

Want to take your business to the next level?

It can be difficult to take time out of your business to concentrate on areas you would like to develop. We understand this and have therefore designed the following events to give you practical advice that you can implement immediately. Come along to benefit from specialist advice and meet like-minded business owners. If you are unsure about which workshops would be the best fit for

Improve Your Search Engine Ranking

Find out how search engine optimisation techniques can help you improve your search engine ranking, attract more visitors and improve your website's performance

Google AdWords (Pay per click)

Pay Per Click is a critical element of your online marketing strategy. This workshop will equip you with the skills required to successfully plan, launch and manage your Google AdWords campaign. Google AdWords has instant impact and will deliver highly targeted visitors to your website. No IT skills are required, just a desire to see a return on investment from your website. **Please ensure you have access to an online email account. You must attend Improve Your Search Engine Ranking prior to attending this course.**

Social Networking for Business

Find out what all the buzz is about and gain an understanding of how social networking could help grow your business. This workshop provides an overview of how social networking works and then helps you to choose an appropriate social networking identity (Avatar) across multiple social networking sites (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube etc.) **Please ensure you have access to an online email account.**

Marketing Your Business

This workshop is designed to help existing businesses with their marketing plan. It will help you create a realistic marketing plan designed to improve your marketing efforts and ultimately lead to more sales.

Website Builder

If you are interested in developing an effective website for your business then this one and a half day workshop will help you get started. Using the new (and Free) Google Sites web building tool you will learn how to create a website template and edit the design, add text, pages, pictures, videos and Social Networking links, interactive maps, live events calendars, contact forms and more. (No programming skills needed!) **Please ensure you have access to an online email account.**

Attached with this newsletter is the Guidance for Applicants (The Scottish Borders Business Fund 2013/14).

The document is also available on tape, in large print and various other formats, contact Scottish Borders Council on 01835 826 787 or email: business@scotborders.gov.uk

For language translations, additional copies or to arrange for an officer to meet to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified, please also contact the same address.



BAVS ASSIST

As we enter a new financial year BAVS will be taking applications for anyone requiring assistance through our discretionary grant scheme. This scheme is designed to support local small-scale projects to improve the quality of life in the communities of Berwickshire.

Applications for financial assistance from the BAVS Assist can only be made by properly constituted community based groups with bank accounts in the Berwickshire Area which meet the general conditions of this scheme.

The maximum grant available from BAVS Assist would normally be £1,000

For an application form and full set of guidelines contact the BAVS office or go online at www.bavs.org.uk



The Queen's Baton Relay is a much loved tradition of the Commonwealth Games and symbolises the coming together of all Commonwealth nations and territories in preparation for the four-yearly festival of sport and culture.

The Glasgow 2014 Queen's Baton Relay is the curtain-raiser to the XX Commonwealth Games. Over a period of 288 days the baton will visit 70 nations and territories, cover 190,000 kilometres and involve a third of the world's population, making it the world's most engaging relay.

On 9 October 2013 the Queen's Baton Relay was launched at Buckingham Palace, at a ceremony where Her Majesty The Queen placed Her message to the Commonwealth into the baton.

The baton will be relayed by thousands of people throughout the Commonwealth, each one honoured by their own nation to participate in this unique tradition. Magical memories will be created on this journey across continents, terrains and time zones. From Sydney Harbour Bridge to the forests of Rwanda; from Pacific Islands to the Rocky Mountains of Canada, the baton will showcase each nation and territory in the Commonwealth.

The finish line is in the host nation Scotland just in time for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony in Glasgow, where Her Majesty The Queen will read aloud Her message to the Commonwealth.

On Wed 18th June the baton will be passing through the Scottish Borders, starting first at Duns and then calling at Greenlaw, Earlston, Melrose, Tweedbank, Selkirk, Kelso, Jedburgh, before ending at Hawick. The following day it will travel through Dumfries and Galloway.

Contact us at:

BAVS
Platform One
Station Road
Duns
Berwickshire
TD11 3HS
Opening Hours:
Mon - Fri 9.30am - 1.30pm
☎ 01361 883137
www.bavs.org.uk

Executive Officer:
Tony Fowler
tony.fowler@bavs.org.uk

Development Officer:
Philippa Wetton
philippa.wetton@bavs.org.uk

**Berwickshire Wheels:
Development Officer:**
Allister Hart
☎ 01361 884652
allister.hart@bavs.org.uk

Administrator:
Sharon O'Brien Ferguson
sharon.o'brien@bavs.org.uk

Finance Administrator:
Joyce Nelson
joyce.nelson@bavs.org.uk

FUNDING NEWS

BIG Lottery "Celebrate" Programme

"Celebrate" has a budget of £4 million and will make grants from £500 to £10,000 to communities across Scotland to come together to hold arts, heritage, sports and local community celebrations of the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Celebrate will also support communities to celebrate the diversity of the Commonwealth and create a legacy of community and Commonwealth connections. This could be through organisation of local celebration events and activities which stimulate greater involvement in community activity and develop our understanding as citizens of the Commonwealth. Celebrations can be a one off event or activities which end with a celebration event. Projects must meet one or more of the following outcomes:

- ◆ Communities come together through arts, heritage, sports and local celebrations of the Commonwealth Games.
- ◆ Communities celebrate the people, places and culture of the Commonwealth.

Applications must be submitted at least three months before the project starts and the project must be completed within one year. For more information visit: <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/scotland/celebrate>

Legacy 2014: Active Places Fund

This fund supports the Scottish Government's legacy ambitions to encourage more people to be active and take part in sport. Physical activity can help people become healthier and fitter. The Fund will do this by providing funding for capital projects which create or improve places in local communities where people can go to get active. Grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 are available for a very wide range of community-led projects such as new bike or skate parks, outdoor adventure facilities, walking routes, or new projects within school estates. (For projects that require funding of less than £10,000 please apply to Awards for All.) In total, £10 million is available until 2015.



Projects will need to demonstrate that your project will make a difference in terms of impact on physical activity or sports participation. This might be through creating new facilities, upgrading or improving the accessibility of existing ones, or reducing barriers to activity.

You may be able to make a joint application with other groups in your community. If you have an idea for a project that you need support in developing we would encourage you to contact your local authority.

For more information visit;

http://www.sportscotland.org.uk/about_us/what_we_do/places/invest/legacy_2014_active_places_fund/legacy_2014_active_places_fund/

BIG Lottery 2014 Communities

2014 Communities offers grants of between £300 and £2,000 to encourage more people to take part in physical activity. There are no deadlines and applications can be submitted at any time. 2014 Communities will fund projects that will achieve on or more of the following outcomes:

More people take part in physical activity

More people volunteer in physical activity

More people and communities are brought together through taking part or volunteering in physical activity.

For more information visit; <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/2014>

your gateway to business expertise



Thinking of starting your own business?

Thinking of developing your business?

Think Business Gateway.

April 2014

Thursday 17th Bookkeeping 09.30—12.30
Tuesday 22nd Improve Your Search Engine Ranking 09.30—12.30
Tuesday 22nd Google AdWords 13.30—16.30
Wednesday 23rd Website Builder Part 1 09.30—12.30
Tuesday 29th Marketing Your Business 09.30—12.30
Wednesday 30th Website Builder Part 2 09.30—16.30

May 2014

Tuesday 6th Business Start Up—Business Planning 09.30—12.30
Thursday 8th Business Start Up—Marketing 09.30—12.30
Tuesday 13th Business Start Up—Finance 09.30—12.30
Thursday 14th Bookkeeping 09.30—12.30
Tuesday 20th Social Networking for Business 09.30—12.30
Thursday 22nd Website Builder Part 1 09.30—12.30
Tuesday 27th Improve Your Search Engine Ranking 09.30—12.30
Thursday 29th Website Builder Part 2 09.30—16.30

June 2014

Tuesday 3rd Business Start Up—Finance 09.30—12.30
Wednesday 4th Business Start Up—Business Planning 17.00—20.00
Thursday 5th Bookkeeping 09.30—12.30
Monday 9th Business Start Up—Marketing 17.00—20.00
Thursday 12th Social Networking for Business 09.30—12.30
Tuesday 17th Business Start Up—Business Planning 09.30—12.30
Wednesday 18th Business Start Up—Finance 17.00—20.00
Thursday 19th Business Start Up—Marketing 09.30—12.30
Friday 20th Website Builder Part 1 09.30—12.30
Monday 23rd Bookkeeping 17.00—20.00
Wednesday 25th Improve Your Search Engine Ranking 09.30—12.30
Wednesday 25th Google AdWords 13.30—16.30
Thursday 26th Marketing Your Business 09.30—12.30
Friday 27th Website Builder Part 2 09.30—16.30
Duns Start Up Programme—Council Chambers, 8 Newton Street, Duns, TD11 3DT
Wednesday 7th May Business Start Up—Finance 10.00—13.00
Thursday 15th May Business Start Up—Marketing 10.00—13.00
Thursday 22nd May Business Start Up—Business Planning 10.00—13.00
Wednesday 28th May Bookkeeping 10.00—13.00

Workshops (unless otherwise stated) are held at Etrick Riverside, Dunsdale Road, Selkirk, TD7 5EB. To book a place or for further information

call **01835 825600** email info@bgborders.com or visit

www.bgateway.com/scottishborders

Registration is at 9.15am (9.45am for 10am workshops)

Thinking of starting a business? Just started trading—What's the next step?

If you are thinking about self employment or launching a new business come along to Business Gateway's Start Up seminars to ensure you get the basics right. The following workshops have been created to help you get off to the right start.

Business Start Up—Marketing

Getting the marketing right for your business is crucial to its success. This workshop will help you to understand your competitors, identify your customers and understand the things you need to consider for effective marketing.

Business Start Up - Business Planning

It is essential to have a realistic, working business plan when you're starting up a business. This workshop shows you how to create a robust business plan.

Business Start Up—Finance

Good financial management is essential for running a successful business. This workshop will help you to:- manage a profit and loss account; produce a cashflow statement; understand the meaning of working capital; describe the main sources of finance; and understand the different legal structures of a business.

Bookkeeping

This workshop aims to equip you with an understanding of book keeping principles and demonstrates why keeping financial records is so important to the success of your business. It examines the implications of VAT registration and the requirement to produce accurate financial information for tax and other purposes. This is a practical workshop that will help you understand



SAVE THE DATE

7th MAY 2014

Volunteer Hall, Galashiels

10.00-3.00pm

Physical Activity and Active Ageing Conference

You are invited to attend a free conference which aims to raise awareness of the benefits of physical activity for health and wellbeing for older people.

The conference will showcase local good practice in the Scottish Borders and promote physical activity opportunities for older people.

Keynote speaker will be Professor Dawn Skelton, Professor in Ageing and Health, Glasgow Caledonian University

Other speakers to be confirmed:

Also;

- ◆ Market stalls
- ◆ Taster sessions
- ◆ Demonstrations
- ◆ Workshops

Target Audience:

- ◆ All staff who work with older people
- ◆ Voluntary Organisations
- ◆ Older people their families/ carers

Registration details and full programme will follow shortly

For more details contact:

Lynne Marshall
Community Capacity Building Coordinator
Social Work Department Scottish Borders Council
Mobile **07717548105**
email Lynne.Marshall@scotborders.gov.uk

FUNDING NEWS cont

Legacy 2014: Sustainable Sport for Communities Fund

This is a £1m fund which will help communities to be able to realise their ambitions of owning and running their own sports facilities. The initial package of support available will focus on clubs and organisations delivering sport and physical activity in their community who wish to:

- ◆ take on ownership and operation of existing local facilities
- ◆ build and operate new facilities
- ◆ make better use of current facilities through capital improvements

In addition, applicants must also be seeking to make a wider difference in their community through their work. Making a difference in areas including health and well-being, employment and education are key aims of the Scottish Government's legacy ambitions in addition to a primary aim of getting more people active.

Clubs and organisations will initially be invited to apply for a package of support up to a maximum of £25,000 to cover the cost of investigating and progressing their ideas. This could include technical support such as architect and design fees, feasibility studies, community engagement, legal and financial support, mentoring support and assistance with organisational development.

The Legacy 2014 Sustainable Sport for Communities Fund is made up of an investment of £500,000 from the Scottish Government under the Legacy 2014 programme and £500,000 from The Robertson Trust. The closing date for expressions of interest is **23rd May**. You can find out more by visiting; <http://www.legacy2014.co.uk/news/legacy-2014-sustainable-sport-for-communities-fund>

Campbell Crowson Fund

To support charities working in health, disability and with the elderly. Grants range from between £250 and £2000. For more information and to apply visit; <http://wwwFOUNDATIONSscotland.org.uk/programmes/campbell-crowson.aspx>

The Wolfson Foundation

The Wolfson Foundation's emphasis is on supporting and promoting excellence. The large majority of funding is allocated for capital infrastructure such as new build, refurbishment or equipment. Almost all of their open programmes are solely for capital projects.

They do, however, also have a number of carefully targeted programmes funding individuals through academic awards as well as scholarship or bursary programmes. Next Closing Date: 1 July

For further details on individual programmes go to the website;

<http://www.wolfson.org.uk/funding/>

Cooperative Community Fund

Community Fund grants, between £100 and £2,000 are awarded to community, voluntary, or self-help groups to run projects that meet the following criteria. To be successful, a group must carry out positive work in the community, and a project must address a community issue, provide a good long-term benefit to the community, support co-operative values and principles, ideally be innovative in its approach. For more information visit; <http://www.co-operative.coop/membership/local-communities/community-fund/onlineapplicationprocess/>.

FUNDING NEWS cont

People's Millions

The People's Millions is a partnership between the Big Lottery Fund and ITV where the public help to decide which projects receive National Lottery funding. They are looking to fund new community projects which will improve the lives of people in your community, such as increasing community spirit or helping a particular group of people. They expect to award £3.8m worth of grants to 76 projects - four in each of the 19 ITV regional news areas. The fund is currently open for applications for grants of between £20,000 and £50,000. The deadline for applications is 12 noon on Friday 16th May. For more information visit; <http://www.peoplesmillions.org.uk/>

Comic Relief Local Communities Programme

There are still many communities in the UK that suffer from economic and social deprivation and the current economic climate may make this situation worse. For this reason, Comic Relief has decided that £4.5 million should be available to fund projects across the UK which are addressing these issues through the 'Local Communities' programme. Comic Relief is pleased to be working with UK Community Foundations and Community Foundations across the UK, to deliver this Local Communities programme. Foundation Scotland is one of the delivery partners.

The Local Communities programme will run for two years and during this time, grants of between £1000 and £10,000 will be available. The programme aims to empower local people, enabling them to create lasting change in their communities. Projects should be run by people directly affected by the issues they are dealing with and priority will be given to small, locally based groups or organisations in areas of disadvantage that have a clear understanding of the needs of their community.

Under the programme, organisations can apply for funding to:

- ◆ Increase local services
- ◆ Build skills of local people
- ◆ Increase community cohesion
- ◆ respond to local economic needs

A Local Communities grant must be at least 30% of the total cost of the project.

For more information on priorities and exclusions as well as how to apply visit; <http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/comic-relief.aspx>

Baillie Gifford Community Awards

Edinburgh based Baillie Gifford is one of Scotland's leading investment management partnerships. Baillie Gifford community awards provide up to £2000 to support registered charities and constituted voluntary groups across Scotland. Priority is given to support registered charities and voluntary groups working in the following areas: Children and young people; elderly; environment; under 5's; local community; families; health; education; physically disabled; homelessness; women; social inclusion; social economic regeneration; grass roots sports. For more information visit; <http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/baillie-gifford.aspx>

The Archer Trust

The Archer Trust is a Christian charitable grant-making trust which supports small UK charities. To meet their criteria, you should provide aid or support to a defined group of 'needy and deserving people, for example those with physical or mental disabilities or the disadvantaged. The Trust prefers to support organisations working in areas of high unemployment and deprivation and favour charities which make good use of volunteers. They support projects both in the UK and overseas (overseas projects via UK charities only).

Grants of between £250 and £3,000 are awarded. For more information visit;

<http://www.archertrust.org.uk/>

“Afore Ye Go” Community Centre, COLDSTREAM. Thursday 24TH APRIL 2014 10.15am to 2.30pm

10.15	Morning Refreshments and Registration
10:30	Welcome & Overview of the day - Cllr Willie Archibald – Older People's Champion
10:40	Age Scotland Helpline Morag Halliday Development Officer, Age Scotland (South)
10.50	6 Things You Need To Know (part 1) Solicitors for Older People Scotland
11:25	Funeral Plans Logan Steele, General Manager, Age Scotland Enterprises
12.00	Lunch (with Market Place)
12:40	6 Things You Need To Know (part 2) Solicitors for Older People Scotland
13:10	Equity Release – information only Solicitors for Older People Scotland
13:35	Care and Care Costs TBC – potentially via Scottish Care
13:55	Panel – Questions and Answer Session
14:20	Summing Up and Next Steps..... George Higgs MBE -, Elder Voice Chairman
14:30	CLOSE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Borders Care Learning Network FREE training:

Introduction to Food Hygiene: 13th May 1 - 4pm @ Borders College, Hawick. Covers handling and storing food, as well as basic food hygiene.

Moving and Handling: 19th May 9.30am - 4.30pm @ Borders College, Hawick. Covers the principals of moving and handling; identifying unsafe techniques; safe techniques relevant to your work setting; legal and safe back care guidance; moving and handling equipment and their safe usage.

Object Handling: 21st May 9.30am - 12.30pm @ The Hive, Galashiels. Covers; identifying several pieces of object handling equipment and illustration of safe usage; safer principals of object handling.

Emergency First Aid at Work: 20th June 9.30am - 4.30pm @ Borders College, Galashiels. Covers; Health and safety (first aid regulations); priorities of first aid; treatment of an unconscious casualty; resuscitation / shock / bleeding; common workplace injuries.

For more information on any of the above BCLN courses email training@borderscarevoice.org.uk or phone 01896 757290



Scottish Borders Elder Voice

"Afore Ye Go"

(Information and advice on your End of Life Arrangements)

Thursday 24th April 2014

10.15am to 2.30pm

Community Centre, Coldstream

FREE information and advice on your funeral and end of life plans from the some of the following organisations, including:



Age Scotland
Solicitors for Older People Scotland
Funeral Directors
McMillan Welfare Benefit Service
Borders Crematorium
GPs/ NHS
Florists
SBC Bereavement Section
Spiritual Care Service
C.A.B.
Police Scotland



For further information please contact, Elder Voice on:

01896 668601 or email: info@eldervoice.org.uk

FUNDING NEWS cont

AES Drone Hill Community Fund

The Drone Hill Community Fund is a charitable Fund to benefit residents of Reston & Auchencrow, Grantshouse, Coldingham and Cockburnspath Community Council areas. The Fund is provided by AES Wind Generation, who own and operate the Drone Hill Wind Farm and is managed by Foundation Scotland. An annual amount of £40,000 will be paid into the Fund for the operating life of the wind farm. This amount will rise in line with inflation. The Fund is expected to accrue from the date of full commissioning of the wind farm or September 2012, whichever is later. The money is not being split into separate funds. However, the four Community Councils wish to ensure that over the first three years of the Fund the areas receive broadly equal levels of benefits - approximately £30,000 for each area. Groups and organisations working to benefit people in the four Community Council areas are able to apply to the Foundation for grants from the Fund. Your group must have a constitution (governing document or set of rules) and be set up on a not-for-profit basis. You don't need to be a registered charity to apply.

The Fund will provide grants to support charitable activities that: Enhance quality of life for local residents: Contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities: Promote community spirit and encourage community activity.

A wide range of costs and activities will be considered for funding e.g.; equipment costs, running costs for local groups, staff or sessional worker costs, consultations, maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities.

The next application deadline date is 30 September 2014 (Decision made; end November 2014). For more information visit; <http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/aes-drone-hill.aspx>

Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Foundation

This is the focal point for all the Yorkshire Building Society Group's charitable giving, including; Yorkshire, Barnsley, Chelsea and Norwich & Peterborough Building Societies. The Charitable Foundation's purpose is to support good causes where the Society's members and staff live and work, helping to demonstrate the value and support that the Yorkshire provides to local communities throughout the UK.

Priorities are to support registered charities involving anyone who is vulnerable, particularly; the elderly, children or those with physical/mental/communication disabilities as well as animal charities. In addition, we will consider other local charities and good causes suggested by Society members or staff.

Charities and good causes that are recommended to us by members and staff will be considered for a donation usually up to a maximum of £2,000. Charities and good causes that apply directly to us will be considered for smaller donations, usually up to a maximum of up to £500.

The Charitable Foundation aims to support registered charities and good causes with donations to enable specific tangible items to be purchased rather than donating to general funds or expenses. We request that the items are to be used directly by beneficiaries and anticipate that the charity/good cause becomes the owner of that equipment, responsible for the on-going upkeep and maintenance. Some examples of activities likely to fall within our main areas of focus include:

- ◆ Sensory toys and equipment for children with special needs
- ◆ Items to care for isolated and/or vulnerable elderly people
- ◆ Support of specially adapted equipment to be used by people with physical / mental / communication disabilities
- ◆ Items and equipment for causes that care for the seriously ill
- ◆ Apparatus for children with special needs in schools/community groups
- ◆ Equipment for charitable sectors of the NHS
- ◆ Items or equipment to aid the recovery of, or ease the suffering of animals (animal homes/sanctuaries)

For more information; Tel: 0845 1200 100 E-mail: charitable@ybs.co.uk or visit the website at: www.ybs.co.uk

Woodward Charitable Trust

This trust has the following funding priorities:

- ◆ Children and young people who are isolated, at risk of exclusion or involved in anti-social behaviour;
- ◆ Minority groups including refugees, gypsies and travellers. Projects that promote integration and community cohesion will be favoured;
- ◆ Prisoners and ex-offenders. Projects that help the rehabilitation and resettlement of prisoners and/or ex-offenders are supported as well as requests to help prisoners families;
- ◆ Disability projects which can include rehabilitation and training for people who are either physically disabled or learning disabled, as well as help to improve employment prospects.
- ◆ Homelessness, especially affecting young people and women, and covering facilities such as women's refuges;
- ◆ Arts outreach work by local groups for the benefit of disadvantaged people;
- ◆ Environmental projects, especially with a strong educational element.

There are three types of grants:

- ◆ Small grants of £100 - £5,000 (around 40-50 a year);
- ◆ Large grants of over £5,000 (around 5-10 a year) - these are rare and are usually initiated via the trustees directly;
- ◆ Children's summer play scheme grants £500 - £1,000 (around 30-40 a year) applied for separately and considered in May each year.

Funding is generally for one-off projects and will favour small-scale, locally based initiatives. Trustees will not fund charities with an annual turnover of more than £250,000.

Grants applications are reviewed twice a year, usually in January and July.

For more information contact - Karin Hooper, Tel: 020 7410 0330

contact@woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk

<http://www.woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk/>

Coastal Communities Fund

The third round of the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) is open for applications. CCF aims to support the economic development of coastal communities by awarding funding **to deliver sustainable economic growth and create jobs**. The Big Lottery Fund is delivering the CCF on behalf of Government. The following types of organisation can apply:

- ◆ local authorities
- ◆ development agencies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- ◆ other public sector bodies
- ◆ charities
- ◆ voluntary and community sector organisations
- ◆ social enterprises, including cooperatives and community ownership initiatives
- ◆ private sector companies.

They are looking for fully developed projects that can spend their CCF award by 31st December 2016. It is important for potential applicants to be aware of this requirement. The CCF will have around £65 million available in this funding round. Grants of £50,000 and over are available.

For more information on funding priorities, eligibility criteria and to download an application form, visit;

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/uk-wide/coastal-communities>.

Projects seeking over £100,000 from CCF for capital works should contact CCF to book a pre-application interview to discuss the eligibility of your project by e-mailing ccf@bigfund.org.uk or calling 0845 4 10 20 30.

The deadline for applications is 30 April 2014

Two years on and 500 charities are now SCIOs

Charities should consider taking the next step in governance and become a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) says Emma Jardine of Burness Paull & Williamsons. It has now been over two years since Burness Paull & Williamsons incorporated South Seeds – a community gardening project, which became the first ever Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). Since then, their team has incorporated many more – including both existing charities which have chosen to convert from their existing legal structure to the new legal form and organisations applying for charitable status from scratch.

Closer to home, BAVS has supported just under 10 organisations with their transition to SCIO status in the last few years, that's around 1 group every 4 months.

What is a SCIO?

In basic terms, the SCIO is a legal model which has been created specifically for the Scottish charity sector. It allows Scottish charities to form themselves into corporate bodies – with the benefit of limited liability – without the need to become a company (or industrial and provident society). This means even the smallest charity can access the benefits of incorporation – including limited liability and legal capacity – and can hold property, employ people, incur debts, enter into contracts etc in its own name, without being subject to the more complex regime that exists under company law.

Why choose to become a SCIO rather than a company limited by guarantee?

The SCIO has been designed to provide the key benefits of becoming a company, such as a defined legal entity and limited liability (usually the key motivating factors for becoming a company limited by guarantee), whilst removing some of the associated burdens. For example, administration tends to be significantly reduced as there is no requirement to notify any regulator about appointments or resignations of board members. Also, the law relating to SCIOs is self-contained and very manageable – unlike company law, where the sheer volume of legislation and case law can be overwhelming.

But what about...?

Despite the above benefits, there are 2 main concerns raised in relation to SCIOs, both of which can be fairly easily dealt with.

It is often said that the SCIO model is not "tried and tested". While it is true to say that it will take time for banks, landlords, some funders and the general public to become familiar with the SCIO model, we believe that this is happening already. In the two years since the SCIO became available as a model, over 500 SCIOs have been incorporated and so awareness is bound to increase as the number of SCIOs increase.

The other common concern with the SCIO model is that a loss of charitable status would mean that the SCIO would cease to exist. The reality of the situation is that OSCR would likely have no interest in closing down a charity without having exhausted all other options. Charitable status is only ever withdrawn as an absolute last resort after all other attempts have failed.

The above 2 concerns represent those that are most often asked about the SCIO. Most believe that the SCIO is a simple and adaptable alternative to more traditional legal models and expect it to continue in popularity in the coming years.

If you are interested in finding out more about the SCIO contact;

Philippa Wetton or Tony Fowler on 01361 883137

(Philippa.wetton@bavs.org.uk or tony.fowler@bavs.org.uk).

Citizens Advice Outreach Programme

A huge increase in the number of people contacting Citizens Advice Bureau as a result of welfare reforms has prompted the setting up of an outreach service. Since welfare reform started to be introduced last year there has been a 68% increase in the number of Roxburgh and Berwickshire CAB clients seeking help with Employment and Support Allowance and an 83% increase in clients wanting advice about job-seeking conditions, sanctions and hardship payments.

Aware that the welfare changes were having a serious impact in the region Roxburgh Berwickshire CAB applied for major funding from the Big Lottery to help them extend their current sessions at Duns, Eyemouth, Kelso and Hawick, to outreach sessions to towns and villages across the region and develop a Home Visiting Referral Service in partnership with other agencies.

For more information Contact the CAB at Duns on **01361 883340**

