

**February
2011**

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2011!

Recruitment news

Temporary Senior Programme Manager

We have had a good response to the recent advert for this temporary position. We hope we will be able to appoint by mid-February and soon have the manager hitting the ground running.

Whilst here for three months, s/he will be working on THCVS's business plan, fundraising strategy and strategic policy, which will be an essential foundation to our service. We look forward to supporting you in a strong, cohesive and a pro-active approach.

Permanent Chief Executive Post

We have started the recruitment process for this post and expect to advertise at the end of February 2011.

Though the needs are urgent, the importance of the task is great and the responsibilities are heavy.

In these difficult times, there are many views on priorities in the work we are setting out to do together. The CVS Board will value your opinions as to how these priorities should be addressed – and hence what qualities we should look for in the successful candidate.

Get in touch with us for a chat about it. Nasrin will ask Board members to speak with you. Our number is **020 3286 3630**.

Welcome to Gemma and Nasrin!

THCVS are very proud to welcome Gemma and Nasrin to our team.



Gemma



Nasrin

Nasrin joined THCVS in December 2010. She is responsible for all our information and administration systems, including updating our website and producing e-bulletins. Please contact her via email if you wish to share information in our newsletter. Her email address is nasrin.patel@thcvs.org.uk

Gemma joined us in November 2010 and comes from a very strong voluntary sector background. As the Development Officer, Gemma is able to advise organisations on a range of issues, including project planning, fundraising and governance. Development support is free and is available to all voluntary and community organisations in Tower Hamlets. To find out more or arrange an initial appointment, email gemma.cossins@thcvs.org.uk

Call to membership

Please join and become members of the CVS. Membership to Tower Hamlets' CVS is free and brings many benefits now and into the future. Some current benefits are:

- 1-1 support from our Development Officer, Gemma
- information and details on any funding opportunities available
- a chance for the CVS to understand and promote your work
- access to resources
- access to training courses
- regular e-bulletins and newsletters
- a growing network of contacts within the voluntary and community sector
- putting you in touch with people/organisations doing similar work
- an opportunity for you to stand together with the rest of the sector in Tower Hamlets
- above all, you will have a strong voice through the CVS in places where the sector needs to be heard

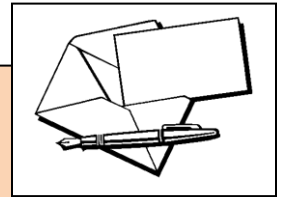


You can join through these ways:

- contact Nasrin by telephone on **020 3286 3630**
- fill in a membership form on our website www.thcvs.org.uk and email it to nasrin.patel@thcvs.org.uk
- To those organisations and groups who do not rely heavily on computers for their daily business, Nasrin can also send you hard copy of the form with an SAE, ready for use. Please call her.

Training and Workshops

Fossbox are delivering a free **'Simple and Sustainable ICT'** open day for East London on 23 February 2011, 10am – 4pm. Free advice on reviving older PCs, laptops and setting up a network will be made available along with other good support. See our training section on our website for details!



Our letter to the Mayor

With drastic changes in funding and in local authority services almost upon us, CVS is acutely aware of the uncertainties in many voluntary and community organisations are facing in Tower Hamlets.

In preparation for meeting him at an early date, our Chair of Trustees Shaynul Khan has written to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman.

Shaynul points out that forward commitments – especially regarding key staff members and premises – raise questions over keeping to the terms of employment law or of leasing agreements.

The sector needs, and deserves, to know what transitional arrangements can be made to deal with problems like these.

“Voluntary groups may have to accept decisions for change brought about by the economic policies imposed from outside the borough. But, in return for the hard and selfless work, they should be given reasonable time to adapt for the future – not be threatened with extinction” – says Shaynul.

Our next newsletter will report further on developments. A copy of Shaynul's letter to the Mayor will be made available on our website at the end of next week.

And speaking of mayors, everyone at the CVS congratulates Nahimul Islam on being elected Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets for 2011-2. We hope to welcome him to speak at a voluntary sector gathering before too long, so that he can discover, during his year of office, just how much the people of this borough benefit from the sector's activities

Any feedback/comments? Any news items/information for the next newsletter?
Email admin@thcvs.org.uk