

Ellesmere Port and Neston Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations (EPNAVCO)

1st Floor Offices

Ellesmere Port Indoor Market
Market Square Ellesmere Port
Cheshire CH65 0HW

Telephone Number: 0151-356-7358

E-mail: chris@epnavco.org.uk

Volunteer Centre: vb@epnavco.org.uk

Charity Registration Number: 1108080

A Company Limited By Guarantee Registration Number: 5301920

EPNAVCO Membership

Membership is open to any voluntary organisation or community group operating in Ellesmere Port and Neston.

To receive a membership pack, contact the office using any of the methods below:



E-mail: chris@epnavco.org.uk



0151-356-7358



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Ellesmere Port Indoor Market

Market Square Ellesmere Port Cheshire
CH65 0HW

Produced by EPNAVCO



Ellesmere Port & Neston Association of Voluntary & Community Organisations.

Annual Report 2008/09



Supported By:

Western Cheshire
Primary Care Trust



CHESHIRE WEST
AND CHESTER

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EPNAVCO Statistics 2008-09

Members	Groups, Organisations & Individuals	125
Newsletter Distribution	Average number of copies per issue	367
Training	Individuals who accessed Training	152
Funding Bulletin	Average number of copies per issue	268
Funding Advice	Number of Organisations	54
Total amount supported by	awarded to Organisations EPNAVCO, in excess of:	£346,360

EPNAVCO Funding

In 2008/09 our funders were:

Cheshire County Council/Cheshire West & Chester Council
 Lottery Fair Share (Neston Market Town Initiative)
 Lottery Fair Share (Volunteer Centre)
 The Big Lottery (BASIS)
 The Big Lottery (BASIS 2)
 Western Cheshire PCT

Acknowledgements

The Trustees and staff would like to thank our funders:

- ◆ Cheshire West and Chester Council - our core strategic grant
- ◆ 'Fairshare' Trust - funding for the Volunteer Centre
- ◆ 'Fairshare' Trust - funding for ch64 inc development project worker
- ◆ Big Lottery—BASIS Funding the 'Moving Forward Project'
- ◆ Big Lottery—BASIS 2

Grants Panel members:

Eileen Miller and Bernie Brennan

And:

All voluntary and community sector and statutory sector colleagues who have participated in working groups, attended consultation events and, in many other ways, have supported EPNAVCO's work during the year.

Chief Officer's Report

I can't believe that this is EPNAVCO's fifth AGM, I think I will have to stop saying we are a new organisation.

This has been a year of significant change, the formation of Cheshire West and Chester council has seen us saying goodbye to many colleagues and welcoming new faces to Ellesmere Port.

Having one unitary authority for West Cheshire has encouraged closer collaboration in delivering services between ourselves, Chester Voluntary Action and Vale Royal Voluntary Action.

I expect this closer working relationship to continue and indications are that we will be looking at a more formalised arrangement in the near future.

This will enable our members to access a greater range of services.

We have seen an increase in people accessing our services, volunteering figures are up 300% on this time last year and we have given 69 organisations one to one support around funding issues.

We continue to produce our quarterly newsletter and monthly funding bulletin.

We now have a more formalised Community/Voluntary and Faith sector network which meets quarterly.

We have continued to offer training sessions to help build the capacity of our members, this year we have held over 30 training sessions, enabling 72 organisations to access training around issues such as Governance, Public Speaking, Employing People and Finances. In addition we continue to offer Health and Safety and Basic Food Hygiene e-learning courses.

We have also held and taken part in events to promote volunteering. We have held two generic events to encourage volunteering and showcase the opportunities available for volunteers; in addition we have held an event at Neston High School to promote youth volunteering and social responsibility.

Earlier this year we held a Funding Fair which was very well attended and we will be holding another funding event later in the year.

We continue to support the Third Sector Assembly; the assembly now has representation on the main Local Strategic Partnership and its thematic groups.

This will enable our sector to participate at the highest level in decision making.

Chester West and Chester Council have seconded Anne Lancaster to the assembly; Anne is working on the development of the assembly and the formation of new networks and the strengthening of existing networks.

Anne presence has enabled the Third Sector Assembly to develop at a rapid pace.

November will see the launch of the Compact for Cheshire West and Chester, EPNAVCO has been involved in the development of this document and I would urge all members to involve themselves in the launch and to sign up to the Compact Charter later this year.

It is likely that the economic climate will bring problems for the sector; you can be assured that EPNAVCO will promote and support the excellent work carried out by the Community/Voluntary and Faith sector organisations in Ellesmere Port and Neston.

Finally I would like to thank all the staff who have worked so hard this year to ensure that we increase our membership and offer the services that our members need.

It has been an uncertain time and their enthusiasm has never flagged.

Thank You.

Elaine Dunn

Chief Officer

Services to Voluntary Organisations

EPNAVCO is a registered Charity and a company limited by guarantee, Which is covered by the Memorandum and Articles.

EPNAVCO is committed to the development of a strong voluntary/community sector across Cheshire West and provide a range of services which include:

* **Newsletter**

The newsletter is distributed quarterly to EPNAVCO members and other organisations

* **Funding Bulletin**

The funding bulletin is distributed monthly to members and other interested organisations

* **Mailings**

EPNAVCO will continue the practice of mailings to members and other voluntary organisations as a means of distributing current information.

Practical/Support Services

- * Meeting room
- * Leaflets/Posters/Flyers
- * Photocopying
- * Newsletters
- * Logos
- * Letterheads
- * Equipment Loan
- * Constitutions
- * Funding Advice
- * Trustee Roles & Responsibilities
- * Charity Registration
- * Training Courses
- * Governance

The Big Lunch

In July the Eden Project promoted a national Big Lunch event. EPNAVCO held an event in Whitby Park on the 19th of July, Picnic in the Park was an excellent summer community event that brought the community of Ellesmere Port together. The event was attended by over 350 people many enjoying a picnic despite the bad weather.

The focal point of Picnic in The Park was the Stage with a programme of music and dance acts. Picnickers were entertained by Ellesmere Port Silver Band, Singing Hands signing choir, belly dancers and Ellesmere Port Churches together. The stage also provided an opportunity for competitors in the highly popular Ellesmere Ports got talent to perform for a large audience, young people from schools and other local groups topped the bill.

Parents and children alike enjoyed Arts & Crafts activities, puppet shows and community groups and organisations offering everything from a coconut shy and hook a duck to healthy eating activities.

Other attractions included a variety of family sporting challenges throughout the day, including football, frisbee battles, rounder's, skate board instruction

Veterans Day 2009

EPNAVCO supported Ellesmere Port Veterans day group to hold their 4th celebration event in Ellesmere Port Civic Hall on 27th June this year.

The group was supported to organise the event, apply for funding and further develop the partnership of people who needed to be involved. EPNAVCO prepared the funding bids and accessed monies from Awards for All and the MOD for the events, they also wrote to local business raising money which was used to purchase raffle prizes.

Large numbers of the public of all ages joined in a celebration at the cenotaph with a guard of honor supplied by Air Cadets and Sea Cadets to brigadier John Thompson, the Mayor of Ellesmere Port and Neston and representatives from various ex service organisations, many ex service organisations had their standards on parade.

Ellesmere Port Sea Cadets ran music workshops and Ellesmere Port Air Cadets provided an invaluable marshalling service.

Everyone who took part in the day, said what a wonderful event it had been. Veterans had the opportunity to re-live their experiences with comrades, meet up with friends and get health advice.

The day was rounded off with an evening of music and comedy entertainment enjoyed by all. In total over 700 people joined the daytime or evening events.

Chair's Report

On behalf of the trustees, and as chair of EPNAVCO, I am pleased to present EPNAVCO's annual report for 2008/9.

This has been a year of considerable change for EPNAVCO. We have seen the formation of the new Cheshire West and Chester Council bringing changes to the people we deal with and the way we deliver services.

As you will remember at last year's AGM it was decided that we extend the geographical area in which we deliver our services.

Consequently we have been able to deliver both funding advice and volunteer brokerage to groups outside of Ellesmere Port and Neston.

In addition this change has enabled us to enter into discussions with our colleagues at Chester Voluntary Action and Vale Royal Voluntary Action about how we can work together to deliver the best possible service to our members, I am sure that you will hear more about this over the coming months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the staff team for their continued hard work.

In addition I would like to thank the trustees of EPNAVCO who continue to volunteer their time and skills to the good management of the organisation.

In particular I would like to thank Tom Ormiston who stepped down as a trustee earlier this year. Tom was one of the founder trustees of EPNAVCO, we will miss his good humour and enthusiasm greatly.

Keith Chandler

Chair

EPNAVCO Profile

EPNAVCO's objects are set out in paragraph 3 of its Memorandum and Articles of Association viz:

The Charities Objects ("The Objects") are:

- a. To promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community in the Unitary Authority Area of West Cheshire and its neighbourhood (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") and, in particular, the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness;
- b. To promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together in council representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities within the area of benefit.

Appointment of Trustees

The trustees may nominate Board members for appointment at any General Meeting.

Members may propose Board members by giving nominations to the Company Secretary not less than 7 days or more than 21 days from the date of any General Meeting of the intention to propose such a person for election and a notice in writing, signed by the person to be proposed of their willingness to be elected.

No person may be appointed a Board Member unless:

- * He/she has attained the age of 18 years; and
- * He/she is a member or a representative of a member of the Charity; and
- * If elected he/she would not be disqualified under the terms of Article 39.

Trustees

Keith Chandler—Chair

Keith has been Principal of Burton Manor Residential College since 1996. He is Chair of the Adult Residential College Association. He also sits on the Committee for St Williams Foundation and WISDOM Co-operative. He is a fellow of The Society of Arts.

EPNAVCO Aims and Objectives

AIM	OBJECTIVE
To improve the capacity & quality of voluntary organisations & community groups	By providing good practice guidelines
	By facilitating training & briefing events
	By conducting one to one development support
	By facilitating/ conducting/ disseminating research
	By providing written reports and oral briefings on local, regional & national research documents and policy initiatives
	By forming interest groups/new voluntary groups in response to expressed needs from local communities and/or voluntary & community sector
To enable voluntary organisations and community groups to widen their access to information and practical support services.	By managing and supporting new groups to become independent
	By providing an information service
To facilitate liaison and collaboration in the voluntary & community sectors and between the voluntary, public and private sectors	By providing practical support services
	By organising network and consultation events
	By disseminating information on consultation, partnership opportunities and policy/planning initiatives
	By supporting voluntary organisations, community groups and volunteers to enter consultation processes and partnerships
	By supporting voluntary organisations and community groups to represent themselves at key local policy/planning bodies
	By representing EPNAVCO at key local policy/planning bodies
To improve the level of community engagement in local decision making	By advising the public & private sectors on how to involve the voluntary sector
	By developing & maintaining neighbourhood forums
	By supporting local people to form into community action groups
	By developing a community development practitioners network(s)

Relevant Professional Organisations

Accountants

The Priory Partnership
1 Hunter Street
Chester
CH1 2AR
Tel:01244 342191

Bankers

EPNAVCO bankers are:
Unity Trust Bank
Nine Brindleyplace
Birmingham
B1 2HB

Representation and Partnerships

EPNAVCO has represented the Community and Voluntary sector on a number of Partnership Boards and panels. These are set out below:-

Community Sports Network
Fairshare Trust Grants Panel
Change-Up Consortium
Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Hub
Multi-Sector Agency Working Group
Third Sector Assembly
COMPACT
Area Programme Board

We have run a number of network meetings for our members and are looking to develop this into a more formal structure to ensure that we have adequate representation on all partnership boards.

We continue to work in partnership with statutory and voluntary organisations as we realise that partnership work can only strengthen the Community and Voluntary Sector.

Trustees (cont)

Anne Davies—Vice Chair

Anne is a Management Consultant working in the Third Sector and Social Enterprises in particular. In addition to Chairing many Training Networks at Local, Regional and National level. Anne was a founder director of ALI (Adult Learning Inspectorate) the Ofsted equivalent for adult education and a Regional Counsellor for CBI.

Currently, in addition to being Vice Chair of EPNAVCO Anne is the Chairman of Cheshire and Warrington Social Enterprise Partnership and a Director of Social Enterprise North West. She is also a Director of Macclesfield Community Garden Centre, a social enterprise training adults with learning disabilities, Vice Chair of Parents against Drug Abuse PADA, A member of Ellesmere Port Partnership Board and its Lead for the Regeneration Task Group and a member of Fairshare's Trust Fund. Finally, Anne was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Cheshire in 2006 in recognition of her contribution to the Cheshire community.

Tom Ormiston—Director

Tom is a retired College Lecturer, Part time NVQ Assessor in Engineering. He is an approved person for FSA.

Allan Conlin—Director

Allan runs the Ellesmere Port office of Employment Opportunities. Allan has been with the charity for six years and specialises in finding people with a health condition or disability to secure and maintain paid employment. Allan's Office also offers a number of personal development modules including motivational, confidence building and self-esteem to those Ellesmere Port and Neston residents who feel they have a barrier returning to work.

Zaria Shreef— Director

Zaria is currently Chair of Community Activities in Neston, a voluntary community group running activities for families in the Neston and surrounding areas. She is a Trustee of the Friends of Stanney Fields Park.

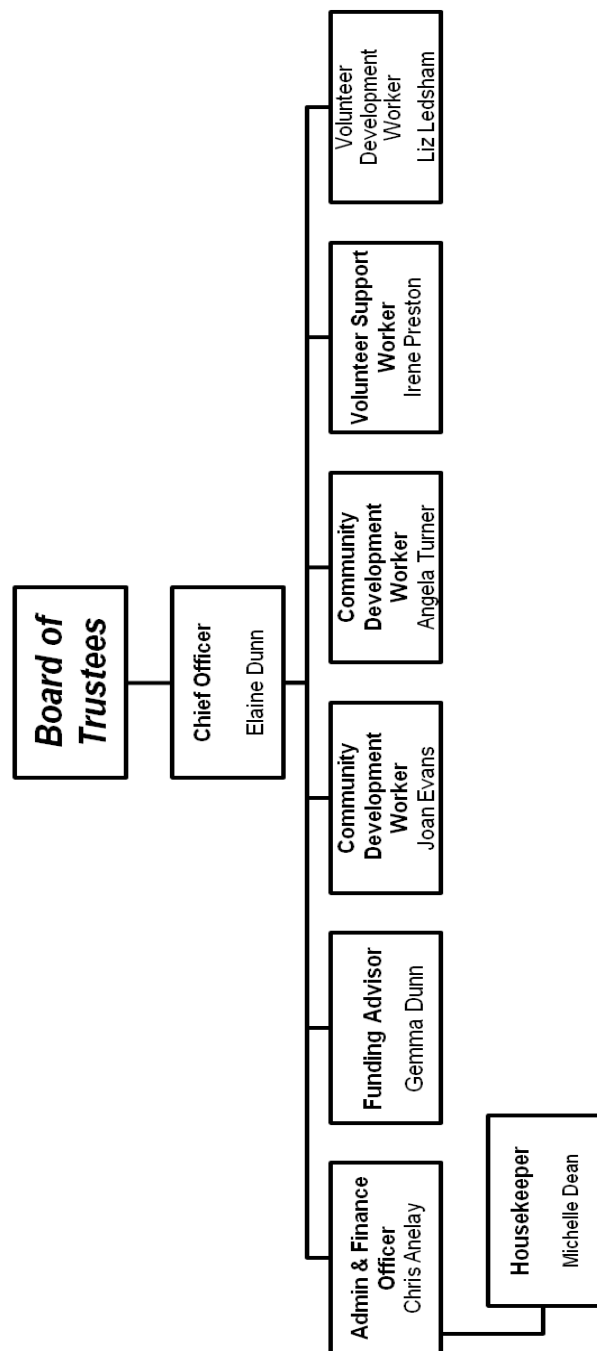
Trevor Beckett—Director

Trevor Beckett is a Baptist minister and has been working as a community minister in Ellesmere Port since September 2007. He is co-ordinator of Cheshire West Street Pastors, Chair of Port Reach Management Committee and chaplain to Hollymere Retirement Village.

Tony Walsh—Director

Tony is a former Head Teacher at Our Ladies Primary School. Since retirement he has been heavily involved in community activity in Ellesmere Port & Neston. In 2000 Bishop Brian Noble appointed him chair of the Justice and Peace Commission. He is also chair of the Fair Trade Committee, Treasurer of Friends of Whitby Park and Chair of Cestrian Ramblers.

Organisational Chart



Little Actors Youth Theatre
 Ellesmere Port Churches Together
 CTC Two Mills
 Friends of Whitby Park
 Cats Protection South Wirral Branch
 Overpool Community Centre
 Neston Community & Youth Centre
 Chester & E/Port Independent Advocacy
 Peterettes Morris Dancing
 Mind in Chester
 Groundwork Cheshire
 Ellesmere Port Gymnastics Club
 RECORD
 Thursday Tots Group
 St Johns Ambulance - Cheshire Young Carers
 Global Inclusion
 Wirral & West Cheshire Wheelchair users group
 Train to Change
 WORTH UNLIMITED
 Friends of Park Fields
 EMBRACE Project
 ACTIVE8 Leisure Ltd
 Little Sutton Community Group
 Flatt Lane Volunteers
 Friends of Thellwell Road Community

Cheshire centre for independent living
 ch64 inc
 WRVS
 Great Sutton Male Voice Choir
 Adoption Matters NW
 Dial House
 Alzheimers Society
 Westminster Choir
 Ellesmere Port & Neston Arts Association
 Neston Creative Crafters
 1074 Squadron ARC
 Korean Vets
 Robert Done
 Willaston Art Group
 Willaston Darby & Joan Club
 Ness & Little Neston Womens Institute
 Whitby Methodist Church
 Trinity Methodist Church
 Willaston & District Horticultural Society
 Save the Family
 St. Saviours Pre-School
 Ellesmere Port Resource Centre
 Cheshire Training Associates Ltd
 Willaston Village Festival Society
 Royal British Legion Womens Section
 Our Ladies Justice & Peace Group
 Charles Davies
 E/Port original Pantomime Company

EPNAVCO Members

Age Concern Cheshire	Stanney Grange Community Centre
Burton Manor College	The Griffin Trust
CAN Group	Toc H
Cat rescue	Westminster CC Bingo & Line dancing clubs
Catholic Children's Society Chapter	Trinity Crèche
Crossroads (Caring for Carers)	Trinity Methodist Ladies fellowship
DICE	Vision Support
E/Port Musical Theatre Company	West Cheshire Fibromyalgia
Ellesmere Port Charities Support Shop	Westminster Community School PTA
Employment Opportunities	Westminster Cyber Centre
EP&N CAB	WestPac
EP&N Credit Union	Whitby Club Photographic Society
EP&N CT Ltd	Willaston CE Primary School PTA
EP&N Live at Home Scheme	Willaston Village Concert Society
EPDT	Wirral Advanced Motorists
Flatt Lane Computer Link	Wolverham Community Centre
Footloose Musicals	Wolverham Community Cyber Centre
Friends of Burton Manor	Youth Federation
Friends of Stanlaw Abbey	Luton Star Morris Dancing
Friends Of Stanney Fields Neston	Stud Farm Tenants & Residents Assoc.
St Vincent De Paul	Gt Sutton Village Hall Association
Cheshire Community Voice	Friends of Neston Library
Hooton Park Trust	Anchor Staying Put
Hospice of the Good Shepherd	Friends of Flatt Lane Community Centre
Links Healthy Living Centre	Aftermath Support
Meadow Farm Playbus	Chester Asian Council
MHA	West Cheshire Multicultural Womens Group
Neston Civic Society	
Oasis	
Quest	
Samaritans	
Ellesmere Port Sea Cadets	
South Wirral Stroke Club	
St Saviours Family Group	

Meet the Staff

Elaine Dunn— Chief Officer

Elaine has worked with EPNAVCO since December 2004. Her role is to manage and develop Ellesmere Port & Neston Association of Voluntary & Community Organisations, by advising the Board of Trustees and implementing its decisions.

Joan Evans—Community Development Worker

Joan has worked with EPNAVCO since December 2004. She is responsible for providing a community development service, in conjunction with other staff, to organisations within Ellesmere Port and Neston and to support the Chief Officer through taking responsibility for EPNAVCO training facilities and programmes and assisting in the development of Quality processes.

Chris Anelay—Admin & Finance Officer

Chris has worked with EPNAVCO since December 2004. She is responsible for the maintenance of financial monitoring systems, personnel records, health and safety policies and records, and IT liaison.

Angela Turner—Community Development Worker (Neston)

Angela has worked with EPNAVCO since February 2006. Her role is to set up a Community Association in Neston

Gemma Dunn—Funding Advisor

Gemma has worked with EPNAVCO since July 2008. She is responsible for working with local groups and organisations to identify funding opportunities. Developing and submitting funding applications on behalf of EPNAVCO, and Maintaining up to date information on available funding sources and data bases to support bids.

Liz Ledsham—Volunteer Development Worker

I have worked with EPNAVCO since July 2008. I worked for Greater Merseyside Connexions for 15 years, I was based in St Helens as the Commissioning Officer for the Activity Agreement Programme. When I'm not working I am usually gardening, walking, or showing my dogs.

Irene Preston- Supported Volunteer Worker

I joined EPNAVCO early August 2009. Before that I worked in Domestic Violence as a Family Support Worker, and prior to that as a Family Support Worker for the YMCA working with families in deprived areas. I did a 6 month stint in Dubai, U.A.E which I loved - heat and all. In any free time I get, I like to spend it with my two children and grandson, I enjoy eating out, watching travel shows, and reading.

Community Development (Operational)

Over the last twelve months EPNAVCO has continued to support the Community of Ellesmere Port and Neston in developing new groups and initiatives. We have supported local residents in setting up 10 new groups these include organisations supporting young people, raising deaf awareness, working with people with mental health issues, residents associations and environmental groups additionally we continued to develop a further 60 organisations through one to one capacity building support. This support included advice on constitutions, policies and procedures and event management to name a few. We now have a membership totaling 124 who receive e-mail updates, our quarterly newsletter and the opportunity to attend our regular network meetings.

We worked in partnership with Cheshire West & Chester Council, Western Cheshire PCT, Sure Start and other voluntary organisations to run a big lunch event in Whitby park Ellesmere Port attended by 350 residents who were entertained by Ellesmere Port Silver Band, Singing hands sign choir and young people who showed everyone that Ellesmere Port does have talent . EPNAVCO facilitated a Social Enterprise event in partnership with the Enterprise Coaching Project and Cheshire Community Council.

We continue to support a celebration of Veterans Day on the 27th June with Ellesmere Port veterans group and other ex service organisations who came together to hold an exhibition of military memorabilia during the day and a concert in the evening this event was enjoyed by over of 400 individuals.

*The **Friends of Park Fields** was formed some 3 years ago to protect and develop the land known as “The Cowfield” adjacent to Park Fields in Parkgate. This land had been leased as cattle grazing land until around 1994 after which people gradually began to “walk” the field with their dogs and others used the diagonal pathways as a shortcut from Neston to Parkgate. Over time this beautiful open space was used more and more for recreation and enjoyment by the local community. Our organisation approached the then council, EP&NBC, to request that our group be allowed to manage the land to create a bio-diverse ecological area for the benefit and recreation of local residents. EPNAVCO helped us to get started, offering advice on how to set up our organisation and supplying us with stationery and administrative support. They also assisted us to get a funding grant of £500 to enable us to send out Newsletters to our members. We are now in the process of signing a Management Agreement with Cheshire West and Chester Council and hope to commence our plans shortly. For further information about our organisation access*

www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/ch64

*Without EPNAVCO’s help **Trinity Drop-In Crèche** would now be closed.*

Trying to access funding for salaries is a mammoth task and we seemed to have exhausted most avenues working on our own.

We have been linked to EPNAVCO for many years, but now our links are stronger than ever.

In April this year EPNAVCO helped us put in a bid to the Fair Share Trust and supported us throughout. The bid was successful.

Thank you EPNAVCO for your continuing support.

Funding

Groups Supported

Type of Support Accessed	Number of Groups	Value
Funding Search	33	Unknown
One to One Support	38	Unknown
Critical Friend Service	15	286,000 Pending
Funding Advice	54	384,000 Secured
Hot Funding Update	188	Unknown
Bid Writing Service	4	74,030 Secured 272,330 Pending
Other Support		
Funding Fayre	33	Unknown

Progress and Update

Total number of groups supported 67; this number excludes members who receive the hot funding news update monthly.

- The hot funding news is sent to 188 member organisations and non member organisations, which then send it out to their networks. It is anticipated that this newsletter reaches over 750 groups across the whole of Cheshire.

There have been 7 Hot Funding Updates created in the past year.

Funding Updates

- I have supported 4 organisations in writing bids, this has included writing the bid, writing project plans and business plans. Without this service these organisations would have been unsuccessful and in two cases they would have folded.
- I have delivered 3 bid writing drop in sessions that have been attended by 15 separate organisations.
- 38 organisations have received one to one support, which has ranged from a meeting to discuss their needs to intensive support throughout the funding process.

I am a member of the Cheshire Funding Officers Group, this group meets once every 6 weeks and shares best practice.

Training

EPNAVCO continued to provide training in its fully accessible centre in Ellesmere Port town centre. The EPNAVCO training centre is widely advertised in a variety of formats to ensuring access to all. We used monitoring and evaluation forms for all our training sessions which were reviewed regularly to ensure quality of service and for input into the training needs of our members.

This enabled organisations to develop their own training strategies. Through e-learning, individuals have been able to access a more flexible service.

Organisations continue to access adaptive technology and have their individual needs accessed.

Organisations also took up practical hands on training e.g. First Aid, Food Safety, Health and Safety at work, Public speaking skills, Meeting skills, How to organise your AGM and Governance.

A total 31 training sessions were delivered to 152 individuals from 72 organisations over the course of the last year.

*Neil Sinclair of **Community Transport** commented “we appreciate the ease with which our Volunteers have been able to access EPNAVCO training. This training has enabled us to deliver a quality service to our users. In addition being able to have our volunteers quickly CRB checked has been a great help”.*

Volunteer Centre

During the past eight months there has been a consistent increase in new volunteers. From January 2009 to August 2009 195 new volunteers have registered via the Do-it website applications, personal interviews or referrals. This compares to 111 during the same period last year. This reflects a general rise in volunteering nationally and does not include final totals for August.

During the year there has been a gradual growth in referrals from agents supporting clients in their attempt to become volunteers.

There is an increase in the number of volunteers looking for volunteering opportunities to support them in their applications for HE and FE courses or to evidence experience during education.

New organisations register their opportunities regularly from local and national sources. New and existing local organisations have been visited to seek new and extend the range of opportunities for volunteering, this is ongoing.

Volunteering has been actively promoted at the Enterprise Fair in April and at Stanlaw Abbey Fete in May 2009. A combined funding and volunteering fair was held at the Civic Suite on 21st April 2009. 20 organisations supported the event. All of the organisations advertising their opportunities at the fair had volunteers who expressed an interest in volunteering for their organisation on the day and we received excellent feedback from the organisations and visitors.

In June 2009 in partnership with V Involve a volunteer fair was held in Neston High School for VI form pupils. Twelve organisations attended and over 70 pupils visited the stands.

In June EPNAVCO hosted a Volunteer Award Ceremony at the Civic Hall. Certificates were issued for 100 hours volunteering during the previous 12 months and a special 25 years certificate awarded to coincide with celebrating 25 years of National Volunteering Week. In total 21 organisations confirmed they would attend and 167 (100 hours) certificates were issued plus three 25 year certificates. A buffet lunch was provided and the Mayor presented the certificates. The feedback was very encouraging and everyone enjoyed the event.

Volunteering talks have been given to a number of groups including Pathways groups and in the next 12 months with extra resources this will be more proactive in seeking clubs and organisations to host talks on volunteering.

Use of the office in Neston has resulted in a drop in or appointments being offered and advertised locally.

A new volunteer support worker has been recruited and started at EPNAVCO at the beginning of August.

In the autumn of 2009 I am proposing to reintroduce a regular network meeting for local organisations that offer volunteering opportunities. I will also introduce a new volunteer induction booklet for use by volunteers and will hopefully encourage organisations to introduce good practices in managing volunteers.

I went to EPNAVCO in March this year, or there about. I was dealt with quickly and in a friendly manner, making me feel welcome. I was matched up with the Oasis Centre then and there and arranged to go down to Oasis to meet the staff at the next opportunity. I feel that my skills have been put to good use, and I thoroughly enjoy volunteering at Oasis. The staff are all wonderful and it's nice meeting and talking with all the different groups who use the centre. Since I started, I have taken over the responsibilities of Treasurer and feel that I have made a real contribution to the running of Oasis. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to develop my skills and put them to use for a worth while cause.

Laura



During the last twelve months ch64inc became a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity (no 1131240) with a management committee consisting of seven trustees and five co-opted MC members.

The Local Strategy Group (a sub-group of the management committee) continues to focus on the responsible citizenship element, facilitating a further consultation on the local development framework on behalf of the newly formed Cheshire West and Chester Council. More recently it has formed a task and finish working group to co-ordinate a ch64 safari bring senior decision makers together with local stakeholders to identify issues affecting the area and to look for opportunities that may be exploited.

A second sub-group, the events group, has enjoyed success in hosting its first Cheshire Rural Touring Network event. Surplus funds will be put towards future performing arts events and workshops in the area. The events group also organised the first Neston spring festival, co-ordinating a number of events and activities including the commissioning of CAN group to create a dragon as part of the festivities.

Since the establishment of ch64inc local people have been able to engage in a range of activities, initiatives and events that have enabled them to have a say in issues affecting them and to participate in social activities that have brought them into contact with other local people, thereby creating a stronger sense of community and commitment to the area.