



Newsletter

March/April 2011 Edition

Times they are a changing

It feels, doesn't it, like there are a million changes happening right under our feet? – a bit like standing on a moving airport conveyor belt strip! Some of you may be feeling confused and apprehensive at best or anxious about your future funding at worst.

However, RVA is keen to help support our members and wider voluntary sector to approach all the changes with optimism, and to facilitate the opportunities for our voluntary sector in Ryedale.

We know that the commissioning of health services is changing and over the next 2 years decision making about how health needs will be met will transfer to GP Commissioning Consortia.

Our GPs in Ryedale are currently debating, discussing and working through how they might operate and what their structures might be and RVA is having plenty of input into these discussions, meetings and pilots on your behalf to ensure that GPs in Ryedale understand voluntary sector services and how best to involve us and you in their future planning and delivery.

RVA will also be working strategically to influence how the voluntary sector is well positioned

to have a say on the emerging Health & Well-Being Board structure, which is being suggested by the Department of Health, through our partnership work with the North Yorkshire & York Forum.

Health & Well-being Boards will have a statutory duty to produce the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and a Health & Well-being Strategy.

RVA will be supporting the creation of "invited spaces" within which discussions can take place between our sector and the new structures as they begin to take shape.

The good news is that there is no reason why GP commissioners should not award grants and RVA will be taking this message forward locally in order to support and protect our traditional flexibility, and to encourage investment in local delivery by local groups.

If you have any queries about the future of health commissioning or would like to get more involved and are not already part of our Health & Social Care network, please get in touch with:

Andrea Hobbs
RVA Chief Officer
Telephone: 01653 600120
Email: andrea@rva-cvs.org.uk

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The Pensions Regulator

An introduction to work-based pension changes

Work-based pensions are being reformed to encourage more people to save for their retirement. As an employer, you are likely to be affected by the reforms.

What are the changes?

You must provide a pension scheme for certain members of your workforce from 2012 and as an employer, you will need to make a contribution towards it.

Even if you already offer pension arrangements for your workers, you will still have some new obligations to meet.

The pension scheme that you provide must meet a number of conditions based on the level of contributions paid or the benefits received.

Membership of the scheme must be automatic for certain workers, known as 'eligible jobholders'. Because these people will not have to do anything to join the scheme, the process is known as 'automatic enrolment'.

Most of your workers are likely to be included in the automatic enrolment process. They can choose not to be in the scheme if they want to, by actively 'opting out'.

If you already have a pension scheme, you may be able to use it if it meets certain qualifying

conditions.

Why are the changes being introduced?

People are living longer and are likely to enjoy a longer retirement. But many people are not saving for their retirement at all, and many who are saving aren't saving enough.

These changes will give many more people the chance to save for when they retire. The main benefits for your workers are that you pay a contribution and that it is an easy way for them to save. Changes are needed to encourage more people to save for their retirement.

When do the changes come into effect?

Each employer will be given a date from which the changes will have to be in place.

This is known as your staging date.

- The first staging dates will be in October 2012 and will continue through to 2016.
- Your staging date will be broadly based on the number of people you have in your PAYE scheme.
- Employers with the largest number of workers will have the earliest staging dates. The smallest employers will have later staging dates from 2014.
- You will be contacted 6 to 12 months before your staging date. You can find out what your staging date is likely to be by visiting www.tpr.gov.uk/staging

For more information on the changes go to www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk

This newsletter is sponsored by

The Fitzwilliam Estate owns commercial and residential property in and around Malton. As a commercial organisation, they recognise that improving the social and economic vitality of Malton and Norton also helps business.



Training



An Introduction to: Better Your Business

Thinking of starting up your own business or improving your existing business??

We are offering you a FREE 3 hour taster session

This interactive course is aimed at all levels. The decision is yours as to which level you choose to access the subject. This course is ideal as a starter to, or as a progression route in, starting a new business or improving your existing one.

Who should attend?

- Anyone thinking of starting their own business.
- Anyone wanting to improve their existing business.
- Anyone considering a business degree.

No prior experience, knowledge or skills required

The Taster will involve a 3 hour session held at Community House, Wentworth Street, Malton. There is no test or examination to do and after the session, it is **your choice** whether or not to take your learning journey further and take up the chance to attend the foundation award course.

The further course is 4 x 3 hour sessions (usually one per week) and will be delivered in Malton or Scarborough through the **University of Hull, Scarborough Campus, Move On Up Project** and can be used to achieve 10 credits towards the University Foundation Award.

Should you choose to access the course at 'taster' level only, we will give you a certificate of attendance that will provide evidence of your Continuing Professional Development.

Where: Community House, Wentworth Street, Malton

When: Thursday 5th May 2011

What Time: 09.30am to 12.30pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

To book your place contact Sandi or Sarah on 01653 600120 or email sandi@rva-cvs.org.uk or sarah@rva-cvs.org.uk

Partnerships



Ryedale Strategic Partnership Wider Partnership Event 2011

Ryedale Strategic Partnership's annual Wider Partnership Event was held on 17th February at Ryedale House. Organisations from across the district came together to find out about some of the changes that lie ahead and to celebrate the achievements of the Strategic Partnership and the Community Safety Partnership. The two partnerships joined together to form one Board in April 2010 and this was their first joint event.

Nearly fifty delegates attended from Parish, District and County Councils, arts organisations, neighbourhood watch and parish plan groups as well as from the North York Moors National Park, police, fire and health services.

County Councillor Clare Wood, Chair of the Partnership Board welcomed the delegates and spoke of the importance of events such as this at a time when so many changes are taking place in public services.

She introduced the first speaker, Judy Robinson from Involve Yorkshire & the Humber (the Voluntary & Community Sector regional forum) who spoke about the Big Society and how it might affect partnership working in the next few years. Her presentation attracted many questions from the audience and was followed by Gina Allen from the North Yorkshire Police Authority who spoke about the Police reform and social responsibility Bill, which will introduce elected Police and Crime

Commissioners. Both of these presentations, as well as the Bridge House one (see below) are now available on www.ryesafe.org.uk

The second half of the event was a celebration of the achievements of the two partnerships.

Ryedale District Council's Business Liaison Manager, Louise Lunn gave a presentation on the Opportunity Knocks event which involved local businesses in promoting local employment opportunities to young people in Ryedale – part of the Work and Skills priority. RYECAT's Chief Executive, Steve Mellalieu, then gave the audience an insight into the new marketing strategy for RYECAT, Ryedale's community transport organisation – part of the Access and Rural Transport priority. Both of these projects were funded by the North Yorkshire County Council's Community Fund, through the Strategic Partnership.

To round the morning off, North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service's Regional Manager Danny Westmoreland explained the work of the Safer Roads group, and Ryedale District Council's Head of Housing Services Kim Robertshaw spoke about the benefits to Ryedale from the Bridge House project, which in 2009/10 helped to keep 22 16/17 year olds in Ryedale out of homelessness and which continues to work with the young residents on crime prevention, addiction, domestic violence and health issues.

For more information contact Jo Reilly on 01653 600666 Ext 312, email jo.reilly@ryedale.gov.uk

This newsletter is sponsored by Escada Systems.



Escada Systems provides innovative technology developed by experienced engineers, delivering comprehensive control and traceability in shop floor systems integration within the Corrugated and Material Handling industries.

Escada Systems has a small group of companies based at their European headquarters in Swinton

Grange, Malton and has an American subsidiary, Escada Systems Inc, in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Escada Systems has been established for 25 years and currently employs 26 people in Malton as well as providing business for other companies in North Yorkshire.

Escada are currently developing new products and expanding their worldwide market.

For more information visit www.escadasystems.co.uk

Local Focus



come and discover
our relaxing garden



Charity Partnership Welcomes Another Member

At the February meeting of Ryedale Charities Together the committee were delighted to hear that Helmsley Walled Garden (www.helmsleywalledgarden.org.uk) would be rejoining the partnership after an interval of two years.

The charity provides Horticultural Therapy, support and training opportunities for those with learning, physical and emotional difficulties and also for people with more temporary needs, like bereavement or recovery from trauma. Offered as an alternative therapy, the programme takes people 'back to basics' to give a connection to the earth that modern day living has ignored.

The recently appointed manager, Mike I' Anson said, "There are some real challenges and opportunities ahead for the voluntary sector. We are looking forward to working with RCT. I hope together we can make a real difference"

Six charities formed the original partnership - and have worked together continuously for almost nine years; Ryedale Carers Support, Acorn Community Care, Ryedale Special Families, Sight Support Ryedale, Next Steps and Ryedale Voluntary Action. Working throughout Ryedale they support Carers, families of children with disabilities, people with mental health problems, those who are blind or partially sighted, people with learning or physical disability and provide services and representation for all the local voluntary and community sector.

Two years ago these six were joined by Ryecat, which provides community transport for our area.



There are now eight organisations in the partnership, providing both an invaluable network of support for disadvantaged people throughout Ryedale - and valuable assistance for each other.

www.ryedalecharitiestogether.org



BT Community Web Kit is aimed at the voluntary sector

Charities and not-for-profit community groups can access a free web-hosting and design service through the communications company BT.

Its Community Web Kit provides free website

hosting, a free address, a choice of layouts and designs and a step-by-step guide. The service is part of the telecom giant's Get IT Together campaign to encourage as many people as possible to get online.

More than 3,000 organisations have already registered with the scheme, which has been re-launched.

For more information go to:

www.btck.co.uk

Funding

Ryedale Voluntary Action Funding Advice Service

Following the retirement of Pauline Reeve, RVA is pleased to announce that they will be able to continue to provide a funding advice service four days a week with Sarah Lally-Marley at the helm from 1st May.

Sarah has been working as a funding advisor for RVA for the past year on 15 hours a week and is now very pleased to be able to spend more time with organisations in the area. Sarah said "I am looking forward to working more closely with Ryedale groups and aim to provide as much advice and support as possible in these challenging economic times."

As well as general funding advice, Sarah can advise on governance issues, building a funding strategy and generally helping groups to ensure that they are 'fit for funding'.

Groups can also find a wealth of information and resources on our website www.ryedaleva.org.uk including useful factsheets and templates that Sarah has helped to put together to ensure that groups have the tools required to form effective funding strategies and put together successful applications.

If you would like to contact Sarah for funding advice please phone 01653 600120 or email sarahlm@rva-cvs.org.uk



The Earl Fitzwilliam Charitable Trust

Applications for grants, from community organisations and charities in Malton, are welcomed by The Earl Fitzwilliam Charitable Trust. The trustees favour initiatives that benefit the community linked to the Fitzwilliam Malton Estate. Grants are usually for one off projects, not merely for annual expenses. The value of individual grants tends to be in the range of £250 to £2,500 and only occasionally more than this. Grants are rarely awarded to the same organisation more frequently than once every three years.

Please note that grants may only be made to charitable organisations or appropriately constituted bodies (e.g. Churches) in response to specific written applications.

Applications should be made to:- Mr R.W.Dalgliesh . Earl Fitzwilliam Charitable Trust . Estate Office . Milton Park . Peterborough . PE3 9HD .

Fuller information on the Earl Fitzwilliam Charitable Trust can be found on the Charity Commissioners' website www.charity-commission.gov.uk.

Search on their home page for Earl Fitzwilliam Charitable Trust (Charity No: 269388)

To contact the Funding Advisor:

Sarah Lally-Marley Telephone: 01653 600120 Email: sarahlm@rva-cvs.org.uk
www.ynyfundingadvice.org.uk



VCS Services

Independent Examination Service from the Community Accounting Network North Yorkshire (CANNY)

Looking to save money on the cost of your Independent Examination?

Did you know the CANNY project offers a cost effective Accounts Preparation and Independent Examination Service for both company and non-company charities with turnovers up to £250,000?

What's more, all the income generated through this service goes directly towards supporting the free information, guidance and training services provided through CANNY to voluntary and community groups throughout York & North Yorkshire.

Independent Reviews

While an Independent Examination is not

required for smaller charitable organisations with turnovers below £25,000, many of these groups find that funders and grant making bodies still require a copy of year-end accounts which have undergone some form of independent scrutiny.

To help these groups, CANNY has recently launched an Independent Review Service, aimed at fulfilling this requirement while keeping costs to a minimum, with the price of preparing and reviewing a set of year end accounts from just £45.

For further information about these services, to obtain a quotation or to find out more about the free information, guidance and training services available from CANNY contact

Barrie Tuck at RVA on 01653 600120 or email barrie@rva-cvs.org.uk

Free Human Resources Advice coming to your area!



From 14 April 2011 North Yorkshire and York Forum's HR Advisor Abby Popely will be based at Ryedale Voluntary Action's offices every Thursday for 8 weeks.

North
Yorkshire
& York
Forum

This joint initiative has been agreed by North Yorkshire and York Forum and RVA to provide face to face HR and employment advice for local trustees and managers of VCS organisations.

Abby is CIPD (Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development) qualified with a Business Studies degree. Before joining the Employment Advice Service in November 2009, Abby worked as a HR Advisor in a variety of organisations in the public and private sector.

Abby is keen to meet local trustees and managers to learn about their organisations in order to give the tailored advice and support they need. Abby will be available for organisations to drop in to see her at RVA with any HR or employment queries, whether it be dealing with a employee who's off sick, employing people for the first time or reviewing current policies. She will also be available to visit local organisations in Ryedale if this is more convenient. Please just give us a call to arrange a suitable date and time.

Abby can be contacted on 07738 456780 or at employment.advice@nyyforum.org.uk. From 14 April 2011 Abby can also be reached on Thursdays at RVA on 01653 600120 .

VCS Services



RVA Trustee Profile—David Wright

David Wright's career was in the field of hospitality: management in hotels and universities and then in lecturing. This took him to head the largest catering college department in the North East. On retirement, he has been a consultant and has been to many countries, helping to raise standards in businesses or academies.

David worked as a university examiner and for the Institute of Hospitality, eventually being elected as President, intent always on trying to improve the standards to those of other professions. He worked with the Royal Society for Public Health as a national councillor, concerned with food quality and standards.

David acted as a volunteer with both Samaritans and Citizens Advice Bureaux, and was a District and Town Councillor in the north.

He is chairman of the Malton & Norton Community and Police Liaison Group, a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and is an officer for the Ryedale and Yorkshire Region U3A. He worked as a volunteer and is a trustee of Ryecat. He also, (allegedly), sings and is a founder and former committee member of the Malton District Male Voice Choir.



Funding Shortfalls

It is vitally important that you let us know if your organisation is experiencing funding cuts in 2011/2012. Please call Andrea Hobbs, Chief Officer on 01653 600120 or email andrea@rva-cvs.org.uk



If you are experiencing cuts it may be worth talking to our Community Accountant about your plan or budget for the following year. This free support and advice often helps, as it is much better to be aware of financial problems sooner rather than later.

For an initial discussion please contact: **Barrie Tuck on 01653 600120 or email: barrie@rva-cvs.org.uk**

Useful Websites

www.ryedaleva.org.uk an online resource providing voluntary and community support.

www.nyfvo.org.uk registered charity formed and run by voluntary and community organisations in York and North Yorkshire to promote, develop and support new and existing forms of voluntary and community action; and to ensure that their views and interests are well represented.

www.prohelp.org.uk provides free professional advice and support to local community groups and voluntary organisations.