

PROJECT REVIEW

This review presents a summary of the activity taking place to implement the Connecting Advice in Dorset project. This two year project will run to the end of November 2015. For an overview, download the Key Facts from our website; www.caidorset.org.uk.

Purpose of Project: To develop and strengthen an integrated network of advice agencies in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole areas, enabling providers to deliver a more efficient and comprehensive service to clients.

VIDEO-LINK PILOT

Our video-link pilot is now underway allowing residents of Crossways to access advice from Dorchester CAB using a video-link in Crossways library, and young people in Sherborne can get advice and guidance on education and work from Ansbury by using Skype at The Rendezvous in the town.

This ground-breaking work has been made possible by partnership working between Dorset County Council Superfast Dorset Digital Champions project, Crossways Library, Dorchester CAB, The Rendezvous and Ansbury and is a model of how advice services could be delivered in rural areas of Dorset in future.

WEBSITE LAUNCH

We are looking forward to the launch of our new website www.AdviceDorset.org.uk giving information to the public about where to go in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole for advice and support. You can also find out more about the project, our training programme and the Local Advice Networks. Look out for an announcement over the next few weeks.



PREPARING FOR UNIVERSAL CREDIT



Universal Credit will be implemented in most of our area late in June 2015. In preparation, we are running a number of events for local advice providers:

- Welfare Benefits Forum on Wednesday 20th May 2015 - an opportunity to hear about the 'client journey' from DWP and local authorities. Contact Bryony to book a place.
- 6 x ½ day training courses for people in a support and advice role who need to know about the significant changes. [All training courses are fully booked but more dates will follow – contact caid@shelter.org.uk to register interest].

DEMONSTRATING THE IMPACT OF ADVICE

In January, over 200 clients at 12 partner organisations provided their permission to be contacted in April for a follow-up call. This project was designed to gather information about the impact of advice and to pilot the process of gathering feedback. Call-backs have been completed and the final report will be published and circulated by the end of June.

SIX-MONTHLY CONFERENCES

In February, we held our third Connecting Advice in Dorset conference 'Health & Care' which was attended by over 50 delegates. Look out for details of our next conference on Thursday 1st October 2015 focused on Specialist Advice in Dorset.

PLANNING TO GET AHEAD FOR FUNDING WORKSHOPS

The Connecting Advice in Dorset project is working with Bournemouth and Poole CVS's and Dorset Community Action to plan and deliver a series of workshops for local advice providers, developing strategic skills to help organisations become more resilient in the face of an ever more demanding environment. The workshops will include business planning, diversifying income, demonstrating impact and writing funding bids. See below for dates.

UPCOMING FUNDING WORKSHOPS

| | Bournemouth & Poole | Dorchester |
|-----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Session 1 | 9.30am – 2pm, 23rd June '15 | 9.30am – 2pm, 20th August '15 |
| Session 2 | 10am – 1pm, 21st July '15 | 10am – 1pm, 10th September '15 |

To book a place, contact our training team at caid@shelter.org.uk.

CONTACT US

To find out more information about the project, sign up to the e-bulletin, get involved in your Local Advice Network or access the training programme, please contact:

Bryony Brown, Project Manager

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Purbeck LAN noticeboard, funded by £1000 grant

LOCAL ADVICE NETWORKS - £1000 GRANT

The project is pleased to be able to announce a programme of grant funding for our Local Advice Networks. LANs can apply for up to £1000 to spend on work which will take forward the aims and objectives of the overall project, address local issues, strengthen partnership working and/or help to sustain the networks after November 2015.


Citizens Advice in Dorset
 The charity for our community *in partnership with:*

Shelter

Ansbury
 Quality Careers Advice and Guidance
 Part of Coilegium Consortium



LOTTERY FUNDED