

Editor:  
 David Cook

Charing Cross Centre  
 17/19 St. John Maddermarket  
 Norwich  
 NR2 1DN  
 Tel: 01603 614474  
 Fax: 01603 764109  
 Email: [admin@nvs.org.uk](mailto:admin@nvs.org.uk)  
 Website: <http://www.nvs.org.uk>  
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The deadline for items  
 to go in the next  
 Newsletter is  
 Friday 25th January  
 2008.

If you would like this  
 newsletter in large print  
 please contact NVS on  
 ☎ 01603 883814 or  
 email [davidcook@nvs.org.uk](mailto:davidcook@nvs.org.uk)

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## Overview of 2007

2007 has seen many positive developments nationally in respect of the voluntary and community sector; not least with the launch of the government's Third Sector review. This set out a vision in which voluntary and community organisations play a greater role in strengthening communities and transforming the delivery of public services.

Locally the contribution of the voluntary sector is being taken more seriously by public bodies: the involvement of the sector in the development of the Norfolk Local Area Agreement and our success in convincing the Norfolk PCT not to proceed with the majority of the threatened funding cuts to voluntary organisations to name just two. We all know that public funding is going to get tighter (if it hasn't already for some) and this will be a challenge to many of us in the voluntary and community sector in Norfolk. However, there will also be new opportunities and we should look forward to them and take advantage of the interest now being shown in what the sector can do.

**So from everybody at NVS we would like to send our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to friends, colleagues and supporters in the voluntary, community, public and business sectors in Norfolk and beyond.**

**Brian Horner** Chief Executive

## NVS on the move

**Norwich and Norfolk Voluntary Services is moving to new premises.**

As of Wednesday 2 January 2008 our central office will be located at **83 – 87 Pottergate, Norwich NR2 1DZ**. The organisation's telephone numbers and email addresses will remain unchanged.

The move will relocate the staff and services that have previously been based at the Charing Cross Centre on St John Maddermarket, as well as bringing together many of the NVS staff and services that have been based at diverse locations throughout the city. CarLink, the Advocacy Service and the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forum Support Organisation are some of the services that will be brought into the centre of Norwich.



The new NVS offices on Pottergate

NVS has been based at the Charing Cross Centre for many years, but the charity's growth has meant that it has had to find new offices that better suit

the needs of both the organisation and the sector. The new offices will allow a more co-ordinated approach to service delivery and an improved service for volunteers and voluntary organisations.

As well as offices for NVS staff the new building will have a

number of training and meeting rooms that can be hired by voluntary organisations. More details of the move and the facilities on offer will be available in the next issue.

## Vital role for the third sector in new Local Area Agreements

The growing importance of the voluntary and community sector in new Local Area Agreements (LAAs) has been emphasised in recent guidance from the Department of Communities and Local Government. The recently passed Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act means that LAAs are now on a statutory footing, and this imposes a duty on lead authorities (Norfolk County Council in our case) to involve local representatives and cooperate with others in setting targets. Although the third sector is not a 'named partner' as it does not have statutory responsibilities, there are frequent references to the role it can play.

The sector also has an important role in representing communities and as a provider of local community services, and the Government expects the third sector to take an active part in developing LAAs, from informing and helping to set priorities to the final agreement of targets. Local authorities and partners should ensure that processes and structures are inclusive of the third sector and take account of capacity issues. Local authorities should encourage stability by using three-year financial settlements to the third sector wherever possible. In relation to grants, the starting point should also be three-year funding (subject to purpose, democratic controls, best value and efficiency).

## PQASSO Quality Mark

Over 150 third sector organisations and major funders joined Charities Evaluation Services (CES) on 14 November for the launch of the new PQASSO Quality Mark, the new externally assessed 'kite mark' for PQASSO users.

PQASSO stands for Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations and is the most widely used quality assurance system within the third sector, adopted by thousands of organisations wishing to become more efficient and effective. It is also growing internationally.

### The benefits of the PQASSO Quality Mark are that:

- Using the PQASSO Quality Mark logo will demonstrate that your achievement has been externally verified;
- It will potentially lead to greater recognition and credibility from statutory and independent funders, users and other stakeholders;
- It will help to motivate your staff and volunteers and celebrate that your organisation has reached a recognised quality standard;
- The assessment process will promote organisational learning.

For more information about the PQASSO Quality Mark visit the website [www.pqassoqualitymark.org.uk](http://www.pqassoqualitymark.org.uk).

## National Indicators support work of the third sector

The Government has recently published 198 National Indicators designed to hold local government to account, through the new Comprehensive Area Assessments, for its actions against a combination of national and locally determined priorities.

Of crucial interest to voluntary and community organisations is key outcome NI7: '**environment for a thriving third sector**'. This indicator sets out the approach that local government should take to third sector organisations when considering partnership working, consultation, infrastructure investment, funding relationships, and the way it designs, commissions and procures services.

To see the various consultation documents and National Indicators go to [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk) and follow the menu for publications and consultations.

The key documents are:

- Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities – Statutory Consultation;
- New Performance Framework for Local Authorities – Single set of National Indicators;
- Principles of Representation – framework for effective third sector representation on LSPs

Alternatively, contact Claire Collen, NVS's LAA Co-ordinator, on ☎ **01603 883840** or at [claire.collen@nvs.org.uk](mailto:claire.collen@nvs.org.uk).

**(See Local News on page 3 for details of the recent conference on Norfolk's LAA)**

## National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning

This programme was launched in June 2007 as part of the Government's 'Partnership in Public Services: an Action Plan for Third Sector Involvement' and is managed by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA). The objective of the programme is to succeed in the delivery of three interconnecting strands of work:

- Training 2,000 commissioners from the public sector;
- Winning the 'hearts and minds' of commissioners from central and local government and PCTs – making them aware of the value of the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in delivering services;
- Improving the capacity of small and medium-sized community based third sector organisations to deliver public services.

For more information on the Programme and the VCS's involvement in it visit [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk) and click on the links 'Improving your Council' and then 'Voluntary and Community Sector'.

**(see NVS news on page 4 for information on the Norfolk Public Services Delivery project).**

## Conference – Are Your Key Priorities in the Local Area Agreement?

This lively conference, held on Friday 26 October at the King's Centre in Norwich, was attended by over 100 delegates from the voluntary and community sector (VCS), including many senior managers. The aim of the conference was to discuss future priorities and the changes that are needed to help the people of Norfolk, given that coordinated input from the sector will play an important part in directly shaping and influencing Norfolk's new Local Area Agreement (LAA). Public sector colleagues also attended, including representatives from Children's Services, the Crime and Community Safety Team and the Library and Information Service.

Opening the conference NVS's Chief Executive Brian Horner stated that Norfolk's LAA had been recognised nationally as a pace-setter in terms of VCS involvement, and that from the very beginning NVS had played an active part in promoting the sector's involvement in the LAA. Delegates then heard from keynote speakers Nejla Sabberton from Government Office (GO) East and Eve Dewsnap, LAA Manager for Norfolk, on the role and importance of the LAA and the ways in which voluntary and community groups can engage with it and ensure that it addresses their concerns and priorities.

The speakers were followed by discussion workshops on the implications of the LAA for nine key areas of service delivery by the voluntary sector: children and young people's services; older people; physical disabilities; mental health; learning difficulties; housing and homelessness; welfare benefits and advice services; BME groups and migrant workers; and crime, drugs and alcohol.

Each workshop discussed current barriers and identified the sorts of changes they wanted to see in their field of activity during the life-span of the LAA. Common issues appeared over and over again:

sustaining current delivery of preventative services by the sector, including the need for longer term contracts; managing increased demand; social and economic exclusion and isolation; geographic and other barriers to accessing services; the crucial importance of early intervention and the key role of advice and advocacy services; environmental sustainability; and affordable and appropriate housing.



NVS Chief Executive Brian Horner opening the Conference

The feedback from the event was very positive with participants appreciating the opportunity for fulsome discussion in the workshops.

Using the findings from the workshops, members of the VCS LAA Reference Group, co-ordinated by NVS, have started to draft outcomes which will be proposed for inclusion in the new LAA as the negotiation with public sector colleagues, and Government Office East, takes place over the coming weeks.

For more information on the conference, the LAA and the work of the Reference Group, please contact Claire Collen (☎ 01603 883840 / [claire.collen@nvs.org.uk](mailto:claire.collen@nvs.org.uk)).

### A snapshot of the voluntary sector in North Norfolk

The value of the voluntary sector's contribution to the North Norfolk economy is estimated to be at least £15 million a year. There are an estimated 9,500 volunteers giving around 900,000 hours a year, and voluntary and community organisations directly benefit at least 45,000 people in the area.

These are some of the headlines to emerge from a study carried out in the summer, designed to add more local detail to the information provided by 2006's county-wide survey of the sector.

The survey shows that over 70% of organisations in North Norfolk work with older people and that a high proportion are delivering services and support in the health and social care fields. It also shows that a high proportion of organisations have an income of less than £10,000 a year. Around 40% of organisations said they found it easier to find out about opportunities for support and to share information now than they did two years ago. Just 20% thought it had become easier to influence decisions, while 14% said it had actually become harder.

The North Norfolk vcsTogether steering group is looking more closely at ways to support the engagement of small organisations and to draw attention to the largely unfunded costs of doing so.

Full details of the research are available from the vcsTogether website at [www.nvs.org.uk/vcs\\_together\\_nn](http://www.nvs.org.uk/vcs_together_nn).

## NVS successful in Lottery bid for development work

NVS is delighted to report that it has secured funding for four new development workers. Two will be based in North Norfolk and two in South Norfolk. We will be receiving £480,000 from the Big Lottery Fund's BASIS programme over the next three years to fund these posts and related costs.

The new development workers will help voluntary and community organisations of all sizes to build their capacity and make them more sustainable and successful in the long term. They will provide support, information and advice on a range of issues including funding, training, governance, marketing and organisational development. NVS is hoping to appoint to all four posts in early 2008.

If you are based in North or South Norfolk and would like to know more about how the new development staff will be able to assist your organisation, please contact Jill Stracey on ☎ **01603 883804** or at [jill.stracey@nvs.org.uk](mailto:jill.stracey@nvs.org.uk).

## Public Services Delivery project

NVS is pleased to announce the appointment of Jo Clapham as Public Services Delivery Manager. Jo will lead a two-year project, funded by the Local Area Agreement Second Homes Council Tax fund, to increase the capacity of voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) to provide public services.

The project will have two main objectives: to make VCOs more familiar with the commissioning and procurement process and help them begin the process of working towards delivering public service contracts; and to make commissioners from statutory bodies more aware of the great potential of the voluntary and community sector to provide services that are effective and give value for money.

If your organisation would like to play a greater role in delivering public services and could benefit from support from this project, please contact Jo on ☎ **01603 614474** or at [jo.clapham@nvs.org.uk](mailto:jo.clapham@nvs.org.uk).

## Every Action Counts

NVS recently signed up for the Every Action Counts website and would encourage all member organisations and other interested bodies to take the same step.

The website gives free advice and provides free resources on a wide range of topics related to sustainable development – recycling, efficient energy and more environmentally friendly travel. It takes just a few minutes to register. Go to [www.everyactioncounts.org.uk](http://www.everyactioncounts.org.uk) and scroll down to the second box referring to “register now with Every Action Counts” or go to <http://www.everyactioncounts.org.uk/en/members/register.asp>. Please select NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action) from the list of national voluntary sector umbrella organisations.

## New website for NVS in Great Yarmouth

NVS in Great Yarmouth has an updated website, [www.nvs-gy.org.uk](http://www.nvs-gy.org.uk) which now includes comprehensive information on all services. The site went live on 16 November and has already received positive feedback from local and sub-regional organisations. At the click of a mouse, groups and individuals can now find out about the variety of support on offer from NVS in Great Yarmouth, access up-to-date voluntary sector news, download useful resources and check out the range of volunteering opportunities. NVS would like to offer a big thank you to Allan Kirsten, who kindly volunteered his time and expertise to support NVS team members in developing a user-friendly website.



## NVS Annual General Meeting

The NVS Annual General Meeting will be held on **Thursday 10 January 2008** at the Charing Cross Centre in Norwich.

This meeting will be little more than a formal ratification of the accounts for the year and for this reason there will be no buffet or guest speakers. NVS Members are, of course, welcome to attend this meeting if they so wish, but are advised that the formal opening of the new NVS offices in Pottergate in February will provide a better chance to network, meet NVS Managers, discuss new priorities and see the new premises.

Details of the opening of the Pottergate Offices will be circulated nearer the time. If you do wish to attend the formal AGM on 10 January, please contact Julia Creusson on ☎ **01603 883817**.

## NVS Staff Profile – Dennis Mawson, Compact Officer

Dennis Mawson has been Norfolk Compact Officer since June 2005.

He has worked in the voluntary sector since 1994 with organisations including Scope and Mencap.

*“There is a growing recognition that the voluntary and community sector has an increasingly important role to play in both the delivery of public services and the economic development of society. A strong and effective Compact is essential in establishing an equal and effective partnership with the public sector,”* says Dennis.



### So what exactly is the Compact?

Essentially, it is a tool for improving relationships between organisations in the public sector and those in the voluntary and community sector. The purpose of the Compact is to:

- Provide a framework for good and productive working relationships;
- Promote better understanding between the sectors;
- Support “Best Value” principles in relationships between the sectors.

The Norfolk Compact was implemented in February 2001 and is one of a number of Local Compacts that cover most of England, based on the principles contained in the national version of the agreement. All the main public sector organisations in Norfolk are signatories and there are over 200 from the voluntary and community sector.

Compact development for Norfolk is the responsibility of a Compact Steering Group, membership of which consists of representatives from both sectors.

Regular events are held and presentations are made to organisations in both sectors and the networking at these events often leads to more detailed, individual discussions that increase understanding and awareness of the Compact.

The Norfolk Compact provides advice and guidance for organisations entering a partnership with the public sector for the first time. There is ongoing work to improve the partnership between the two sectors for the benefit of the voluntary and community sector, including increasing awareness of the Compact for public sector staff, particularly those working on a regular basis with the voluntary and community sector.

*“My commitment is to promote and strengthen the Norfolk Compact and strive to achieve the best working relationship between the two sectors for the benefit of people and communities in Norfolk,”* says Dennis.

### You can contact Dennis on:

Telephone: **01603 883828**  
 E-Mail: **dennis.mawson@nvs.org.uk**  
 Website: **www.nvs.org.uk/norfolkcompact**

### Back-office services: let NVS help

Remember that NVS is able to offer its members a wide range of specially discounted back-office services.

We can offer practical assistance by running payroll services and providing help with accounting systems, IT and web support, as well as Criminal Record Bureau checks, at rates that are far lower than those found in the commercial sector. We have the experience and expertise to really help small VCOs: when we take charge of an organisation’s payroll – for example, we handle all queries from HM Revenue & Customs and other Government departments.

While we make a charge for providing members with practical back-office support, our advice and guidance is always available free of charge.

If you would like to discuss your organisation’s needs or find out more about the back-office services that we provide, please contact David Farrow, Finance Manager, on **01603 883849** or at **davidfarrow@nvs.org.uk**.

### Free finance advice

NVS is able to provide voluntary groups in Norfolk with the opportunity to book a free, one-off advice session with an accountant to help tackle finance issues. Examples of the types of help available are:

- advice about basic book keeping;
- help with setting up your accounts on a computer;
- assistance to sort out muddled accounts;
- ideas for implementing good financial practices for the future.

To book an appointment contact Marilyn Amos at NVS on **01603 883813** or email **marilyn.amos@nvs.org.uk**.

## NVS Member Profile

### Sexual Violence Alliance (SeVA)

SeVA is a charitable company that operates a helpline and provides a counselling service for men and women survivors of sexual violence and abuse, past and present. The volunteers are trained to deal with the many issues surrounding rape, childhood sexual abuse and domestic violence.

SeVA was formed this year by merging Norwich Rape Crisis and MPower (the service for male clients). Both organisations believed that they had to grow in order to meet unmet demands and that this growth would best be achieved by joining forces. SeVA is aware that the current political environment places increasing emphasis on the rights of victims and the traumatic impact of sexual crime. We are aware that sexual violence not only impacts on the individual but also on families, partners and communities. The merger will enable us to improve our services to our clients, as well as working with allied voluntary sector organisations.

Norwich Rape Crisis was formed in 1982 by a women's activist group concerned at the lack of provision by statutory agencies of services for women who had experienced sexual violence. The service was originally provided from an office based in Exchange Street. In 1990 it moved to another location in King Street, and in 2001 moved to its current premises in Thorpe Road, a warm and welcoming environment for both clients and workers, incorporating separate counselling rooms and an office.

In the late 1990s the organisation was faced with a potential cut in funding which initiated a campaign that targeted professionals. This determined effort resulted in the formation of SeVA and new levels of funding being established. Indeed, this year we have been granted a Section 64 Grant from the Department of Health, which enabled us to take on paid staff – a service coordinator, part-time administrator and training consultant – which is a great move forward.

MPower has been running for over 6 years and delivers a support service to men who have been sexually abused together with their partners and families affected by the abuse. The organisation also runs a national telephone helpline and offers an email support line.

Currently SeVA comprises 6 trustees and 28 volunteers who deliver the services. We run training sessions periodically for new volunteers wishing to join us. Our induction training programme has just been accredited by the Open College Network which will also enable us to deliver training to other organisations and generate income.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank NVS for their advice and guidance, particularly in the early stages of the formation of SeVA. NVS also provide us with a cost effective payroll service which is very much appreciated. As our organisation grows and develops we will be looking at further ways NVS can support us in the future.

### Toni Keryell-Emmerson, Service Coordinator, SeVA

**Norwich Rape Crisis Helpline  
Helpline for Women**      **01603 667687**

Tuesdays      19.00-21.00hrs

Fridays      12.00-14.00hrs

**Mpower Helpline  
Helpline for Men**      **0808 808 4321**

Thursdays      20.00-22.00hrs



### NVS Volunteer Support Scheme

This scheme actively encourages and supports people with depression and anxiety issues to volunteer.

The scheme is looking for one-off group activities for its members to take part in. These activities would need to be achievable in a day by about 4-6 people and could include re-decorating a day room or waiting area, clearing a community garden or even providing support at an event, such as collecting money or distributing refreshments.

To discuss any ideas please contact Louise Kelly on ☎ **01603 883837** or at [louisekelly@nvs.org.uk](mailto:louisekelly@nvs.org.uk).

### Reaching Out Project – providing advice and skilled volunteers to frontline groups

Reaching Out is an England-wide project providing advice and skilled volunteers to black and minority ethnic, refugee and migrant, rural and faith community groups.

Through Reaching Out, your organisation can gain new skills, strengthen its know-how and progress its aims more effectively.

To sign up to the project your organisation needs to complete a short questionnaire, which helps to identify your skills needs. The project team provides advice and guidance on your volunteer requirements, and then matches a REACH volunteer who already has professional, business and management career skills to your group.

You can find more about the project at [www.reach-online.org.uk](http://www.reach-online.org.uk).

To join the project please email Gerard Omasta-Milsom, Project Manager at [reachingout@reach-online.org.uk](mailto:reachingout@reach-online.org.uk) or ☎ **020 7840 5663**.

## NVS expands youth volunteering project

NVS has been granted £600,000 over 3 years by **v**, the national youth volunteering charity, to extend its project to develop volunteering opportunities for young people aged 16 to 25. After a successful first year for NVS's Norwich **v** Team, consisting of Youth Development Manager Steve Smith and Youth Volunteering Adviser Karen Hudson, the project will now be rolled out to the rest of the county.

Acting as the lead body for the Norfolk Youth Volunteering Consortium, NVS will use the funding to continue to help more young people find voluntary work, encourage voluntary and community organisations to make greater use of young volunteers, and give young people a greater say in how they can become involved in volunteering and make it a more beneficial experience both for themselves and for their communities.

To learn more about the work of the **v** Team contact Karen Hudson on

☎ **01603 883848** / [karen.hudson@nvs.org.uk](mailto:karen.hudson@nvs.org.uk) or

Steve Smith on ☎ **01603 883838**

/ [steve.smith@nvs.org.uk](mailto:steve.smith@nvs.org.uk)

## Volunteering for unemployed people

Volunteering while unemployed and looking for paid employment can help people improve their prospects of finding work as well as helping to make a difference in society. Volunteering allows people to use their skills and talents in a different way for the benefit of their community.

Employers see people who volunteer as being committed and having something to offer, and making a positive contribution to the local community is a great way to boost self-confidence. Voluntary work can help people learn new skills or build on existing ones, develop networks of contacts who can provide information on job opportunities, and simply get into a routine of getting out and about which can be extremely beneficial after a long period of unemployment.

If your organisation works with unemployed people who could benefit from volunteering, please call one of NVS's Volunteer Centres to find out how we can help place them in voluntary work, or visit [www.nvs.org.uk/servicesvolopp.php](http://www.nvs.org.uk/servicesvolopp.php).

Norwich Volunteer Centre	01603 614474
Great Yarmouth Volunteer Centre	01493 845926
Thetford Volunteer Centre	01842 767670

## Drinkaware Trust

Grants from £250 to £2,500 are available to organisations in the UK delivering projects to promote responsible drinking and reduce alcohol-related harm. Grants may fund advertisements, information packs, speakers, facilitators, workshops, DVDs, room hire, travelling expenses, art work etc.

An application form is available from the Trust's website at: [www.drinkawaretrust.org.uk/grants.html](http://www.drinkawaretrust.org.uk/grants.html), or contact them by telephone on ☎ **020 7307 7450** or email [alaw@drinkaware.org.uk](mailto:alaw@drinkaware.org.uk).

## Chestnut Fund

Funding is available to encourage and enable small community groups in the UK to carry out conservation activities. Start-up grants of up to £100 and support grants of up to £300 are available. To qualify for grants groups must be part of the BTCV Community Network (membership costs £35 per year and is open to all groups who carry out practical conservation work). Only small community groups with existing funding of less than £1,000 may apply.

For information about the scheme please contact BTCV on ☎ **01302 388842**, e-mail: [information@bctv.org.uk](mailto:information@bctv.org.uk), or visit [www.bctv.org.uk](http://www.bctv.org.uk)

## Comic Relief – UK Grants Programme

These grants can fund revenue and capital costs of projects that will benefit refugees, the young, the elderly and the disadvantaged. The following grant schemes are available to voluntary and self-help groups across the UK:

- Small grants of less than £5,000 - only available to groups with a maximum turnover of £150,000. Applications may be made at any time.
- Main grants of £5,000 and above - awarded in cycles. The first 2008 deadline is Thursday 28 February 2008, the second deadline is Friday 15 August 2008.

More information is available from [www.comicrelief.com](http://www.comicrelief.com) or contact Comic Relief by telephone on ☎ **020 7820 5555**, or email [ukgrants@comicrelief.org.uk](mailto:ukgrants@comicrelief.org.uk).

## Comino Foundation

Grants are available to community/voluntary organisations and schools/colleges in England to support the costs of projects that train young people to learn for themselves, improving their confidence, self-reliance, achievements and acceptance of responsibility. Grants of £1,000 to £20,000 are generally awarded.

For more information contact the Grants Administrator by telephone on ☎ **01494 722595** or by email: [enquire@cominofoundation.org.uk](mailto:enquire@cominofoundation.org.uk). The Foundation's website is: [www.cominofoundation.org.uk](http://www.cominofoundation.org.uk).

## ▷ Funding

### **Biffaward**

Since 1997 Biffaward have awarded almost £100 million to a variety of projects. Various grant schemes are now available which award between £250 and £500,000 to support projects to improve the environment and local communities. Biffaward are now keen to grant a greater proportion of investment towards biodiversity and cultural facilities – projects which safeguard native habitats and species, and projects which promote, conserve and extend cultural buildings e.g. theatres, museums and heritage centres.

For further information about the available schemes visit the website at: [www.biffaward.org](http://www.biffaward.org), telephone the programme on ☎ **01636 670000**, or e-mail [biffaward@rswt.org](mailto:biffaward@rswt.org).

### **Football Foundation – Goalpost Safety Scheme**

Funding is available for football clubs and community groups to contribute towards the replacement of goalposts which fail to meet the British Standards safety requirements.

A grant of up to 50% of the costs of a pair of goalposts may be awarded up to £3,000. Each applicant may apply for a maximum of ten grants.

For more information about the eligibility requirements please visit [www.footballfoundation.org.uk](http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk) or contact the Foundation by telephone: ☎ **0845 345 4555**, by fax: **0845 345 7057**, or by email: [enquiries@footballfoundation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@footballfoundation.org.uk).

### **Macmillan Cancer Support - Self Help & Support Groups**

Funding is available for both new and established cancer self help and support groups across the UK. Up to £500 is available for new groups and up to £3,000 for existing group. The grant can pay for promotional costs, venue hire, event costs and group resources (i.e. computers, laptops).

Further information is available from the Macmillan website at [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk), by telephone ☎ **020 7840 4936**, or email: [tthompson@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:tthompson@macmillan.org.uk).

## ▷ Events

### **Step Up and Volunteer – a celebration for mental health volunteering.**

**Wednesday 27 February 2008**  
**King's Centre, King Street, Norwich**

NVS Mental Health Volunteer Support Service will be celebrating the successes and achievements of their volunteers at this special event. The service actively encourages people with depression and anxiety issues to volunteer in a range of activities as part of their journey to maintain their mental health and well being. The event aims to pass on good working practice for organisations wishing to recruit volunteers or those who currently work with volunteers with mental health issues. The service is funded through the Neighbourhood Reward Fund and finishes in March 2008.

For further information, contact Louise Kelly on ☎ **01603 883837** or at [louise.kelly@nvs.org.uk](mailto:louise.kelly@nvs.org.uk).

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### **Our Future event – meeting of the Norwich Third Sector Forum**

**Thursday 6 March 2008**  
**Norwich, time and venue TBC**

Details to be circulated.

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### **Trustee Network Event**

**Week commencing Monday 10 March 2008**  
**Norwich, date and venue TBC**

This event is for trustees of NVS member organisations. The programme will include speakers, workshops on quality systems and strategic planning, and a consultation session on the types of support and resources that trustees of voluntary and community organisations would like from NVS. This will be a great opportunity for trustees to learn more about and have their say on the key issues of governance that affect them, as well as to network with trustees from other organisations.

For more information and to book places, please contact Neil Godfrey ☎ **01603 883805** / [neil.godfrey@nvs.org.uk](mailto:neil.godfrey@nvs.org.uk).