



## News-line .....

Welcome to our latest edition of the Norfolk CVYS News. I have become aware of the apparent lack of 'slack' or 'down' time within the voluntary sector particularly during the summer break. I had planned to get all those little jobs done that had mounted up during the past few months, only to find even less space in my diary than is usually the case. However the Norfolk CVYS team have managed to deal with the backlog of enquiries, systems updating and filing !

For those members who took part in the Connexions Voluntary Sector Strategy Consultation events, you will be pleased

to learn that the finished document is about to be forwarded to the Government. I will be circulating this to participants, plus others who have requested a copy, shortly. These events were not only successful in influencing the Connexions Strategy, but provided a valuable opportunity for the voluntary sector to discuss a range of issues with Fiona McDiarmid, Chief Executive of Connexions Norfolk. We will build on this experience in the future with further consultation opportunities.

Our first revised networking event has taken place in Dereham and was attended by 20 participants from the Breckland District Council area. It was an informative and enjoyable occasion with the next one already being planned.

Further networking events will be held in Gt. Yarmouth District on 15 November , Broadland District on 20 November and North Norfolk District on 30 November. Other dates will soon be set for South Norfolk and King's Lynn districts. I hope you are able to attend the event in the district in which your group operates

It is anticipated that we will soon be offering Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checking facilities following the acceptance by the CRB of Norfolk CVYS as a registered organisation and myself as a lead signatory. Our two nominated counter signatories are currently being vetted and when successfully cleared, we will receive all the necessary stationery etc., and can be fully operational. I will be circulating information about this process to all members when we are ready to commence this service.

In the meantime if we may be of support or able to provide a service or resource to you or your organisation, please let us know by contacting the Norfolk CVYS team at the office.

**Mike Tingley**  
**Development Worker.**

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NYCS Training Unit  
School Lane  
Sprowston  
Norwich  
Norfolk, NR7 8TR  
Tel: 01603 423995 Fax: 01603 416079

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES – Oct, 2004 TO Dec. 2004

<u>Month &amp; Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b><u>October</u></b>				
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	Disability Equality Training	NYCS Training Unit, Norwich	10 am to 4.30 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Basic Book-keeping Workshop</b>	<b>NYCS Training Unit, Norwich</b>	<b>6.30 pm to 9.30 pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>GRANT AID APPLICATIONS DEADLINE</b>		
Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup>	S.A.F.E. Child Protection training	Shrublands Gorleston	9.30 pm to 1 pm
<b>Monday</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Games and Activities</b>	<b>Sheringham Community Centre</b>	<b>7 pm to 9.30 pm</b>
Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup>	S.A.F.E. Child Protection training	NYCS Training Unit Norwich	6 pm to 9 pm
<b><u>November</u></b>				
Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Drug & Alcohol Awareness	Easton College	1 day
Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup>	S.A.F.E. Child Protection training	Queensway Jnr. Sch. Thetford	9.30 am to 1 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>First Aid – SJA</b>	<b>SJA Yaxham Rd Dereham</b>	<b>9.30 am to 3.30 pm</b>
Saturday	13 <sup>th</sup>	S.A.F.E. Child Protection training	NYCS King's Lynn District Resource Base	9.30 am to 1 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>First Aid SJA</b>	<b>Sheringham Community Centre</b>	<b>9.30 am to 3.30 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>First Aid – BRC</b>	<b>Salvation Army, Boundary Rd, Norwich</b>	<b>9.30 am to 3.30 pm</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Information &amp; Advice Workshop</b>	<b>NYCS Training Unit, Norwich</b>	<b>7 pm to 9.30 pm</b>
Saturday	20 <sup>th</sup>	S.A.F.E. Child Protection training	NYCS Training Unit Norwich	9.30 am to 1 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Introduction to Dealing with Conflict</b>	<b>NYCS Training Unit, Norwich</b>	<b>10 am to 1 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Rescue Emergency Aid – level 1</b>	<b>YCS Outdoor Centre Filby</b>	<b>9 am to 5.30 pm</b>
Saturday	20 <sup>th</sup>	Disability Equality Training	NYCS King's Lynn District Resource Base	10 am to 4.30 pm
Saturday	27 <sup>th</sup>	S.A.F.E. Child Protection training	Shrublands, Gorleston	9.30 am to 1 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Basic Food Hygiene</b>	<b>Rowington Rd. Norwich</b>	<b>9.30 am to 5 pm</b>
<b>Saturday &amp; Sunday</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> &amp; 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>MiDAS Minibus Driver Training</b>	<b>NYCS Training Unit Norwich</b>	<b>tbc</b>
<b><u>December</u></b>				
<b>1<sup>st</sup> week</b>		<b>Norfolk CVYS Newsletter circulated</b>		
Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Disability Equality Training	NYCS Training Unit Norwich	10 am to 4.30 pm
Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Drug & Alcohol Awareness	Dereham	1 day

## **Code - Applications for courses should be made as follows:**

- **Norfolk CVYS, NYCS Training Unit, School Lane, Sprowston, Norwich, NR7 8TR - 'phone 01603 423995**
- **S.A.F.E. Courses** through Katrina Burton, Norfolk Area Child Protection Committee, The Pineapple, 63 Bracondale, Norwich, NR1 2EE - 'phone 01603 228966 **Cost:** £20 which provides a SAFE pack and 2 free places.
- All other courses, please contact Jo Zipfel at NYCS Training Unit. School Lane, Sprowston, Norwich - 'phone 01603 485999

**We are currently planning the Training programme for the new year that will run from January to December 2005. Details will be circulated in the next Norfolk CVYS News.**

### **Training Course vacancies**

The following courses have vacancies as at 7.10.04. If you would like to take up one or more of these places, please ring the Norfolk CVYS office on **01603 423995** or e.mail to [info@norfolkcvys.org.uk](mailto:info@norfolkcvys.org.uk)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Basic Book-keeping	YCS Training Unit
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Games and Activities	Sheringham Community Centre
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Emergency First Aid	Dereham
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Emergency First Aid	Sheringham
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Information and Advice Workshop	YCS Training Unit
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Introduction to Dealing with Conflict	YCS Training Unit
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Rescue Emergency Aid	Filby
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Basic Food Hygiene	Norwich
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Midas</b> Minibus Driver training	Norwich

### **Resources**

#### **Norfolk Youth & Community Service (NYCS) - Equipment Loan Scheme**

NYCS operates a part-time camping store. The purpose of this store is to make available a limited range of camping equipment to organisations in Norfolk as reasonable rates.

The Store is open April – October Monday & Thursday evening by appointment, November – March, by arrangement.

**Booking forms and conditions of hire available by contacting** The D of E County Office, Costessey Youth & Community Centre, Breckland Rd, Costessey, Norwich, NR5 0RW. **Tel: 01603 744888 Fax: 01603 744999**

The equipment is available for loan to any organisation in Norfolk entered on the County Schedule of Voluntary Youth & Community Groups. Entry to the Schedule is free and further information is available from Room 117, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, **Tel: 01603 222645**

#### **Other Resources available from NYCS**

**Minibuses:** These are stored in each District Youth Work Resource Base. Further information from the NYCS Training Unit, Tel: 01603 485999

#### **Tow-a-Van**

Contact the NYCS Training Unit, **Tel: 01603 485999**

#### **Bikes**

Stored at Sprowston but booked via the Filby Water Activity Centre **Tel: 01493 368129**

#### **Problem Solving Kit / Climbing Kit**

Stored and bookable via Filby Water Activity Centre **Tel: 01493 368129**

## Youth Kit

Updates are now available to the Youth Kit. Those organisations who received their Youth Kit prior to July 2004 are invited to apply for these updates.

Contact: Norfolk CVYS on Tel: 01603 423995 or e.mail [info@norfolkcvys.org.uk](mailto:info@norfolkcvys.org.uk) for your copy.

## **SPOTLIGHT ON..... YMCA Norfolk**

In pursuance of its Christian Mission, YMCA Norfolk is developing a diverse range of programmes across Norfolk, namely:

- **Residential Accommodation at 48 St. Giles Street, Norwich providing**
  - Accommodation for 90 people in single study bedrooms
  - 63,000 meals a year for residents, members and guests
  - an intensive life and social skills programme
  - the highly commended Y-life independent living programme
  - employment advice and pastoral guidance
- **The Resettlement Department delivers**
  - On-going peripatetic support to 220 people per year in independent accommodation in Norwich, Gt. Yarmouth, King's Lynn and North Norfolk
  - Advice, training and support to 42 landlords/landladies and direct support to 110 lodgers a year in a positive caring domestic environment
- **The Asylum Seeker Advice Line**
  - Provision of support, advice, guidance and protection to 204 Asylum Seekers per year across Norfolk
- **A YMCA Facility inside Norwich Young Offenders Institute as part of Norwich Prison providing**
  - Over 2163 face-to-face contacts with young offenders offering pastoral care, guidance and resettlement advice often working with young men at serious risk of self harm.
- **A sports facility at Trowse in South Norfolk**
  - Provides recreation for 2- affiliated sports clubs with a membership in excess of 1250
- **YMCA Schools Department**
  - Delivers Pastoral Care on a daily basis in 16 schools impacting on 18,117 young people tackling issues such as bullying, self-harm, truancy and anti-social behaviour.
- **King's Lynn YMCA, 32 St. James Street**
  - Proposed migrant worker Advice Shop
- **Future Outlook**

The Directors are committed to developing the Association's accommodation facilities to ensure that those most vulnerable in our community are not put at further risk from homelessness. The Association is seeking to establish a new 35 bedded accommodation facility in the city centre and is giving consideration as to how it can develop its housing stock and expand its range of accommodation services to meet the ever-growing needs of vulnerable people in the City of Norwich and the County of Norfolk.

The Association has high staff retention and low absenteeism, which is attributed to the loyalty and commitment of a mature and professionally competent team, comprising 43 women and 35 men, who ensure the delivery of our mission.

The Association aims to ensure that its Christian Mission remains relevant and focussed.

### **Contacts:-**

YMCA Norfolk Corporate Office, The Street, Trowse, Norwich, NR14 8SP

**Tel:** 01603 630049

YMCA Schools, Nick Jeffery, The Street, Trowse, Norwich, NR14 8SP

**Tel:** 01603 620961

Norwich YMCA Hostel, 48 St. Giles Street, Norwich. NR2 1LP

**Tel:** 01603 620269

Website: [www.ymca-norfolk.org.uk](http://www.ymca-norfolk.org.uk)

**John Drake**

**Chief Executive Officer**

## **Norfolk CVYS – Management Committee - Member Profile**

As part of our new look **Norfolk CVYS News**, each edition will feature a profile of one of the elected members of the Norfolk CVYS Management Committee. To start with, we profile our **Chairman, James Kearns**.

I joined Norfolk CVYS in September 1997 as a representative of Norfolk Scouts. That meeting at the NYCS Offices in Sandy Lane, Lakenham, Norwich, was the start of an association that has continued for seven years to the present day. In March 1998 I was appointed Vice Chair and was appointed Chair in November 2000 and despite a couple of attempts I have yet to manage a successful escape !! During these years I have changed my voluntary roles a few times, and also my day job, but each time I have continued to engage actively within the management of Norfolk CVYS.

I was born in Hertfordshire and moved to Norfolk at the age of 6 with my parents who planned to start a family business in North Norfolk. At the age of 8, I joined the Cub Scouts in my home village and started an association with Scouting that has given me some of the greatest highs and lows of my life to date. I began my first leadership role at the age of 14 teaching Cubs and Brownies to swim, and at 18 took out my first full warrant as an assistant Scout Leader. Various roles including managing the public relations portfolio for Norfolk Scouts (1988-2002) and serving as Norfolk's Deputy County Commissioner (and for 6 months as Acting County Commissioner) saw me actively supporting volunteer leaders across Norfolk.

Following a change of Scouting role in 2002 I lost the representative mandate and then continued membership through my professional role as the Partnership Manager of the West Norwich Partnership. This community led initiative employed me between 1997 and 2003 and saw my active youth work role develop as part of a multi-agency programme that brought significant benefits to the young people of the Earlham and Bowthorpe areas of Norwich.

When I moved to a senior multi-agency management role developing the Local Strategic Partnership in North Norfolk, and developing my own Management Consultancy company – MadGiraffe, I moved representation to another of my voluntary roles. It was as a Director and Trustee of the Eaton Vale Activity Centre – a joint Scout and Guide charity that raised around £1m to build and develop a fantastic centre south of Norwich. That representation will now change again, following the recent announcement appointing me as the new Chief Executive of BUILD – another Norfolk CVYS member organisation, which supports people with learning difficulties.

My voluntary roles continue to be dominated by Scouting, as a Training Manager in Norfolk and Chair of the Regional Adult Support Forum. Training is my passion, designing, delivering and evaluating learning experiences, principally for adults that work with, and provide benefits, for young people.

When I do get time to myself, I can be found on the racecourse. As a National Hunt horse racing fan, and a lifelong football fan, I use sport to provide the escape and watch someone else do the hard work.

At home I continue youth work with two boys aged 2 and 7 (now a Beaver Scout), both of whom continue to provide my toughest assignments.

### **Advertisements**

#### **MAP (Mancroft Advice Project) looking for Trustees.**

MAP started in Norwich in 1991, when we opened our doors for the first time to offer a free, confidential, information, advice and counselling service to young people 11 to 25.  
No previous experience needed.

However, if you have a commitment to the wellbeing of young people, and would like to take an active part in contributing to the further development of the project we would like to hear from you!

For further information please contact:  
Debra Winstanley on: 01603 212406

**Email:** [debrawinstanley@norwich.gov.uk](mailto:debrawinstanley@norwich.gov.uk)

### Effective Trustees

The Charity Commission has compiled signposting links on its website to its guidance on the main issues charity trustees need to know about:-

[www.charitycommission.gov.uk/supportingcharities](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/supportingcharities)

Acknowledgement to Voluntary Sector Partnership Gt. Yarmouth's newsletter Issue 16.

### Indices of Deprivation 2004

A comprehensive mapping of deprivation across England has been launched by the office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). The revised indices offer an in-depth approach to pinpointing small pockets of deprivation, and the information will help target policies and funding.

[www.odpm.gov.uk/indices](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/indices)

Acknowledgement to Voluntary Sector Partnership Gt. Yarmouth's newsletter Issue 16.

### Engagement of marginalised and disadvantaged communities

For a number of years the Govt. has been concerned about the low uptake and engagement of some marginalised and disadvantaged communities (including black and minority ethnic communities) in both the use and development of drug services. In 2000/01 the DOH piloted a programme to engage black and minority ethnic communities in undertaking a series of local community led needs assessments.

Following the success of the pilot, the DOH committed substantial resources to a further programme of community engagement activities over the period 2003/06. The Centre of Ethnicity and Health at the University of Central Lancashire which managed the pilot phase is now seeking a further 40-50 community groups to take part in the final year of the current programme. Black and minority ethnic community groups remain a priority but they are also interested in furthering their work with white disadvantaged groups.

They would look very favourably on proposals that seek to involve more than one community group in the project and thus promote the idea of Community Cohesion. In total up to £1m is available to fund the work programme during 2005/06 and they are anticipating that some groups will only want to apply for small amounts of money (perhaps £5000) to run small scale local initiatives while other groups will want to run more ambitious schemes.

Groups can apply for up to £20,000 funding (by 19th November 2004). The work must start in either March or April 2005 and be completed by December 2005.

To get more information and help with filling in the form contact Eileen Jackson on 01772 892774 or 892780.

If you would like a copy of the more detailed advertisement for the project, please let me know and I will make you a copy.

Rosalind Greene

Information Officer

West Norfolk Council for Voluntary Services

16 Tuesday Market Place

King's Lynn PE30 1JN

Tel: 01553 760568; Fax: 01553 774399 e-mail: [info@westnorfolkcvcs.co.uk](mailto:info@westnorfolkcvcs.co.uk) website [www.westnorfolkcvcs.co.uk](http://www.westnorfolkcvcs.co.uk)

As you may be aware, **Sport England** and **MENTER** have commissioned a regional research project which aims to:

- Provide a position statement covering a number of aspects relating to the issues of black and minority ethnic sport in the East region.
- Make recommendations to inform a range of partner organisations on the strategic direction of this work in the future.
- 

One element of the project involves convening six county workshops to discuss in particular issues of local/county significance, that will need to be reflected in the County Action Plans that will form part of the project outputs.

A Norfolk Workshop will be held on Wednesday 13th October at 6.00pm at the Professional Development Centre, Woodside Road, Norwich.

If you are able to attend, contact **Tony Ploszajski** Project Manager email: [tony@plcleisureconsulting.co.uk](mailto:tony@plcleisureconsulting.co.uk) for more information.

Rosalind Greene

Information Officer

West Norfolk Council for Voluntary Services

16 Tuesday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 1JN

Telephone: 01553 760568; Fax: 01553 774399 E-mail: [info@westnorfolkcvcs.co.uk](mailto:info@westnorfolkcvcs.co.uk)

**At the AGM held on 10 June 2004 the following were elected to the Norfolk CVYS Management Committee for the year 2004-2005**

<i>James Kearns (Chair), EVAC Ltd. Eaton Vale, Church Lane, Eaton, Norwich, NR4 6NN</i>	<i>01603 740141</i>
<i>Terry Byrne (v.chair) Winterton Marine Cadets, 13 Winner Avenue, Winterton on Sea, Gt. Yar. NR29 4BA</i>	<i>01493 393843</i>
<i>Anne Brooks, Girlguiding Norfolk</i>	<i>01603 502590</i>
<i>Francesca Broom, Young Farmers Clubs, Easton College, Easton, Norwich, NR9 5DX</i>	<i>01603 748717</i>
<i>Richard Butler, (Treasurer) Norfolk Scouts</i>	<i>01603 502246</i>
<i>Paul Cracknell Norwich Youth for Christ, 3 Brigg Street, Norwich</i>	<i>01603 620678</i>
<i>Richard Draper, Benjamin Foundation</i>	<i>01692 407354</i>
<i>Liz Ellis, BUILD, United Reform Church, Princes Street, Norwich, NR3 1AZ</i>	<i>01603 618029</i>
<i>Graham Hanson, Youth &amp; Community Service, County Hall, Norwich</i>	<i>01603 222616</i>
<i>Nick Jeffery, YMCS Norfolk, Trowse, Norwich</i>	<i>07603 630049</i>
<i>Lt. Shawn Moye Salvation Army, Norwich</i>	<i>01603 724412</i>
<i>Norman Ogden, (co-opted) Classic Majorettes, 25 Stafford Street, Norwich, NR5 8HW</i>	<i>01603 259724</i>
<i>John Sheppard (co-opted) 145 Waterworks Road, Norwich Norfolk NR2 4DF</i>	<i>01603 603880</i>
<i>Lorna Vyse, Robertson Barracks</i>	<i>01362 627972</i>

N O R F O L K  C V Y S  M E M B E R  O R G A N I S A T I O N S  as at 18 Oct 2004	901 Troop Marine Cadets – TS Fearless Air Training Corps Asperger Norfolk	Heathlands Youth Club Hellesdon Youth Club (Club H) Horstead Centre	Sporle Youth Club Salvation Army Sea Cadets (Norfolk Sheringham Skateboarding Club Spooner Row Youth Club Sprowston Youth Club St. Edmunds' Society St. John's Ambulance Stalham Dragons Summer Playscheme Stanhoe Youth Club Stars & Stripes Swanton Morley Youth Club
	Bacton Youth Club Benjamin Foundation Big City Youth Club Blue Cat Initiative B. Council King's Lynn & W. Norfolk Boys' Brigade Breckland Young Carers BUILD Bunwell Youth Club	Lakenham Lions Youth Club Long Stratton Gym Club	Take Flight Taverham Youth Club Thalia Theatre (Company) Youth The Children's Centre Youth Club (Club Z) The Joint (Shipdham Joint Yth Project) The Norfolk Youth Music Theatre Thurlton & Norton Youth Club Toftwood Youth Club
	Caister Youth & Community Centre Classic Majorettes Coltishall & Horstead Y/C Connect & Co – City Church Corpusty & Saxthorpe YC Crusaders	Mancroft Advice Project Martham Combat Jitsu & Kickboxing Club Matthew Project Methodist Association of Youth Mile Cross Phoenix Children's Project Millennium Volunteers Project Mulbarton Church Youth Group	YESU YMCA Norfolk Young Carers' Youth Project Young Citizen's Guild Youth Clubs Norfolk
	Diocesan Youth Service	NACRO NCH Thetford Family Centre Norwich & Norfolk Voluntary Services Norfolk Army Cadet Force Norfolk Fire Service Cadets Norfolk International Project Norfolk Scout Association Norfolk Young Carers Project (Crossroads) Norfolk Young Farmers North Elmham Youth Club North Norfolk District Council Norfolk & Norwich Families House Norwich & Norfolk Industrial Project Norwich Youth for Christ	Walpole Area Community 4 Kids & Youths Weeting 21 West Norwich Partnership Winch Grove Youth Club Wymondham Baptist Church Yth
	Earlham Youth East Anglian Girls' Flying Corps East Winch Youth Club Eaton Vale Activity Centre Exchange 2	Out & About Trust ( Anglia)	
	Frettenham Youth Club	Poringland Parish Council	
	Girls' Brigade GFS (Platform) Girlguiding Norfolk Girls' Venture Corps Air Cadets Great Ellingham Youth Club Gt. Yarmouth & Waveney CONTACT Gt. Yarmouth Christian Youth Grp	Rackheath Youth Club Reffley Youth Drop In Robertson Barracks Youth Club	

## **EVENTS DIARY / ISSUES**

### **Networking Events**

The following networking events have been arranged. These events are designed to cater for those groups within the specific District Council boundaries. Final details regarding venues and content will be advised once they have been agreed. Invitations to attend will be circulated to all member organisations working within the relevant district

**Gt. Yarmouth on Monday 15 November**

**Broadland on Saturday 20 November**

**North Norfolk on Tuesday 30 November**

Other dates for South Norfolk and King's Lynn are being set.

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### **Funding**



What is the Local Network Fund (LNF) ?

It is a government fund that gives grants (from £250 to £7000), normally for one year, to voluntary and community groups working with children and young people facing some form of disadvantage.

**Contact; 0845 1130161** for an application pack.

**Norwich & Gt. Yarmouth Groups** can contact

The Local Network Fund Co-ordinator at NVS on **01603 883826**,  
the rest of the County call

Norfolk Rural Community Council, The Local Network Fund on **01362 698216**  
for support in your application.

**e.mail:** [infchildren@norfolkkrcc.org.uk](mailto:infchildren@norfolkkrcc.org.uk) **website** [www.norfolkkrcc.org.uk](http://www.norfolkkrcc.org.uk)

### **Grant Aid**

Closing dates are:- 15 October 2004, 15 January 2005, 15 May 2005.

Application forms from Norfolk CVYS office.

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### **Bitz 'n Pieces**

**Youth audit** – The British Youth Council is to conduct a UK-wide audit of youth provision for its Every Young Voice Project. [www.byc.org.uk/eyv.html](http://www.byc.org.uk/eyv.html)

**Environmental awards** – Applications for the Volvo Young Environmentalist Awards are now being sought [www.volvocars.co.uk/yea](http://www.volvocars.co.uk/yea)

**Birmingham to be inspected by young** – Young people will be actively involved in the inspection of Birmingham's youth provision, an action plan for the youth service promises. The plan, to be launched by Birmingham Youth Service this autumn, will focus on building capacity and including young people in service planning, management and inspections. The objective for the coming year is to engage young people directly in managing the service and encourage active participation, to be responsive to young people's needs and increase capacity. The service also plans to focus more on outcomes than targets and collect evidence on how its work changes young people. The challenge with the service has been quoted as "because of its size it's like turning a juggernaut". The ambition is to become acknowledged as the highest performing youth service. Last year the service, one of the largest in the UK, attracted £1.8m external funding on top of its £7.2m annual budget.

With thanks to 'Young People Now' Issue 15-21 September