

E-bulletin February 4th 2009

1) Drama workshop (2) New Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services (3) Standards Committee seeks independent members (4) Fostering (5) Homes and Communities Academy Awards 2009 (6) Funding for IT support

Dear members,

- 1 Sandra Mills from Chichester Festival Theatre has written to say that have been running a drama workshop programme in the Hawth for the last 12 weeks. They want to mark the end of the programme with a final workshop event on Wednesday 11th February 6.00- 8.00 pm. This will give people the opportunity to test the water to see if they enjoy it with the possibility of running another programme in the future. They would like it to be an intercultural experience so it is open to all nationalities including British aged 14 to 22 and they would like to let young people know about it. It is free and if they need support with transport please let her know, or Jo Joseph at The Hawth Theatre, as they can help with provision of taxis (especially if there is a small group coming together).

- 2 Please see the latest release from West Sussex Primary Care Trust:
 New Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services for West Sussex
 "People across West Sussex needing advice and treatment for drug and alcohol misuse are now in line for more local services, as today West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and West Sussex Primary Care Trust (PCT) announce that Addaction has been selected to deliver adult drug and alcohol services across the county...."
[Read more...](#)
 If you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to call Laura Skelcey, Press and Public Relations Officer, West Sussex Primary Care Trust, Direct line: 01903 707447
 Email: laura.skelcey@westsussexpct.nhs.uk

- 3 Please find attached a news item from Horsham District Council attached:
 Standards Committee seeks independent members.

- 4 We have been asked to circulate the attached poster re fostering to as many local contacts as possible in the hope that you could print and display or further distribute.

- 5 Homes and Communities Academy Awards 2009 - Don't miss this opportunity to put your project in the spotlight! Visit www.HCAacademy.co.uk/awards for further details and application packs. Hurry, don't miss the deadline: 11th February 2009.
[Click here to see the nine categories for 2009](#)
 The awards are managed on behalf of Government by the HCA Academy. The scheme has been running since 2003, formerly as the Deputy Prime Minister's Award for Sustainable Communities and latterly the Creating the Future Awards. The Homes and Communities Academy Awards celebrate successful developments and community-based projects in the public, private and third sectors. They promote organisations, partnerships and individuals helping to transform our cities, towns, villages and neighbourhoods. The award winners are regarded as benchmarks of excellence and are displayed on Showcase - our case study website for the sustainable community sector. Want to raise your profile? Sponsoring these awards will raise your profile, while demonstrating your commitment to sharing best practice and the development of sustainable communities. For information on our awards sponsorship packages

download a sponsorship pack from our website or contact Rohan Akers on 0113 394 4597 or Rohan.Akers@HCAAcademy.co.uk

The HCA Academy is the skills and expertise arm of the new Homes and Communities Agency. We strengthen the agency's work to create affordable homes in thriving communities. Creating these better places needs intelligent thinking and new approaches - skills and knowledge that work across professional boundaries. We can help because we're the only learning organisation that spans the entire homes and communities domain, allowing us to discover and inspire better ways of working.

- 6 Funding from Capacity Builders for IT Support from The Really Helpful IT Company Limited - This is the last opportunity to take advantage of funding from Capacity Builders – don't miss out, read on to see how they can help your organisation save time and money. The Really Helpful IT Company provides high quality, affordable ICT solutions, support and consultancy service for the voluntary and community sector. They have been awarded funding to help organisation leaders take control of what and how their organisation uses ICT through initial planning, consultancy, advice and support, whatever their existing expertise, size, or area of work. It is not designed for 'techies', but is for anyone who guides the strategic direction of their organisation.

net:gain is a highly subsidised programme that helps develop lines of communication and ways of working more efficiently and productively. It looks firstly at the organisation's goals, priorities and requirements before looking at how to develop existing ICT or look at new technologies. This will ensure that any ICT solutions considered fully match with the needs of the organisation, saving time and money. Help with finding funding and implementation of ICT is also available. For more information about net:gain please go to www.net-gain.org.uk

The **net:gain** programme includes:

- Initial half day planning workshop
- Advice and coaching throughout the process
- A year's access to an online support network – 'Experts online'
- A Reference Guide to develop an ICT plan
- Planning tools to make the changes happen
- Expert advice on finding and applying for funding
- Technical consultancy with honest, helpful expert advice to support your plans
- Free ICT review on site
- Understanding the full costs of ICT ownership and plan to cover these
- Identify areas where ICT can improve processes and service delivery
- Getting the most out of your existing ICT or any future ICT investment you decide to make

Initial planning workshops for net:gain members are being held in **Feb, March, April and May in Portsmouth**. Attendees are all like-minded individuals from the voluntary and community sector. net:gain membership starts from as little as £75 +VAT per organisation.

Funding subsidies will not be available after March 2009 – book early to avoid disappointment, places and subsidies are now limited.

Many thanks –
Janet

Attachments:
[Fostering](#) [Standards](#)