

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**

DO YOU WANT TO BE CHEERLEADER?

To join our teams who compete around the UK or even just learn how to perform and take part in local events. Gemstone Cheerleading has classes for all ages from 2 years plus.

Whether you're a beginner or advanced we have teams to suit all.

Contact us for more info Head Coach Lydia-07802417516 Gemstonecheerleading@gmail.com

BEYOND WIGAN PIER - THE MUSICAL

This is totally original!!

A World's first.....a fully inclusive, place centred, community musical, written by, performed by, and starring a NORTHERN TOWN - Wigan!!

One night only - 27th April 2018

Take a look at our Facebook page....."Beyond Wigan Pier-the Musical" for more information...

The only way to get a ticket, is to donate to our crowd funding site (Just click on the link below)

<http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/beyond-wigan-pier-1>

There are only 900 tickets, and they're moving fast....once they are gone....THEY ARE GONE!!

MOVING MORE OFTEN

A training programme for people interested in promoting physical activity

- Do you care for, support or work with people on a paid or voluntary basis?
- Would you like to help people improve their well being and quality of life?
- Could you help motivate people to become more physically active?
- Would you like to assist people in retaining their independence?

Moving More Often is part of a national training programme designed to promote physical activity, independence and well being. Moving More Often training will enable you to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to engage frailer older people or adults with additional support needs to become more physically active.

After completing the training course, you will be supported to provide a range of safe, effective and appropriate activities, games, walking and everyday physical activity opportunities.

The next date for the Moving More Often Course is set for 14th March. It is at Hindley Leisure Centre 9.00am - 3.00pm. If you or anyone else is interested in the training please contact Gill Healey on 01942 886802 or email Gill.Healey@ihlmail.org

WIGAN SCHOOL PUPIL CELEBRATES PRIZE DRAW WIN AFTER CONTRIBUTING IDEAS ON IMPROVING LOCAL HEALTHCARE

St John Fisher Catholic High School pupil Georgia Crooks is celebrating after winning shopping vouchers in a prize draw which encouraged young people to have their say on the future of local NHS community services.

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Bridgewater) ran the prize draw as part of its Big Conversation consultation which aimed to get the views of as many people as possible on health services. To ensure that young people had their say, the trust visited schools and colleges and encouraged students to complete online and paper forms about what they think of local health services outside of hospitals and how they think they can be further improved. Everyone who submitted a comment, idea or suggestion was entered into a prize draw with one winner chosen at random.

Eugene Lavan, Bridgewater's Deputy Director for Strategy, Planning and Partnerships said:

“Georgia was one of over 200 young people to submit some really innovative ideas on how we can better communicate with them about health services and how we can improve health services so they really meet the needs of young people. “The Trust acknowledges that only by really listening to people in the local communities where we provide services will we truly understand if we are meeting the needs of local people. The work we did with young people was just part of our Big Conversation consultation which involved us speaking to hundreds of people of all ages to gauge their views.

“We have used the feedback to inform our new organisational strategy which sets out our plans for providing local community healthcare over the next five years. Examples of ideas we aim to implement include improving our communications about services, working harder to keep people in our communities healthier and using more technology in the delivery of our services. We will also be diligent in our efforts to better integrate health and social care services to reduce patients having repeated conversations across different organisations.”

Read more about Bridgewater’s future plans for health services in Wigan, Leigh and other parts of the North West at www.bridgewater.nhs.uk/qualityandplace/.

FREE CADDY LINER DELIVERY FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS

It’s now easier for Wigan Borough residents to recycle their food waste as a new free caddy liner delivery is introduced.

From January 2018 caddy liners will be delivered to all households by Wigan Council’s waste crews meaning residents no longer need to purchase their own or collect liners from life centres or libraries. It is hoped this will make it easier for residents to recycle their food waste in the kitchen caddy before putting it in the green bin. Recycling food will also save space in the black bin.

To let the crews know you need a new roll of liners, residents are being asked to tie a caddy liner to the handle of their green bin on their collection day. When the crews come to empty the bins they will leave residents a new set of liners.

Residents are being encouraged to contact the council to order a free kitchen caddy if they do not already have one so they can start to recycle food.

Paul Barton, assistant director for environment, said: “Thank you to residents for recycling more, recycling right as part of The Deal. We have already seen an increase in our recycling rates but we can still do more to reach our targets. “Recycling food and garden waste in the green bin is really important as it is composted and then reused which means it doesn’t go to landfill. “Crucially, recycling correctly using all three recycling bins will save space in your black bin. The black bin should be a last resort for items that cannot be recycled.”

If you don’t currently recycle food and would like to start you can order a kitchen caddy via My Account www.wigan.gov.uk/MyAccount Find out more about recycling at www.wigan.gov.uk/recycling

ANDY BURNHAM ADDRESSES CONCERNS ABOUT TRANSPORT WITH OLDER PEOPLE AT GREATER MANCHESTER EVENT

On 17 January 2018, members of the Greater Manchester Older People’s Network came together to discuss and share their views on Age-Friendly Transport in the region. Speakers from Ambition for Ageing gave their perspective on the matter, and Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham addressed some of the concerns that were raised by the network as part of an address. A panel discussion also featured representatives from the Greater Manchester Ageing Hub and Transport for Greater Manchester.

“Age-friendly transport is an extremely important issue for Older People that can make the difference between maintaining independence and social connections and becoming lonely and isolated. It intersects every area of peoples’ lives. We hope that by working with Andy Burnham, Transport for Greater Manchester and other key partners that we can address some of our members’ current concerns and help develop transport in Greater Manchester that meets the needs of all its citizens.”

(Liz Jones, Greater Manchester Older People’s Network Development Worker, Macc)

Stephen Rhodes, Director of Customer Services at TfGM said: “Public transport can be a vital link for older people to get out and about to keep active and combat isolation.

At this event, we were able to listen to older people’s concerns and issues, and we will continue to work with partners across Greater Manchester to remove any barriers to older people using the transport network.”

For details about the Greater Manchester Older People’s Network contact Liz Jones at Macc on 0161 834 9823 or liz@macc.org.uk

GM POVERTY ACTION NEWSLETTER: SUPPORTERS SCHEME, CAN YOU HELP? LOOKING AHEAD IN 2018; UNIVERSAL CREDIT; GM LIVING WAGE; JOBS AND EVENTS

In Greater Manchester poverty Action’s first 2018 newsletter they are asking for your help. Could you support Greater Manchester Poverty Action? Could you or your organisation become a Supporter or Principal Partner?

Also in the newsletter is an article by Macc CEO, Mike Wild about what 2018 may bring; some local information and comment on Universal Credit; information about jobs with the Manchester Homelessness Partnership and a new Manchester community network; an invitation to the next GM Living Wage Campaign planning meeting and two other events coming up in January.

Newsletter

at

<https://www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/sites/manchestercommunitycentral.co.uk/files/GMPA%20Newsletter%20January%2017th%202018.pdf>

RESEARCH FOR THE FUTURE

A new campaign to encourage people living in and around Greater Manchester to get more involved with local health research opportunities.

Research for the Future is supported by the NHS’ research arm, the National Institute for Health Research, and enables people with a particular health condition to hear more about research going on into that condition. They can then decide if they would like to find out more or take part.

At present, Research for the Future is looking for people with diabetes; heart conditions, such as high blood pressure or angina; or respiratory conditions, such as asthma or COPD.

If you are over 18, have one of the conditions and live in or around Greater Manchester, visit researchforthefuture.org or text the word research and your name to 81400 to join Research for the Future and help the NHS find new treatments for your condition.

Katherine Grady, programme development manager, explains further: “People with a long-term health condition are often passionate about understanding their condition and are very willing to help researchers learn more about the best ways of treating it. However, it can be difficult to find out what research is going on locally and how to take part. “When people sign up to Research for the Future, we ask for some basic contact details and the types of research they are interested in – there are lots of opportunities to take part from filling in simple questionnaires to taking part in trials of new treatments. We then let you know what’s going on in your local area so you can get involved if you want to.”

Research has always been at the heart of the NHS. Through research they are able to continually improve treatments and discover the best ways to prevent, diagnose and manage illnesses. It also helps to understand how to best focus NHS resources where they will be most effective.

For further information and to get involved, contact 0161 206 3636, or email: Research.Future@srft.nhs.uk

WOMAN ZONE

Saturday 23rd June 2018 Leigh Town Hall Square

Are you part of a local Charitable, Voluntary Organisation, Not For Profit Organisation or Community Group, whose main purpose is to improve the lives of Women and Girls or Families?

Leigh & District Soroptimist Club are organising this Woman Zone Event to showcase the wide variety of services available to help Women and Girls and Families in the Leigh area.

To take part in this free event and publicise your services please contact us by email to register your interest: soropleigh@yahoo.co.uk

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2018

Tuesday 6th March 4pm – 8pm Wigan & Leigh College, Parsons Walk, Wigan

The event is an opportunity to promote the housing and construction industry and the employment opportunities available, most importantly via Apprenticeships. We will also be looking for live opportunities to be available for people to apply for, and we will host some CEIAG support for potential candidates. As for last year we will be looking for pledges from partners to offer ongoing support and opportunities and will be tracking the impact of these over the coming year.

We will have a space for an introductory presentation that will run 3 times through the event; a space for interactive practical activity; and a market place.

We will start promoting the event in the next week or with an Eventbrite page to book on, but we need to start collecting details now of who will be hosting stalls etc.

So – my ask to you all is.....

- Confirm if you will require a stall at the event
- If you require a stall, provide any details of your requirements (eg access to power)
- Confirm if you will have live opportunities to apply for on the night – what sector, how many
- Promote the event to partners in your supply chain and encourage them to be part of the marketplace

If you could confirm the above by Friday 16th February to Beth Locke on b.locke@wigan.gov.uk we would be very grateful to enable us to plan for numbers.

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.

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

RESIDENTS ARE MORE DIGITAL THAN EVER BEFORE

Wigan Council launched MyAccount in 2015 as a way for residents to access council services conveniently online and more than 100,000 people have now signed up, with almost 50 per cent of them making a transaction in the last six months. The award-winning local authority has worked hard to reduce digital exclusion to make sure anyone who can has basic digital skills by 2020, which not only provides opportunities for residents but also saves the council significant amounts of money.

Features like MyAccount and ReportIT app and exclusive programmes like the Duke of York's iDEA award has even led to Wigan Borough's digital exclusion rate being downgraded from 'medium' to 'low' on the UK Consumer Digital Index 2017, produced by Lloyds Bank

Lesley O'Halloran, assistant director for customer services at Wigan Council said: "Residents have been fantastic at taking up digital opportunities, which is clear to see with more than 700 people signing up to the iDEA course since we rolled it out at the end of 2017. "Digital services are cost effective and help us keep council tax low. In times of austerity, our council tax remains one of the lowest in GM thanks to residents doing their part of The Deal.

"In the next 20 years, more than 90 per cent of jobs will have a digital element and we want to ensure people are ready for this change. In addition, we want to bring convenience to residents as coming to life centres or calling isn't always their preferred way of interacting. "Our digital offer improves accessibility and makes services available 24/7 instead of just nine through five.

Residents have also been taking advantage of the council's ReportIT app, which allows people to report a number of community concerns such as anti-social behaviour, environmental issues, highways problems and more recently, social housing issues, seeing more than 24,000 reports to date.

Wigan Council was also the first local authority in the UK to provide online wedding ceremony bookings and has now furthered this offer by giving residents the ability to digitally arrange payments for birth and death certificates, notice of marriage appointments and payments for weddings.

Lesley continued: “We will strive to build on these amazing successes, which isn’t just good news for the public purse, but will save residents’ time and trips to their local life centre. “We encourage people to remain enthusiastic and keen to learn about our digital future.”

For more information about council services, visit the council’s website, which has also been placed in the top nine per cent of all local authorities nationally: www.wigan.gov.uk

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

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@crispic.co.uk

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

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_q5CQX8vk6ZT a833Z1tUrieJeVBU_YfQEsRKqTaR-ZUuQq6U0Nng0Qf-

[eKyaVkv2_X8XF_C1n9hqfheTcMLvxAdL5GoIMA46LpPWxzS9Oe99_s-Tj_30IjB1pNd_EGzZpeNr9beQPVTgYaccqLFx87Tt-Bp_fDNI9Pn4D1kt5zDVfD2CSGQRXULWlytr61tHwu43ppVj3CYumwJhJqrylk2SZbwAXVKS03jCgwAxJ3nSe2Yh6tH3TlhzLb_qnqUaLMV--XFmX-dNh2rUphHJMnz0uab00eUxySDTtbBWa5QwqcHdEjQaxGhXTjdgDFS5olegKoDfQd462ZfF8QEh0-zg--HB86YaVnzH0o1uHoFXHPmjGmSE%3D&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ncsc.gov.uk%2Finformation%2Finfograp-hics-ncsc](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/finfograp-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-ZUuQg6U0Nng0Qf-eKyaVkv2_X8XF_C1n9hqfheTcMLvxAdL5GoIMA46LpPWxzS9Oe99_s-Tj_30IjB1pNd_EGzZpeNr9beQPVTgYaccqLFx87Tt-Bp_fDNI9Pn4D1kt5zDVfD2CSGQRXULWlytr61tHwu43ppVj3CYumwJhJqrylk2SZbwAXVKS03jCgwAxJ3nSe2Yh6tH3TlhzLb_qnqUaLMV--XFmX-dNh2rUphHJMnz0uab00eUxySDTtbBWa5QwqcHdEjQaxGhXTjdgDFS5olegKoDfQd462ZfF8QEh0-zg--HB86YaVnzH0o1uHoFXHPmjGmSE%3D&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.actionfraud.police.uk%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F12%20Frauds%20of%20Christmas%20Leaflet_0.pdf

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

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>