



www.tacklingpoverty-beds.org.uk

# Poverty News

November 2007

## Supplement



The **Benefits for All Campaign** instigated by Bedford Partnership Board, following a recommendation by the TPT Group, is continuing throughout Bedford Borough. A report has just been produced on the first half-year of the campaign.

The biggest event to date was the Advice Fair held in Bedford on 3rd October with 21 participating organisations and 365 enquiries. The second largest generator of enquiries was the Advice Week in May with 11 participating agencies. Other, smaller 'piggy back' events have also been organised. The first of two briefing sessions for advisors took place in September informing local advisors about the Campaign. The second briefing session is planned for May 2008. It is also hoped to form a Bedford Benefit Working Partnership.

### Child Poverty Grants

[www.daretocarecampaign.com/Support-centre/Grants.aspx](http://www.daretocarecampaign.com/Support-centre/Grants.aspx)

**Dare to Care: Make time to help end child poverty** is a campaign to encourage 35,000 people to volunteer their time to help children living in poverty – from Community Service Volunteers (CSV).

A small one-off grant of up to £80 is offered to schools, community groups, youth centres and organisations to help with set-up costs of a *Dare to Care: Make time to help end child poverty* activity.

You can apply for a grant when you register your activity. You will be asked on the registration form whether you would like to apply.

Please note that application for a grant does not guarantee you will receive the grant. CSV will review your activity details once you have registered, to see if the activity meets the grant terms and conditions. You will then receive notification 'before' your activity takes place of whether or not your grant application is successful to help you manage your budget.

CSV will also be giving out one Outstanding Achievement Award of £300 during each campaign month. Their judging panel will select the activities they believe best address child poverty and the campaign themes.

If you are unsure about your eligibility for the grant, please call 0800 284 533 or email [daretocare@csv.org.uk](mailto:daretocare@csv.org.uk) for advice.

The benefit enquiry types in the Campaign breakdown as follows:

• Council Tax Benefit	22%	• Housing Benefit	12%
• Pension Credit	12%	• Disability Living Allowance	11%
• Child Tax Credit	5%	• Attendance Allowance	7%
• Other benefits	31%		

In their report the Campaign organisers estimate that the total weekly benefit gain is currently £15,591.

The Advice Fair has been described as "by far the most successful part of the Campaign to date both in enquiry generation and value for money terms". The event also encouraged greater partnership working as advisors were able to network between themselves. Many participants said they would welcome a repeat event and it is possible that the Campaign could be extended by booking a second Advice Fair in October 2008. Future plans also involve investigating the possibility of working with statutory and voluntary advice agencies to target specific groups of people.

### Migrant Workers

#### Migrant Gateway

**Migrant Gateway** is a website that provides information, advice and guidance to people who are thinking of coming to work in the UK, or who are already living here, and for people working with migrants. This site is for migrants and employers, trade unions and other professionals. It is a portal that aims to provide access to all the information you need either directly or through links to other services. Visit [www.migrantgateway.eu](http://www.migrantgateway.eu)

In addition to the website there are two phone helplines available: the **META Hotline 0871 423 1334** which provides information to migrants in **Czech, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and English**; and the **Employment Law Advice Line 0845 234 0708** which gives specialist advice about employing migrants.

### Correction

In the main edition of Poverty News (November 2007) on page 4, we stated that Bedfordshire County Council has commissioned research on migrant worker issues via Bedford Race Equality Council and Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity. In fact, Bedfordshire County Council is still in negotiation with their potential partners in this research and is hoping to commission the work in the near future. We apologise for this error.



The East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) has produced the 2nd edition of its **Regional Social Strategy and Action Plan 2007 - 2010** working towards social inclusion throughout the East of England. The Strategy gives an overview of social exclusion in the region and proposes a series of interventions to tackle poverty and develop sustainable communities.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the Strategy, call EERA on 01284 728151 or visit <http://www.eera.gov.uk>