

**January 11 2011**

**Media release**

**‘YOUR NORTH SOMERSET’ EVENT TO HIGHLIGHT THE WORK  
OF VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteering is the theme of this year’s “Your North Somerset” event, to be held at the Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare on Sunday January 23.

The event, to be jointly hosted by North Somerset Council and NHS North Somerset, is in its sixth year. It aims to celebrate the diverse communities of North Somerset with a colourful and exciting range of exhibitors, performances and foods throughout the day.

Visitors will be able to find information about a wide range of services including health, housing and police services, children’s activities, and advice on issues such as employment, finances, healthy lifestyles and learning. The event, which runs from 12 noon until 4pm, is open to all. Key participants include Weston College, who will be showing an art exhibition, and Voluntary Action North Somerset.

Other organisations there on the day include:

- The Multi-cultural Friendship Association who will be providing multi-cultural food tasting
  - The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony who are co-ordinating the entertainment programme
- @play who will be running multi-cultural activities for children throughout the afternoon

- Citizens Advice Bureau who can provide advice on a range of subjects including welfare benefits, debt, housing, employment law, consumer issues (goods and services), relationship matters, legal issues and discrimination
- Somerset Racial Equality Council who work with black and ethnic minority individuals to make sure they are getting access to appropriate services
- EACH who provide a helpline and advocacy service for anyone who witnesses or experiences homophobic bullying.

It promises to be an interesting and vibrant family day and everyone is welcome. A spokesperson for NHS North Somerset added: "Volunteers play a key role in helping deliver services to elderly, ill and vulnerable people. This year's event aims to highlight their role and explain how anyone who wishes to do so can become involved in voluntary work."

**-ENDS-**

### **Notes to Editors**

- NHS North Somerset is the local Primary Care Trust for North Somerset. The trust was established in April 2002 to ensure the provision of the highest quality healthcare services to the residents of North Somerset. It was recently assessed as one of the most improved PCTs in England by the Care Quality Commission.

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