INVOLVE South East Newsletter
Issue 1, January 2010

www.learningcurve.org.uk/involvesoutheast

Welcome to the first edition of the INVOLVE South East newsletter. This edition is to introduce you to this innovative new service, find out who's who, what the service will do for you and other useful information around workforce development and learning and skills for Third Sector organisations across the South East region. If you have any comments or queries about INVOLVE South East or this newsletter, please contact Marisa McClelland, Involve South East Co-ordinator marisa@learningcurve.org.uk If you have been forwarded this newsletter but would like to receive it directly, please email Marisa to be added to the mailing list.

What is INVOLVE South East?

Involve South East is an exciting new partnership initiative supported by Learning Curve and involving third sector organisations across the region. The Partners in this project include: Community Action Hampshire, Surrey Community Action, The Brighton and Hove Working Together Project, Slough CVS, OCVA (Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action), RAISE (Regional Action and Involvement South East), Milton Keynes CVS, VAWK (Voluntary Action Wider Kent) and The Sussex VCS Learning Consortium.

A Regional Advisory Group has been set up and the membership includes partners as well as NIACE, the LSC, GOSE and Job Centre plus.

The first advisory group meeting took place in early December where partners agreed terms of reference and exchanged intelligence about networks in their own areas. Further work will be done to gather information in order that different networks will be able to work together more effectively in the future.

Who are the INVOLVE South East team?

Tim Ward

Marisa McClelland

James Ward

Duncan Souster

The Learning Curve will support the initiative, drawing on a long experience of supporting and establishing similar networks. The project team will be led by Tim Ward, CEO of The Learning

Curve. The ladder4learning web-based information and advice service will provide the underpinning information and e-communication infrastructure.

The INVOLVE South East staff is led by Tim Ward tim@learningcurve.org.uk and the Co-ordinator is Marisa McClelland marisa@learningcurve.org.uk , in addition we have James Ward james@learningcurve.org.uk providing administrative support and Duncan Souster Duncan@learningcurve.org.uk who is the Information and Communications Officer.

The Learning Curve is very excited to have this opportunity to work with partners in the South East, Tim Ward CEO of the Learning Curve says:

"The third sector has a critical role in ensuring that the most disadvantaged young people and adults in our community have the best opportunity to achieve their full potential and improve their life chances. Involve SE will make an important contribution to this by ensuring that the third sector plays a full role in the planning, designing and delivery of learning, skills and employability programmes across the South East."

What will INVOLVE South East do?

Working with a range of partners across the region INVOLVE South East will ensure that the third sector across the region is engaged with the development and delivery of the ESF employability and skills agenda in a confident, informed, professional and effective way. We will also ensure that the third sector is able to play a full role in the changing landscape of the wider skills and employability agenda.

We will build on, and add value to, the established networks and experience of the sector in the region helping to ensure long-term capacity building and sustainabiliy.

We aim to support seven local area forum groups together with regional forums as required. These will be led by an appropriate third sector partner organisation.

Forum groups will be able to meet at a series of local and regional themed seminars and events, with other activity being based on e-communication/collaboration.

How can you get involved?

- Tell us what your organisation does around learning and skills and/or workforce development
- Let us know about the learning and skills, workforce development networks you are currently involved with
- Tell us about your experience with these networks – what works and what doesn't

We will be holding 3 free themed regional events, which will include, young people, skills and worklessness - more details will appear in our next issue and we look forward to welcoming you to these events.

There will also be a series of local forum meetings to support organisations and networks in each area, again we will provide more details in our next issue.

Information regarding INVOLVE South East can also be found on the Learning Curve website http://www.learningcurve.org.uk/involvesoutheast

This newsletter will complement INVOLVE South East, keeping people up to date with progress as well as providing information on other relevant topics. Contributions from local, sub regional and regional networks will be most welcome.

Inclusion through Learning Conference March 2010

As part of the European year of combating poverty and social exclusion INVOLVE South East is pleased to be working with the Third Sector European Network and the DWP to put on the following conference. The conference will be held at the YMCA in Guildford.

'Inclusion through learning – How we support people and communities to move away from poverty and exclusion'

Where we will address the following:

- What does the third sector do to 'combat poverty and social exclusion' in the South East?
- How does the third sector support excluded people into employment?
- What partnerships already exist?
- What effect does partnership working have on the individual?
- What are the benefits for communities?
- What is happening at a European level?

Invitations will be going out at the end of January and booking forms can be found here
There is no charge for this event but places are limited.

The final programme and further details will be distributed shortly; meanwhile if you have any queries please contact Marisa marisa@learningcurve.org.uk

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A fantastic resource for the voluntary, community sector returns to the South East

ladder4learning

www.ladder4learning.org.uk

Ladder4learning which used to operate in the South East has now been revamped, relaunched, and is now being delivered by The Learning Curve and covers both the South East and South West. Ladderlearning provides a dedicated helpline and comprehensive website for all your training and development needs within the South West and South East regions.

Ladder4learning offers free, impartial advice and information tailored specifically for the voluntary and community and social enterprise sector.

What can ladder4learning now offer you and your organisation?

- A detailed database of relevant, current courses.
- Research carried out on your behalf by qualified advisors.
- Advice on how to choose the right course.
- Information on different methods of learning.
- The opportunity to join message boards for networking and information sharing.
- Free of charge downloadable tools and resources.
- Advice, support and information about training needs skills audits.
- Links to other useful and relevant sites.
- Staff attendance and display material at your workshops and events within the regions.
- Sign up to free alerts and up to date information and newsletters.

If you are a training provider please sign up on the website and upload your course details for free.

If you would like further information please contact the team on the following number/email.

HELPLINE: 01225 792505
available 10.00 am - 3.00 pm Monday to Friday
email: ladder4learning@learningcurve.org.uk www.ladder4learning.org.uk

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We very much hope that you will find this newsletter interesting and informative. Contributions to this newsletter from partners and others are most welcome, please send to Marisa (marisa@learningcurve.org.uk) for inclusion in future newsletters