

Local and National Training Opportunities, Conferences, Networking and Events

Last Updated: 3 May 2024

Date and Location	Detail
MAY 2024	
<p>Bath Digital Festival, 14 – 16 May 2024, Bath</p>	<p>Join techSPARK to celebrate our city with a focus on three internationally impactful themes with foundations in Bath & North East Somerset.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports & Life Sciences • Space • Cities <p>Take part in a mix of keynotes, immersive panels, hands-on workshops, and engaging roundtable discussions!</p> <p>https://techspark.co/bdf/</p>
<p>Free Wellbeing Events, 15 and 16 May 2024, Radstock and Bath</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Free Wellbeing Events 15 and 16 May 2024</p> <p>HCRG Care Group's Wellbeing Courses team are running two events as part of Mental Health Awareness Week.</p> <p>Radstock - 15 May</p> <p>Drop in to Hope House Surgery, Waterloo Road, Radstock BA3 3EP on 15 May between 10.30am and 1pm to meet the team and find out what's available to support your wellbeing. They will be providing information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health support • The Active Way • Somer Valley Rediscovered • Dragonfly Leisure • Wellbeing Courses • Exercise and weight management • Volunteering • Employment Support <p>Bath - 16 May</p> <p>There is also a free Wellbeing Afternoon on 16 May at BANES Carers' Centre BA2 9ES.</p> <p>It focuses on moving your body to boost your mental wellbeing as well as your physical health and includes chair work for beginners (12.30pm - 1.15pm) as well as breathwork and gentle exercise (1.30pm - 2.15pm)</p>

	<p>You can also get:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health support and advice • Information on free wellbeing courses • Exercise and weight management • Advice and support for carers • Free refreshments
<p>Interagency Meetings - BANES wide (online)</p>	<p>Our Interagency Network meetings take place every other month. They give service providers an opportunity to share information, promote projects or events and improve partnership working. The meetings are very informal (do feel free to have your lunch) and are open to anyone working or volunteering for an organisation in the area.</p> <p>Forthcoming Meetings:</p> <p>All meetings are on a Tuesday and take place by Teams between 12pm and 2pm. Click on the link to take part.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 May 2024 • 23 July 2024 • 24 September 2024 • 26 November 2024 <p>These meetings are currently taking place on-line and will be advertised via our Interagency Bulletin. Sign up to receive it here:</p> <p>https://bathnes.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=aaac7864bba59ea322ceb662d&id=ac4365a3e8</p>
<p>Dementia Awareness Conference, 21 May 2024, Peasedown St John</p>	<p>Registrations have opened for a regional dementia awareness conference that will be held in Peasedown St John in May. They will close on 10 May 2024.</p> <p>Organised by Peasedown Community Trust, the conference will feature keynote speakers, information stalls, networking, a tasty lunch and an opportunity to meet charity leaders and experts working in the field of dementia research and awareness.</p> <p>Keynote speakers include Cathy Wernham, a Senior Clinical Research Fellow from RICE (the Research Institute for Care for Older People) and Lisa Derrick, Regional Manager at the Methodist Homes Association.</p> <p>A huge range of organisations will also be present for delegates to meet, including:</p> <p>Care UK B&NES Library Service Alzheimer’s Society Peasedown Community Trust Peggy Dodd Centre</p>

	<p>Healthwatch BANES Homesharewest Appleton Nutrition Hillcrest Surgery Radfield Homecare RICE Methodist Homes Association</p> <p>The conference is completely free for anyone who'd like to attend thanks to funding provided by Bath & North East Somerset Council.</p> <p>Registration for delegates is now open. Anyone who'd like to attend should contact the Peasedown Community Trust to RSVP by Friday 10 May by email.</p> <p>Date: 21 May Time: 10am – 3pm Location: St John's Church, Peasedown St John BA2 8AA Cost: Free</p>
JUNE 2024	
<p>Volunteers Week, 3 – 9 June 2024, National</p>	<p>Volunteers' Week is an annual celebration of volunteers across the UK. 2024 year marks the 40th anniversary of the campaign which this year will run from Monday 3 to Sunday 9 June.</p> <p>For guidance and resources to help you celebrate volunteers, visit the Volunteers' Week website.</p> <p>The Big Help Out is a campaign to showcase how volunteering benefits both communities and the people who take part. It's all about providing opportunities for people to experience volunteering and make a difference in their communities. This year's Big Help Out will take place at the end of Volunteers' Week, over the weekend of 7 – 9 June.</p> <p>Bath and North East Somerset Community Volunteer Service</p> <p>If you are an individual or group interested in volunteering, our local Community Volunteer Service can help you find a volunteering role that's right for you.</p> <p>If you are an organisation seeking volunteers, they can help with promotion. Charities, non-profit, community groups and public sector organisations are all welcome to advertise volunteer roles on their Simply Connect Database.</p> <p>Find out more.</p>
<p>Saltford Festival 2024, 7 – 16 June, Saltford</p>	<p>This popular 10 day Festival in Saltford offers over 60 events including a Murder Mystery (2 nights), a Quiz, a Virtual Tour of Bath, a Race Night, a Jazz Evening, a Cheese & Wine Evening, Open Gardens and Avon Fire & Rescue Brass Band 70th Anniversary Concert.</p>

	<p><u>Full details on the dedicated Facebook page.</u></p>
<p>Tree Fun, Talks and Photography, 12 June 2024, Bath</p>	<p>RICE offer free activities for people living with a mild to moderate memory condition, including Mild Cognitive Impairment and dementia. Join in to meet with others in a similar position and engage in a variety of exciting activities. Only twenty spaces are available per session, so make sure to get in contact if you are interested in attending.</p> <p>On 12 June, take a relaxing walk in nature near The RICE Centre to discover more about varied tree species. Try your hand at photographing the beautiful scenery.</p> <p>Date: 12 June 2024 Time: TBC Location: Near the RICE Centre – Royal United Hospital, Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG</p> <p>Booking essential:</p> <p>https://www.rice.org.uk/our-services/activities-and-events/</p>
<p>Unleashing the power of Local Councils to tackle the Climate Emergency 26 June 2024 (Online)</p>	<p>A National Association of Local Councils (NALC) event</p> <p>Empower your local council to force change in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. Despite their potential, many smaller councils feel shackled by a lack of funding and disempowered in making a tangible impact. It's time to change that narrative.</p> <p>Take advantage of this dynamic event that goes beyond rhetoric. Witness first-hand examples of impactful initiatives from around the country through the eyes of a national stakeholder championing climate action, a representative from a government department steering this crucial agenda, and a case study featuring a council that has successfully risen to the challenge.</p> <p>This is not just another event – it's a call to action! Walk away with practical, actionable insights your council can implement to make a real change. The fight against climate change starts at the grassroots level, and your council can be a driving force. Seize this opportunity to transform your council into a catalyst for positive environmental change. Together, let's make a lasting impact on our planet's future.</p> <p>Date: 26 June 2024 Time: 12pm – 1.15pm Location: Online Cost: From £30</p> <p>https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-events/eventdetail/391/-/unleashing-the-power-of-local-councils-to-tackle-the-climate-emergency</p>
<p>JULY 2024</p>	

<p>Interagency Meetings - BANES wide (currently online)</p>	<p>A number of Interagency Network meetings take place across the district each year. They give service providers an opportunity to share information, promote projects or events and improve partnership working. Some of the meetings are organised by Bath & North East Somerset Council and others by partner organisations. The meetings are very informal (do feel free to bring your lunch) and are open to anyone working or volunteering for an organisation in the area.</p> <p>Forthcoming Meetings:</p> <p>All meetings are on a Tuesday and take place by Teams between 12pm and 2pm. Click on the link to take part.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 July 2024 • 24 September 2024 • 26 November 2024 <p>These meetings are currently taking place on-line and will be advertised via our Interagency Bulletin. Sign up to receive it here:</p> <p>https://bathnes.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=aaac7864bba59ea322ceb662d&id=ac4365a3e8</p>
<p>Decoding the Future of Artificial Intelligence in Local Government 24 July 2024 (Online)</p>	<p>A National Association of Local Councils (NALC) event</p> <p>Dive into the world of artificial intelligence (AI) and explore the realm of predictive analytics in local council settings. While our initial thoughts about AI might drift towards Hal from 2001: A Space Odyssey, the current focus is on predictive analytics and harnessing historical data to forecast new instances or cases.</p> <p>In the realm of local government, predictive analytics is emerging as a game-changer, although its widespread adoption is still in its infancy. This session will take you beyond the surface, examining sophisticated examples of predictive analytics in various local public services. While some organisations have embraced this cutting-edge technology, most of the sector is just beginning to explore the opportunities and risks it presents.</p> <p>Hear directly from experts who have conducted a groundbreaking report for the Local Government Association on AI in local government, a principal authority utilising assistive technology, and a communications stakeholder in the sector. Gain valuable insights into how predictive analytics could shape the future of local councils and grapple with the broader moral dilemma presented by AI.</p> <p>Date: 24 July 2024 Time: 12pm – 1.15pm Location: Online Cost: From £30</p> <p>https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-events/eventdetail/392/-/decoding-the-future-of-artificial-intelligence-in-local-governance</p>

SEPTEMBER 2024	
<p>The Future of Neighbourhood Plans 25 September 2024 (Online)</p>	<p>A National Association of Local Councils (NALC) event</p> <p>This event aims to re-evaluate the continued significance of neighbourhood planning and make a case for its sustenance in the upcoming parliament, regardless of the government's composition. The focus is bridging the interest gap between developers, local councils, and local planning authorities.</p> <p>Rediscover the passion for launching and shaping a neighbourhood plan in your area and access indispensable tips, guidance, and advice necessary to embark on this pivotal undertaking.</p> <p>Date: 25 September 2024 Time: 12pm – 1.15pm Location: Online Cost: From £30</p> <p>https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-events/eventdetail/393/-/the-future-of-neighbourhood-plans</p>
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NOVEMBER 2024	
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Ongoing Activities

Event	Description
Interagency Meetings - BANES wide (currently online)	<p>A number of Interagency Network meetings take place across the district each year. They give service providers an opportunity to share information, promote projects or events and improve partnership working. Some of the meetings are organised by Bath & North East Somerset Council and others by partner organisations. The meetings are very informal (do feel free to bring your lunch) and are open to anyone working or volunteering for an organisation in the area.</p> <p>Forthcoming Meetings:</p> <p>All meetings are on a Tuesday and take place by Teams between 12pm and 2pm. Click on the link to take part.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 March 2024 • 21 May 2024 • 23 July 2024 • 24 September 2024 • 26 November 2024 <p>These meetings are currently taking place on-line and will be advertised via our Interagency Bulletin. Sign up to receive it here:</p> <p>https://bathnes.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=aaac7864bba59ea322ceb662d&id=ac4365a3e8</p>
BANES Third Sector Group (3SG)	<p>3SG offers a wide range of events to help third sector organisations in Bath and North East Somerset (BaNES) thrive.</p> <p>They've also compiled events being run independently of 3SG that you may find beneficial.</p> <p>https://www.3sg.org.uk/eventpage</p>
Wellbeing Courses BANES	<p>HCRG Care Group provides a range of training for staff and volunteers, much of which is free. It also offers community courses designed to</p>

	<p>improve wellbeing. Some of their courses are featured below but do keep an eye on their website too for the latest opportunities.</p> <p>https://bathneshealthandcare.nhs.uk/wellness/wellbeing-college/</p> <p>A number of the featured training sessions are provided by St Mungo's. Their team are also able to provide bespoke training sessions for your organisation's volunteers, catering to their specific needs. If you would like to book a course for your organisation or talk further about their offer, please contact Paul Rimmer: paul.rimmer@mungos.org</p>
<p>Events in B&NES Libraries</p>	<p>Libraries across Bath and North East Somerset, including the Mobile Library, have a fantastic range of events and courses. Visit their website for the latest information:</p> <p>https://bathneslibraries.wordpress.com/monthly-events-calendars/</p> <p>https://bathneslibraries.wordpress.com/</p>
<p>Adult Community Learning – Bath College</p>	<p>Bath College Adult Community Learning provides a wide range of courses intended for those who want to improve their chances to find work, support their families or live independently.</p> <p>From art to IT, they have a selection to suit nearly every need and interest taking place at venues across Bath and North East Somerset.</p> <p>Courses are free of charge for people who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are not currently in work and/or on benefits, and looking for new skills, ideas and advice • Want to gain skills that will help with volunteering, improving confidence and working within their home and community • Are earning less than £19,305 if a resident of B&NES or £17,374 if outside of the area • Have been a resident in the UK for 3 or more years <p>https://www.bathcollege.ac.uk/acf</p>
<p>Skills Connect - WECA</p>	<p>Skills Connect is designed to make it easier for residents who want to find information about upskilling, reskilling, apprenticeships, and a wide range of other training and career support on offer.</p> <p>As well as resources available online, there are Skills Connect team advisors available on the phone who can provide tailored one-to-one support.</p> <p>https://www.skillsconnect.org.uk/</p>
<p>Cool Ventures Workshops and Webinars</p>	<p>Cool Ventures have been providing tailored, high quality business support and advice across the West of England for more than 10 years.</p> <p>Having helped hundreds of small businesses to start, grow and thrive, they understand that one size of business support doesn't fit all. They are dedicated to providing tailored business advice to every business and start-up they meet, taking time to listen and understand</p>

	<p>your aspirations and challenges before developing a programme of support with you to meet your needs.</p> <p>They also help support charities and community organisations. If you or your business is based in Bath & North East Somerset or South Gloucestershire, you are eligible to 12 hours of free business support.</p> <p>Check out their programme of practical workshops or get in touch with to find out how they can help!</p> <p>https://coolventures.co.uk/training/workshops/</p>
Future Bright	<p>If you want to feel better about your work life, Future Bright could offer you a personal career coach to help you develop and achieve your goals.</p> <p>Whether you want to progress and increase your salary, boost your confidence, change career or even just improve your mindset, having someone in your corner to offer support and guidance can make a huge difference.</p> <p>Future Bright is completely free, impartial and tailored towards you.</p> <p>https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/employment-skills/future-bright/</p>
Creativity Works	<p>Creativity Works is a local charity using creativity as a catalyst for personal and social development.</p> <p>Participants can join a range of free weekly groups which cover creative and social interests such as photography and rambling, writing, textiles and cooking. This provides a chance for people experiencing anxiety, depression or other mental health issues to build confidence, learn new skills and make friends.</p> <p>If the participants want a group to continue beyond the initial stage, Creativity Works helps them to move towards independence, providing help with the practicalities such as budgets and planning. Creativity Works remains on hand to provide support, but independence is the goal.</p> <p>For their latest opportunities, visit their website:</p> <p>https://www.creativityworks.org.uk/</p> <p>You can also see their March 2023 Wellbeing Activities list here:</p> <p>https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/march_2023_creative_wellbeing_activities_across_bnes.pdf</p>
Somerset Skills and Learning Courses and Workshops, (online)	<p>Somerset Skills and Learning offer a range of free courses for learners aged 19+, who live in Somerset or BANES, and have lived in the UK for the last three years.</p>

	<p>Learners must be able to access Zoom and will need to bring a pen and paper to the online workshop.</p> <p>Somerset Skills and Learning also offer bespoke courses and workshops, which can be tailored to the needs of your service users/community. To find out more, contact Lucy Hill by e-mail to lhill@sslcic.co.uk</p> <p>You can find the Somerset Skills and Learning Website here:</p> <p>https://www.sslcourses.co.uk/</p>
<p>Community Farm – Chew Magna</p>	<p>Wellbeing activities on a working vegetable farm overlooking Chew Valley Lake. Find out more about how to grow food, look after wildlife and connect with your wider environment. Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lakeside Wellbeing - therapeutic mindfulness, movement and creativity programme, 10am - 3pm on Mondays. • Grow and Make - therapeutic horticulture programme, 10am - 3pm on Wednesdays. • Wild Steps - therapeutic conservation programme, 11am-3pm on Thursdays. <p>Other, volunteering opportunities, available too:</p> <p>https://www.thecommunityfarm.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3044&Itemid=190</p>
<p>Eco-Wild</p>	<p>EcoWild aims to enhance people’s relationship with the environment, offering inspiring opportunities for engaging with the natural world. Many of their activities take place at Greyfield Woods in High Littleton.</p> <p>For information on all their activities, and to sign up for their monthly newsletter, visit www.ecowild.org.uk</p>
<p>Courses in England – Free Online Training for Training courses for businesses & organisations - All sectors, all sizes..</p>	<p>Are you looking to upskill and develop your team? Could your employees or volunteers benefit from some staff training? Free Courses in England is a government-funded scheme offering free, online training courses to organisations of all sizes, and it's worth checking out.</p> <p>Taking advantage of the Free Courses in England scheme can allow third sector organisations to offer learning and development opportunities to their staff, and enhance their in-house skill sets.</p> <p>Courses are delivered online by market-leading training providers, offering nationally recognised qualifications in a wide range of subjects across Mental Health, Business, Digital Skills and Health & Social Care. There are currently 63 training courses available.</p> <p>https://freecoursesinengland.co.uk/training-courses-for-businesses-and-organisations-2/</p>

<p>Bright Start Children's Centres, B&NES</p>	<p>Bright Start Children's Centres' family support workers can support families, if they have at least one child under five years old and will visit clients at home or at one of their Children's Centres. Clients can either be referred by others working with them, or for some courses, clients can approach the team directly. They offer general family support, personal and employment skills support, as well as home learning services.</p> <p>https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/childrens-centre-services</p>
<p>Healthy Eating and Wellbeing Courses for Families</p>	<p>The Children's Healthy Weight team offers a series of free courses to support children, young people and their families reach and maintain a healthier lifestyle, as well as a healthy weight. The service is provided by HCRG Care Group's B&NES Wellbeing Service, ran within the Community Wellbeing Hub. The courses provided by this service include Cook It!, Leap and HENRY (including Starting Solids and Fussy Eaters)- please see below for more information and upcoming course dates.</p> <p>To book, refer or find out more contact the Community Wellbeing Hub on 0300 247 0050 or email BATHNES.thehub@hrcrgcaregroup.com</p> <p>https://bathneshealthandcare.nhs.uk/childrens/childrenshealthyweight/</p>
<p>Energy Advice, First Wednesday of the month, Bath</p>	<p>Residents wanting to reduce their bills or insulate their homes will be able to get guidance from trained energy experts at a monthly pop-up event in Bath.</p> <p>Staff from the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) will be manning a stall outside Bath Central Library on the first Wednesday of every month</p> <p>The Centre for Sustainable Energy, based in Bristol, is a national charity supporting people and organisations across the UK to tackle the climate emergency and end the suffering caused by cold homes. Their Home Energy Team provides residents in B&NES with free, local and impartial energy advice.</p> <p>The CSE staff can answer questions and provide information about saving energy in the home, keeping warm in winter and lowering fuel bills. They can also explain how to adjust your thermostat, the best way to use electric storage heaters or how to draught proof or insulate your home.</p> <p>Residents can also get help managing their gas and electricity bills and find out about any financial assistance which may be available. Residents on low incomes can find out if they are eligible for energy related home improvement grant schemes such as Bright Green Homes, which could fund the installation of insulation, glazing, heat pumps or solar panels.</p> <p>The CES stall will be in place on the first Wednesday of every month, at the top of the stairs in the Podium, from 11am to 2pm.</p> <p>Further information on can be found on the CSE website, which contains plenty of information about saving energy around the home.</p>

	<p>https://www.cse.org.uk/advice</p> <p>Residents unable to visit the pop-up stall can call the CSE freephone home energy advice line for help on 0800 082 2234, or email info@cse.org.uk.</p> <p>The council's Energy at Home website has information on energy related home improvement grant schemes for B&NES residents on low incomes.</p> <p>https://www.energyathome.org.uk/</p>
<p>Retrofit Skills Bootcamps, WECA</p>	<p>A new training programme to provide West of England residents with retrofit skills to power the region's net-zero drive has been launched by WECA.</p> <p>Skills Bootcamps offer free flexible courses up to 16 weeks, giving people the opportunity to build up sector-specific skills and fast track or launch their career in retrofit. They are designed to ensure adults are able to retrain and upskill whatever their starting point, providing clear line of site to a new role, opportunity or contract.</p> <p>As long as you are over 19 and live or work in areas offering Bootcamps you will be eligible. That includes unemployed, employed and self-employed. The bootcamps are flexible and will involve online guided learning designed to work around your schedule, workshops and assignments.</p> <p>https://retrofitacademy.org/funded-bristol-bath/</p>
<p>We Find Any Learner</p>	<p>This organisation offers opportunities to gain a free Level 2 qualification.</p> <p>The courses they offer take around 30 to 60 hours in total to complete online. You will be given up to 12 weeks to complete your course. You will have tutor support throughout your learning journey. On completion you will be awarded a nationally recognised certificate from CACHE or NCFE.</p> <p>To be eligible, you simply need to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 19 as of the 31 August 2022 • Living in England • Not on an Apprenticeship <p>If this is of interest or you would like further information, then please register your interest by following this link</p> <p>https://www.wefindanylearner.com/course-list/</p> <p>or call 01226 958 888.</p>
<p>Somerset Farmers' Markets</p>	<p>A great place to promote your group or activity. Farmers Markets take place in Midsomer Norton on the first Saturday of the month and in Keynsham on the Second Saturday of the month.</p>

	https://www.somersetfarmersmarkets.co.uk/
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