

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION UPDATE (CIU) - PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOODS IN RUGBY - No. 46: mid December 2015 to end January 2016

*Welcome to another Community Information Update (CIU), especially if you are a new reader. Many thanks to everyone who sent items for inclusion this time. The next CIU will cover **beginning of February to mid March 2016**. Please send short paragraphs of 6-8 lines (plain text if possible) to [cdwrugby@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cdwrugby@warwickshire.gov.uk) **before Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**. Please note that CIUs can be downloaded as pdfs at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/rugbyareainformation](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/rugbyareainformation) Please let us know at any time on [cdwrugby@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cdwrugby@warwickshire.gov.uk) if you no longer wish to receive CIUs. Thank you.*

### 1. Community Development Work in Priority Neighbourhoods in Rugby (Brownsover, Newbold, Rugby Town Centre, Cattlemarket and Overslade)

**Get Together for Older People's Group Leaders in Rugby** are held every March. Planning meetings for the sixth annual get together will take place in **January and February 2016**. Based on feedback from last year, it looks like the topics might include pensions/benefits/finances, leisure centre referrals and WCC social care support. If you volunteer / work with older people in Rugby and would like to be involved, please contact Christine Slater by email at [christineslater@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:christineslater@warwickshire.gov.uk) or call 01788 533656.

**Community Drop-ins in Rugby Town Centre and Cattlemarket** (priority neighbourhoods) are all over for 2015. The next two will be held on **Monday 18th January** 10am - noon at Teabags and Coffee Pots Cafe in Rugby Salvation Army (West Leyes/Bennfield Road) and **Saturday 6th February**, 10.30am-12.30pm during Open Coffee Morning in Rugby Free Evangelical Church (54 Railway Terrace). Do drop in if you need any information, have noticed any issues, have any good ideas or want to get involved in your local community.

**Drop-ins in Rugby** for information, advice or support **photo poster for January to April 2016** is due soon. If you run a drop-in, please send new dates and any amendments to previous poster to our new email address [cdwrugby@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cdwrugby@warwickshire.gov.uk) before Tuesday 22nd December. Thank you very much.

**Community development worker Jennifer McCabe** is undertaking a **mapping exercise** of all existing community facilities and services in the priority neighbourhoods of **Brownsover and Newbold-on-Avon**. If you have any information about services in these areas please email [jennifermccabe@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jennifermccabe@warwickshire.gov.uk) Also if you know of any group leaders, volunteers or other interested parties who might like to receive the Community Information Updates, Welfare Reform email or join our family support, community food, young people or older people e-groups, please do forward this edition on to them so they may sign up with us. Thank you!

#### Report-backs:

The **community development team** in Rugby hosted their **6th annual networking event for the leaders of parent and toddler groups** on Monday 9th November. The planning group for the event, which included a number of toddler group leaders, chose the Value of Play as the theme for this year's event, which included a networking session, a quiz on types of play and their link to child development, and a demonstration of play activities by staff from Barnardos Children's Centres in Rugby. The event was well attended, with 17 people representing 13 organisations in the town, including a number of groups from priority neighbourhoods who attended for the first time. The community development team also currently produces a leaflet outlining all parent and toddler groups within Rugby's five priority neighbourhoods, which is available on request.

Thank you to all those who took part in the **Our Rugby Our Future** event on Saturday 14th November and especially to those who took the time to complete a survey. We will begin planning a similar event with WCAVA and Rugby Borough Council for 2016 soon. In summary, we received more than 70 completed surveys and these told us that:

- 1) Community groups/spirit and 'the people' were the most popular answer given when we asked what you like best about Rugby.
- 2) Town centre regeneration and concerns over infrastructure and new housing developments were the concerns voiced most often when we asked what you thought was the biggest challenge facing out town.
- 3) Concerns over employment, affordable housing and financial security were the biggest challenges, overall, facing individuals and their families in Rugby.
- 4) Your suggested solutions to the challenges facing the town and individuals varied enormously.

Advance Notices: The next **Networking Lunches** will focus on **Rugby Town Centre** and will be held in The Oasis community hall in February. This will be Part A (35 places available) with Part B also focusing on Rugby Town Centre in The Hope Centre in April (also 35 places). When both invitations go out (to all on the

Community Information Update email list in January) you will be asked to choose which one you would like to attend.

## 2. News & Events: Local Community Organisations & Neighbourhoods

Rugby **Citizen's Advice Bureau** currently runs a **fortnightly drop-in** at Boughton Leigh Children's Centre in Brownsover every other Wednesday from 10am to 12pm. Anyone can call in for financial and energy advice, including **Severn Trent's Big Difference** scheme. The scheme allows anyone struggling to pay their water bill to be put on a special tariff which gives them up to 80% off their water bill. To apply they just need to present their water bill to CAB who will take them through the process. For more information visit <https://www.stwater.co.uk/my-account/about-your-account-and-bill/trouble-paying-your-bill/big-difference-scheme/>

**Rugby Wellbeing Hub** are offering **FREE lifestyle checks** to anyone with low well-being or a mental health issue to try and help improve their physical health. Why not come along and have your height and weight measured, calculate your Body Mass Index, and explore other areas of your lifestyle? There is also the possibility of four further support sessions to help access appropriate services or activities. Drop in for a lifestyle check on the Journey bus, outside Rugby Library every Monday, between 12-3pm or drop in or make an appointment for a lifestyle check on Wednesdays, between 12-3pm at Rugby Wellbeing Hub, 28 Cromwell Rd, Rugby CV22 5LY. To make an appointment contact the wellbeing hub (01788 544105) or visit during the outreach session inside the library from 10-11.30am on Tuesdays or bus the library, 12-3pm on Mondays.

The **Prince's Trust** will begin its next **TEAM program at Rugby College** on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. The FREE 12-week course for 16-25 year olds will include learning on food awareness, health and safety, leadership training and preparation for work training, leading to a Prince's Trust Certificate in Employment, Team and Community Skills. Anyone interested in enrolling should attend the taster day taking place at the college on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January from 10am to 1pm or call Mandy Devit on 07799 843721.

**Crackerteria** cafe is open until Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December, run by volunteers from Rugby Christmas Cracker project to raise money for Fashion with Heart Creations in India. Volunteers needed, various roles, see <http://wp.rugbycracker.org.uk/> Good place to send people for reasonably priced food, this month only.

**Rugby Winter Shelter** co-ordinated by Hope 4 is now open for the fifth year, until 31 March 19.30pm – 8.30am nightly. For anyone who would otherwise be sleeping rough or sofa-surfing this winter. People need to register at the Hope Centre (8 Newbold Road CV21 2LJ) to collect a Winter Shelter pass. They will also need to register at the Hope Centre each day to book a bed for the night. This will entitle them - subject to availability and the appropriate rules of admission - to supper, a campbed and bedding, and a breakfast each night from December to the end of March in seven local Church Halls. Poster is available at <http://www.hope4.org.uk/documents/rugby%20winter%20shelter%20venues%202015-2016.pdf>

A new **Rugby Bipolar UK Support Group** meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7pm - 9pm at the Benn Partnership Centre, Railway Terrace, Rugby CV21 3HR (but not in December). It's open to all individuals affected by bipolar, including those with a diagnosis, those pre-diagnosis, their family members, friends and carers. Group meetings are friendly, confidential & informal. Email [rugby@bipolarukgroups.org.uk](mailto:rugby@bipolarukgroups.org.uk)

Family lifestyle programme **Change Makers** is running **two FREE nine-week courses** in the new year to encourage families to make healthy lifestyle choices. If you have a child aged 4-12 and live in Warwickshire you can take part in weekly nutrition and physical activity sessions, receive free healthy snacks and lots more incentives. The sessions take place at Henry Hinde Junior School in Cornwallis Road, Rugby, from Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 3.45pm-5.15pm, and Abbots Farm Junior School in Abbots Way, Rugby, from Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January from 3.45pm-5.15pm. To register email [fitterfutures@rugby.gov.uk](mailto:fitterfutures@rugby.gov.uk) or phone 01788 533721. For more information visit [https://www.rugby.gov.uk/info/20044/keeping\\_fit\\_and\\_healthy/98/change\\_makers](https://www.rugby.gov.uk/info/20044/keeping_fit_and_healthy/98/change_makers)

**Benn Partnership Centre** will be running their annual **Christmas Day Event** again this year. For full details, please see <http://www.bennpartnership.org.uk/content/christmas-2015> Anyone interested in attending needs to book a place. Please contact the centre on 01788 553033 or email [Rebekka.clarkson@bennpartnership.org.uk](mailto:Rebekka.clarkson@bennpartnership.org.uk) The Benn Partnership Centre is also looking for a **deputy manager** to work 18 hours a week Monday to Thursday, initially on a one-year contract but with the possibility to extend. If you have experience in managing a building accessible to the public and voluntary or community sector experience you may be suitable. Pay is £9.50 per hour. Application packs are available from reception or call manager Rebekka Clarkson for an informal chat. Closing date is 5pm Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Interviews take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February.

**Railway Terrace Cooking Course** will run again (for the third time) in the new year. Four sessions on how to cook healthy meals from scratch on a budget with Sue Barton (Community Cooks) will take place on Tuesdays 10.30am - 12.30pm in Rugby Evangelical Free Church Hall (54 Railway Terrace) from 28 February to 15 March. All the ingredients are free and participants usually eat what they cook together at the end. To book places any time from now onwards, interested people need to contact Joyce Woodings, Benn Partnership Centre on e-mail [joycewoodings@yahoo.com](mailto:joycewoodings@yahoo.com)

**Men in Sheds** at The Claremont Centre (Age UK Warwickshire) is growing into a third day! As the weather is getting colder not all men want to be outside in a shed so they are going to run a new weekly session indoors for the guys to meet in the centre on Fridays at 11am, have a chat and then go into the nice warm café for food. No need to book, just turn up and meet the team. For more information, please contact Kathy Young, e-mail [kathy@ageukwarks.org.uk](mailto:kathy@ageukwarks.org.uk) The Claremont Centre is also hosting children from Bizzy Tots Nursery who will sing Christmas songs on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30am.

**At the Bradby Club** (East Union Street, off Dunchurch Road) **Jumble Sales** are held regularly in aid of club funds. The next will be held on 30th January 2016 10am start. If you have any jumble you can donate, please contact Matt Conibere at the club on 01788 544344 to arrange delivery / collection.

Unit 8 at Webb Ellis Business Park on **Woodside Park** is available **rent and rates-free to charities or non-profit organisations**. The space can only be used for meetings, storage, retail, conferences, admin office, workshops, staff training, main hub or studio space. Rent, rates and utility bills will all be covered. For more information or to book a viewing email [Hannah.Brown@centricprojects.org](mailto:Hannah.Brown@centricprojects.org)

**Long Lawford Community Choir** is looking for new members who enjoy singing for fun. The choir meets on Saturdays (starting 9th January 2016), 5pm - 7pm at Long Lawford Memorial Hall, Rugby CV23 9BE. No singing experience or audition is required. Each session costs £1.50. For further information please email: [pngg@hotmail.com](mailto:pngg@hotmail.com)

The **Hummingbird Centre**, based in Rugby, has celebrated its first anniversary. The service, which offers support for those affected by cancer, marked its first year by inviting service users and volunteers along to its base in Regent Place to hear about the work it has achieved over the past year and its plans for the future. The centre is also offering **two free training workshops** at its Regent Place base in the new year – Cancer Awareness on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January and Talking to People Affected by Cancer on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January. The workshops, facilitated by Macmillan and The Hummingbird Centre, are free of charge and will begin with a networking lunch at 1pm. To book visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cancer-awareness-workshop-tickets-19987703760> for Cancer Awareness and <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/talking-to-people-affected-by-cancer-tickets-19992993582?> for Talking to People Affected by Cancer. For more about the Hummingbird Centre visit <http://www.thehummingbirdcentre.org/>

**Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action** will host a **New Year, New You** event in the Art Room at Rugby Library on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January. If your new year resolution is to get involved in volunteering, you want to know more about what's going on in your community or you'd like to improve your health and wellbeing, call in between 11am and 3pm to find out more. For details call WCAVA on 01788 574258.

**ISS Rugby Community Hub** is hosting a variety of activities in the new year:

- Pop-up Hub session on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 12pm-2pm at Warwickshire College
- Gym mornings on Mondays, 10.30am-11.30am, £3
- Speaking Up group – have your say on what matters to you, Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 1pm-3pm, RCCG House, 33-35 Albert Street, Rugby
- CAP debt counselling drop-in - The Hub Café, 31-32 High Street, Rugby, free advice on Tuesdays from 10am to 12pm
- Personal safety workshop with Karen Green on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January at the Hub Café, 31-32 High Street, Rugby, 1pm to 3pm, £3.50
- Tea Leaf Tales drama session on Tuesdays at 7pm – 9pm. Contact Kate on 07816 575156.
- Guideposts Trust carers' drop-in, every fourth Wednesday of the month at the Hub café, 31-32 High Street, Rugby, 10am to 2.30pm. No appointment needed.
- Wednesday and Thursday mornings by appointment – reflexology at RCCG House, 33-35 Albert Street, Rugby, £5 per session

Unless otherwise stated, to book or for more information call Claire Ward on 07415 302859 or email [claire@isswarks.com](mailto:claire@isswarks.com)

**Coventry & Warwickshire MIND** is urgently in need of volunteer befrienders for its Dementia Befriending Service. More information at <http://www.cwmind.org.uk/Pages/Category/volunteering-opportunities>

**Rugby Borough Council** is seeing an increase of incorrect materials being placed in to recycling bins across the borough. The council would like to help residents to recycle correctly. If you are unsure of what materials are accepted in your blue-lidded recycling bin, please visit [www.rugby.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.rugby.gov.uk/recycling) for more information. **Please note: plastic bags are not accepted in your recycling bin.**

Rugby's social prescribing project **ConnectWELL** has produced a **new leaflet** outlining details of the service, to which people can now self-refer. For voluntary and community organisations that would like to tell ConnectWELL about the activities that they offer, which would give ConnectWELL navigators the opportunity to signpost people to these groups, visit <http://www.wcava.org.uk/social-prescribing-project-directory>

Free two-hour **Media Workshops** by **Cross Counties Radio**, funded by Rugby Borough Council, will be held in Rugby Art Gallery & Museum on dates to be announced. Learn new skills and challenge yourself. See <http://www.crosscountiesradio.co.uk/> (workshops button on the right).

**St Peter's and St John's Church** (Clifton Road, corner of St Peter's Road) hosts the following activities:

- **Knit and Natter Group** every **Tuesday** 10.30am - noon, £1 per session including tea/coffee and biscuits and friendly welcome. No experience necessary. Learn to knit or crochet. Further information from Sarah on 01788 812840.
- **Ladies Group** meets on the **first Monday** of the month at 7.30pm in the church hall. Speakers, demonstrations, social evenings, trips, bring and buy sales, quizzes, including carol service on 20<sup>th</sup> December and bring and buy sale on 1st February.
- **Life Skills**, a six session course teaching skills that enhance mental well-being and teach simple ways of handling stress better. Contact Rev Sheila Bridge, email [sheila@peterjohnchurch.org.uk](mailto:sheila@peterjohnchurch.org.uk) or go to [www.peterjohnchurch.weebly.com](http://www.peterjohnchurch.weebly.com)

### 3. Other Events, Activities & Training in Rugby and beyond

Security marking your bicycle increases the chances of getting it back if it is lost or stolen. Your local **Safer Neighbourhood Team** is holding a property marking event to help you keep your bicycle safe and secure. Pop along with your bike and have it marked free of charge. Come along to the event at 1pm – 3pm on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December** at the Old Tool Shed Café in Caldecott Park. For more information contact Rugby Town North SNT, tel. 101 #RugbyCops e-mail [rtn.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:rtn.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk)

**Warwickshire County Council's Localities and Partnerships Team** is recruiting two **Administrative Assistants**, each 20-25 hours per week, one post to be based in the Warwick/Leamington Spa/Stratford upon Avon areas and one post to be based in Nuneaton. Application deadline is **Tuesday, 5th January** with interviews taking place on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th January. For further information about the role please contact Sarah Butter on 01788 533656 or email [sarahbutter@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarahbutter@warwickshire.gov.uk) To apply visit [www.wmjobs.co.uk](http://www.wmjobs.co.uk)

**Warwickshire Children and Voluntary Youth Services (WCVYS)** will host a **Mental Health First Aid Training Youth course** on Thursday 7th & Friday 8th January from 9am to 5pm at Learn Warwickshire, 6 Mitchell Court, Castle Mound Way, Central Park, Rugby CV23 0UY. The two-day MHFA course will cover depression and anxiety, suicide and psychosis, self-harm and eating disorders. Other topics include bullying/cyber bullying, substance misuse and promoting protective factors and good parenting. At the end of the course you will receive a Youth MHFA manual that you can take away with you and also an attendance certificate from MHFA England. The course costs £50 for WCAVA, WCVYS and VASA members, £150 for non-members. For further details or to book a place visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk>

**Warwickshire County Council** would like to invite people living with dementia and their family members (carers) to a focus group to help them generate ideas for the future development of an Extra Care Housing model for people living with dementia. A workshop will be held at Farmers Court, Charolais Close, Rugby CV21 3AR on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January from 2pm to 3pm. The council would like to know:

- What is important to you about care at home/housing with care?
- How could the home environment support you to remain well, independent & safe?
- What does living in a dementia friendly environment mean to you?

If you would like to attend, please contact Ewa Niepsuj by email: [ewaniepsuj@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:ewaniepsuj@warwickshire.gov.uk) or call 01926 742214.

**Making Space Mental Health Forum** – the next meeting in Rugby will take place in Rugby Methodist Church Centre on **Thursday 21 January** 10am – 12noon. The guest speaker will be from Voiceability, who provide independent mental health advocacy for people in need of support with their rights. For more information, please contact **Jessica Brooks, Service User Involvement Co-ordinator** Tel 07872 423728, e-mail [Jessica.brooks@makingspace.co.uk](mailto:Jessica.brooks@makingspace.co.uk)

**Rugby Edible Action Partnership** is hosting a workshop for individuals, community leaders, groups, organisations and businesses from across Rugby borough to help develop a programme of work to link up current activity around **edible gardening / community cooking / healthy eating / food budgeting**. Join us from 12.30pm for refreshments and networking, followed by talks on the benefits of community gardening and activities that can help to develop cooking skills and support healthy eating on a budget. There will also be an opportunity for discussions about existing projects, how these might be able to link together and whether there are any gaps or support needs. The feedback from the workshop will be used to help shape the future work of the Partnership. The workshop will take place on Tuesday 26 January 2016, from 12.30pm at the Rugby Indian Community Centre, Edward Street, New Bilton, Rugby, CV21 2EZ. To book your place, please register via following the link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rugby-edible-action-partnership-reap-workshop-tickets-19992989570> For more information, please contact: Hannah Cramp on: 01788 533656 or email [hannahcramp@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:hannahcramp@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Advance Notices:

**The Rotary Club of Rugby Saturday Breakfast: Quiz Night & Raffle** on Friday 19th February 2016, 7.30pm start, at The Railway Club, Hillmorton Road, Rugby CV22 5AL. Tickets £9 per person on the door including a fish & chip supper or early bird reduced entry of £8 for tickets booked before Friday 12th February. To register your team (maximum of six), call 01788 817900 or go to: [www.rcrsb.co.uk](http://www.rcrsb.co.uk) to download a request form. Half a case of wine for the winning team. All profits donated to Acorns - care for the child, support for the family.

The next **Rugby CAN** (Community Action Network) event will be at Rogers Hall, Hillmorton, on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March from 9am-11.30am, followed by a Funding Application Workshop that afternoon from 1pm-3pm.

Patients' representative group **Healthwatch Warwickshire** is holding a series of meetings aimed at giving members of the public a chance to share their views and experiences of health and social care provision. It is hoped as many people as possible will share thoughts on the barriers they face when it comes to living as independently as possible, and what service providers may be able to do to help change this. The feedback generated by the district based meetings will be presented to key decision makers and commissioners and providers of health and social care in Warwickshire, and could help shape how services are delivered in the future. It takes place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February from 10am to 12pm (lunch 12pm to 1pm) at The Benn Partnership Centre, Railway Terrace, Rugby.

The date has been set for next year's **Thrift Week – March 19th to 27th**. This will be the third annual celebration of all things cheap and cheerful and now's the time to think about organising an event for your community group or neighbourhood. For ideas and suggestions for events, such as neighbourhood street sales and swap shops, community repair cafes and upcycling events, healthy eating on a budget workshops and give and take re-use events, visit [www.thriftweek.co.uk/getinvolved](http://www.thriftweek.co.uk/getinvolved) To register an event or log a special offer visit [www.thriftweek.co.uk/business](http://www.thriftweek.co.uk/business) More information on Thrift Week can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/thriftweek> or <https://twitter.com/thriftweeklive>

#### **4. Useful Organisations, Resources, Funding, Consultations** Rugby, Warwickshire etc.

The festive season is often filled with joy and merriment, however it may feel like the opposite for those who are vulnerable, lonely or are struggling to cope. **Mental health and wellbeing support services** within Warwickshire which include face to face support, books, eBooks, audio CDS, a telephone helpline and an online community, are available to help those who are struggling to cope over the festive period. Launched in Warwickshire during November as part of National Stress Awareness Day, [www.bigwhitewall.com](http://www.bigwhitewall.com) is an online support website guided by trained professionals, where people help each other by sharing what's troubling them. **Big White Wall** is available 24/7 on a computer, smart phone or tablet, completely anonymous and free to people living in Warwickshire, including students. For face to face support across Warwickshire, one to one appointments can be made at Warwickshire **Wellbeing Hubs**. The hubs also offer a twice weekly drop-in service, along with Community Outreach sessions, completely free of charge. Locations can be found here [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth) For those who'd prefer to pick up the telephone, a team of trained and experienced support workers are available 24/7 via the **Mental Health Matters Helpline** on **0800 61 61 71** and **0300 330 5487** for mobiles.

To find out more about the Mental Health and Wellbeing support services available within Warwickshire, go to [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth)

A number of support organisations have provided details of **services running over Christmas** for victims of domestic abuse, drug and alcohol support services and mental health support services. The posters are available to download from the community development team's Facebook page – search for Rugby Communities (posted 17<sup>th</sup> December).

### Warwickshire Community & Voluntary Action:

- The latest funding bulletin for WCAVA featuring information on all the latest funding opportunities for voluntary and community groups is available to download from <http://www.wcava.org.uk>
- WCAVA and Warwickshire and Children Voluntary Youth Services (WCVYS) are to merge in the new year following a vote at the AGMs of both charities. The assets of WCVYS will be merged with WCAVA but ring-fenced for work with the voluntary children and young people sector. The organisation will continue to be known as WCAVA.

**Love Food Champions** newsletter full of Christmas food-related information is available at <https://app.mailerlite.com/m8s6q0> If you're someone who's keen on cutting out food waste or have a few tips you think you can share, you might want to consider becoming a **Love Food Champion**. Warwickshire County Council can provide a number of resources for people who are interested in spreading the message on reducing food waste. To find out more visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/champions](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/champions)

**Claire Moody** is the new **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Officer for the Family Information Service (FIS)** until March 2017. Claire will be taking a lead role in maintaining and developing information on Warwickshire's Local Offer which brings together information about education, health and care services for children and young people from 0 to 25 with SEND. Claire is also keen to attend lots of outreach events to promote the Local Offer and the Family Information Service, who offer free help and advice to all Warwickshire families. If you would like Claire, or one of the FIS team to attend an event or group to let families know about the support we can offer, please contact: 01926 74 22 74 or email: [fis@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:fis@warwickshire.gov.uk) For more information visit: <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis> or <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send>

**Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership** celebrated their **10th anniversary** at their AGM in Rugby College last month. Junaid Hussain presented the WREP annual report and the guest speaker was Assistant Chief Constable Naveed Malik. For more information about WREP, including publication downloads, see <http://www.wrep.org.uk/> WREP offer **specialist equalities training** at competitive prices. Courses include:

- Equality & Diversity
- Cultural Awareness
- Hate Crime
- Mental Health & Cultural Awareness
- Personalisation in Adult Social Care - A Cultural Perspective
- Preventing Violent Extremism
- Disability Awareness - A Cultural Perspective
- End of Life Care - A Cultural Perspective

For a full training brochure, please click on the following link or for more information please contact the WREP office on 01788 863117. <http://www.wrep.org.uk/content/specialist-equalities-training>

Also, the final WREN newsletter is online and can be found at: <http://www.wrep.org.uk/newsletter>

The current Annual Review is available to view: <http://www.wrep.org.uk/node/2589>

WREP is conducting research within the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities of Warwickshire to identify what is needed to encourage more people to participate in sports and physical activities, find out about any health and wellbeing issues and provide support in overcoming these issues. A survey has been created in order to acquire this information: <https://www.quicksurveys.com/s/p2BXa86>

The WREP Photo Gallery now includes photos from Brooke School Badminton Sessions -

<http://www.wrep.org.uk/content/nov-15-brooke-school-badminton-sessions-rugby-5> and Women's Only Self Defence - <http://www.wrep.org.uk/content/nov-2015-womens-only-self-defence-rugby-1>

**Take A Break Warwickshire** (<http://www.tabw.org.uk/>) trialled a Tiny Tabs group in the north of the county a number of years ago for toddlers with additional needs, and would be interested to know if there is a demand in the Rugby area for this type of group, either in the holidays or in term time. The Children's Centres are also interested in this gap in provision. If anyone would like to know more, contact Ali Irvine at [alison.irvine@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:alison.irvine@barnardos.org.uk) email Simon at TAB at [simon@tabw.org.uk](mailto:simon@tabw.org.uk)

Warwickshire County Council has funding available for projects which will help to deliver one or more of the following priorities in Warwickshire:

- Using and improving green spaces for exercise and/or health benefits
- Reducing the harm caused by drugs & alcohol
- Reducing loneliness & social isolation

**The Building Healthier Communities** funding should support activities that bring people together and promote healthy lifestyles. This could include walking groups, lunch clubs, and befriending schemes. Organisations can bid for up to £5,000. This opportunity is available to voluntary and community organisations and town and parish councils. Other agencies may be eligible where there is clear community involvement and community benefit. Interested parties must register on <http://www.csw-jets.co.uk/> and search under 'All Opportunities' for: WCC - 'Wider Determinants of Health' Funding Opportunity 2016, where you will find full details of the application process and criteria. The deadline is **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016**. Any queries, please contact Emily Fernandez, Commissioning and Performance Lead - Wider Determinants, Public Health, Warwickshire County Council. Email: [emilyfernandez@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:emilyfernandez@warwickshire.gov.uk) or phone: 01926 413 774.

**St John Ambulance** has received funding from the Department for Education to provide free first aid training for primary and secondary pupils. The Character Education grant will also be used by the charity to provide free termly first aid training videos. For more information schools should contact St John Ambulance on 0121 237 3879 or email [west-mids-training@sja.org.uk](mailto:west-mids-training@sja.org.uk)

**Warwickshire County Council** has created a one-off grant fund of £500,000 to give support to Third Sector organisations and Town and Parish Councils. The deadline for the **Transformation Fund** is midday on Monday 1 February 2016. The Fund will help eligible organisations to take on board the transformation necessary to ensure communities are able to meet the challenges associated with the delivery of Warwickshire County Council's One Organisational Plan. The Fund will provide up to two years of financial support to help organisations develop and pilot new business models that will provide sustainable services into the future. Bids should clearly align with the purpose and one or more of the outcomes in the One Organisational Plan. The Fund will offer one-off grants of between £5,000 and £70,000. For more information and downloads, see <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fundinglocalprojects>

**In Easy Steps** have donated a number of their titles to voluntary and community organisations. Visit <http://www.wcava.org.uk/free-computer-books-groups> for a list of available books and if you would like copies for your group contact Helen Hackley on 01788 574258 or email [helen@wcava.org.uk](mailto:helen@wcava.org.uk). Please note Helen is only available on Mondays but you can leave a message for her on the phone number above or by email.

**Warwickshire County Council** has launched new ways for people and communities to learn in public libraries. The **Universal Learning Offer** – a national initiative from the Society of Chief Librarians – is now available in council-run libraries to help people broaden their digital skills and introduce a wider range of learning opportunities available. The scheme will see hundreds of self-directed learning resources on offer in local library branches. See <http://news.warwickshire.gov.uk/blog/2015/11/16/new-ways-to-learn-in-libraries/>

The next **Dementia Friends Champion Induction** will be held in Birmingham on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January at Suite 3, The REP, Centenary Square, Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2EP. The session, which runs from 10am to 4pm, will include a Dementia Friends Information Session delivered by a Regional Support Officer and a chance to discuss the activities and key messages, before taking part in a practice presentation. To register visit <https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/WebTraining#.Vm7uEtLGq50>

A **Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment** is being undertaken in relation to young people in contact with **Warwickshire's Youth Justice Services**. This work is being undertaken on behalf of the Warwickshire Youth Justice Chief Officers Board and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Board. The assessment would like the views of a wide range of people from different organisations through this short survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PHRVQBT> Your contribution is important and will have implications for future youth offending service delivery, and potentially future health, social care and wider public service delivery. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete and all responses are required by Friday 15th January 2016. For more information email [bernilee@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:bernilee@warwickshire.gov.uk).

The **Rugby Local Strategic Partnership** has recently published a report on **social inclusion** in the borough. The report, produced by Warwickshire Observatory, outlines the top ten areas of the borough for poor levels of social inclusion (how integrated residents feel within their community) and also consistent themes which have emerged. See [https://www.rugby.gov.uk/info/20086/partnerships/222/rugby\\_local\\_strategic\\_partnership/4](https://www.rugby.gov.uk/info/20086/partnerships/222/rugby_local_strategic_partnership/4)

**Warwickshire County Council** is planning to introduce a **new equalities service** aimed at promoting equality for those with characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010 (including disability, sex, race, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, religion or belief, age, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity). The service is due to commence in July 2016. As part of that research, equalities organisation brap is asking local organisations to complete a short survey, which is [available here](#). For more information contact Asif Afridi from brap at [asifa@brap.org.uk](mailto:asifa@brap.org.uk) or call 0121 237 3600.

**North Warwickshire and Hinckley College** are offering 12-week blended or distance learning courses on a variety of subjects around **health and social care and business qualifications**. The courses, which are all at level 2, can be completed online and can be provided to groups of 10 or more from organisations or businesses (no fee) or to individuals (£35 enrolment fee). Learners in receipt of qualifying benefits can enrol without paying the fee. Courses range from dementia care and understanding autism to working with people with mental health needs. To register your interest in a course contact Lesley Wilcox on 02476 243506 or email [Lesley.wilcox@nwhc.ac.uk](mailto:Lesley.wilcox@nwhc.ac.uk) For more information on available courses download the distance and blended learning course guide at <http://www.nwhc.ac.uk/article/view/guide>

Heritage and Culture Warwickshire (HCW) is looking for groups that want to find out more about the **Our Warwickshire website**. HCW can offer free sessions to groups from January to July 2016, at venues around the county. The sessions would be a chance to see the website, discuss what's been posted, and find out how to get involved. If your venue has Wi-Fi, or computers, the session can be practical. They can also bring a portable scanner if you have images to add to the site. Our Warwickshire is a Heritage Lottery funded project to develop a community website that celebrates and shares Warwickshire's heritage, history, stories and memories. For more information email Sarah Hann at: [sarahhann@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarahhann@warwickshire.gov.uk) or call 01926 736422.

**Age UK Warwickshire** has launched its 'No one should have no one' campaign to support and highlight the issues surrounding **loneliness and social isolation for older people** in Warwickshire. Its TEXT appeal also raises vital funds to allow Age UK to create positive social opportunities and events for local older people not just at Christmas, but throughout 2016. If you want to make a difference to the lives of older people in Warwickshire text AUKW08 £5 to 70070, call 01926 458100 or visit: <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/>

Over the past few months **Coventry and Rugby CCG** has undertaken a significant amount of engagement around a primary care strategy for the local area. Input from a variety of partners, including voluntary sector organisations, has helped inform the development of the first complete draft. The CCG is now undertaking a consultation around this document and would again welcome the views of key stakeholders on the strategy in its current form. Feedback and comments on the consultation questions can be made by using the online questionnaire or by e-mailing: [localities@coventryrugbyccg.nhs.uk](mailto:localities@coventryrugbyccg.nhs.uk) before **Thursday, 31st December 2015**.

**The Heritage Lottery Fund** has **grants of £10,000-£250,000** available for Grade I and Grade II listed places of worship in England to fund urgent structural repairs and help to make them better places for everyone to visit. As part of the repair project, HLF can also fund improvements to facilities and work that helps more people get involved with these buildings. Applications go through a two-round process so applicants can apply at an early project stage and get an idea of whether you're likely to receive a grant. Deadline is Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016. Read more at: <http://www.hlf.org.uk>

**BBC Children in Need** distributes the funds raised each year as grants to organisations that work with **disadvantaged children and young people** in the UK. Funding is available to organisations that are supporting children and young people of 18 years and under who are experiencing disadvantage through illness, distress, abuse or neglect; any kind of disability; behavioural or psychological difficulties; living in poverty or situations of deprivation. Organisations must be working to combat this disadvantage and to make a real difference to children and young people's lives. The deadline is Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. For further details visit: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/corporate2/childreninneed>

**Website, Facebook and Twitter** For more information about community activities coming up in Rugby and other useful local information, please visit: **Website:** [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/rugbyareainformation](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/rugbyareainformation)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/rugbycommunities](http://www.facebook.com/rugbycommunities) **Twitter:** @RB\_Communities

**Community Information Update** - Priority Neighbourhoods in Rugby - **No. 47** will cover **early February to mid-March 2016**. Please send your information (in the form of short paragraphs of plain text) to [cdwrugby@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cdwrugby@warwickshire.gov.uk) **before Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**. Thank you very much.  
Merry Christmas and happy new year from Christine, Jen and all in the Rugby Area Team!