

**Q** What is the definition of a happy Development (Training Information) Worker?

**A.** Responses from the affiliates.

It is always daunting when you start a new job, but I must say my first six months with FIS have been enjoyable. It has been good to have the opportunity to meet with some of you already and I hope to meet many more of you in the coming year, either at the various meetings we organise, at the training days or by invitations from you. There are lots of opportunities out there so let's all make the most of them in 2002.

This is the first edition of the FIS newsletter and we hope you enjoy it. Throughout the year you will be receiving a number of communications from us, we hope you find them useful and interesting, however in order to give you what you need to carry out your work we need to know what it is you want, so, please, please, please help us to deliver our services to you by letting us know what it is you want. You can do this by responding to the consultations we send you or by asking us for things. We can't promise to give you everything you ask for, but, we will try to help if we possibly can.



In this issue	Page
News from FIS	2&3
Housing Issues	4&5
Equality	6
Affiliates News	8
Useful Contacts	9&10
Funding News	11

FIS STAFF TEAM

<b>Ann Gould</b> <b>ADMINISTRATOR</b>	<b>020 7916 2725</b>
<b>Seán Hutton</b> <b>COMMUNITY CARE DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR</b>	<b>020 7916 2733</b>
<b>Marion McCracken</b> <b>COMMUNITY CARE ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>020 7916 2729</b>
<b>Sue King</b> <b>DEVELOPMENT (TRAINING &amp; INFORMATION) WORKER</b>	<b>020 7916 2728</b>
<b>Dermot Glackin</b> <b>HEALTH DEVELOPMENT WORKER</b>	<b>020 7916 2727</b>
<b>Alfredo Pellegrini</b> <b>LONDON DEVELOPMENT WORKER</b>	<b>020 7916 2726</b>
<b>Ronan Segrave</b>	

**FIS DEVELOPMENTS**

Having set up her information event at the London Irish Centre on 14 February, when the Irish Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs will brief us on the implications of the Irish budget, Sue is now busy on her first Newsletter for which this is a contribution.

Ronan has been traveling extensively, visiting Clubs, fact-finding and identifying issues; and on 2 February, at Warrington, prior to the FIS National Meeting a Clubs Forum was inaugurated to give a focused voice to this area of FIS activity.

Dermot is working on his first Health Bulletin, which will be with you shortly. In an interview with London Irish Elders Forum Secretary, Pat Prendergast, it highlights a piece of good practice around ethnic monitoring which others can adopt.

Alfredo, who joined us just before Christmas, is still at the stage of interviews with key players in the London region and with FIS Management and London-based affiliates so that he can advise FIS on an effective regional strategy. He is also developing for us a training pack on project planning and evaluation, and, with Dermot, some innovative proposals around community advocacy.

In addition to line managing four staff, I have been working on the final stages of

the FIS Charity registration process, as well as seeking to get the necessary policies adopted and into place to support a good work environment. Recent representational work includes a meeting of the Irish Equalities Working Group with the Commission for Racial Equality, where we raised concerns around the 'supporting people' policy.

It is increasingly helpful having Marion in post. Apart from the improvement which it makes possible in communication with affiliates plus the impact of Marion's financial skills on our budgeting, it allows us to respond more speedily to queries we receive from affiliates and researchers concerning publications and specific information on the Irish community.

Among Ann's main tasks at this time of year are, inevitably, co-ordination of the production of FIS's Annual Report and assisting the Officers in making preparations for the organisation's Annual Congress which will take place in Luton in June, when the staff team hope to meet many of you.

Seán Hutton

**CHRISTMAS CHEER EXTENDED TO AFFILIATES**

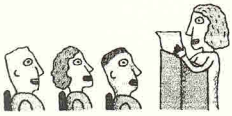
The Community Care Meeting held at the Embassy of Ireland on Saturday 8 December attracted a larger than usual gathering of affiliates, it was good to see so many there especially as it was the first opportunity for people to meet the new members of staff that were present at the meeting.

Affiliates were welcomed by Irish Ambassador Diathi O'Ceallaigh who praised the work of FIS and its affiliates, later in the meeting Pat Prendergast vice chair of FIS, LEIF, Southwark Irish Pensioners, spoke of her involvement in ensuring an Irish dimension was included on the monitoring of patients by the NHS in Southwark, this is a good example of affiliates working to promote the needs of the Irish community in their local area and shows what can be achieved by lobbying.

Following the meeting there was a meal for affiliates at the Jury's Hotel hosted by the Embassy of Ireland, FIS is grateful to them for this annual event and hopes to see more of you in the coming year.



## TRAINING NEWS



The first training days in the FIS training programme have been and gone.

It was great to see all those affiliates who booked, judging by the feedback it was appreciated by you all. I wish you all success in your fundraising endeavors and hope what we shared helps with your planning. Everyone on the days passed their test in one way or another, those who were there will know the significance of that, those who were not can wonder!!

Meanwhile FIS has been involved in an active training programme for the staff team. This is essential if they are to carry out the functions of their posts and is seen as a good investment for the future, not that we have had to spend enormous amounts on training. Thanks to a local computer training organisation much of this has been free or low cost we have also secured a place on a training course for voluntary organisations funded by European funding, this type of initiative is not unusual and we urge all affiliates to check what is available locally.

I am currently working on a training programme for 2002, for both affiliates and FIS staff. I would appreciate you input on this, I am aware that the training needs of affiliates are diverse, however it is possible for us to provide a balanced programme that will benefit a cross section of you, and if your needs are marginal do not despair even if the topic you want is not one that FIS can supply for you I may be able to put you in touch with someone who can.

I look forward to seeing you all at future training days, if you have not fed back your needs to me yet please do so, it is what I am here for.

## INFORMATION FORUMS

The Department of Social Commerce, Community & Family Affairs came over from Dublin on February 14 to provide an overview of the changes in the Irish Budget and how claimants would be affected.

The day went well and it was good to see delegates from local CAB's and Age Concern projects joining affiliates for the afternoon.

Events in Ireland can have an impact on those resident here and it is important that those working with Irish people are aware of what is going on there.

Delegates heard about the pension changes and other benefits, we also heard about the smooth transition to the Euro.

One of the good things to come out of the forum is that the department have agreed to make this an annual event.



The next forum will address the issues raised by the Supporting People programme. Look out for further information on the outcomes of this.

If you would like to discuss any issues you feel we should be organising information forums on please let me know.

Sue King  
020 7916 2728

## IS THE IRISH VOICE BEING HEARD ON LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS?

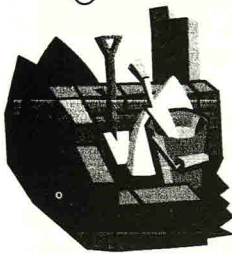
As I am sure most groups are aware the British government has been driving the neighborhood renewal agenda. The main tenet of this policy is the formation of powerful Local Strategic Partnerships {LSP}. The buzz word is partnerships targeted at the most deprived communities in England and Wales. All LSP are required to out reach to local neighborhoods and recruit those who work directly with members of the local community. Those who work to provide a service to the Irish community are only too well aware the Irish suffer disproportionately from the effects of poverty and discrimination. If you have any experience either positive or negative of involvement in your Local Strategic Partnerships I would be very grateful if you could contact me and share your thoughts

Dermot Glackin  
Health Development Worker  
20 7916 2727



Congress 2002 will take place in Luton on June 7-8 in Luton.

For further details contact Ann on 020 7916 2725



## CHALLENGING EXCLUSION

Two reports published in the course of last year point worrying levels of exclusion affecting

members of the Irish community in Britain. The first of these was *Still Beyond the Pale...? The response of social landlords to the housing and related health needs of London's Irish Community*. Based on research carried out for the Irish Housing Forum, the report was published in July 2001. Given the author, Helen Cope's, experience and authority in the field of housing, her comments and the findings of this report command attention.

Among the findings of this report, which can be obtained from any of the Irish housing associations (An Teach, Cara, Irish Centre Housing or Innisfree), are the following:

- An unacceptable lack of resources are directed to meet the clearly established needs of the Irish community.
- The proportion of lettings by local authorities and housing associations is lower than would be expected given the needs and size of the Irish community.
- Capital allocations by the Housing Corporation to the Irish housing associations are low.
- While there is evidence of improvement in the collection of ethnic data on the Irish, there is only a very patchy use of that data to inform policy.
- There have been low levels of consultation with the Irish community concerning Best Value, tenant involvement or the 'supporting people' programme.
- While a number of boroughs have started assessing the needs of the Irish community, few have taken active policy decisions to meet those needs.

Partnership with Irish housing asso-

ciations, where it exists, is concentrated in certain boroughs with long-standing borough and mainstream housing association partners.

The report contains twenty-four policy recommendations directed to the London boroughs, housing associations, the Housing Corporation, the Government Office for London and the Commission for Racial Equality.

The second report is *Single Homeless People in London: Profiles of Service Users and Perception of Needs*. Published in September 2001, this research was commissioned by Bondway, St Mungo's and Thames Reach, and carried out by members of Sheffield Institute for Studies on Ageing at the University of Sheffield. Among the findings of this report, which sets the Irish-born data alongside data for other majority and minority ethnic groups, are:

The high representation of the Irish-born among rough sleepers, hostel residents and day-centre users.

In all but the second of the above categories (where there are a larger number of Black Africans) the Irish-born are by far the largest minority ethnic group either by number or percentage.

While the Irish-born come second to Black Africans in terms of minority ethnic groups of resettled single homeless people, 1999/2000, (Irish-born 209 = 9%; Black African 424 = 19%), the report comments on the small number of Irish homeless people resettled through the *Clearing House* system in the same period (1 man, 0 women).

The report draws attention, in particular, to "exceptional concentrations of older people of Irish origin in London's homeless hostels and day centres and on its streets...[having] very long durations of hostel residence and high rates of problematic alcohol consumption". "It is clear," the authors comment, "that the concentrations are highest in the largest (and probably therefore the most outmoded) hostels".

The conclusion of this report on the perception of Irish needs is damning: "The evidence from the newspapers, specialist journals, parliament, the enumerations, and even the sector's staff, is consistent with a high level of tolerance of pervasively inadequately responses to both the [Irish-born] population and its problems.... There is a strong suspicion that the group's circumstances are 'taken for granted' or rationalised away."

As Helen Cope writes in her report, "Social exclusion is the pattern of experience of much of [the Irish] community" adding her concern "that the Irish community (with other white ethnic minorities) was specifically excluded from [*Minority Ethnic Issues in Social Exclusion and Neighbourhood Renewal* (Cabinet Office, 2000)]."

It is important that we use the findings of these valuable reports to challenge a continuing pattern of exclusion.

Sean Hutton



*Responses of the London Boroughs and key housing associations to the recommendations of the report Still Beyond the Pale...? The response of social landlords to the housing and related health needs of London's Irish community is available from Innisfree or any of the Irish Housing Associations.*

Innisfree 020 7625 1818

### SUPPORTING PEOPLE

The introduction of Supporting people which comes into force in April 2003 will have a profound effect on the way in which housing support needs are funded.

The effects of the strategy will be far reaching and services working with vulnerable people will need to be aware of how the changes will affect their clients.

Housing providers have already been involved in the process and conferences, training days and other consultations have been undertaken with them, other services working in the community with vulnerable people may be less aware of what is happening and so less able to ensure that their clients are kept informed and that their needs are considered in the local supporting people programme.

FIS is concerned that unless organisations ensure that the needs of the Irish are highlighted they will once again be left *Beyond the Pale*. To address this we held an information forum on April 15, the speaker was Liz Zacharias of SICTRA who outlined the key reforms.

Affiliates will be receiving copies of Liz's presentation which show how supporting people will work and what the issues for Irish communities are. FIS will follow up this presentation by compiling a pack which will enable affiliates to address these issues in their local areas

We need to use the consultation process to ensure that we feed into the national and local strategy, rather than seeing supporting people as a threat we should make it an opportunity to improve provision for the Irish Communi-

ties we work with and a means of engaging with local policy makers to ensure that future plans have adequate provision built into them.

The information to enable local services to be involved is out there. DTLR has a dedicated website to supporting people, it can be found at [www.spkweb.org.uk](http://www.spkweb.org.uk)

The site contains a wealth of information on the policy and is updated regularly, so make sure you look at it and that you respond to the consultation documents.

Affiliates should also make contact with their local teams, get to know who they are (information is on the website) and how you can contact them.

Supporting people is not just for the housing organisations, the changes will affect everyone, after all we all need somewhere to live and at one time or another we may need support services to help us.

One of the key aspects of Supporting People is that the needs of Black and Minority Ethnic people MUST be met. It is up to us to ensure that the Irish are part of this and that culturally appropriate services are provided.

### FIS AND SUPPORTING PEOPLE

Following the first of the Supporting People information Forums FIS has decided to put together a pack of information to assist local groups to raise the needs of the Irish with their local authorities.

These packs will be launched at the next information forum on May 24 and will be available to groups on request.

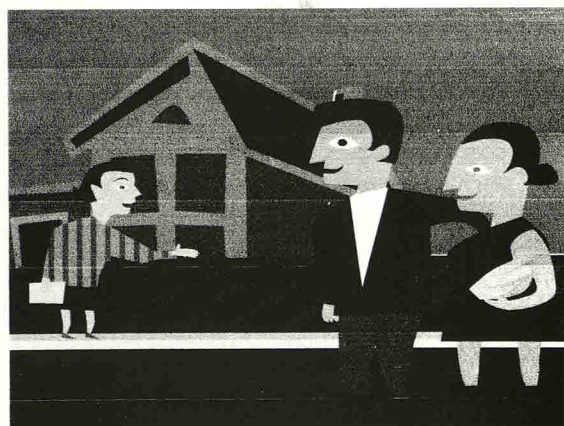
It is vital that we co-ordinate our responses to the initiative and that we ensure that local authorities throughout Britain include the Irish in their Supporting People plans.

Supporting People provides the Irish voluntary sector with an opportunity to ensure local services are provided for the Irish in Britain, this is a chance that does not happen very often so we must grasp it with both arms and ensure that the Irish are counted in.

For further information on what FIS is doing and what you can do locally contact

Sean 020 7916 2733  
or  
Sue 020 7916 2728

Lets work together for the good of us all





## THE RACE EQUALITY ACT

The Race Relations (amendment) Act 2000 places a new general statutory duty on public authorities to promote racial equality and gives the CRE the power to issue statutory codes it will be fully operational by 31 May 2002.

The act also gives the Home Secretary the power to place specific duties on some or all of the public authorities. Under specific duties, certain public authorities will have to prepare and publish a race equality scheme.

We hope that the implementation of the legislation by public authorities will include the specific needs of the Irish into account and that services are provided to meet those needs.

### WHAT IS THE DUTY?

Seamus Taylor writing in the Autumn edition of *Connections* the quarterly journal from the CRE explained what the public authorities' new statutory duty entailed and how the CRE would have power to issue statutory codes of practice to help authorities meet their duty.

How will this work and what duties will there be?

#### The General Duty

This applies to all public authorities listed in schedule 1A of the Race Relations Act. The aim is to make the promotion of racial equality central to the authorities work. It also expects them to take a lead in promoting equal opportunities and good race relations and to prevent unlawful discrimination.

#### Specific Duty

This gives the Home Secretary the power to place specific duties on all or some public authorities.

Under specific duties certain public authorities will have to prepare and publish a Race Equality Scheme. In this they will have to:

- Assess their functions and policies for relevance to race equality
- Monitor policies for impact on race equality
- Assess and consult on proposed policies
- Publish results of any consultation, monitoring or assessment carried out in relation to current or proposed policies
- Guarantee the public have access to information on the information and services they provide.
- Train their staff in the General Duty

To see how these duties will operate we can look at the Specific Duties on employment.

All public authorities bound by the General Duty must:

- Monitor by ethnic group, their existing staff, and applicants for jobs, promotion and training
- Publish the results every year

Authorities with at least 150 full time staff must also monitor

- Grievances
- Disciplinary action
- Performance appraisals
- Training
- Dismissals

For further information contact CRE  
020 7828 7022  
Www.cre.gov.uk

## RACE EQUALITY TOOLKIT

On 19 March 2002 *Challenging Institutional Racism* a toolkit for the voluntary sector was launched at the Association of London Government (ALG).

Produced by ALG London Voluntary Sector Council (LVSC) and Race on the Agenda (ROTA) it offers practical guidance on how to tackle racial inequalities that prevent some people from accessing services to which they are entitled.

The toolkit consists of three sections

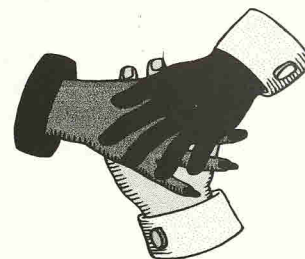
1. Changing the Culture, looks at introducing and maintaining diversity
2. Consultation and Planning, looks at how you can consult with stakeholders to meet the needs of all those you should be serving
3. Partnerships and Good Practice looks at how to identify good practice in race equality and how to share it with partner organisations

It is available download from the following websites.

[www.actionlink.org.uk](http://www.actionlink.org.uk)

[www.alg.gov.uk](http://www.alg.gov.uk)

[www.rota.org.uk](http://www.rota.org.uk)



## travelling with the task force

If you have attended recent Community Care meetings or have read the minutes of them you will be aware that Sean Hutton of FIS has been appointed to the Task Force.

The following article by Sean explains more.

### TASK FORCE UPDATES

This is to give affiliates an update on the progress of the Task Force, on which I am one of the British-based representatives, alongside Dr Mary Hickman of the University of North London and Máire McCluskey, Chair of the Díon Committee.

Following the launch of the Task Force at the end of 2001 by Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs Cowan, and our first meeting under the Chairpersonship of Paddy O'Hanlon, QC, we met fortnightly in Dublin until late February. These meetings were concerned with establishing the working procedures of the group and receiving presentations from experts in various fields relevant to the brief set out for the Task Force.

In the meantime, we were receiving and reading the submissions to the Task Force which began to arrive even before the mid-February deadline, and which have continued to arrive since that date. At one end of the scale, these consisted of one or two page letters, often setting out in very stark and moving terms the harsh experiences of the writers as emigrants. At the other end, there were the detailed written submissions of organisations or interested and informed individuals. We also had the benefit of descriptive analyses of Irish communities abroad from the Irish Consular Service throughout the world.

The Task Force itself decided to commission extra research on Irish emigration and return migration and on Irish communities abroad, which we are shortly about to receive.

In addition, before and after Easter members of the Task Force visited the USA, Australia and Britain to take verbal submissions from organisations, to visit projects and to meet members of the Irish communities in these locations. The Task Force representatives who took part in the British visit (8-12 April), in addition to the Chair, were Mary Hickman, Joe Harrington, Irish Department of the Environment and Local Government (Housing), John Neary and John Neville, Department of Foreign Affairs and Task Force Secretariat and myself. Fr Paul Byrne, Director of the Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants, and Gerry Mangan, Irish Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs, joined us for the Birmingham visit. Anne Byrne, Irish Community Officer at the Embassy of Ireland, accompanied us on our visits.

Two days spent in London were occupied with meetings with representatives of the Federation and a wide range of Irish organisations, visits to two Irish centres and to Arlington House. In addition to meeting the Ambassador, the members of the Task Force also attended a reception organised by the All-Party Irish in Britain Parliamentary Group.

In Birmingham, we visited the Irish Centre and met with representatives of the Irish Information & Welfare Centre and the Irish Community Forum, as well as representatives from Irish associations in Coventry, Leicester, Gloucester, Northampton, Sandwell and Nottingham. In Manchester we visited the Irish World Heritage Centre and met with representatives of Irish Community Care Manchester and Irish Community Care Merseyside. In Leeds, we visited the Irish Health & Homes offices and met with representatives of Irish organisations in Newcastle, Huddersfield and Sheffield. In Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds, we also visited outreach

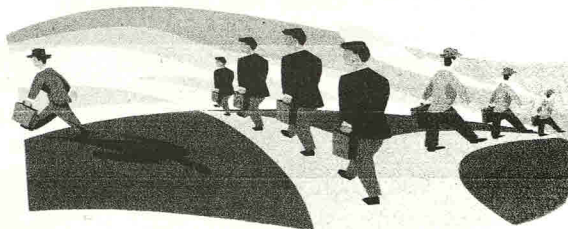
projects for vulnerable and/or older Irish people, and members of the Task Force had an opportunity to meet the workers and volunteers, and to speak to the users of services and hear their stories.

From my own point of view, and I believe that the same is true for the other members of the Task Force, these visits were most valuable. Not only did we benefit from the presentations and discussions with the representatives of the Irish organisations whom we met at the various meetings and functions, but I feel we were energised in our work as members of the Task Force, by the quality of presentations and discussions, and by the evidence of the sterling work being done by so many projects and individuals. These visits supplemented and 'fleshed out' in many ways the academic presentations and written reports and submissions we had already received. They also allowed members of the Task Force to dialogue directly with a range of organisations and individuals, including the clients of Irish front line projects.

We are now beginning the process of producing a report and recommendations which, we hope, will strengthen the pre- and post-departure services to those leaving Ireland, and services to those wishing to return; and which may, in a number of other ways, improve services to Irish communities outside Ireland.

We hope that we will be able to meet a mid-year deadline.

Seán Hutton



## ICPO

The Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas (ICPO) aims to identify and respond to the needs of Irish Prisoners and their families; to research and provide relevant information to prisoners as well as to all groups caring for their welfare; focus public attention on issues affecting Irish prisoners overseas; seek justice and human rights for Irish migrants; refugees and prisoners at an international level.]

If you can offer help or would like further information contact:

Fr Gerry McFlynn  
ICPO  
The Irish Centre  
50-52 Camden Square  
London NW19XB  
Tel: 020 7482 4148  
Fax: 020 7482 4815

## TRESKILLION THEATRE COMPANY

Are you interested in having an evening of 'Irish Drama' at your centre or club? If so you may be interested in the Treskillion Theatre company. Following my request for articles from affiliates they submitted this article for inclusion in the newsletter.

This photo (see front cover) was taken during rehearsals for 'Moll' by John B Keane, which was performed at the Nottingham Irish Centre on December 4 & 5 2001.

We also presented the second 'Celtic Strands' Gala Irish Concert at the Beck Theatre Hayes Middlesex on Saturday February 2 2002, showcasing the varied musical, dramatic and dancing talents from within the Irish community in Britain.  
Box Office 0208 561 8317

For details of Triskillion Theatre Company contact Gerry on 01773 863 217

## IRISH IN GREENWICH ELDERS OUT-REACH REPORT

In October 2001 the Irish in Greenwich launched a report on the first year of its elders outreach project. The report has been very well received with positive feedback from both the voluntary and statutory sectors locally and elsewhere.

In summary the report focuses on the general position of the elderly, Irish-born mortality and morbidity, the luncheon club, the features of and benefits received by the outreach caseload.

Some of the information about Irish-Born mortality and morbidity makes disturbing reading. However some of the case histories help to demonstrate how a culturally sensitive service can help. The overall conclusion however is that there are still a number of vulnerable and frail Irish elders with entitlement and support needs that are not being met.

The report obviously focuses on the local area but much of the information will be relevant to anyone that is part of, or working with, the Irish community in Britain.

For further details or a copy of the report please contact  
Irish in Greenwich  
Tel 020 8854 4466/4465  
e-mail [irishigp@nascr.net](mailto:irishigp@nascr.net)

## SURF IN LANCASHIRE

The Lancashire Federation of Irish Democratic Local Clubs has launched a website. You can find it at

[www.nwirishclubs.com](http://www.nwirishclubs.com)



## CONGRATULATIONS

Sister Elizabeth Cahill has retired from Irish Community Care Manchester after 13 years.

Sr Elizabeth will be fondly remembered by those who worked with her and will be missed by many FIS affiliates.

We would like to wish her well in her future.

Staying with Irish Community Care Manchester we hear that Michael Walsh has successfully completed his MA. Congratulations to Michael from all at FIS.



We have heard that Irish Community Care Merseyside have received 3 year funding following the Planning Your

Fundraising Training Day in Manchester. We hope others who attended were as successful.

If you were in the armed services or part of the United Nations peace keeping force you may wish to contact Organisation of National Ex Servicemen & Women O.N.E. They arrange opportunities for get together to share memories. They are non political and have Mary MacAleese as their patron.

For details contact  
John Cooke  
Secretary O.N.E & I.U.N.V.A  
020 760 22533  
Email [john.cooke1@talk21.com](mailto:john.cooke1@talk21.com)

If you have any news or views we would love to fill the pages of the next newsletter with good news from affiliates.



## useful contacts

### COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE QUALITY MARK

Sean and I recently had a meeting with William Roberts of the Legal Services Commission. William's brief was to tell us about the Community Legal Service Quality Mark. This is one of a range of Quality Marks that are proliferating at the moment, and we wanted to know more about what it offered compared to other quality marks and what was involved in getting one. We all know that quality marks are the way forward but many of them cost a great deal in scarce resources and in fees so we wanted to know if this was the case with this particular scheme.

Firstly William explained to us that the term Community Legal Service Quality Mark was somewhat misleading. The title had come about because the quality mark was an initiative of the Lord Chancellors Department, however, the mark was applicable to **ALL** community services offering information to the public on how to access advice in their community, even if their service was confined to making available literature on where to go for detailed and relevant advice their role as a signposter could be recognized within this scheme.

There are different categories within the scheme that allow services to become involved at a level suited to them, organisations have a year from registration to put the necessary structures in place (and no these are not too onerous or expensive) and all organisations registering are included in the directories produced by the Legal Services Commission. Regional offices provide help with all aspects of becoming a Quality Marked service.

What is more the pack for the scheme is **FREE** and many of the FIS affiliates will already be working to some of the standards required and so should not find it too expensive to achieve recognition.

If you would like further information you can call me here in the office on 020 7916 2728 for details of your regional office or on the Legal Services Commission website at: [www.legalservices.gov.uk](http://www.legalservices.gov.uk).

Sue King

### BAR IN THE COMMUNITY

Bar in the community is an initiative which aims to help voluntary sector groups by identifying Barristers willing to sit on voluntary management committees.

Details of groups seeking management committee members are circulated in a regular bulletin, once a volunteer has expressed an interest details are passed to the organisation and it is up to them to make contact.

If you would like further details or an application form contact:

Bar Pro Bono Unit  
7 Gray's Inn Square  
Gray's Inn  
London WC1R 5AZ  
Tel: 020 7831 9711  
Fax: 020 7831 9733  
Email

[enquiries@barprobonounit.f9.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@barprobonounit.f9.co.uk)  
[www.barprobono.org.uk](http://www.barprobono.org.uk)

### PRO HELP

Pro help is a national network of professional firms offering **FREE** support to the voluntary sector.

For details of your regional office look on the website [www.prohelp.org.uk](http://www.prohelp.org.uk) or contact the national office

Business in the Community  
137 Shepherdess Walk  
London N1 7RQ  
020 7566 8722

(The Active Community Unit at The Home Office have published a book 'Free for All' with Pro Help which lists free help available in the community. Copies are available by tel: 020 7217 8400  
email [acu@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:acu@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

### REACH

Recruits experienced people willing to offer their expertise as volunteers, currently they arrange 900 volunteer placements per annum, Reach volunteers contribute some £16,000 of expertise to the organisations they work with.

If you would like to explore the possibilities of getting a volunteer for your organisation you can find details at [www.volwork.org.uk](http://www.volwork.org.uk) or contact the main office

89 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7TP  
Tel 020 7582 6543  
Fax 020 7582 2423

Email [volwork@btinternet.com](mailto:volwork@btinternet.com) please include your full postal address



## VIRGIN CHARITY LINE



Charities can reduce rail travel costs by registering with Virgin Charity Line. The line allows you to book rail tickets by phone and make savings on the cost of travel; you will then be invoiced for the tickets. The scheme has a £15.00 per annum registration fee but savings should be far in excess of this. For details call:  
Tel: 0845 30 50 350

## FRIDGESAVERS

Did you know that it is possible to get a new fridge for £25 or a fridge freezer for £50? That is the offer from Fridgesavers. To qualify you need to be in receipt of state benefits and have an appliance that needs replacing. Details and an application form from:

Fridgesavers  
Freepost EH2357  
Edinburgh EH6 0JP

## E, LEARNING FOR ALL

Computer and learning projects in libraries and local centers are to benefit from a £10.7m of lottery funding via the new opportunities fund aimed at giving those least likely to be online at home or work the chance to surf the net and use email.



Check your local library to see what is available in your area

*so now there is no excuse not to write an article for the next newsletter.*

Email them to  
[Sue\\_fis@hotmail.com](mailto:Sue_fis@hotmail.com)  
Lets get talking

## FREE HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING

The London Hazards Centre has received a grant from the Community Fund to provide FREE training for Black and Minority Ethnic Voluntary Organisations in London.

The training will cover most aspects of workplace Health and Safety (something you need to implement by law).

For further details of the project and to see what is happening in your area of London contact  
Angie Birtill or Mumtaz Mahmood  
London Hazards Centre  
Hampstead Town Hall Centre  
213 Haverstock Hill  
London NW3 4QP  
Tel 020 7794 5999  
Fax 020 794 4702  
Email [mumtaz@lch.org.uk](mailto:mumtaz@lch.org.uk)

*FIS will be working with LHC to provide a training day for affiliates*

## VOLUNTEERS WEEK 2002

This years volunteers week will run from 7-13 June. Now in it's 16th year this annual opportunity to thank existing volunteers and promote volunteering opportunities to the wider community is being co-ordinated by the National Centre for volunteering.

Volunteers form an important part of the voluntary sector and as well as providing help for your organisation many gain valuable experience that can help them to find paid employment (I am one of these having volunteered whilst my daughter was young).

If you would like further information on the week or want general information on using volunteers contact:  
National Centre for Volunteering  
Regents Wharf  
8 All Saints Street  
London N1 9RL  
Tel 020 7520 8900  
Fax 020 7520 8910  
Email [volunteering@thecentre.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@thecentre.org.uk)  
[www.volunteering.org.uk](http://www.volunteering.org.uk)

## CERTIFICATE IN COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING

This new qualification was launched in London on 28 February 2002.

Volunteers will need to complete 4 of the 5 units to gain the full award although it will be possible to gain certification for the individual units completed. For some this could provide a stepping stone to vocational training and paid employment.

The qualification is fully fundable by Learning and Skills Councils under section 96 of the Learning and Skills act 2000.

For further information contact  
Steve Harper at  
ASDN  
0117 941 1126  
Email [info@asdn.co.uk](mailto:info@asdn.co.uk)  
[www.asdn.co.uk](http://www.asdn.co.uk)

## CHARITY COMMISSION UPDATES

The Charity Commission has announced that amateur sports clubs are now eligible to apply to become charities. Although still stipulating that the promotion of sport in itself was not charitable it is now recognized that charitable benefits can be derived from playing sports.

## WOMENS HISTORY FINDS A HOME

The Women's Library opened in London on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Containing a unique collection of women's history it will be housed on the site of a former public washhouse in East London.

The Women's Library  
Old Castle Street  
London EC1 7NT  
Tel: 020 7320 2222

The Library also wants to hear from women who used the washhouses to research their stories possibly for a film.

## CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION

Were you aware that in addition to providing charities with advice and banking services the Charities Aid Foundation distribute grants to voluntary sector groups?

I met with Bala Thakrar of CAF to discuss how Federation Affiliates might be able to take advantage of the funding on offer. The meeting was very positive and with a range of funding opportunities on offer along with more than one deadline per year groups should seriously consider applying to them.

The aim of the funding is to improve the finances, governance and infrastructure of small to medium sized charities. Only one grant per year can be received, however with various initiatives to choose from you should find one to suit your needs and if you are unsuccessful you can reapply for a different strand.

### Minority Ethnic Fund

To improve the capacity building of small minority or ethnic led groups. Available to organisations with an income of less than £50,000  
Grants of up to £4,000  
Deadline dates

03 May 02 Decision by 28 June 02  
30 Aug 02 Decision by 31 Oct 02  
10 Jan 03 Decision by 07 Mar 03

### Short Term Assistance Fund

To support organisations that have short-term funding problems due to unforeseen cuts in funding  
Grants of up to £10,000  
No deadlines applications accepted from 01 May 02

### Consultancy Fund

Consultancy offered with CAF Consulting and Development. You will be offered 100% of the costs of the consultancy

#### Deadline dates

23 Aug 02 Decision by 23 Oct 02  
18 Nov 02 Decision by 24 Jan 02  
21 Feb 03 Decision by 24 Apr 03

### Fast Track Fund

Immediate funding for specific training needs. The focus must be strengthening your organisation.

Grants up to £600

No deadlines. Funds available from 1 Aug 02

### Collaborative Fund

CAF wishes to work with up to three organisations a year. Priority will be given to support the development of financial, planning and governance structures.

No deadlines applications accepted from 01 Aug 02

I am hoping to set up a workshop with Bala so that you can find out more about the various initiative and decide which is the best one for you. Invites will go out to all affiliates once this is arranged, it will probably be in late June or early July

Further information and application forms from:

CAF Grantmaking  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
Kent ME 19 4TA  
Tel 01732 520 334  
Email grants@CAFonline.org  
www.CAFonline.org

Or you can call me on 020 7916 2728

Sue King

## COMMUNITY CHESTS

The Government has committed money to 'Neighborhood Renewal' in the 88 most deprived boroughs. As part of this specific provision has been made for accessible financial support for local community and voluntary groups under the title 'Neighborhood Renewal Community Chests'. The programme will make available £50million over the next three years. The objective is to contribute to and enhance the regeneration of deprived areas and will be channeled through voluntary sector funded organisations in the local areas. You should be ensuring that these organisations are aware of the needs of the Irish sector.

For details of your local funded organisation contact your local CVS or the Neighborhood Renewal Units website at:

[www.regeneration.dtlr.gov.uk](http://www.regeneration.dtlr.gov.uk) or tel: 020 7944 8383

## Co-op Community Fund

The Co-op Community Dividend Fund is seeking bids for funding from local community groups focusing on Young People, The Disabled, Older People, The Environment, Education and Animal Welfare.

Projects can apply for grants of up to a maximum £5,000 but they must show how they will help the community

For further information contact the Community Dividend Administrator for the relevant region:

Northern Ireland Tel: 01960 357 500

Scotland Tel: 0141 304 5400

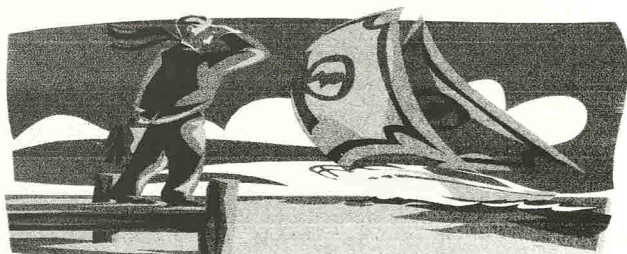
North East & Cumbria Tel: 0191 477 0291

Greater Nottingham Tel: 01159 463 343

South Midlands Tel: 01908 843 211

South East Tel: 01322 321 200

[www.co-op.co.uk](http://www.co-op.co.uk)



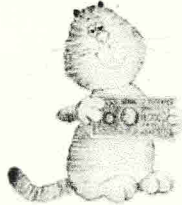
## STOP PRESS

The next Federation Information Forum will be held at the Irish Centre on Friday 24 May 2002 (sorry for the misprint in one part of the booking form)

It is important that we ensure Local Authorities include the Irish in their local plans, so please make the effort to attend.

If you would like to attend or want more information call Marion on 020 916 2733

There will be an opportunity for affiliates to meet the Funders on July 18 2002, Charities Aid Foundation have already agreed to come along and talk about the grants it offers and I am currently trying to negotiate with other funders to be available on the day. Further details will be sent to affiliates in the near future. In the meantime put this date in your diary.



*We hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter*

*Please let us have your views on what we should include in the next edition.*

Contact  
Sue King  
Development (Training Information Worker)  
The Federation of Irish Societies  
The Irish Centre  
50-52 Camden Square  
London NW1 9XB  
Tel 020 7916 2728  
Fax 020 7916 2753  
Email [sue\\_fis@hotmail.com](mailto:sue_fis@hotmail.com)

The Federation of Irish Societies is the umbrella organisation representing Irish organisations within Britain.

Membership of the Federation is open to Irish led organisations working in throughout Britain details of membership are available from the Administrator via the office.

The Newsletter is sent to all FIS affiliates free of charge. Copies of the newsletter are available to non affiliates by subscription.

I would like to know more about FIS. Please sends me:

Please tick

Details of affiliation

I am not an affiliate of FIS but would like to subscribe to the FIS newsletter.

Newsletter subscription cost £7.00 per annum

I would like to make a donation to the work of FIS

I enclose a cheque for

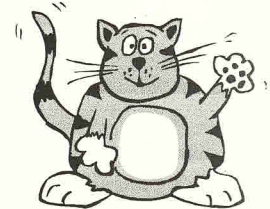
Name

Address

Tel

fax

email



### QUOTES TO REMEMBER

(Especially if you need an excuse for the boss!!!)

The brain is a wonderful organ; it starts the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you get to the office.  
*Robert Frost*

To err is human but to really foul things up requires a computer.  
*Unknown*

If you have a favourite quote you would like to share please send it to Sue for inclusion in the next newsletter.

This newsletter is produced by the Federation of Irish Societies. The views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of FIS. Fis takes no responsibility for arrangements with third parties made via information in this publication. FIS welcomes articles for inclusion in the newsletter but reserves the