



Registered Charity No. 1001907

The VCC newsletter is for member organisations and our partners to tell you more about the work of VCC, and what we have been doing April – June 2009. This is in addition to our weekly e-bulletin for member organisations.

Did you know?

Volunteer Centre Camden is currently promoting 364 volunteering opportunities?

Camden Volunteer Coordinators' meeting to share ideas about managing volunteers.

21st July

VCC gets out and about in Camden

As part of our work to promote volunteering in Camden and to encourage people to volunteer with our member organisations we've been getting out and about talking to people about volunteering and the variety of volunteering opportunities we currently have registered.

So, where have we been?

Staff and volunteers attended a careers fair at Hopscotch Women's Centre, we went to Holy Cross Centre Trust, and Crossfields Day Service (provided by Mind in Camden), Training Link, to talk to students, to the Traumatic Stress Clinic to talk to refugees, and to a Camden Working project.

We hope to get out to more projects over the summer and beyond. If you have groups of service users who would be interested in finding out more about volunteering, please contact us and we can arrange to come and chat to them.

Contact Sheila Norris at the Volunteer Centre on sheila@camdenvb.org.uk or 020 7424 9990.

Coming Up: Workshop and Forum Volunteers' Week

Camden Volunteer Coordinators' Forum and Workshop will take place at VCC on 21st July.

The workshop and forum are good opportunities for people working with and managing volunteers to get together and share their experiences.

The workshop will look at the recession and if / how this is affecting volunteering. VCC is hoping to find out more about experiences of local groups, and provide some hints and tips about how

to involve skilled professionals as volunteers in local organisations.

The workshop will start at 2pm, and the forum at 3.30pm.

The forum is a chance for people working with volunteers locally to share ideas, find out what is going on locally and support one another. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact us or come along!

1-7th June was national Volunteers' Week and this year was the 25th anniversary!

VCC was out in Camden promoting volunteering opportunities in the One KX Centre, at Holborn, St Pancras, Highgate, Queens Crescent, and Swiss Cottage libraries, and at a trustee 'speed matching' event at 'The Centre' on Rosebery Avenue. The trustee event used the format of speed dating to match organisations looking for volunteers, and people wanting to volunteer.

info@volunteercentrecamden.org.uk

020 7424 9990

293-299 Kentish Town Road



Date for Diaries: Youth Volunteer Managers' Forum

A Youth Volunteer Managers' Forum co-ordinated by the Central London involved team will take place between 9.40am and 3pm on Friday 11th September at Chiltern Hall, at the University of Westminster's Marylebone campus (near Baker Street tube station).

The Programme will include a 1-hour training workshop on Fundraising,

Safeguarding and CRB Checks.

There will also be a 1-hour 'Dragons' Den' style opportunity-pitching workshop to organisations which will be led by young people.

There will be an opportunity to talk to young volunteers, and also network with staff and volunteers from wide range of organisations across the seven central

London boroughs. The forum is free to attend and lunch will also be provided.

This forum is ideal for staff and volunteers who want to involve young volunteers age 16-25 within their organisations.

If you are interested in finding out more details, please contact Nigel Barber on 07501 227792 or email nigelb@ivac.org.uk.

7 Central London Volunteer Centres Working as 1

At the end of March Volunteer Centre Camden and some of its members took part in an event with the other Volunteer Centres in Central London. The purpose of the event was to look at how we can work together more closely, especially in relation to the support provided to organisations that involve volunteers.

Participants spent the morning looking at what minimum standards for working with volunteers

might look like in central London. There was lots of lively discussion!

The themes to be reflected in the charter include: a commitment to equality and diversity, providing role descriptions for volunteers, having a recruitment procedure, having an induction process, provision of supervision and expenses for volunteers, a flexible and supportive work environment, participation in the organisation, commitment to personal

development, a complaints process for volunteers, reward and recognition of volunteer, providing references for volunteers who have been volunteering for an agreed period of time.

This information has been pulled together and will form the basis of an updated Volunteers' charter which will be adopted in central London, and possibly across London. We shall keep you updated!

Volunteer Management Training and workshops for volunteers

Our spring training programme was well-attended with 77 attendees receiving training.

Sessions included working with volunteers for the first time, support and supervision of volunteers, appraisals for volunteers, volunteers and the law, health and safety in volunteering, best practice

in working with volunteers, and dealing with tricky situations - a volunteer managers' guide.

We also piloted some training for volunteers. We did a session for people who are already volunteer on how to develop their public speaking skills, which was delivered by Rose Sawkins, a local volunteer who is an experienced speakers'

bank trainer. One participant said *'the workshop was really beneficial. The tools and techniques learnt will be of great benefit to be and my work generally'*.

Camden Working also provided a session for volunteers who are looking for paid employment to help them use skills developed whilst volunteering in application forms, on their CV and at job interviews.



"New Volunteer Centre Camden website going live in August 2009."
www.volunteercentre.camden.org.uk