

Pam Sloan

From: Pam Sloan
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To: Administration Manager
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Spotlight E-bulletin

25 January 2012

The SPOTLIGHT e-bulletin has been put together to let you know about any information that falls in between the bi-monthly newsletter.

We are sending the e-bulletins as a non-HTML email, with just text and links, to make it as accessible as possible.

The bulletin is email to all BVSC member reps who have supplied us with an email address. If you do not wish to receive this e-bulletin in the future, please email adminmanager@bvsc.co.uk and ask for your email address to be removed from the mailout list.

The March edition of BVSC's SPOTLIGHT newsletter is published on Monday 27th February 2012, and the deadline for submitting articles is Friday 3rd February.

The newsletter fills up quickly, so try to get your articles to BVSC in advance of the deadline day if you can. Please email your articles to adminmanager@bvsc.co.uk

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR FIRST ANNUAL TEAM LONDON ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Mayor Boris Johnson is calling on Londoners to nominate their top volunteers for the first annual Team London Achievement Awards. The awards will celebrate the positive effect volunteering can have in our communities and recognise the unsung heroes who give up their time to help others.

Team London is the Mayor's ambitious programme to mobilise an army of volunteers across the capital to improve life in London through programmes aimed at reducing crime, increasing youth opportunities and improving quality of life by cleaning, greening and building stronger neighbourhoods.

Individual volunteers, teams or volunteering organisations can all be nominated, although applicants must be based in London and efforts or contributions must benefit London or Londoners.

Team London will give out four awards under each of the following categories:

- Improving Community Safety
- Increasing Youth Opportunities
- Building Stronger Neighbourhoods
- Cleaning & Greening London

In addition, one person will be selected from all of the candidates for a special Mayor's Award. Archant London 24 will also present an award to the Team London Star that they feel is their top volunteering hero. Through nominations from Londoners, the Team London Stars are presented to those who have demonstrated their kindness and commitment by giving their time to local volunteering projects.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: "The Team London Achievement Awards are our chance to

celebrate not only the excellence of volunteers but the amazing things we can accomplish when we work together to make London the best city it can be. We want to ensure that the volunteering heroes of our capital don't go unrecognised for the huge contribution their efforts make to the lives of others."

The Team London Achievement Awards will be managed in partnership with Greater London Volunteering (GLV) and the deadline for all nominations is the 1st February 2012. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on the 1st March 2012.

Eithne Rynne, Director of Greater London Volunteering said: "This new award scheme is a wonderful way to recognise those who go one step further for their London communities by offering help, skills and support through volunteering. We are working closely with Team London to ensure that they are recognised for the valuable contribution that they make to our capital."

Visit <http://www.london.gov.uk/teamlondon/news/applications-open-first-annual-team-london-achievement-awards> for application forms. For more information on Team London and to find and post volunteering opportunities please visit www.london.gov.uk/teamlondon

JOIN TEAM LONDON

Team London is the Mayor of London's programme to focus volunteering effort where it is needed most - to cut crime, make life better for Londoners and give more opportunities to our young people.

Find out how you can get involved at <http://www.london.gov.uk/teamlondon>

DOES YOUR GROUP NEED HELP WITH PHOTOCOPYING? OR LOAN OF EQUIPMENT?

BVSC may be able to help you! We are inviting members and potential new member groups along to an open morning to see our new photocopying facilities and find out about the equipment we have available for loan to our member groups.

Interested? Then do pop along to our offices on Wednesday 15th February between 10am and 12.30pm to meet us. Our offices are at 8 Brampton Road, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 4EY. Tel: 020 8304 0911. We look forward to seeing you!

NEW ADVOCACY CONTRACT FOR ADVOCACY FOR ALL

Advocacy for All are delighted to announce that they have been awarded the contract for providing an advocacy service to people with a learning disability in the County of Kent.

Kent County Council has given Advocacy for All the advocacy contract for people with a learning disability in Kent, and the contract will start on 1 April 2012. They will be working with VoiceAbility, who have the contract now, make sure there will be an easy transition of the service.

To find out more about Advocacy for All, visit their website www.advocacyforall.org.uk

FREE HOME ENERGY SAVING OFFER FOR A LIMITED PERIOD ONLY.
ENERGY SAVING DEVICES WORTH UP TO £100 INSTALLED IN YOUR HOME

The London Borough of Bexley is working with Climate Energy to offer local residents a FREE opportunity to take part in a new energy saving scheme called RE:NEW. Funded by the Mayor of London, RE:NEW will help you cut your energy bills and could help you make year-on-year savings of over £200.*

With energy bills rising it's a good time to make sure your home is energy efficient. RE:NEW are visiting homes to show residents exactly where their property is losing energy and the simple changes they can make to save money.

A friendly Energy Expert from Climate Energy will spend about an hour in your home at your convenience to:

Fit simple energy and water saving devices suitable for your home

Give you practical advice on how you can save energy in your home

Check if your home needs improved insulation as we can help you with loft and cavity wall insulation. It might be free if you are over 70 or in receipt of benefits, or discounted from only £99

Assess your eligibility for grants and discounts for replacement heating systems and solar Panels

There are limited visits available in this area, so book your visit soon to avoid disappointment.

To take up this offer, Call freephone 0800 054 6798
or visit climateenergy.org.uk/renew

RE:NEW Energy Experts will show you a valid ID badge and ask for your permission before entering your home. If you are unsure and need any clarification please call the number above.

CABINET MEMBER ENCOURAGES LOCAL PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN CONSULTATION ON RESPITE SERVICE FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

Service users with learning disabilities and their carers took part in two consultation meetings on 9 January and 12 January, on respite services, which provide carers with the opportunity for a much-needed break. Consultation materials were given to people at the events and are being posted to those who cannot attend. Further consultation events are being organised to ensure that as many service users and carers have the chance to have their say before the consultation ends on 2 March.

Bexley's respite service for people with a learning disability is currently provided from a well-established centre in Brook Street, Erith, which is operated by MCCH, a charity providing support for people with a range of needs. Brook Street meets the needs of some carers and service users, but cannot always meet demand at weekends. Some service users have expressed a wish for a choice of respite options, which the Council cannot currently offer.

The Council has identified a range of specially adapted premises in Bexleyheath, Slade Green, Bromley and Camber Sands and is asking service users and carers to visit them and comment on whether they would meet their needs.

Bexley consulted interested parties on the same issue early in 2011, but the response was limited and inconclusive. A number of those that responded were interested in exploring how alternative facilities could meet their needs, which led the Council to explore the options and to organise the current consultation.

"I need to make two things clear about the consultation," says Cllr David Hurt, Council Cabinet member for Adults Services. "First, we have not made our minds up. We will make a decision only when we have the clear view of those who use these services. Second, this is not about saving money - but about whether we can make better use of the money we have to give people the support they need.

"I urge as many people as possible to have their say, so that we can do our best to serve the needs of everybody involved."

All service users, their parents and carers have been invited to take part in the consultation. Details are available online at <https://www.engagespace.co.uk/engage/bexley/>

In line with the policy of the current and previous government, the Council is looking to extend the use of personal budgets, which would give service users the ability to choose what support services they use to meet their assessed needs and who provides them. It is in the process of piloting a local care company for those who would like help to employ people to support them.

The Council is keen to receive as much feedback as possible. Comments can sent by post or email and there is a helpline for those who prefer to speak to a member of staff.

Service users and their carers are also being offered the chance to visit each of the new facilities, to see for themselves how they compare with those at Brook Street. Further details will be available shortly.

Please call the Council on 020 3045 4164 or email cpg@bexley.gov.uk for more details on the visits, or with any other questions about the consultation.

BEXLEY MENCAP QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 24th February 2012 7pm - 10 .30pm at St Michael's Community Centre, Wrotham Road, Welling, DA16 1IS

Previous quiz evenings have proved popular, so if you would like to reserve your table contact Stephanie on: Tel: 020 8303 6336 or Email: office@bexleymencap.org.uk
Entrance price £5.00 per person, maximum of eight on a team
Bring along your own drinks and nibbles - Tea and Coffee served during the interval

BEXLEY VOICE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

Bexley Voice for Special Needs Children are holding a Free Parent Conference on 15th March 2012 at Hall Place, Bourne Road, Bexley, Kent DA5 1PQ between 9.30am and 2.30pm.
For general enquiries and to book your place, Telephone: 07512 409 936 or email: bexleyvoice@hotmail.co.uk.

Lunch and Crèche places need to be booked also.

If you have a child with special needs then go along to their Parent Information Conference. Speak to the members and find out what Bexley Voice can do for you and your child.

There will be various information sessions, workshops and stalls on a large variety of topics including:-
School Support,
Benefits Advice,
Behaviour/Eating problems,
Transition,
Social Activities/Clubs,
Transport,
Plus many, many more!

Supporting Local Service Providers and Charities attending include:-
Snap,
MCCH,
Bexley NAS,
Mencap,
Inspire,
Many more to be announced.

Who are Bexley Voice for Special Needs Children?

A group of voluntary parents/carers of children with disabilities, special or additional needs. The ages of the children and young people represented are between 0-21.

Aims:

To represent families, in Bexley Borough, by providing a "Voice" to express their views and opinions.

What do they do?

Attend regular meetings with Service Providers, such as Bexley Council, providing feedback to them about the needs that the children have.

Provide a central consultation point for any organisation that needs advice on children with special needs of

any type. For further information, see their
 website: www.bexleyvoice.org.uk
 Face book: Bexley Voice for Children with Special Needs

Charity Number: 1142306

ERITH MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION - 28TH & 29TH JANUARY 2012

Erith Model Railway Society is holding its annual January model railway exhibition in a new bigger, better venue which boasts a large free car park, increased seating capacity in the catering area and better access for both cars and by public transport. The exhibition takes place on Saturday 28th (10:00am to 5:00pm) and Sunday 29th January 2012 (10:00am to 4:30pm) and will be held at The Business Academy Bexley, Yarnton Way, Erith DA18 4DW. Entry prices will be £6.00 for adults, £5.00 for Concessions, £3.00 for 5-16 yr. olds (under 5's free), with a family ticket being £15.00 and includes a free programme.

This year the will feature over 30 quality layouts and full details can be found on website www.erithmrs.ukmodelshops.co.uk. There will also a number of modelling demonstrations and static model displays. Furthermore extensive trade support selling a whole variety of products including transport books, rolling stock and spares, tools and components, scenic products and accessories together with a range of societies will be participating. Also on sale will be hot and cold drinks plus refreshments (including hot meals) at very reasonable prices.

With over 90 stands in total this makes a great day out for the whole family that won't break the bank!

ADVOCACY FOR ALL VACANCIES

Development & Operations Manager Ref: D01
 £30,991 + 5% pension • Full-time

A dynamic, self motivated person with good communication skills needed to meet the remit of this demanding new role. Extensive experience of developing projects and services is required to meet the significant growth of the organisation.

Project Development Co ordinator: Ref: BX2

For older people living in Bexley

£21,120 (actual) + 5% pension • 28 hours per week • Bexley

An energetic, enthusiastic approach is essential to lead in the development and promotion of this new innovative project. To support older people to access new opportunities and gain new skills and experiences to enhance their lives.

Previous applicants need not apply.

For more information and an application pack, please visit

www.advocacyforall.org.uk or email: info@advocacyforall.org.uk

Closing date: 6th February 2012.

Advocacy for all is an equal opportunities employer. Charity No: 1064855

VACANCY FOR SENIOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER TRUST THAMESMEAD

£32,000 P.A

Trust Thamesmead are launching their new three year strategy "Transforming Thamesmead" including the

opening of two major capital projects as they continue to advance their vision and mission to remove barriers and create opportunities for local people.

They are looking for an innovative candidate with the ability to operate at strategic level to enhance their strong community development team. You will be responsible for strengthening community engagement and partnership working (particularly in Central Thamesmead) with a specific focus on developing and implementing the Healthy Living and Well-Being Action Plan in line with the Trust's strategic objectives. You will also be implementing projects and programmes that improve the quality and access to the public realm.

Applicants must be at the top of their field with an exceptional community development background and considerable experience of working with the community, voluntary sector engagement and planning effective services. Candidates must be educated to degree level or have a relevant professional qualification.

This is a permanent post working flexibly across a 35 hour week with occasional weekends when necessary. All posts are subject to satisfactory CRB disclosure. Candidates must complete an application form; CV applications will not be accepted.

Details of this post and an application form are on the website:

www.trust-thamesmead.co.uk.

For email and postal requests please contact Frances Jones at:

fjones@trust-thamesmead.co.uk.

Closing date is 10th February 2012 with interviews on Friday 17th February 2012

IRISH COMMUNITY SERVICES ARE LOOKING FOR A HEALTH & ADVICE COORDINATOR

(Initially a six month contract)

Hours: 35 hours per week Salary: £24,570

Have you the experience, skills and enthusiasm needed to establish and develop a new Health and Advice Project for Irish Community Services working in Greenwich Bexley and Lewisham?

Irish Community Services are looking for a highly motivated person with previous experience of working with clients with drug, alcohol and mental health issues. Must have excellent interpersonal and communication skills and knowledge of welfare benefits would be an advantage.

The successful candidate will be responsible for developing a health and advice service to meeting the needs of clients many of them presenting with severe health, financial, employment and social needs. The aim of the service is to provide practical help and support to achieve positive outcomes to the clients.

The post holder must also have the ability to conduct user led assessments, work in partnership with other likeminded organizations, have the ability to cope with multiple demands, hold a high threshold of confidentiality and have project management skills.

For an application pack please phone:

020 8854 4466 or email irishcommunityservices@btconnect.com

Closing Date: Friday 10th February 2012

Interviews: Tuesday 28th February 2012

The post is subject to a satisfactory enhanced CRB check.

DEAF ACHIEVE PROJECT LOOKING TO RENT SMALL OFFICE SPACE

Can you help the Deaf Achieve Project find a small room/space with access to the internet to establish a Deaf Achieve Job Club within the Bexley Borough? If you think you can help then please contact Natalie Creevy, Deaf Achieve Project Administrator. Tel: 07595 652411 or by email: Natalie.creevy@royaldeaf.org.uk

RE-INSTATE APPOINT A NEW EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Re-Instate are pleased to welcome Beth Rice as the new Employment Development Manager, joining the team at the workshop in Erith.

Beth has had extensive experience in the area of Supported Employment and mental health, including at Scope where she was Leadership Manager. Most recently, Beth has been self-employed, working as a Human Resources Consultant, specializing in disability equality.

Beth's main responsibility will be to support the ambitions and potential of the trainees whilst at work. As well as looking after the welfare of the individuals whilst at Re-Instate, Beth will also be working with local organisations to develop opportunities for work placements, shadowing roles and open employment, seeking to match the skills of the individual with the demands of the job.

Re-Instate has been open since 1966, and operates a sheltered workshop for Adults with mental health problems and learning disabilities. In this environment, individuals regain lost confidence, enhance work and social skills, and feel part of a vibrant and motivated team.

If Beth, or any of the team at Re-Instate can help you, or you would simply like to find out more about what goes on, please call on 01322 438155, they would love to hear from you.

TEAM LONDON ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Boris Johnson is calling on Londoners to nominate their top volunteers for the first annual Team London Achievement Awards by 1 February 2012.

The awards will celebrate the positive effect volunteering can have in our communities and recognise the unsung heroes who give up their time to help others.

London-based individual volunteers, teams or volunteering organisations can be nominated, and efforts must benefit London or Londoners.

Team London will give out four awards under each of the following categories:

- Improving Community Safety
- Increasing Youth Opportunities
- Building Stronger Neighbourhoods
- Cleaning & Greening London

One of the nominees will also receive a special Mayor's Award. Archant London 24 will also present an award to the top Team London star, chosen from the hundreds nominated.

The Team London Achievement Awards will be managed in partnership with Greater London Volunteering (GLV). Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in March.

To find out how to apply for an award go to the link below:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/teamlondon/news/applications-open-first-annual-team-london-achievement->

[awards](#)

Further information on Team London:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/teamlondon>

ERITH RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL – SUNDAY 3RD JUNE 2012

This is a chance for all groups to raise awareness of their work, and increase funds. If you would like a stall at the Erith Riverside Festival, please contact Carol on: 020 8301 7995 or email: cbritnell@bvsc.co.uk to book a stall for the day.

Pam Sloan
Administration Manager
BVSC
adminmanager@bvsc.co.uk
020 8403 0911