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From: Claire Chapman
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Subject: England Volunteering Development Council (East Midlands) newsletter - June 2012
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EVDC Newsletter

June 2012

Welcome to the monthly e-bulletin for the England Volunteering Development Council (East Midlands). If you have any comments or any events, news articles, vacancies, announcements etc that you would like to contribute to the July EVDC e-bulletin, please email them to clairechapman@one-em.org.uk by Monday 15 July 2012. For further information on the EVDC East Midlands network click [here](#).

Volunteering code of practice published

Volunteering England and the Association of British Insurers (ABI) have published a code of practice for volunteers, which has been developed by a working group to address the problem of unnecessary red tape raised in Lord Hodgson's report *Unshackling Good Neighbours*.

The code informs people that volunteering is not a generally risky activity and provides seven points to give volunteers guidance on staying safe and when to ask for advice:

- Take care in whatever you do
- Think about your safety and the safety of others around you
- Involve other people
- Ask for help and information
- Be clear about what you are and aren't responsible for
- Check your existing insurance policies to see what you are covered for
- If you are volunteering for an organisation you are probably covered by

their insurance

Volunteers consulted on enforced regulations

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is urging volunteers to feed in their experiences, good and bad, of dealing with local authorities and other regulators as part of the Focus on Enforcement campaign.

The campaign which will allow volunteers to comment anonymously, also wants to hear about other organisations or officials who suggest volunteers must follow rules they should not have to. Questions the campaign would like volunteers to answer include:

- Do you want to do something locally but you daren't because you might be breaking the rules and regulations?
- What sort of advice would help you run your event without worrying about whether it meets health and safety?
- If you already organise a volunteer event, do you get useful help, and if so where from, or do you keep quiet and hope no one knows?

For further information and to feed into the consultation visit <http://discuss.bis.gov.uk/focusonenforcement>.

Statement on promoting personal insurance

Due to the increased interest in volunteering, some organisations have begun urging volunteers to purchase personal accident and public liability insurance. Volunteering England and the Sport and Recreation Alliance are concerned that this could contribute to the perception amongst the general public that by helping others they place themselves at risk, so have published a statement on the issue.

To read the statement visit www.volunteering.org.uk/aboutus/news-releases/2312-the-risk-of-promoting-personal-insurance-to-volunteers.

Micro-volunteering – doing some good through smartphones?

The Institute for Volunteering Research has published its latest research, entitled Mirco-volunteering: doing some good through smartphones?, which highlights the possible benefits of micro-volunteering, whilst demonstrates the need to be wary of assuming that such initiatives will engage those who are less likely to participate in more traditional forms of civic engagement, and that they stimulate activity in other forms of participation.

For further information and to download the research visit www.ivr.org.uk/component/ivrr/micro-volunteering-%20doing%20some%20good%20through%20smartphones?utm_source=Linx+234+-+21+June&utm_campaign=linx234&utm_medium=email.

Flex-volunteering system trial

The Department of Health and NESTA are funding new technology that allows flexible time giving and receiving, by allowing individuals to donate or book spare hours days or weeks in advance. This model of volunteering aims to help small, local interactions, such as support for vulnerable people or breaks for carers.

For further information on the system and how you can get involved, you can take part in an online session, organised by Slivers-of-Time, which run the system. To book a slot on a session, which take place every weekday at 2.30pm, contact Colette Therese at colette.therese@slivers.com or on 020 8227 9496.

Volunteering Infrastructure in Europe

The European Volunteer Centre has published Volunteering Infrastructure in Europe, exploring volunteering infrastructure across Europe. The guide outlines the volunteering landscape, legal framework and funding of volunteering infrastructure in 29 countries, providing an accessible summary of the contrasting approaches to volunteering across Europe. To download the 440 page guide visit www.cev.be/data/File/Volunteering%20infrastructure%20in%20Europe.pdf.

Funding for volunteers to improve communities

vInspired, the Volunteering Charity, has announced that its Cashpoint grants scheme is once open for applications. The scheme offers grants of up to £500 to give young people (aged 14-25) the opportunity to bring their ideas to improve their local community to life. For further information on the funding, which is available to individual young people or small groups who have developed a project idea and will run the project themselves, visit <http://vinspired.com/vcashpoint/opportunities/10066-vinspiredcashpoint/activities/157789-fundingfor-your-project>.

Family support volunteer practice toolkit

Family Lives has published a Volunteer Practice Toolkit for volunteer managers working with volunteers in family support. To access the toolkit, which contains sample forms, and guidelines on best practice, visit

<http://familylives.org.uk/volunteer-practice-toolkit>, where you will also get the chance to win a £20 Amazon voucher by completing a feedback survey.

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