

## **Community Development Workers networks in Yorkshire and Humber**

### **West Yorkshire**

#### **Bradford**

The Community Development Workers Network (CDWN) is a collection of Community Development Workers from across the Bradford district. It holds regular meetings providing opportunities to exchange information, gain support, encourage partnership working and take a collaborative approach to community development. The CDWN email exchange allows people to post information and messages to the whole network.

The network recognises that not everyone understands what is community development and so uses the roles of community work as set out in the CD national occupational standards as a starting point which includes

- Building Organisations
- Building Skills
- Building Involvement
- Building Equality

If you want to join the network, or require more information contact [janet@cnet.org.uk](mailto:janet@cnet.org.uk), tel 01274 714144.

#### **Calderdale**

A CDW network is forming in Calderdale; it is at an early stage of development and still quite informal.

Contact Gil Ejsymontt; Urban Team Leader, Voluntary Action Calderdale  
Mob: 0789 1011631. Tel: 01422 438726 / 01422 348777

#### **Leeds**

InformLeeds, is an informal e-network recently set up in Leeds for use by community development workers, funding advice workers, capacity build workers etc working with Voluntary Community and Faith Sector (VCFS ) groups in Leeds, where people can post questions, ask others for ideas on how to tackle problems they are facing, and generally share information about practice on any aspect of Capacity Build or Community Development work.

Its purpose is:

- To share knowledge and information about funders, funding, useful training or resources.
- To share expertise and local knowledge about particular areas of specialist work.
- To clarify our own areas of work and specialisms and find out where to refer groups to.
- To find opportunities to work together better or shadow each other to improve skills

Contacts;

Carlos Chavez (Leeds Community Foundation)

[carlos@leedscommunityfoundation.org.uk](mailto:carlos@leedscommunityfoundation.org.uk)

John Wilson (Leeds City Council Early Years Business Development Team)  
[john@echoesfromthepast.org.uk](mailto:john@echoesfromthepast.org.uk)  
Harriet Wright (Connexions Capacity Build Worker ) Tel: 0113 383 3942  
Fax: 0113 248 8610 Mob: 0780 0616 729 email: [harrietw@archway-leeds.org.uk](mailto:harrietw@archway-leeds.org.uk)

### **Leeds community health development network**

There is the new community health development network which will be meeting every 3 months roughly. The aim of the group is to support workers, provide training and to promote the effectiveness of a community development approach to tackling health inequalities.

Rachel Swindells  
Health Partnership Manager  
Healthy Leeds  
Leeds Initiative  
Tel: 0113 395 0431  
[Rachel.Swindells@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.Swindells@leeds.gov.uk)

**Leeds Voice Health Forum** formerly represents the VCFS in Leeds on the Leeds Initiative. The Health Forum has a diverse membership and feeds into the Healthy Leeds Partnership (one of the strategy groups of the Leeds Initiative) which also includes community development and health workers. The coordinator is Naomi Morrill [naomi.morrill@leedsvoice.org.uk](mailto:naomi.morrill@leedsvoice.org.uk)

### **Wakefield**

CODEworks is a professional support network for paid community development workers in the Wakefield District. [www.wdco.org/site/CODEwork](http://www.wdco.org/site/CODEwork)

CODEworks meetings and circulation list are available to:

- Paid community development workers
- Those with community development in their job description
- Those who work using the principles of community development as laid out in the National Occupational Standards for Community Development.

The group meets every 'odd' month of the year on the second Tuesday of the month from 9:30am until no later than 12:30pm. The day and time is always the same, the venue changes subject to availability (and generosity!). contact Helen; Tel : 01977 665870 Email : [helen.monks@wdpct.nhs.uk](mailto:helen.monks@wdpct.nhs.uk)

### **North Yorkshire**

**Hambleton** has a small group of Community Development Officers who meet up every 6 weeks, to share information on voluntary and community groups supported and to ensure that there are no gaps or duplication in support offered. Members of the group include Northallerton & District Voluntary Service Association (on behalf of the Hambleton Local Development

Agencies), Hambleton District Council, YRCC and North Yorkshire County Council. [Hazel.Kirby@ndvsa.co.org](mailto:Hazel.Kirby@ndvsa.co.org) Northallerton & District VSA, Community House, 10 South Parade, Northallerton, DL7 8SE Tel 01609 780458

### **North Yorkshire BME Strategy Board**

The North Yorkshire BME strategy board is black-led and its core membership comprises BME community networks/organisations. Organisations working with BME communities and those organisations with responsibilities under legislation, strategy, policy, service delivery and funding impacting on BME communities can be associate members.

It aims to have an influential, advisory, consultative and advocacy role in enabling agencies to drive the diversity agenda forward with the aim of ensuring a more equitable stake in services, resources and funding for BME communities in North Yorkshire.

The Strategy group seeks to have representations from senior officers within statutory and public agencies to ensure the development of sustainable partnerships which result in the development of equitable policy, strategy, service delivery and funding responses which meet the needs of the region's BME communities and businesses.

The key contacts are Ratna Lachman - Chair (01943-467067) email: [rlachman@monitoring-group.co.uk](mailto:rlachman@monitoring-group.co.uk) and Professor Gary Craig Vice Chair Gary Craig [G.Craig@hull.ac.uk](mailto:G.Craig@hull.ac.uk)

### **York and North Yorkshire Funding Advice Network**

This is not directly aimed at community development workers as the sub regional Network is open to anyone within a Local Infrastructure Organisation, the Rural Community Council, a VCO, or a Statutory Organisation and who has a funding development or funding advisory responsibility.

Its overall purpose is:

- To provide a mechanism of support to people (staff and volunteers) who are responsible for providing funding advice to Voluntary and Community Organisations (VCO's).
- To provide an opportunity for members to benefit from information sharing, improved communication and the exchange of best practice which reflects the ethos and values of working within the voluntary and community sector.
- To bring together people across all sectors to identify overlap and to avoid duplication of work where necessary.
- To continue to improve and develop the capacity of funding advice services which are available to VCO's throughout York and North Yorkshire.

It has links with the Yorkshire and Humber Funding Advice Workers Network. The Network meets bi monthly for two and a half hours, plus extra training or other events.

Contact; Ellen Reeves, Funding Advice Network Coordinator  
North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations, Crayke House, Birch Way,  
Easingwold Business Park, Stillington Road, Easingwold, York YO61 3FB  
Tel: 01347 825710; Fax: 01347 824246 Mob: 07738 456775

<http://www.nyfvo.org.uk/fundingadvice>.

### **East Riding**

The next East Riding Community Development Workers Network meets regularly at different places in the sub region. They invite speakers and have time for general info sharing and discussion.

Contact; Sharon Clay Community Development Officer, East Riding Voluntary Action Services Morley's House, Morley's Yard Walkergate Beverley HU17 9BY 01482 871077. [sharon@ervas.org.uk](mailto:sharon@ervas.org.uk)

### **South Yorkshire**

Development Workers in Doncaster set up a network in 2005 to make sure that community development and engagement is effective and sustainable. The 'network' meets 3 or 4 times per year to share good practice and benefit from short training workshops relating to current topics. More recently the focus has been on Professional Development and the National Occupational Standards for Community Development Work. They send out an e bulletin every Thursday.

Anyone who works (either paid or voluntarily) with community, voluntary and faith groups can join the CDW Network. Contact; Sue Sheldon 01302 343300 ext.209 [ssheldon@doncastercvs.org.uk](mailto:ssheldon@doncastercvs.org.uk)

### **Other regional networks of interest to Community Development Workers**

#### **Yorkshire rural support network**

The 'YRSN' is for organisations working with rural people in distress. The network has a wide-ranging scope of workers as members, CAB, health, HSE, welfare charities, farmer groups, etc. It promotes the help that is available to those in rural areas, and provides a forum for exchange of info between the organisations themselves. The network meets every two months, has a steering group, publicity material, and a part time network coordinator.

For more information, please contact Sarah Hough, [sarahh@yas.co.uk](mailto:sarahh@yas.co.uk)

The list of key contacts who work in **Family Learning** useful can be found on [www.familylearningnetwork.com](http://www.familylearningnetwork.com) click on local and regional networks and follow the links

**Parenting UK** informal network for parenting co-ordinators in Local Authorities s (not practitioner level) meets termly in York 12.30 – 2.30  
Contact Jo Pitt 01347 878026 [jpitt@parentinguk.org](mailto:jpitt@parentinguk.org)

**The Self Help Workers Regional Forum** based in Nottinghamshire has 2 members, 1 in Doncaster and 1 in Scarborough.

It defines a self help group is defined as:

"A group of people who have experience of a particular health issue or life situation. This may be their own experience or as a parent, family member, friend or carer. Many people find it helps to talk to someone who understands because they are, or have been, in the same situation".

Self Help Development workers, work initially with individuals wishing to set up a self help group, they provide advice and support and practical help. They work specifically with self help groups, not with wider community groups. They provide a contact point for individuals to access local self help groups. Self Help Nottingham is the only infrastructure organisation of its kind in the country and is open to any self help development worker.

For more information: [www.selfhelp.org.uk](http://www.selfhelp.org.uk)

Christine Precious, County Self Help Development Worker, SELF HELP NOTTINGHAM, 32-36 Pelham Street, Nottingham NG1 2EG

Tel: +44 (0)115 911 1665 Fax: +44 (0)115 911 1660 Mobile: 07709 400782

E-mail: [christine@selfhelp.org.uk](mailto:christine@selfhelp.org.uk)