

GENERAL

PRIZE FUND FOR INNOVATION IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE WITHIN VCSE SECTOR

Prize Fund for Innovation in Health & Social Care within VCSE sector

Does your organisation deliver innovative work in Health and Social Care in Greater Manchester?

Read below to find out details about how you can win a prize for it.

GMCVO, on behalf of the Greater Manchester VCSE Devolution Reference Group, is leading on a project to implement the Memorandum of Understanding that sets out a way for the VCSE sector in Greater Manchester to be better engaged and linked in with the Health and Social Care devolution agenda in GM. As part of the project we have been working with the GM Mayor's Office. The Mayor's Office has identified 4 priorities that link closely with the Health and Social Care agenda. The GM VCSE Devolution Reference Group has also identified 2 areas of focus it would like to hear more about.

The 6 themes are as follows:

GM Mayor's Priorities

- School readiness
- Homelessness
- Work readiness
- Loneliness / ageing well

GM VCSE Devolution Reference Group Priorities

- 5. Equalities
- 6. Participatory Approaches

We hope to gather valuable insight into the contribution of the VCSE sector around these areas in order to better show the public sector within GM what good practice activities are being carried out across GM within our sector.

We would like to encourage and reward organisations to put forward their examples of successful projects and activities that relate to one or more of the above themes by providing a prize fund for the most 'innovative' projects submitted.

Prize Fund details

There will be 1 main prize of £1000 and a runner-up prize of £500 per category.

The Prize Fund panel will be made up of a representative from GMCVO, GM Health and Social Care Partnership, GM VCSE Devolution Reference Group, Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GM Mayor's Office). Prizes will be awarded in March 2018.

How to Apply:

Go to <https://www.gmcvo.org.uk/news> and submit the form to GMCVO via kat.rado-barnes@gmcvo.org.uk

Or post to GMCVO, FAO Kat Rado-Barnes, St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester, M12 6FZ

Deadline Please send GMCVO your submissions by **5pm on Friday 9th February 2018**

TIME TO CASH IN OLD TENNERS

Old £10 notes must be spent by 1 March 2018 when they stop being legal tender, this is after the introduction of the polymer version in September 2017. However, the old notes can be ex-changed at the Bank after that date

The £10 banknote, is the first Bank of England note with a tactile feature to help blind and partially-sighted users.

Paper £5 notes withdrawn in May 2017 can be exchanged at the Bank of England in person or by post.

Old round pound coins can no longer be spent, but Banks will credit a customer's account, or they can be donated to charity.

HOSPICE IS SET TO LAUNCH NEW OAK CENTRE

Wigan and Leigh Hospice (WLH) will reveal its new Oak Centre to the public at a series of open days next week. The centre at its Hindley headquarters is a complete revamp of the old day hospice service following a large consultation exercise.

The aim of the new service is to enable people with life-limiting conditions to retain as much independence as possible and live a full life. Potential service users, their families and friends and health professionals are all being invited to three open events to meet the Oak Centre's team of staff and volunteers.

Questions can be answered, advice will be available on self-referring to the centre and complementary therapists will offer free taster sessions of Reiki, massage and creative events. Jacqui White, Oak Centre Manager, said: "When someone is diagnosed with a life-limiting illness they may feel afraid or no longer in control of their lives. At the Oak Centre we want to help people face what the future holds and feel in control of their lives.

"Wellbeing at the Oak Centre is more than about helping people with their medical needs, it is about helping them find skills for better living, adjust to their diagnosis, discover new interests and meet new people." Staff including a physiotherapist, occupational therapist, rehabilitation assistants and a creative therapies co-ordinator will work with Oak Centre service users to identify their physical, emotional and social needs and help them tackle the challenges they face.

The open days are from Monday January 15 to Wednesday January 17 from 10am until 3pm.

To find out more, ring 01942 525566 or email oakcentre@wlh.org.uk

ON YOUR MARKS...GET SET...IT'S LEIGH'S SECOND 10K

It's back and this time it's going to be even bigger!

MP Jo Platt officially launched the countdown to the 2018 Leigh Community 10k on Friday by urging Leigh residents to take up the challenge and help make it an annual event. Last year's inaugural race saw 600 people of all ages and abilities taking part with more than £10,000 raised for chosen charity, Wigan and Leigh Hospice.

This year, organisers are aiming for 1,000 runners. Inspiring healthy lifestyles, FCR Events Ltd, Leigh Harriers, Nectar Creative, Rotary Club of Leigh, Time2Run Events, Wigan and Leigh Hospice and Wigan Council are all working together once again to put on the event with the support of Leigh MP, Jo Platt.

Jo said: "Last year was tremendous; there was a real buzz in the town centre. It would be great to get even more people taking part and cementing Leigh Community 10k as an annual event. "Wigan and Leigh

Hospice is a charity close to many of our hearts and a worthy cause to raise money for whether you're running for fun or to beat your personal best."

The Leigh Community 10k, which takes place on Sunday 12 August in Leigh town centre, bolsters an already impressive calendar of running events in Leigh including the popular Flash in the Park 10k, Festive Flash Five and parkrun at Pennington Flash. All runners, joggers and walkers of any ability can join in the second Leigh Community 10k as long as you are over 15 years of age on the day of the event.

Standard entry fee is £17 or £15 if you run for a UK Athletics/ARC Running Club.

You can register for a place in the race at www.leigh10k.co.uk

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE YOUTH COMBINED AUTHORITY

Andy Burnham and Cllr Shori are appealing to organisations who work with young people to apply so their young people can be part of the Youth Combined Authority – the first of its kind in the country.

The Youth Combined Authority will:

- Advise the Mayor and GMCA on key issues and concerns of young people, and provide solutions
- Provide a critical voice and scrutinise the work of the Mayor and GMCA
- Undertake specific pieces of work, such as developing the Opportunity Pass and Curriculum for Life

The Youth Combined Authority's membership will consist of 40 young people: 20 representatives from local authority youth councils and 20 from other youth groups across the city-region. Each member will serve for up to two years.

The Mayor and the portfolio holder for Young People and Social Cohesion are now seeking applications from organisations who work with young people that are keen to be members of the Youth Combined Authority. Organisations must be able to support their members to play an active role, and develop and deliver a work programme that will make a real difference to the lives of the city-region's young people.

For further information and to apply, visit: www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/yca
or email: youth.gmca@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk by Monday 29 January 2018, 9:00

DEVELOPING A MOBILE PHONE APP TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE CAUSES OF DEMENTIA

Growing evidence suggests that inflammation in the brain could play an important role in memory loss and dementia. Animal research also suggests that pre-existing drugs developed to reduce inflammation could improve brain function. Manchester University wants to transform this research into better patient care but first a reliable way of studying how inflammation alters brain function over time is needed

As a first step the University of Manchester wants to develop a way of collecting information on changes in memory capacity over time – taking measurements on a frequent basis, beyond the scope of regular clinic visits. To do this the University of Manchester intends to develop a high quality, robust smart phone app to monitor brain function changes over time using a range of medically approved cognitive tests.

Researchers from The University of Manchester want to make sure that this app is simple and engaging enough for people with mild memory impairments to use on a regular basis, allowing researchers to monitor subtle changes in memory which would otherwise be missed in routine appointments. The University of Manchester wants to recruit a team of 6 public advisors with either experience caring for someone with Alzheimer's, or who are currently living with mild cognitive impairment to advise them on developing this app. Your role will be to help to ensure that the final output is relevant, simple and

engaging enough to be used by a whole range of people – including early stage Dementia patients and those with mild memory impairment.

If you choose to take part in this study you will be asked to join for three workshops, all to be held at the University of Manchester, between February 2018 and July 2018.

If you have any further questions or would like to get involved, contact Dr Sarah Fox, on 0792 041 4289, or email: sarah.fox-3@manchester.

NEW SURVEY: LOW PAY IN THE CHARITY SECTOR - HAVE YOUR SAY

The Living Wage Foundation has just launched a survey designed to build an evidence base around reducing barriers to the Living Wage.

The Foundation sees this as the first step in bringing together the entire charity sector and its stakeholders in order to collectively address the issue of low pay and disparities.

Survey findings will be published in Spring 2018 and will be used to:

- reduce financial barriers into the sector
- make the sector more appealing and competitive
- increase diversity and attract the best employees.

The closing date for submitting questionnaires is Monday 29 January 2018.

Go to <https://www.tfaforms.com/4651614> to complete the survey

UNWANTED CHRISTMAS GIFTS REQUESTED

Wigan & Leigh Deaf Children's Society is appealing for unwanted Christmas presents that could be donated as raffle or tombola prizes for two forthcoming fund raising events Please ring 07754 050451

DEVELOPMENT OF GM MODEL FOR 24/7 URGENT PRIMARY CARE

The NHS Five Year Forward View (FYFV) states that over the next five years, the NHS will do far better at organising and simplifying the urgent care system. Following a review of urgent primary in Greater Manchester and in conjunction with key stakeholders, a GM model for 24/7 urgent primary care has been developed and subsequently agreed by the Strategic Partnership board.

The review of urgent primary care recommended that any redesign of 24/7 urgent care should be provided at scale, be integrated with other services and have simplified and rationalised access routes.

The GM model has been designed to ensure that patients receive the right care, in the right place in a timely manner and reduce the burden on our highly pressurised A&E departments and core general practice. The model will contribute to a reduction in unnecessary hospital utilisation by avoiding A&E attendances and subsequent admissions and at the same time assist in community resilience.

A working group has now been established, the aim of which is to support the operationalisation of the GM model. The group has locality representation from commissioners and providers of primary and urgent care, local authority, nursing and acute providers; and is chaired by Stuart North (Chief Officer at Bury CCG and AGG Chief Officer representative for Urgent Care).

If you have any queries and comments, please contact Angela Osei, Programme Manager (Primary Care) Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Partnership via angela.osai@nhs.net

AMBITION FOR AGEING SEEKS BIDDERS FOR NEW WORKING POTENTIAL CONTRACT

Do you have good local reach and excellent connections? Have you got the vision and insight to help us understand the journey that carers over 50 undertake on their way to employment? Are you able to identify the barriers and challenges faced and how best to overcome them? If you can answer yes to all these questions, you might be interested in bidding for an exciting new action research project called Working Potential.

Launched by Ambition for Ageing on 8 January 2018. Its objective is to gather and collate as much information as possible about getting carers over 50 seeking to go back work in Bolton, Salford and Wigan 'job ready'. At the same time, there is a need to help employers become as age friendly as possible in order to attract and retain an older workforce. Led by GMCVO, Ambition for Ageing will be providing all necessary guidance, ongoing reviews and assistance to help the winning bidder meet the requirements of the project.

To find out more If you are a potential bidder or would like more information, please go to the Working Potential portal where you will be invited to create an account to view all documentation, including FAQs, and to submit any questions via the Q&A function.

A bidding engagement event is also taking place, designed to give prospective applicants the opportunity to learn more about the project principles, the delivery model and the approach we are looking for. This takes place on Friday 26 January 1.30pm – 3.30pm at the Eccles Gateway Centre, 28 Barton Lane, Eccles, Salford M30 0TU. Book your place here

The deadline for receipt of bid applications is 12 noon on Tuesday 20th February 2018 (applications received after this time will not be considered).

DO YOU NEED A SPACE FOR A MEETING?

Hindley Library & Community Centre, First Avenue, Hindley WN2 3EB

Crisp CIC is offering a welcoming; warm, friendly spaces for

- Community Groups
- Presentations
- Craft Groups
- Exercise Sessions
- One to One's
- Drop In's
- Office Space

All rooms fitted with 50-60" HD TV's fully accessible for HDMI and Laptops
2 Rooms seating 12; 1 seating 6

For more details contact 01942 255287 or email info@crispcic.co.uk

CAN YOU GIVE SANTA'S SLEIGH A HOME?

Wigan Rotary Club need a safe and dry home for the sleigh until next December.

Can anyone help?

It's the size of a small car but is 7 ft 3" high." If you can help please ring 07813 471000

TIME TO TALK ABOUT BEING A DONOR

A campaigner who donated a kidney to a close relative is looking to set up a support group in Wigan.

Mark Fegan is concerned there is no local forum for patients to share their experiences of living with kidney conditions. Now he is looking to gauge interest in staging regular gatherings so affected people can give each other a lift.

Those interested in finding out more about Mark's plans can contact him on 07922 655725 or email mfegana5@yahoo.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST

The twinning association in Angers organises a photographic contest between its twin towns. It's a good opportunity to show what you like about your city and above all, you can win a trip to Angers between the 25th and 27th May 2018!

Tell a story about your town in 10 pictures. Capture the story in an original or even funny way. PLEASE BE CAREFUL! The aim of the competition isn't to create a touristic documentary! The story must be lively and entertaining.

Young people aged over 18. It is important to underline that participants must be amateur photographers and not professionals. You can however, be a member of a photography club

Period of taking and editing photos and videos:

- From the 1st of December 2017 to the 10th of March 2018.

Photos and videos will be sent to the AAJ, by the 15th of March 2018 at the very latest. Please send all entries to the following email address: asso@angersjumelages.fr

If there are more than 5 entrants (per town), the AAJ will choose the best 5. Photos will be chosen based upon technical criteria and also, the originality of the story. Photos must be copyright free, with a resolution of: 3508x49612480x3508 (300DPI).

Full details from Martin Pouvreau Ambassador from Angers Direct line: 01942 489 193

E Mail angers@wigan.gov.uk

FANCY A TRIP TO ANGERS ? THEN PLAN AHEAD AND SAVE THE DATE

Wigan and Angers will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Twinning between the two towns next year. We are proposing to take a trip to France to honour the occasion from Thursday 6th – Wednesday 12th September 2018 which will coincide with the annual Accroche-coeurs street festival.

If you have never been to our beautiful twin town – please consider registering your interest and joining us on the trip – individuals, groups and organisations welcome. If you have already visited Angers – then maybe you will want to renew your contacts and make a return visit. Also please pass this information on to your friends. Thank you.

Visit our website www.wiganangers.co.uk to find details of the itinerary, cost and booking forms. Or ring Phil Hasler on 01942 215412 – for further information.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIEWS NEEDED FOR CITIZENS ADVICE RESEARCH ON NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE POLICY

The impact of the National Living Wage Policy on young workers under 25 is the topic of research that is being conducted by Citizens Advice Manchester. The research is trying to find out how young workers under 25 in Greater Manchester are affected by the fact that the National Living Wage Policy does not apply to them.

Young workers in Greater Manchester who are under 25 are invited to fill in the survey at the link below.

Findings so far suggest that 80% of respondents have borrowed money because of low wages and over 74% find it difficult to manage or just about manage to pay their essential expenses.

The survey will be open until the end of January 2018.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X8K2RP2>

ARE YOU A CARER IN THE WIGAN BOROUGH?

Then why not join in the activities that Wigan and Leigh Carers Centre have planned for January 2018.

As well as the regular weekly events and monthly groups, the Carers Centre has a variety of sessions and courses for you to come along to, have fun and learn something new including:

- Paint, Pastel and Palette Knives Six Week Course,
- Mindfulness Six Week Course,
- Stressbuster Session for Male Carers,
- Dementia Medication Awareness session,
- Get Digital; weekly one to one sessions and the Appy team are also in the centre once a month
- Kick off Your Shoes and Dance sessions with Hurst Dance Studios

All of the training is free to registered carers

Visit www.wiganandleighcarerscentre.org.uk; like WLCC's, Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/pat.millward.31> and click to receive notifications

or email gail@wiganandleighcarerscentre.org.uk

OVERCROWDED A&E IN 'STAY AWAY' PLEA

Health chiefs issued a fresh "stay away" warning to all but strict emergency cases as Wigan A&E faced overload again.

Doctors and nursing staff have complained of "severe pressure" on services and the WWL health trust is asking patients to think carefully about the best place to seek appropriate treatment. Casualty departments should only be used for serious illness. They are there to provide immediate emergency care for people who show the symptoms such as blacking out, bleeding you can't stop, severe chest pain, choking, loss of consciousness, stroke. These are all emergencies which require urgent hospital care.

Clinical Commissioning Group chairman Dr Tim Dalton explained how these A&E pressures can build. He said: "When people attend A&E, one of two things happen: they are either seen; given advice/medication and sent home or they are admitted in to the hospital and given a bed so further tests can be done.

If everyone who goes to A&E can go home afterwards, then A&E runs really smoothly. "If everyone who attends A&E needs a bed, then we have problems. After all we only have a finite number of beds in hospitals, and most of them are used for routine operations and ongoing care.

“Lots of things impact on whether a patient is admitted or sent home and therefore impacts on the pressure on A&E. The obvious one is the nature of the illnesses and injuries presenting that day. “Or it could be the age of the patient, the time of day they attend or even the member of staff that sees them. “A&E is there for serious, life-threatening illnesses and injuries; emergencies in other words. A good proportion of people who go to A&E don’t really fit this description. “They could have seen their GP or gone to a walk-in centre in the borough. Or frankly, some of them could have spent a day in bed resting up. That is the truth. And if they did that, A&E would rarely be under pressure.”

CYBER CRIME

The first link to the National Cyber Security Centre provides a host of downloadable pdfs dealing with things from protecting your passwords, to cyber security for small businesses, to managing information risk:

https://clicktime.symantec.com/a/1/LoOYQ_OuXtF0msWrsH-3dj4qi7zKBvhoostlg2hVcvM=?d=y5ZSZqgdq5oGYQXnlkQu7CnBo5KnDSt2O_ms_rbts84yu8r_q5CQX8vk6ZTa833Z1tUrieJeVBU_YfQEsRKqTaR-ZUuQq6U0Nng0Qf-eKyaVkv2_X8XF_C1n9hqfheTcMLvxAdL5GolMA46LpPWxzS9Oe99_s-Tj_30IjB1pNd_EGzZpeNr9beQPVTgYaccqLFx87Tt-Bp_fDNI9Pn4D1kt5zDVfD2CSGQRXULwytr61tHwu43ppVj3CYumwJhJqrylk2SZbwAXVKS03jCgwAxJ3nSe2Yh6tH3TlhzLb_qnqUaLMV--XFmX-dNh2rUphHJMnz0uab00eUxySDTtbBWa5QwcqHdEjQaxGhXTjdGDFS5olegKoDfQd462ZfF8QEh0-zg--HB86YaVnzH0o1uHoFXHPmjGmSE%3D&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ncsc.gov.uk%2Finformation%2Finfograp hics-ncsc

The second link is to a document devised by the City of London Police and outlines the 12 Online Frauds of Christmas outlining ways to stay safe online over the festive period:

https://clicktime.symantec.com/a/1/QksB4boAzl-Ll-udCjhVw5APIPXJkMDQMrVNZxuPuQ8=?d=y5ZSZqgdq5oGYQXnlkQu7CnBo5KnDSt2O_ms_rbts84yu8r_q5CQX8vk6ZTa833Z1tUrieJeVBU_YfQEsRKqTaR-ZUuQq6U0Nng0Qf-eKyaVkv2_X8XF_C1n9hqfheTcMLvxAdL5GolMA46LpPWxzS9Oe99_s-Tj_30IjB1pNd_EGzZpeNr9beQPVTgYaccqLFx87Tt-Bp_fDNI9Pn4D1kt5zDVfD2CSGQRXULwytr61tHwu43ppVj3CYumwJhJqrylk2SZbwAXVKS03jCgwAxJ3nSe2Yh6tH3TlhzLb_qnqUaLMV--XFmX-dNh2rUphHJMnz0uab00eUxySDTtbBWa5QwcqHdEjQaxGhXTjdGDFS5olegKoDfQd462ZfF8QEh0-zg--HB86YaVnzH0o1uHoFXHPmjGmSE%3D&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.actionfraud.police.uk%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F12%20Frauds%20of%20Christmas%20Leaflet_0.pdf

CALLING ALL VETERANS

Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh is the independent consumer champion for local users of health and social care services. We are here to make your services better by listening to your experiences and influencing improvements in the way health and social care is provided locally.

We are working with local veterans to find out their views and experiences of health and social care services and how these services can be improved for veterans in Wigan.

This is your chance to have your say and help us make sure that every member of the ex-services community across this Borough receives the treatment they deserve.

Please help us by completing this survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WFFK9HT>

It only takes a few minutes and everything you tell us will be treated with the strictest confidence.

If you'd like to find out more visit www.healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk phone 01942 834666 or contact karenw@healthwatchwiganandleigh.co.uk

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OUR HOMELESS

A new and improved approach to homelessness is helping to keep thousands of residents off the streets of Wigan. The approach, which sees Wigan Council working more closely with the voluntary and private sector, is helping to deliver more effective support and rehabilitation for the borough's homeless and rough sleepers by identifying and supporting those at risk as early as possible to prevent them reaching crisis point.

In addition to the current day time programmes offered by a number of groups, the new approach will implement a borough wide outreach provision, which will operate out of hours and at weekends. Two rehabilitation and support hubs will also be created, bringing together all relevant services to help rough sleepers.

The Leigh hub, based at Leigh Court House, will be operational at the end of January 2018 and the Wigan hub will be operational in summer 2018.

There will be emergency access beds available for the homeless and borough-wide services will be available seven days a week.

If you see a homeless person on the streets, please email roughsleep@wigan.gov.uk with as much information as possible (including their location) and our officers will investigate. You will also receive an update on the situation. Those who find themselves on the streets can also ring our out of hour's service on: 01942 828777

DATA PROTECTION: GDPR HOTLINE

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has launched a dedicated advice line to help small organisations prepare for a new data protection law.

The phone service is aimed at people running small businesses or charities and recognises the particular problems they face getting ready for the new law, called the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The GDPR replaces the current Data Protection Act and comes into force on 25th May 2018.

Regulated by the ICO, the GDPR strengthens the rules around personal data and requires organisations to be more accountable and transparent. It also gives people greater control over their own personal data.

There are already resources on the ICO website (<https://ico.org.uk/>) to help organisations employing fewer than 250 people prepare for the GDPR. But the new phone line will offer additional, personal advice to small organisations that still have questions.

People from small organisations should dial the ICO helpline on 0303 123 1113 and select option 4 to be diverted to staff who can offer support.

As well as advice on preparing for the GDPR, callers can also ask questions about current data protection rules and other legislation regulated by the ICO including electronic marketing and Freedom of Information.

Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham said: "All organisations have to get ready for the new data protection rules, but we recognise that the 5.4 million small organisations in the UK face particular challenges. "Small organisations want to be ready when the new law comes into force in May 2018, but they often struggle to know where to start. They may have less time and money to invest in getting it right

and are less likely to have compliance teams, data protection officers or legal experts to advise them what to do. "Our new phone service and all the other resources already on our website plus even more advice and guidance yet to come will help steer small businesses through the new law."

In addition to the new phone service, the ICO has also announced plans to simplify its popular "12 steps to take now" graphic in response to calls from small and micro businesses that they need access to targeted information about how to prepare for the GDPR.

And the ICO is revising its simple-to-use SME toolkit – a resource used by around 9,000 businesses a month since January 2016 – into a GDPR resource that will allow businesses themselves to identify gaps in their own preparation for the new law.

Organisations that have yet to begin preparing for the law change can access a range of resources on the ICO's dedicated data protection reform web pages.

The "12 steps to take now" graphic has been viewed 73,000 times since it was updated in May and is the most downloaded document on the ICO website:

<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1624219/preparing-for-the-gdpr-12-steps.pdf>

ICO staff have spoken at nearly 100 stakeholder events where "getting ready for the GDPR" has been a key theme and around 10,000 people have viewed sector-specific webinars highlighting GDPR issues. By the end of the year, the ICO will publish a Guide to the GDPR. It expands the content of the current overview to make it a comprehensive guide along the same lines as the current Guide to Data Protection. For further information, visit: <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/news-and-events/news-and-blogs/2017/10/new-data-protection-advice-service-aimed-at-small-organisations-preparing-for-the-general-data-protection-regulation/>

WIGAN ROTARY CLUB COMMUNITY DAY 2018

Many will know about the Rotary Club of Wigan sponsored Community Day. To be held in Standishgate on Saturday 7th July 2018 this will be the 5th year of this event and is an opportunity for charities and local good causes to promote their cause, recruit volunteers and members, raise funds, sell merchandise to the many thousands of people who will be in Wigan on that date.

All this at no cost to the organisation.

If organisations would like information on the event can they send an email with the words 'CD info reqd' to mervyn.reeves@blueyonder.co.uk

HANDY PERSONS SERVICE FROM AGE UK WIGAN BOROUGH

Need some support doing odd jobs around the house? Our Handy Persons Service may be the place to turn to. With our experienced and helpful staff along with a competitively priced service, no job is too small:-

- Installing grab rails and hand rails
- Making bespoke steps for easier access in and out of your property
- Hanging pictures, blinds, curtain rails etc
- Building flat pack furniture or moving furniture round the house
- Installation of Keysafes
- And much more

Ring our friendly team for further information or call at the office to discuss further
Visit: 68, Market Street, Wigan Call 01942 241972

LEAN ON ME

Is a new independent advocacy service from Wigan Churches Association for Family Welfare
It offers short term support to over 18's.

For more information ring 01942 867888 or visit the office at St Catherine's House in Scholes

BOOK A PLACE ON ANY OF OUR NEW WEEKEND WALKS

We have a variety of walks across the borough, perfect for exploring the amazing green spaces Wigan and Leigh has to offer. Get the exercise and fresh air your body needs. We have a variety of walks across the borough, perfect for exploring the amazing green spaces Wigan and Leigh has to offer. Get the exercise and fresh air your body needs....

Keep an eye on our Facebook page @getactiveoutdoors for all the walks being added in the events section, as we also have a Waggy Tails Walk for you and your four-legged friend on the 3rd December at Pennington Flash.

You can book at www.inspiringhealthylifestyles.org or turn up on the day

Lilford Park (fortnightly) Saturday - 9:30 am

Amberswood Nature Reserve (fortnightly) Saturday - 9:30 am

Pennington Flash (fortnightly) Saturday - 9:30 am

Haigh Woodland Park (fortnightly) Saturday - 9:30 am

DAA UPDATES

Wigan DAA - Twitter Account

Did you know we have a twitter account? If you are on twitter please follow @WiganDAA and use the account to advertise your organisations and activities/services.

Trading Standards - Call Blockers

Trading Standards are promoting the launch of free call blockers available for people living with dementia. The blockers are free and very easy to install, and are available direct from the scams team.

Please see more information by visiting <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/callblocker>

Dementia-friendly cinema

Alzheimer's Society has worked with the UK Cinema Association and the British Film Institute to create a Dementia Friendly Screenings guide for cinemas. It aims to spread awareness of dementia-friendly screenings and encourages cinemas of all sizes to get involved. It also gives best practice advice on the practicalities of dementia-friendly screenings alongside some helpful case studies.

The guide is being launched today at Hackney Picture house and will be available to download shortly afterwards at: alzheimers.org.uk/cinema

Dementia-friendly dentistry

The Faculty of General Dental Practitioners, British Dental Association, Public Health England and Alzheimer's Society have created standards for dementia-friendly dentistry. This guide is the first comprehensive resource to guide dentists to support both people with dementia and their carers in all aspects of their treatment. It provides guidance on care management and care provision as well as support materials. To find out more, please visit: www.fgdp.org.uk/guidance-standards

"Memories with Grandma"

We're excited to share our new animation, 'Memories with Grandma'. It's aimed at young people aged 7-11, so we're encouraging schools and youth groups to use the animation to help us create a dementia-friendly generation. To learn more about the animation, please visit:

www.alzheimers.org.uk/memorieswithgrandma

ARE YOU GOING DRY THIS JANUARY?

Christmas may be approaching but it's not too early to plan to go drink-free in January as a way to kick start a healthy new year.

Last year 79 per cent of participants of Dry January saved money, 63 per cent had better sleep and more energy and 49 per cent lost weight. January 2018 is expected to see over 3.1 million people in the UK ditch the booze for Dry January, according to a YouGov poll commissioned by the charity Alcohol Concern.

The national Dry January campaign has launched in what will be one of the busiest periods of the year for the emergency services as Christmas parties lead to alcohol-related injuries and violence. Alcohol costs the NHS an estimated £3.5 billion each year, which amounts to £120 for every taxpayer.

Two-thirds of people who attempt Dry January make it through the month without drinking, while 72 percent maintain lower levels of harmful drinking six months later than before Dry January.

Professor Kate Arden, Director For Public Health at Wigan Council said: "Christmas can easily be a time for excess, particularly for those who enjoy a drink to celebrate. So why not kick start a healthy new year by taking part in Dry January."

Dry January is run by national charity Alcohol Concern, which merged with Alcohol Research UK in April to become an even stronger advocate for a world in which alcohol causes no harm. To sign up to Dry January and get support every step of the way go to www.dryjanuary.org.uk

YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIEWS NEEDED FOR CITIZENS ADVICE RESEARCH ON NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE POLICY

The impact of the National Living Wage Policy on young workers under 25 is the topic of research that is being conducted by Citizens Advice Manchester. The research is trying to find out how young workers under 25 in Greater Manchester are affected by the fact that the National Living Wage Policy does not apply to them.

Young workers in Greater Manchester who are under 25 are invited to fill in the survey at the link below.

Findings so far suggest that 80% of respondents have borrowed money because of low wages and over 74% find it difficult to manage or just about manage to pay their essential expenses.

The survey will be open until the end of January 2018.

Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X8K2RP2>

HAVE YOUR SAY ON SOCIAL HOUSING

Tenants across England are being given the opportunity to have their voices heard about social housing through an online questionnaire.

The government is asking tenants in Wigan Borough to share their views on social housing before the deadline closes on 31st January 2018 to understand what is important to residents and any concerns they

may have. The questionnaire aims to give tenants a more effective voice following the Grenfell Tower tragedy last year.

Wigan Council's tests on the cladding on their seven high-rise flats have shown they are not the same as those used at Grenfell and do not pose a safety risk, however, the local authority's cabinet have agreed to install sprinklers in all blocks anyway, costing around £2m.

Councillor Terry Halliwell, cabinet member for housing and welfare at the council said: "Our main priority is the safety and welfare of our tenants. We conduct fire risk assessments weekly in each of our blocks to ensure any necessary changes are flagged in the earliest stages.

"We have already chosen to press ahead with installing sprinklers in all our tower blocks in light of the Grenfell Tower tragedy. "We would encourage tenants to have their say and share their views as part of this national questionnaire."

The questionnaire responses will inform the Green Paper on social housing in England, which the government aim to publish in spring.

To fill out the questionnaire, head to: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/tenants2017

AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE VCSE SECTOR TO INFLUENCE THE GM DIABETES STRATEGY

This is an important message from Naresh Kanumilli, Clinical Lead for Diabetes at the Greater Manchester and Eastern Cheshire Strategic Clinical Network requesting input from the VCSE groups on the draft GM Diabetes Strategy.

For and on behalf of Naresh Kanumilli, SCN Clinical Lead for Diabetes:

Dear Colleagues

I am writing to update you on some important work in relation to diabetes care in Greater Manchester and to seek your help in socialising a GM-wide strategy.

We all know that we need to improve diabetes care and reduce unwarranted variation. The Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) works to support the health and social care system in GM to improve care quality and patient outcomes in this regard across a range of health systems. With these points in mind, Jon Rouse, Chief Officer at the Greater Manchester (GM) Health & Social Care Partnership tasked the SCN with developing a Diabetes Strategy for GM.

The SCN worked with a network of providers, commissioners, patient representatives and third-sector stakeholders (details available on request) throughout 2017 to devise and consult on the resulting strategy, which is now attached. It aims to articulate 'what good diabetes care would look like in GM'.

Localities already have budgets and transformation funding in place within which they need to take forward diabetes improvement work. The GM Diabetes Strategy and additional resources are designed to support this work and provide a mechanism to help localities develop consistent high quality care across GM.

We believe the strategy presents a valuable opportunity for localities to evaluate their current approaches to diabetes in this context and, to support them in this regard, the SCN have developed a draft service specification. This can be used to benchmark locally commissioned services, identify gaps and develop improvement plans where required.

Moving forward, the SCN will develop plans from 2018 to support the diabetes care system in using these resources to deliver quality improvement. It will continue to host a Diabetes Network and governance structure which will provide a forum for considering variation identified in the system and opportunities for joint working to reduce or eradicate it where possible. We will make further contact regarding this in the New Year. We would welcome your involvement and support in socialising this strategy.

Go to <https://www.gmcvo.org.uk/important-opportunity-vcse-sector-influence-gm-diabetes-strategy> in order to access the relevant documents relating to the GM Diabetes Strategy and Service Specification located on the GMCVO website for ease of reference.

If you have any specific comments or feedback on the GM Diabetes Strategy, please forward these to Ewan Jones (ewanjones@nhs.net) by 31 January 2018. If you have queries relating to the draft Service Specification, please contact Krista Williams (kristawilliams@nhs.net) at the SCN by the same date. We would be grateful if you would disseminate the attached documents throughout your networks prior to the development of our diabetes support programme in the early 2018. It would be helpful if you could cc Angela Devine (angela.devine1@nhs.net) in to any forwarded emails. Thank you and best regards. Naresh Kanumilli SCN Clinical Lead for Diabetes

WORKING BETTER BY WORKING TOGETHER

Progressive policy think tank, IPPR North, has recently published a report on civil society support in the north of England. Based on interviews with a range of VCSE infrastructure organisations – including GMCVO – the findings are very interesting and conclude there is a need for a more joined up approach across public, private and voluntary sectors.

To read the report in full <https://www.ippr.org/research/publications/civil-society-support-in-the-north-of-england>