



Hi

We have recently been updating our contact records and we may have out-of-date details. If you are not the correct contact person for your organisation or you have changed your contact details, please let us know.

Welcome to the April 2009 edition of re@d-it! the monthly newsletter from do-it.org.uk.

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Please feel free to share this newsletter with other members of your team, especially those who are V-Base or V-Base Recruiter users.

Top tips for posting opportunities

On do-it.org.uk, it is really important that opportunities are clearly written and well devised to attract the maximum number of potential volunteers. There are many resources on the Partners section of the do-it.org.uk website, which can help make your opportunities really stand out. Click here for a list of do's and don'ts.

Also don't miss our new feature in re@d-it!, which will include a 'Top Tip' every month.

Simon says:

'When writing an opportunity, do not use all CAPITAL LETTERS - they make words more difficult to read and it also appears that you're shouting at people.'

V-Base Development Advisory Group (VDAG) update

VDAG is one of YouthNet's advisory groups which ensures that any planned redevelopment of the software meets the needs of stakeholders and YouthNet gains the support and input of representatives from key partner groups.

Last month we met with VDAG (V-Base Development Advisory Group), one of YouthNet's advisory groups, for a day filled with discussion and debate.

The meeting gave YouthNet an opportunity to show the group the progress made so far and what remains to be developed. The group also discussed how certain features could be enhanced in the new version such as; look-up lists, account administration and data sharing.

More information on our Advisory Groups can be found on the Partners pages of the do-it.org.uk website.

Membership survey

If you are a Volunteer Centre then we'd love to hear your opinions about a potential membership package that we are establishing to coincide with the release of V-Base 3.0. We want to find out your views about what this package could consist of and to make sure we are designing a package that meets your needs. Please let us know your thoughts by Friday 1 May 2009.

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[Products & Services](#)

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'I am impressed by the level of attention to detail, inclusive process and "democratic approach" of YouthNet.'
Naama Wartenburg,
Volunteer Centre,
Westminster

[Suggestion](#)

Tell us what you think about re@d-it!

Please post any feedback, suggestions and ideas you have for re@d-it! here.

Partners' focus groups

Here at do-it.org.uk, we're always looking for new ways to make the process of volunteering easier: both for our partners and for potential volunteers.

Currently we are undertaking a major research project which explores how volunteers interact with the National Volunteering Database (NVD) and the do-it.org.uk and vinspired.com websites - as well as more about volunteers' subsequent experiences. We want to investigate the whole journey from when a potential volunteer first visits one of the websites to when they start their volunteer opportunity.

As part of this research, we are holding a series of focus groups to discuss our partners' experiences of this process and how it could be improved. This is your chance to feedback on: how your opportunities are displayed on do-it.org.uk; the process of matching volunteers with opportunities on V-Base; and any other issues you may experience. If you are interested in attending a focus group or know of someone who might be, please email to let us know.

Our next focus group will be held on:

Wednesday 29 April 2009	Volunteer Involving Organisations using V-Base Recruiter	YouthNet, London
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We will keep you updated with our findings from the research.

Syndication

Would you like to have your volunteering opportunities on your website? For an annual fee you can syndicate the do-it.org.uk search box and present it in your website's own design. It's a simple way to add value to your site and offers a great new service to your users. You can take a feed from the whole do-it.org.uk website or choose to present just your own opportunities.

If you're interested in syndicating the do-it.org.uk opportunity search, get in touch with our Partnerships team to find out more. This service is provided to Volunteer Centres at 100 per cent discount.

Youth Commission survey link

Should education continue to the age of 18? If you know any 10 to 25 year-olds who would like to have their say on this, put them in touch with the Edge Learner Forum. This is a network of young people across England, which aims to promote practical learning and show there are many different ways to be successful. The Forum has been in touch with our team at TheSite.org to ask young people to contribute to a Youth Commission survey on the subject. The Youth Commission was formed as a result of the Government's decision to raise the education participation age to 18 and the survey results will be fed through directly to education ministers.

If you have strong views on this and want to have your say, please do take part in the Youth Commission survey.

Promote your opportunity

Over the last few years many volunteers have registered for volunteering opportunities on do-it.org.uk and quite a number of these receive our monthly newsletter. The newsletter has many different features, including the promotion of a variety of opportunities that are on do-it.org.uk website. It is particularly successful at appealing to those who want to attract a wide range of volunteers across a large geographical area. Please contact us, if you would be interested in promoting an opportunity through our volunteers' newsletter.

Real Help for Communities - regional road shows

Nine free-of-charge regional road shows are being organised by the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) to help charities and social enterprises find out more about available support and how it can be accessed. The road shows are aimed at small and medium frontline third sector organisations and will focus upon support available under the action plan: Real Help for Communities: volunteers, charities and social enterprises. Schemes included in the programme are: the modernisation fund, the targeted support fund and community builders' programme. To register and to find out more, click on the following link: [Real Help for](#)

Upcoming training events

V-Base training: 1 May 2009

Information about V-Base training and the dates of future sessions are now available on do-it.org.uk. If you are interested in attending the training sessions, please fill in and send us the V-Base training booking form.

V Base Recruiter training: 13 May 2009

Information about V Base Recruiter training and dates of future sessions are also available on do-it.org.uk. If you would like to attend a session or wish to register your interest for future sessions, please fill in and send us the V Base Recruiter training booking form.

Location

All training sessions take place in YouthNet's office: First floor, 50 Featherstone Street, London, EC1Y 8RT.

Welcome to fourteen new partners!

This month, we're welcoming fourteen new organisations to the fold:

- vflex Sandwell
- Rathbone vFlex Walsall
- Groundwork
- Blackfriars Settlement
- East London vInvolved Team
- Southend YMCA
- Signpost
- Lewisham College
- University of Sheffield, Union of Students
- London Coaching Foundation
- Rugby Football League
- Sikh Community & Youth Service UK
- North of England Refugee Service
- CHICKS

We look forward to working in partnership with these organisations and promoting their opportunities on do-it.org.uk.

Until next time,

The Partnerships Team
www.youthnet.org
www.do-it.org.uk

