



**Press Release: February 2009**

**FUNDING CONFERENCE PROVIDES BOOST FOR VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

Guildford, 25 February, 2009...Voluntary and community groups will get the chance to receive specialist one-to-one advice and take part in a competition to win £250 for their organisation at this year's Surrey Voluntary & Community Conference and Funding Fair.

The theme of the event, which will take place at the Royal Holloway College in Egham, Surrey, on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June, is '**Funding in Tough Times**' – a key factor affecting the entire third sector's ability to survive and flourish through the economic downturn.

Jean Roberts-Jones, Chief Executive at Surrey Community Action, says, 'We are aiming to provide the voluntary sector with the help, advice and support they need in all aspects of funding and fundraising during these challenging times, and we are confident the conference will prove to be a real boost for any organisation looking at its funding strategies this year.'

Delegates will be able to hear from and question an expert panel of keynote speakers, visit the exhibition showcasing a variety of funding organisations, talk with specialist advisers, enter the fundraising competition, and choose from a number of seminar topics covering a wide range of funding and fundraising issues. Experts in social enterprise, grant-making trusts, fundraising, taxation and legal issues will be on hand throughout the day to offer advice and support.

Anyone interested in attending should sign up as soon as possible, as early booking discounts are available, if booked by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

More information on the conference competition entry and booking forms are available from [www.surreyca.org.uk](http://www.surreyca.org.uk). Alternatively, contact Anne Barry [anneb@surreyca.org.uk](mailto:anneb@surreyca.org.uk), telephone, 01483 459292 ext 216 to request a brochure.

Surrey Community Action is resourcing the Voluntary and Community Sector across Surrey through access to advice, funding, training and advocacy.

Surrey Community Action actively promotes volunteering and the details of local volunteer centres in Surrey are on our website [www.surreyca.org.uk/vb.htm](http://www.surreyca.org.uk/vb.htm) Help is especially needed in health or as a school governor.