

G:up Spotlight Nov 2011

A snapshot of G:up's latest news, events and opportunities for the CYPF VCS



G:up is an alliance of West Midlands children, young people and families', voluntary and community sector (CYPF VCS) organisations, networks, and partners.

G:up works in a regional space to develop networks, collaboration and communications, build capacity and shape policy. More on G:up's website: www.gup.org.uk

G:up Conference and AGM, 3rd Nov

Book your place by 27th Oct for G:up's FREE conference on Strategic Engagement; find out who's representing the West Midlands children, young people and families', voluntary and community sector (CYPF VCS) at strategic levels, discuss what skills they need and how to ensure they represent you.

G:up's AGM will be held over lunch so is optional for conference attendees but you can also come for just the AGM if you wish.

- 3rd November 2011, 9:45am-3pm, Central Birmingham
- Get booking form, agendas and papers at: www.gup.org.uk/conference

Join the discussion in interactive workshops, on the strength of working together and ensuring communications/networking between infrastructure support/umbrella organisations, CYPF VCS strategic reps and the wider sector.

Sharon Palmer, CEO of RAWM is the chair and keynote speaker and you can **network with colleagues** from right across the region, including strategic reps.

Are You a Sector Leader?

Experienced practitioners and sector leaders wanted for G:up's new Executive Committee. Do you have the skills and desire to be on a governing executive, setting the agenda for a regional CYPF VCS alliance? If so get more info via the following link and return your self nomination form before or at the G:up AGM on 3rd Nov (see above): www.gup.org.uk/ECNomination

Thank Your Local Sector Champion

Let us know if you're aware of anyone who deserves a thank you for championing CYPF VCS organisations in the West Midlands, so we can thank them at G:up's FREE conference (above) on 3rd November 2011.

They need not be sector reps or have formal championing roles, but you know they make a difference. Email suggestions to sue@commonsensecic.com, with your name, organisation, contacts and local authority area you work in.

Get in touch: e. gup@bayc.org t. 0121 460 5870 w. www.gup.org.uk

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Prestigious new Influencing training for ISOs

G:up is offering prestigious 'Working with DUO' training from Changes, designed for VCS Infrastructure Support Organisations (ISOs), it gives staff critical training in how their organisation can influence and be influenced.

Dates: Thur 8th & Fri 9th December 2011, at bayc, Birmingham, closing date for bookings is Thursday 17th November 2011, hurry while spaces last!

'Working with DUO' is a brand new course developed following the successful VOICE training and will be facilitated by Changes, both of which many G:up members have used and found extremely effective.

G:up is able to subsidise this training through its Big Lottery-funded G:XL project, for which it meets key objectives in increasing voice and influence in the sector.

G:up is offering places at just £80 each (normally £240!) Places are limited to a maximum of 20! This 2-day course will give you a range of skills and materials to improve the way you work for the benefit of your organisation and your members.

Download a [booking form](#) from the G:up website or contact G:up for more information. Don't miss this excellent opportunity as places will disappear fast.

Get Noticed Training Slides

Responding to training needs identified by the G:XL Info and Comms Learning Cluster, G:up offered FREE Communications training on how to write a good press release and how to write for the web - essential skills for getting your organisation noticed, especially in the current climate.

Download the slides and extensive resources from the G:up website and look out for future training. The next Learning Cluster meeting is 23rd Nov 2011 at bayc. For more info contact George at G:up on george.turvey@bayc.org www.gup.org.uk/gxl/get-noticed-training-slides

Become a G:up member today!

It's **free** to join G:up. Visit www.gup.org.uk/join for a membership form. Get the latest news and events; be connected to a diverse network of CYPF VCS staff, orgs and partners; login to the G:up website and get priority event offers.

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Prize Draw for completing G:up Toolkit

Fill in G:up's free, organisational Self Assessment Toolkit electronically or on paper and return it to the contacts below, by 27th October, and you could win an exciting group activity at Ackers Adventure in Birmingham.

Download this great, free, development tool here: www.gup.org.uk/toolkit

All completed toolkits received will be entered into a prize draw, for [full details](#) of the prize and activities available – including skiing, climbing, canoeing and jungle challenge, visit: www.gup.org.uk/toolkitprizedraw

Give your organisation a free healthcheck

Assess your organisation's performance in 14 key work and governance areas and be guided to quality standards to support or evidence your development.

Read our new [case study](#) illustrating how useful and easy to use organisations find the toolkit, by clicking the link above.

Angela Richards, Director of Building Futures found it was a **massive benefit** to her small, volunteer-led organisation, increasing her insights into their performance and how to "strengthen and improve" it. Angela especially liked the report produced by the toolkit, which she said would inform her new business plan and be shared with trustees, adding:

"Overall the toolkit is a really useful tool and covers a wide range of work areas so I would actually recommend it to any VCS organisation."

If you need any support

If you have any questions or want support completing the toolkit just contact:

- Cath Errington, Midlands Youth: cath.errington@wayc.org.uk or 01926 453 077
- George Turvey, G:up: george.turvey@bayc.org or 0121 460 5870

G:up Events at a glance

For more info, contact G:up via the contacts below or visit the G:up website

G:up Conference and AGM (see page 1)	3rd Nov 2011, Central Birmingham, B4 6QW
G:XL Back Office Learning Cluster - Free HR advice	3rd Nov 2011, Central Birmingham, B4 6QW
G:XL Participation Learning Cluster	9th Nov 2011, Leamington, CV31 3JE
G:XL Info and Communications Learning Cluster	23rd Nov 2011, bayc, Birmingham, B29 7EL
'Working with DUO' (see page 2) - influencing training for VCS infrastructure support organisations	8th-9th Dec 2011, bayc, Birmingham, B29 7EL

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