

Monthly News Round-Up Providing Key Information for the Third Sector

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POLICY/STRATEGIC NEWS

Local government reorganisation

This position paper from Voluntary and Community Action South Bedfordshire could act as a model of how a local infrastructure organisation can prepare for the challenges of local government reorganisation. See NAVCA's new web page on local government reorganisation.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/stratwork/localgov/reorganisation/>

Definition of commissioning

NAVCA welcomes the new definition of commissioning issued by the Institute of Commissioning Professionals. <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/commissioning.htm>

Championing local specialist sexual violence services

Rape Crisis, The Women's Resource Centre and NAVCA recently called on local infrastructure organisations to champion Rape Crisis Centres by ensuring sexual violence is on local government agendas. The briefing (see <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/wabriefing.htm>) sets out practical advice for infrastructure organisations on how to support the sexual violence sector by ensuring sexual violence is included in local agendas, particularly Local Area Agreements (LAAs). It has proved to be a very useful tool for specialist third sector groups to lobby their local partnerships to raise awareness of the issues, and the lack of provision for victims of rape and sexual assault. The briefing can still be used to raise awareness of local specialist sexual violence service providers and any funding crisis that they may be experiencing.

Developing a Commissioning Framework

NCVO's Sustainable Funding Project has published a case study which describes how Birmingham City Council worked with third sector partner Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC) to develop a third sector

commissioning framework. <http://digbig.com/4wtbf> or <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sfp>

Do you want to train and support others in using PQASSO?

For information on how to join the nationwide network of licensed PQASSO mentors with access to PQASSO training materials see: <http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=49>.

National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Handbook of Definitions

The final detailed definitions for the 198 national indicators have been published by Communities and Local Government. <http://digbig.com/4wsbr> or <http://www.communities.gov.uk>

Local Area Agreements

Headline messages

IDeA has published headline messages from the national local area agreement negotiations. <http://digbig.com/4wsjt> or <http://www.idea.gov.uk>

COVER offers new LAA information pack

COVER's new information pack tells you how to get involved, includes details on emerging new Local Area Agreements for all the principle authorities of the East of England and a tracker showing which authorities are choosing which national indicators. The new LAA information pack is available to download at <http://www.cover-east.org/5/index.php?pageID=2380>

Chair of new Third Sector Advisory Body announced

Minister for the Third Sector Phil Hope has announced the appointment of Baroness Jill Pitkeathley OBE as the Chair of the new Office of the Third Sector Advisory Body. http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector

vinvolved

The new £75m national youth volunteering programme vinvolved begins this month. The aim of the programme is to involve 500,000 more young people aged 16-25 to volunteer in England over the next three years. <http://www.wearev.com>

Civil Society & the Third Sector

At its annual conference in February, NCVO announced that it would expand its organisational focus to include 'civil society'. DSC's Director of Policy and Research Ben Wittenberg considers what this may mean for the sector in his [regular Trend Watch piece](#), published in Charity Times magazine.

LEGAL MATTERS

Herts CVS Equalities Toolkit Update

Issued to CVS members two years ago, this useful toolkit has been updated to take account of changes to employment, including holiday and maternity provision as well as working with gypsies and travellers. www.hertscvs.org.uk

Trustees under 18

People under 18 can be directors of charitable companies providing they understand their duties and responsibilities. They cannot, however, be trustees of trusts or unincorporated associations. <http://www.tinyurl.com/2kutgu> or <http://www.charitycommission.org.uk>

SANDY ADIRONDACK: AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGAL UPDATE WEBSITE FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

EMPLOYMENT & EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Women on additional maternity leave will be entitled to the same contractual rights and benefits as when on ordinary maternity leave, where expected week of childbirth starts on or after 5 October. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#AMLbenefits
- Rules eased for when a employer in a multi-employer pension scheme incorporates, merges or has another "cessation event". www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#cessationdebt
- Court of appeal confirms that only very rarely will an agency temp have a contract with the end user (the organisation that uses the temp). www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#agencyemployee

CHARITY LAW

- Charities using approved (standard) governing documents can register online. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#char-reg-online or go direct to www.charitycommission.gov.uk/registration
- Revised Charity Commission guidance on campaigning and political activities by charities. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#campaigning or go direct to www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/cc9.asp
- ICSA guidance on setting up a trustee board skills audit and register. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#trusteeskills
- ICSA guidance on matters that charity trustees should not delegate www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#trusteedelegation or for either, go direct to ICSA via <http://tinyurl.com/32m2ku>
- Charity Commission gets tough with charities that don't send in annual reports and returns. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#charreturn-failure
- Charity Commission reminds charities working with children and vulnerable adults to carry out CRB checks on trustees and staff. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#crbtrustees

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- From 6 April: New rules on s-x discrimination and harassment in provision of goods, services, facilities or premises - covering s-x, gender reassignment, pregnancy and having given birth within the previous six months. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#xes-service
- Charity chief executive personally required to pay disability discrimination compensation to ex-employee.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#discrim-liability
- Disability discrimination by association: ECJ Advocate General says non-disabled mother treated less favourably because she has a disabled son should be protected under EU equal treatment directive.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#disabilityassociation

FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

- Important if your organisation pays anyone to carry out fundraising, or if commercial businesses raise funds for you: Office of the Third Sector draft guidance on statements to be made by anyone paid to solicit funds for an organisation (including employees and trustees), and commercial participators. Note: Legislation is in effect from 6 April even though consultation on statements does not end until 31 May. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#prof-fundraisers or go direct to <http://tinyurl.com/4oxk2e>
- Important if you receive donations from individuals and recover (or should be recovering!) Gift Aid on the donations: Gift Aid supplement will allow charities to continue receiving 28.2p in the pound on Gift Aid donations made during the next three tax years.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#giftaidsupplement or go direct to www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/faq-transitional-relief.htm
- Important if you are, or might be, involved in contracts with public sector bodies: Updated versions of Acevo's briefings on public sector contracts: negotiation, tendering, VAT, and assessing impact.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#publicservicesdelivery or go direct to www.acevo.org.uk/index.cfm/display_page/Sucessful_Procurement2

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Links for all of the following are at: www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm

- New ACAS guide on health, work and wellbeing with good practice, checklists and sample policies. Published to mark depression awareness week (21-26 April) but application much wider.
- CIPD guidance on managing drug and alcohol misuse at work.
<http://tinyurl.com/yq56qh>
- H&S guidance for workers from overseas - also available in Chinese, Portuguese and many east European languages. Or go direct to www.hse.gov.uk/migrantworkers/index.htm

- Example risk assessment for village halls, also suitable for small community centres etc. Or go direct to www.hse.gov.uk/risk/casestudies/villagehall.htm
- Reducing the risk assessment bureaucracy for school and youth group trips www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#schooltrips-risk
- Court of appeal makes it harder for employees to bring harassment case against employer under Protection from Harassment Act (after the Majrowski decision).
- And in another case, House of Lords says employer can be liable for suicide of ex-employee.
- REACH regulations may mean you have to update COSHH (control of substances hazardous to health) assessments. Or go direct to www.hse.gov.uk/reach/index.htm

PROPERTY & ENVIRONMENT

- Important if your organisation pays rent to a landlord, or is itself a landlord for commercial (non-residential) premises. Commercial rent arrears recovery to replace distress/distrain for recovery of rent on commercial premises. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#crar
- Important if your organisation has unoccupied properties. Changes in empty property rate relief - from 6 April. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#emptyproperty
- Important if your organisation has large building projects. Construction projects likely to cost £300,000 or more need site management plan showing how waste will be removed - from 6 April. www.sandy-a.co.uk/management.htm#construction-waste

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Local Safeguarding Children Board

Penny Stanley of Voluntary Action Barnsley represents NAVCA on the Safe Communities Steering Group. The group has recommended that CVS should make contact with their local Safeguarding Children Board if they haven't already done so, and ascertain local progress on rolling out the NSPCC's Safe Communities Toolkit. CVS are ideally placed to help with the dissemination of the toolkit and related training. <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/lscb>

Occupational Group Funding

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) is inviting bids for its Occupational Group Funding tender, which aims to provide support to the different occupational groups within the CWDC footprint. <http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/tenders.htm>

Commissioning Children's Services

'How to be successful in commissioning children's services' was published recently by the now-defunct Regional Centres of Excellence. It contains a selection of case studies on the topic and is aimed at commissioners, but may be useful to potential bidders. One of the case studies focuses specifically on the third sector. <http://www.rce.gov.uk/rce/aio/49085>

Building Brighter Futures

The DCSF has published 'Building Brighter Futures: next steps for the Children's Workforce' setting out the Government's plans for investment in the sector over the next three years. <http://digbig.com/4wsbx> or <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk>. See also: <http://digbig.com/4wsbw> or <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk>

THE ENVIRONMENT

From the ground up

The SPAN (Sustainable Production in Active Neighbourhoods) partnership has published a manifesto to inspire community food growing. <http://www.spanpartnership.org.uk/manifesto>

PUBLICATIONS

Unintended consequences

How the efficiency agenda erodes local public services and a new public benefit model to restore them. From New Economics Foundation. <http://digbig.com/4wsrb> or <http://www.neweconomics.org>

Involving Service Users

Governance Pages Quick Guide. <http://www.governancepages.org.uk/contents/Quickguidetouser.html>

New from Institute for Volunteering Research

- 'Volunteering to lead: a study of leadership within small volunteer-led groups'
- 'The impact of public policy on volunteering in community-based organisations'.

<http://www.ivr.org.uk/whats-new.htm>

Successful procurement

Acevo has updated its briefings on public sector contracts, covering negotiation, tendering, VAT, and assessing impact. <http://digbig.com/4wsby> or <http://www.acevo.org.uk>

The National Procurement Strategy for Local Government: Final report
Communities and Local Government.
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/725180.pdf>

Winning Bids: A guide to good practice
PNE Development. <http://www.voluntaryskills.com/winningbids>

Health, work and wellbeing
New ACAS guide. <http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1361>

Your Chance to Change the World - The No-Fibbing Guide to Social Entrepreneurship
DSC publication. <http://www.dsc.org.uk/cw>

Sport Playing Its Part newsletter
Sport England. http://www.sportengland.org/spip_issue5.pdf

DCMS Equality Scheme 2006-09: Annual report on progress
<http://digbig.com/4wsca> or <http://www.culture.gov.uk>

TRAINING/EVENTS

Trainers and Consultants Direct
Are you looking for a trainer, consultant, temporary/project manager or non-managerial supervisor to assist you or your organisation? Look no further than Trainers and Consultants Direct (TCD). TCD is a free website resource aimed at the third sector. You can search for people and/or organisations by region and by over 50 specialist topic areas. <http://www.trainersandconsultantsdirect.org.uk>.

Volunteers' Week 2008
A reminder that volunteers' week 2008 takes place between 1 and 7 June. Why not organise something special for your volunteers?
<http://www.volunteersweek.org.uk>

Charityfair
10-11 June, London. Ever popular event for charities, their staff and trustees including exhibitions, workshops, master classes, Charity Trustee Networks (CTN) VIP lounge with free refreshments and resources for trustees.
<http://www.charityfair.org.uk>

You can no longer rely on traditional means of fundraising
The voluntary sector is changing. More and more charities are earning money by diversifying their income streams rather than relying solely on traditional means of fundraising. Has your charity explored the options? What will work for you?
DSC [Making Money Conference](#) in London on 21 May.

Trustee Training Courses 2008 (£45 per course)

Accountancy firm, [haysmacintyre](http://haysmacintyre.com), will host 6 training sessions for charity trustees in central London later this year. The training provides a comprehensive summary of trustees' duties and responsibilities and will cover issues such as governance, committee delegation, monitoring of effectiveness, financial matters and the role of the trustee. If you would like to be added to their invitation list, please email Jacky Taylor at jtaylor@haysmacintyre.com

FUNDING

Ecominds

The Big Lottery Fund has awarded Mind £8.8m from its Changing Spaces programme to start up a new grants scheme. 'Ecominds' will fund projects across England that will help transform local environments and build the confidence and self-esteem of people with mental health problems.

<http://www.mind.org.uk/News+policy+and+campaigns/Press/Eco090408.htm>

Access to Nature

Access to Nature is a £25m grant scheme to encourage people from all backgrounds to understand, access and enjoy our natural environment. It is funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme and Natural England. The scheme will focus on three broad themes: community awareness and active participation; education, learning and volunteering; welcoming, well-managed and wildlife-rich places.

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature>

Preventing Violent Extremism: Community Leadership Fund

A fund intended to support work that will assist individuals, organisations and communities to take the lead on tackling violent extremist influences. The funding is focused on: capacity of organisations and communities; supporting Muslim young people and women; Muslim faith leaders; and local forums against extremism and Islamophobia. Deadlines are 23 May and 30 September.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/communityleadershipfund>

OTHER NEWS

The Price of No Advice

Age Concern has launched a new campaign to help older people who are at risk of missing out on the support provided by independent, trusted information and advice services. A new publication 'Transforming lives: Tackling Poverty and Promoting Independence and Dignity through Information and Advice' is also available via: <http://www.ageconcern.org.uk/AgeConcern/price-of-no-advice.asp>

Stallfinder

<http://www.stallfinder.com> is a new website where charities and fundraisers can advertise their events free of charge and find new and interesting stallholders, plus fundraising ideas and information.

Paying for child care

The Daycare Trust has launched a new website, <http://www.payingforchildcare.org.uk>, a one-stop guide to finding help with childcare costs.

Funded by the HCC Strategic Leadership Partnership

