

It may feel mild out, but we're in Winter now and this is the time that many vulnerable people need support.

The Winter Planning project recently held a public event at Grimsby Minster reminding people to **"Keep Calm. Stock up. Stay in"**.



Organisations and individuals can all help support vulnerable people in their communities, so visit the website at [www.winterplanning.org.uk](http://www.winterplanning.org.uk) for more information and to contact us to help out. Or contact Vicky at VANEL via [vicky@vanel.org.uk](mailto:vicky@vanel.org.uk).

## Are you running well?

How well an organisation is run is critically important – perhaps now more than ever. The governance of a group (how the trustees or committee operates) can influence so many aspects of the running and delivery of an organisation. Funders look favourably on well governed groups to receive their money, and staff, volunteers and partners all recognise a well run outfit. But good governance needs to be worked on. Improvements often don't just happen. But often finding the right support is difficult.

In the new year VANEL will be more actively promoting governance support to our Members and Friends, but for now it would be really good to hear from our members about any thoughts or issues you have with governance.

Do you have gaps on your board (which our Volunteer Centre could help promote)? Do you have a younger voice perspective within your group (our enfuse youth team can help here)? Do you have problems with recruitment? With skills development? Of trustee involvement or conduct? Does your board use technology effectively to deal with board matters (our IT network can advise you)? Or do you have other issues that prevent your board being the best it can be or doing the best it can do for your charity or group?

Please contact Karl Elliott at VANEL to discuss (01472 235311) or email [governance@vanel.org.uk](mailto:governance@vanel.org.uk).

Governance/trusteeship is complex. It is rewarding and valuable, but potentially difficult and boring! But at VANEL we'd like to offer you some support and guidance.

Read this (short) article from Karl Wilding (NCVO) who reports on "Ten things I have learnt as a trustee" (<http://bit.ly/1g2Xu67>) – how much of this rings true with you?

## Getting Better at Grant Applications

It's always a hot topic – raising funds through grant applications, and at VANEL we're always available to talk to groups about their approaches to grant applications.

GRANTfinder has just carried out some interesting research across a range of funders, which highlights (in a report) just what the key problems are which potentially prevent groups from accessing grants. And these findings should be something for anyone submitting a grant application to learn from.

The report looked for common factors from funders that influenced whether they awarded or didn't award grants from their funding pots. The clearest failure was the ineligibility of the applicant for that grant (67% of funders said this was common or very common). Spending time submitting a bid that your group is ineligible for in the first place is highly wasteful all round, and seems an important first lesson.

If the group itself is eligible, apparently many projects or activities are ineligible, and again this is a very high factor in failures to get grants. Poor standards of presentation of applications and not addressing the questions or the needs of the fund were also common.

Learning how to prepare an application better and apply to the correct funds is very important. But some of the factors are often outside our control. Many funders said that over applications to funds was a big reason for rejection. And apparently concerns over accessing match funding or the actual viability of applying organisations are also significant.

**So what should you do?** We've reviewed the report (which you can also download yourself) and brought out some of the key learning points. You can read our full article online at <http://bit.ly/18XYUdL>. Here's a summary:

*Identify the right funder:* Once the right funder is identified; contact them directly for the most up-to-date guidelines and check with the funder if not sure on eligibility.

*Plan your project:* Ensure that you put in the right groundwork in terms of preparing for an application. This includes setting objectives early and identifying need through research and statistics; as well as identifying social impact.

*Ensuring success during the project and beyond:* Develop a good relationship with funding providers through adhering to reporting rules and agreeing any changes in advance. Meet or exceed outcomes. Develop roles and responsibilities and work packages. Ensure high levels of dissemination through press and PR. Scheduling regular catch ups with any partners.

*Writing the application:* Understand the funder motivations. Bring the project alive through stories and photographs. Only apply to funds for which you and your projects are eligible to apply, reading the guidelines to ensure that you have paid heed to all instructions. Demonstrate evidence of need. Ensure an accurate and realistic budget. Good luck.

## Training on the basics of Web Development

Our **"Cooking up a Website" training session** is running again on **Monday 16th December**.

The two hour session is from 10am-12noon at VANEL offices at the Elms, 22 Abbey Road.

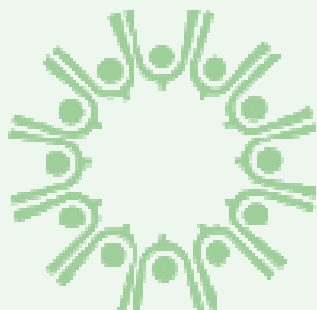
The training is suitable for anyone who's group/organisation needs to start developing or evolving a website, but who doesn't understand how websites hold together and are constructed. This is an introductory course covering all the fundamentals of web development – the ingredients, recipes, tools, techniques and more for 'cooking' up your first website. Suitable for non-techies who need to understand this technical subject in a simple, practical way. £20 per person. Limited spaces so please book soon.

Further information at [www.vanel.org.uk/cooking](http://www.vanel.org.uk/cooking) or contact Karl Elliott via 01472 235311 ([karl@vanel.org.uk](mailto:karl@vanel.org.uk)).



## Opening Hours

The 14 Town Hall Street office is open 9am-4pm Monday-Thursday.



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

Follow us @vaneltalk

Voluntary Action

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