

# Charnwood Voluntary & Community Sector Forum

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## INVITATION

### **‘Celebrating and strengthening the VCS in Charnwood’**

**An interactive evening to hear, be heard, and move forward stronger together**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 6pm-8pm

Café @ JSH, **John Storer House**, Wards End, Loughborough LE11 3HA

<http://www.voluntaryactioncharnwood.org.uk/locationmap.html>

I'd like to personally invite you to this important event. It's a busy and challenging time for all of us in the voluntary sector. There's so much that we're all doing and should be proud of, and yet so much more we could do if we had more money and more people.

With that in mind, the next VCS forum meeting will be a time to celebrate the brilliant work you're all doing, get some vital information about local funding opportunities, and openly discuss some exciting ideas about raising funds and gaining more volunteers.

We'll start with a light buffet and refreshments from 6pm onwards, which will be a great chance to network. We're also going to create a collage to help us visualise the amazing stuff our member charities do, so please bring some of your posters/fliers.

After some funding information from both borough and county council representatives, we'll focus on Aim 4 of the Forum (The aims are listed at the end of the agenda below). Here you'll each get a chance to give a concise update on the work you're doing, so please come prepared. We'll also hear from VAL and VAC about changes in infrastructure support moving forward, and you'll get a chance to give your views on how we can work together to best promote a strong and vibrant voluntary sector.

We'll then have an interactive guided discussion about gaining volunteers and raising funds. You can share your best tips, hear some great stuff from other members, and help decide the themes for any future workshops/future meeting topics you feel would really help strengthen and support your work.

So it promises to be an exciting and purposeful event. It really will be great to have you there and get your input!

Thanks for all the tireless and life changing work you all do!

**Helen Wootton**

Chair of Charnwood VCS Forum

Manager, Home-Start Charnwood

RSVP Please let us know if you're coming by 8<sup>th</sup> March to plan catering accordingly

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## AGENDA

- 6:00** Arrival, light buffet/refreshments and networking – 6:30
- 6:30** Opening of meeting by Chair, Helen Wootton  
Introductions and apologies  
Approval of notes of Annual meeting December 2012
- 6:45** Formal inputs – brief presentation about funding opportunities:-
- Charnwood Borough Council – Verity Graham
  - Leicestershire County Council – Andy Hayes
- 7:00** **Sharing information and developing support networks (Aim 4)**
- Verbal and written from those present
  - Input from VAL, Voluntary Action LeicesterShire – information about volunteering and VCS group support in Charnwood
  - Input from VAC, Voluntary Action Charnwood
- 7:30** **Outcomes**
- Best practice tips – Recruiting and retaining Volunteers
  - Suggestions for Fundraising
  - Workshops that would really help my group
- 7:50** Agenda items, dates and venues for future meetings in 2013  
End of business – informal networking

Minutes of past meetings, and more information available on VAC website:-  
[www.voluntaryactioncharnwood.org.uk/forums-partnerships-and-networks.html](http://www.voluntaryactioncharnwood.org.uk/forums-partnerships-and-networks.html)

(List of aims on following page)

## 2012 -13 key aims:

Key Aim:	Order of priority
1. CVCS is represented effectively in strategic partnerships with public and private sector	<b>1</b>
2. Local organisations are kept up to date in developments in partnership working	
3. More people volunteer in Charnwood	<b>3</b>
4. More VCS Organisations are members of the forum	
5. To better reflect the demographic and social diversity of the local community	<b>2</b>
6. To have a meeting place for community organisations to develop support networks and share information	<b>4</b>
<p>7. Other suggestions:</p> <p>Times of meetings? Daytime not OK for volunteers who work</p> <p>Breakfast meeting, with possible business sponsors</p> <p>Next CT N&amp;DForum on theme of statutory funding</p> <p>Training on Measurement of Soft Outcomes</p> <p>Circulate e-mail addresses of those present and Forum members as a contact list for all to benefit from</p>	