

More than £1m available for Community Groups

Manchester City Council is launching the ninth year of its Cash grants scheme, giving community groups across the city a chance to improve their local neighbourhoods. Following the success of previous years' schemes, the City Council has once again set aside £1.3 million to help local people improve their areas and make them cleaner, safer and better places to live in. The Cash grants scheme aims to support community groups undertaking projects that make a difference to people's lives and neighbourhoods. Last year, more than 300 Manchester community groups carried out projects ranging from community clean ups, tree planting and improvements to local parks, to creating safe play areas for young people, improving community buildings and developments in

community areas. This year £40,000 will be available to every ward in the city to support similar schemes. It's a fact that local people know best what changes would make a difference to their environment and these grants could help to turn their ideas into reality. Grants can be used for anything that will improve the local environment, build a stronger sense of community or help reduce crime or anti-social behaviour. New and existing groups that are based in Manchester can apply for a grant and applications for any amount up to £40,000 will be considered. The closing date for this year's applications is 20 July. For more information on how to apply for Cash grant, ring: 0161 234 3016 or e-mail: voluntary.sector.grants@manchester.gov.uk

Big Boost

Good News! £145,000 is still left to give away in the North West! Projects can benefit people of any age, but must be applied for by a young person between 16 and 25.

Cash grants of up to £5,000 are available. Applications must demonstrate that they benefit either the individual or the wider community.

'Hand Holding' available to guide applicants into making a successful application.

Contact Phil Mundy on 0161 945 1133 at The Scarman Trust for further details or visit: www.thebigboost.org.

New Compact Websites

Compact Voice is the representative body for the voluntary and community sector on the Compact bringing you news on their work and ways to get your views raised in government and to the Commission for the Compact.

Compact Voice (formerly Compact Working Group) has a new website at www.compactvoice.org.uk

'Beat the Blues'

People suffering from anxiety or depression can help themselves to 'beat the blues' thanks to a new computer package offered by Manchester based Self Help Services.

'Beating the Blues' is an eight part computer-based programme which helps people to change the way they think and behave which in turn can change their feelings and moods.

The service is part of a

pilot project and aims to make computerised cognitive behavioural therapy (CCBT) more accessible to people living in Manchester.

For more information about the Self Help Services and the 'Beat the Blues' programme please call 0870 777 7832

Wish to comment or submit an article? Email support.manchester@thescarmantrust.org or phone 0161 839 2613

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WEVH Training

Women's Electronic Village Hall (WEVH) actively improve the skills of women in the Manchester area by providing targeted, flexible and cutting edge training with a particular focus on Information and Communications Technologies and multimedia.

Currently WEVH are funded by the LSC to provide free ICT training to women staff/volunteers working within the Voluntary/Community Sector. These groups must be providing skills for life training to disadvantaged groups.

Advanced Word Course

19, 26 June & 3 July 2007
(3 x daytime sessions)

Intro to Intermediate Excel Course

July (3 x daytime sessions, dates to be confirmed)

Please ring Natalie Burney on 0161 833 8800 or e-mail: natalie.burney@wevh.org.uk to request an application form for either of the above. For details of other courses running from September 2007 visit: www.wevh.org.uk

Contact us:

The Scarman Trust Manchester

424-426 Manchester Royal Exchange Manchester M2 7FE

Tel: 0161 839 2613

e-mail:

support.manchester@thescarmantrust.org
www.thescarmantrustmanchester.org

Spotlight

Dyslexic by Nature



The Dyslexic by Nature group was formed on 6th June 2006, thanks to the kind support and encouragement of Sue Bell at Chorlton Workshop. The group was created because a number of dyslexic students from Chorlton Workshop were concerned about the lack of help and support for people with dyslexia in the community and the stigma around dyslexia. Once the aim of the club was defined a constitution was written up with the guidance of Sue Bell and Amanda Waite, also from Chorlton Workshop.

It was decided that a play would be the ideal vehicle to inform the public about

dyslexia; however, before the play could be developed funding for the project was necessary. Janet Bainbridge, community development worker for The Scarman Trust Manchester, proved to be an invaluable asset, providing information on planning, guidance to funding streams and links to other relevant community groups in the area. With the support of Amanda Waite the group set about applying for funding, money was received from Manchester City Council "Change Grant" for set up costs and funding was successful from the Lottery 'Awards for All'.

Dyslexic by Nature joined

forces with Manchester Play Writes a local community group at the Zion Centre, to give a voice to all dyslexics, their families and friends. The play will explain the "X" in dyslexia. It will be a positive and captivating story revealing the highs and lows of living with dyslexia and the effect it has on family life.

The aim of the play is:

- To shed light on all aspects of dyslexia.
- To give a positive outlook to people with dyslexia and their families.
- To make clear how important adult education is as a vehicle to develop self esteem and lessen the impact of dyslexia.
- To make the government, education and the community more aware of what they can do to meet the needs of dyslexic people.

For further information about the play or the Dyslexic by Nature group, please contact Dot on 07811 831240.

Wish to comment or submit an article? Email support.manchester@thescarmantrust.org or phone 0161 839 2613

Support Sessions

The Scarman Trust

Manchester provides regular Support Sessions based in communities and neighbourhoods across the City of Manchester in local easily accessible venues.

Regular Support Sessions are held at the following venues:

- Hulme Library
- Old Moat Children's

- Centre, Withington
- Longsight Library
- Levenshulme Library
- Chorlton Library
- Newton Heath Library
- Miles Platting Library
- Gorton Library
- Benchill Community Centre Wythenshawe
- The Forum Library Wythenshawe
- Harpurhey Neighbourhood Project

- The Wells Centre
- Lightbowne Children's Centre
- Abraham Moss Centre
- North City Library
- The Grange

For the dates and times of the Support Session in your area please give us call on 0161 839 2613 or e-mail: support.manchester@thescarmantrust.org

Volunteering

FREE Accredited Training for Volunteers

Would you like to gain a nationally accredited qualification whilst volunteering? If so, you may be interested to learn that MANCAT is currently offering NVQ Level 2 training courses FREE of charge to local employers / voluntary organisations. MANCAT is providing this training in a number of different subject areas, including:

Customer Service

Enables employees to give customers a positive impression of themselves and their organisation. Helps employees to deliver reliable customer service and to resolve customer service problems.

Business Administration

Employees can select from a variety of modules, including: Managing diary systems. Spreadsheet, presentation, word processing software etc.

ITQ (A new IT focused 'pick and mix' NVQ qualification)

This qualification is tailor made to mirror the IT applications that employees use on a daily basis in the work place. Modules include, Word, Excel, Access, Outlook, IT maintenance etc.

Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT)

Designed to provide a recognised qualification for support staff who work in accounting and finance. Includes ledger balances, making and recording payments etc.

For further information please contact the Business Support Team on 0161 920 4466 or email: bst@mancat.ac.uk

Funding News

Changing Lives Programme

The Crisis Changing Lives programme provides financial awards of up to £2,000 to solitary people who are homeless or settling into a home and looking for support so that they may achieve their vocational goals.

Visit: www.crisis.org.uk/page.builder/changinglivesawards.html

Funding for Summer Play Schemes

The programme is open to local organisations and grants of up to £1,000 will be available to support local summer play schemes. Priority will be given to schemes working with refugees and minority ethnic groups.

Visit: www.hildencharitablefund.org.uk/play.htm

ICT Connect Bursaries

Voluntary and community organisations that want to

explore their ICT needs by visiting another organisation that is using ICT well or in an innovative way can apply for a grant of up to £150 towards travel and subsistence costs.

Visit: www.ictclub.org.uk/ICT_Connect

Manchester Fund

Community groups city-wide are to benefit from an historic funding windfall. They will be able to apply for grants up to £1,500. Particular emphasis will be put on activity that supports young people in the city.

Visit: www.communityfoundation.co.uk

Manchester Neighbours' Day Grants

The aim of the event is to encourage neighbours to get to know each other better by arranging street parties, fun days or events that bring people together. Grants are

available to help organise an event or project on or around 29th May.

For more information contact David Hilton on 0161 234 3016 or e-mail: voluntary.sector.grants@manchester.gov.uk

New Small Grants Joint Fund

Jointly with Help the Aged, Valuing Older People is offering small grants to community groups across Manchester to encourage local activity and involvement of older people within the community.

Contact Sally Chandler on: 0161 234 3153 or e-mail: s.chandler@manchester.gov.uk

Resource Awards 2007

The awards are available to any non-profit community organisation working in the field of waste education and recycling. The winner of each award will receive £2,500 as well as a recycled glass award and high-profile project coverage in the Resource magazine.

Visit: www.resourcepublishing.co.uk/resource-awards.html

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Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards

Community and voluntary groups whose core work is supporting children's welfare or education, elderly people and people with disabilities have the opportunity to apply for grants of between £1,000 and £5,000.

Visit: www.tesco.com/everyLittleHelps/downloads/TescoCAGs.pdf

vcashpoint

vcashpoint, the independent charity set up to encourage young people to volunteer, has launched a new £1 million funding initiative called vcashpoint for young people in England who want to set up their own community project. vcashpoint will provide grants of up to £2,500 to young people to help them turn their ideas into reality. Visit: www.vinspired.com/vbuzz/campaigns/38

Contact us concerning any Funding opportunities you would like promoted: 0161 839 2613 or support.manchester@thescarmantrust.org

Events

Open Day - Moss Side, Moss Pride

12 May 2007,
12pm-4pm
Moss Side Millennium
Powerhouse

Have your say about how to improve public services in Moss Side
Celebrity guests/
information stalls/food/
face-painting, multicultural
concert including poetry,
singing and dance, quick
cricket/rounders/football
on Rec Park.

There will be prizes, a
quiz and more giveaways
so please come along.
This is a family event and
everyone's welcome!
For further information:
call 0161 234 3041

Spoilt for Choice: Research Methods

15 May 2007,
10.30am-3.45pm
GMCVO, St. Thomas Centre

This conference aims to

showcase research
projects about and by the
voluntary sector and the
methodologies employed
by the research. The
seminar is aimed at VCS
staff and volunteers
involved in producing
research, policy-makers in
local and regional
government, local
strategic partnerships and
regeneration teams.
For further information call
Susan Barrett on 0161 277
1001 or e-mail:
sue.barrett@gmcvo.org.uk

BUPA Great Manchester Run 20 May 2007

Manchester City Centre

Now in its fifth year,
Britain's premier 10km
running event ranks as
one of the world's
greatest road running
competitions. Make sure
you cheer on the elite
athletes, thousands of fun
and charity runners and
the all-star cast of
celebrities taking part.
For further information

visit: www.greatrun.org

The Best Laid Plans - Planning Event

22 May 2007, 4pm-8pm
The Mechanics Institute,
Princess Street,
Manchester

The Sustainable
Neighbourhoods Pool and
North West Planning Aid are
holding an event to help
community and voluntary
groups better understand
the planning system.

Through presentations and
workshops the event will
explain the planning system
and how and when you can
influence it.

For further information call
Julie Goreham on
0161 273 1736 or e-mail:
sustainable@merci.org.uk

African Explosion 2007

27 May 2007, 1pm-5pm
Hulme Park

African Festival UK
presents African Explosion
2007 (Africa Day
celebrations)

Music, Dance, Workshops,

Food, Stalls and
Information — everyone
welcome!

For further information:
call Pedro: 0161 273 2567
or 07761 854479, or Sue:
07715 853971

Countdown to Celebr8 (Don't Discrimin8)

04 June 2007 until
11/06/2007

Across the North West

To start the week celebr8
(don't discrimin8) will
showcase the diversity of
musical talent and
traditions we have in this
region, touring the five
sub regions and meeting
orchestras and other
musicians to make some
noise about Equality and
Diversity!

For further information
call: 0161 817 6608,
e-mail:
celebr8@tangerinepr.com
or visit: www.celebr8.org

Wish to promote your event?
Email your details to support.
manchester@thescarmantrust.org
or phone 0161 839 2613

can do exchange manchester

Online 'social market-place' for Manchester

The Can Do Exchange for Manchester is an online 'social market-place'. It enables you or your group to trade, share or swap your resources and skills.

On the website you will find all you need to put your ideas into action and get your project off the ground.

You can register for **FREE** and get started straight away by visiting: www.manchester.candoexchange.org

As a member you can post as many RESOURCES and NEEDS as you like, **FREE of charge.**



NEW DEVELOPMENTS on the Exchange

Coming up: Needs – Resources Match

Have you offered any resources on the Can Do Exchange? Have you placed any need at Can Do Exchange? We are now developing an innovative way to match your needs/resources with already existing resources/needs, or as soon as one is placed on the Can Do Exchange. It will even email you of your match, displaying where the need/resource could be obtained from at Can Do Exchange.

Members at Can Do Exchange have made many resources available on the Exchange in the last month. Why not search through them or offer your own.

If you, or someone you know, would like to obtain the details of this newsletter in another language or in a larger text format, please contact us.

