



Hi

Welcome to the February 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.

### Syndication feed on Directgov

Since 2002 we've been syndicating opportunities from do-it.org.uk to Jobcentre Plus. However, in an effort to make information on public services more accessible, all Government departments are now making services available on Directgov rather than having separate websites.

In light of this, Jobcentre Plus has moved their job search onto [Directgov](#). Using this search, you can find volunteering opportunities from do-it.org.uk as well as paid positions. Since the end of last month people using the Jobcentre Plus website have been directed to Directgov. This change may lead to an increase in the number of volunteer enquiries you receive. Please do [contact us](#) if you notice a substantial increase in do-it.org.uk applications and enquiries over the coming months.

### V- Base 3.0 Update

If you currently use V-Base and work in collaboration with other organisations in your area, we would really like to hear from you. To ensure that V-Base 3.0 will support your working practices we would like to gather your thoughts on the following:

- If you are from an organisation that has multiple branches currently using separate V-Base databases, how do you see this changing in the future?
- If you could, would you merge all your V-Base databases into one database, or would you want to keep separate data sets?
- If you are working with other organisations in your region/county what data would you like to share? Who would 'own' the data you're sharing?

Please get in touch with [Felicity](#) to share your thoughts and suggestions.

Please note: If you are currently using V-Base 2.5 and you've set up a linked access database, we need to make you aware that we're unable to migrate these external databases to V-Base 3.0. It will not be possible for you to migrate data from anywhere else other than V-Base 2.5 and our support team will be unable to help with any technical difficulties relating to external databases.

Please also note that, as a minimum technical requirement to successfully run V-Base 3.0, you will need Windows XP installed.

### Want to promote volunteering at your organisation?

Here at do-it.org.uk, we've recently launched a photo campaign to demonstrate the diversity of volunteers and volunteering opportunities in the UK – and we would love to have all our partners involved.



Volunteers all around the country are sending in photos of themselves holding up signs saying 'I'm doing it in...' or 'I'm doing it at...' and we're bringing them together on the photo-sharing website, [Flickr](#) to create a nationwide picture of volunteering. We're also looking for submissions from organisations who would like to promote their volunteers or volunteering programmes.

Submitting a photo is also a great way to promote a particular opportunity that you're advertising on do-it.org.uk. Accompanying each photo, we're including information about the organisation and a link through to the opportunity (see the [askTheSite](#) [peer advisors](#) photos for an example). We'll be promoting the campaign throughout the year – both to do-it.org.uk registered volunteers and through our other networks. It'll be earliest submissions that will end up getting the most traffic, so start taking photos and sending them in today. For more information, see our [article on do-it.org.uk](#) or email [marketing@youthnet.org](mailto:marketing@youthnet.org).

### Volunteer Focus Groups

YouthNet are currently conducting research into the volunteer's journey. As part of this we are holding a series of focus groups all over the country to find out peoples experiences of using do-it.org.uk, vInspired and their volunteering stories: we want to hear about their motivations, experiences and what volunteering means to them.

We are keen to hear from people regardless of whether they have or haven't started volunteering. Please find below a list of dates, locations and target audiences for the different focus groups:

18 February 2009	London	16-25 year olds
20 February 2009	Leeds	16-25 year olds
9 March 2009	London	26-44 year olds
10 March 2009	Birmingham	16-25 year olds
12 March 2009	Birmingham	26-44 year olds
18 March 2009	Nottingham	45+ year olds
19 March 2009	Liverpool	45+ year olds

This will be a great opportunity for volunteers to get together, share their stories and shape the future of volunteering. Travel expenses will be reimbursed and lovely refreshments provided on the day.

We are currently recruiting, so if you know of anyone who would be interested in attending please contact [Dave](#) for further information.

This research is supported by [v](#), the youth volunteering charity.

### 'Create, Involve, Recruit': 25 February and 25 March

Interested in creating more opportunities for young volunteers? Want to discuss strategies for recruiting more young people? The next 'Create, Involve, Recruit' workshops take place on 25 February (2-4pm) and 25 March (2-4pm). You can find out more information about the workshops and information on how to book on our [Involving Young Volunteers](#) page. Alternatively contact [Fiona](#) for more information.

### Upcoming training events

V Base Recruiter training: 27 February and 23 March 2009  
Information about [V Base Recruiter training](#) and dates of future sessions are now 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](#).

V-Base training: 20 February and 16 March 2009  
Information about [V-Base training](#) and the dates of future sessions are also 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](#).

#### Location

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

### Welcome to seven new partners!

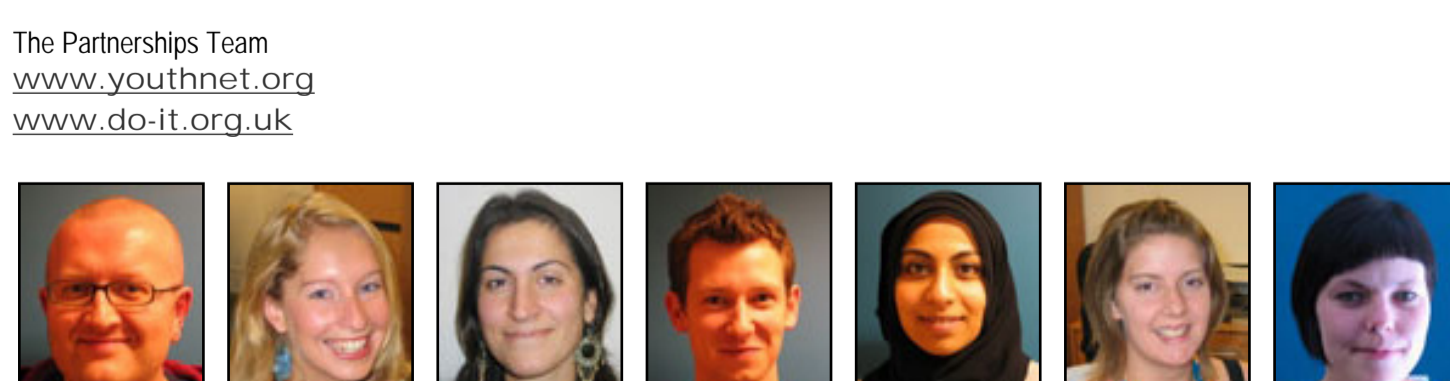
This month, we're welcoming seven new organisations to the fold:

- Hendon Young Peoples Project
- Patiko Bakers Fort
- Newman University College
- Body & Soul
- TLC College
- ReachOut!
- England and Wales Cricket Trust

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](http://www.youthnet.org)  
[www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk)



Simon Jenkinson   Felicity Jones   Giuseppina Colamarco   Dave Coles   Sophia Amejee   Fiona Jamieson   Jenni Parker

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*'Completely relevant - can't wait to use my new found knowledge.'*

Jacky Birkett, Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire

[Suggestion](#)

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

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