



## Refreshing the Memory: What is ASPIRE?

It has probably been a few months since your organisation signed up for the ASPIRE programme, so it's time for an update as on the programme and to remind ourselves how it can benefit your Volunteer Centre.

ASPIRE is a project which has been developed by the Volunteer Centre North Lanarkshire, supported by ESF Objective 3 funding and the Scottish Executive, to help **build the capacity of the VC Network in Scotland**.

The programme allows training, organisation development, useful discussions and capacity

building to be delivered to the VC Network and suitable other organisations.

The main beneficiaries of ASPIRE – which links strongly to VDS and Volunteering Strategy objectives - are Volunteer Centre managers, the staff and volunteers of VC's, and the board and committees involved in VC governance.

I'm really pleased to have the Network involved together in such an exciting project, and our team is looking forward to working with you.

**Mary McNeil** Volunteer Centre Manager

### The Two Phases of ASPIRE...

- **Phase 1** – Focuses on discovering the organisation and developmental needs of the participating Volunteer Centres. This is done through extensive research, questionnaires, individual discussions, and seminars. **Ends September 2005**
- **Phase 2** - Delivery phase of the programme, where the signed up organisations will benefit from the discussions and research which took place in Phase 1, by receiving organised training and development opportunities. **Begins Early 2006**

## ASPIRE Programme Schedule

### SIGNING-UP AND QUESTIONNAIRE PHASE (Feb-Jul 05)

Your Volunteer Centre has already signed onto the ASPIRE programme. Signed ASPIRE agreement forms should be returned if this has not been done already. Your organisation will have been contacted about completing two ASPIRE questionnaires. These should be returned if not already completed.

### ASPIRE SEMINAR FOR MANAGERS (Aug 05)

Two seminars for Volunteer Centre Managers to find out more about the next phase of the project and input to the ASPIRE research process have been scheduled (one in the north and one in the south). Managers will also have the opportunity to discuss their own organisation individual needs at this seminar.

**Option 1 – Seminar Taking Place in Glasgow on Monday 8 August (South)**

**Option 2 – Seminar Taking Place in Inverness on Thursday 25 August (North)**

### ASPIRE SEMINAR FOR NON-MANAGERS (Aug 05)

Two seminars for other staff and volunteers within your organisation have been scheduled, one in the north and one in the south. These seminars will allow your personnel to find out about ASPIRE, and play a key role in the research phase and what they would like to see delivered in the delivery phase.

**Option 1 – Seminar Taking Place in Glasgow on Tuesday 9 August (South)**

**Option 2 – Seminar Taking Place in Inverness on Friday 26 August (North)**

### ASPIRE CONFERENCE (Sep 05)

A final conference has been arranged to present the findings of Phase 1 of the ASPIRE project to the participating organisations. Further information about Phase 2 will be provided at the Conference.

**Provisional date of Wednesday 21 September has been set for Conference**

**END OF ASPIRE PHASE ONE**  
 (Phase 2 will begin in early 2006)

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