



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

Key News & Policy Development	1
Working in Partnership	3
Legal Matters	5
Children & Young People	6
The Environment	7
Publications	7
Training/Events	9
Funding	10
Other News	11

KEY NEWS & POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Communities in control: real people, real power

The Government has published its white paper setting out proposals to deliver a fundamental shift in power, influence and responsibility into the hands of communities and citizens. A 13 page summary is available at

[/www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/summarycommunities](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/summarycommunities)

Briefing papers are also available from Urban Forum at

<http://www.urbanforum.org.uk> and the Local Government Association at

<http://www.lga.gov.uk>

The White paper also includes a consultation on the new **£7.5m Empowerment Fund** at:

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

and further information about the new **£70m Communitybuilders Fund** at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/886884>

Putting Flexibility into Senior Roles

Work Re-tune is a new web tool to help senior professionals and managers to understand, negotiate and implement more flexibility in their roles. It has been created using the expertise of the Working Families charity with government funding. <http://www.workingfamilies.org.uk>

Futurebuilders launches new Tender Fund

Futurebuilders England has launched a new interest-free loan fund for third sector organisations struggling to meet the cost of tendering for public sector contracts. It offers three year loans of between £3,000 and £50,000 to third sector organisations who need relatively small sums of money to help them tender successfully for specific public service delivery contracts. <http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk>

Third Sector/Civil Society: definitions

The definition of civil society developed by Michael Edwards at the Ford Foundation is used by NCVO and was also used by Carnegie UK in its enquiry into the future of civil society: <http://digbig.com/4xccn> or <http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk> . The Office of the Third Sector defines the third sector as "a diverse, active and passionate sector. Organisations in the sector share common characteristics: non-governmental; value-driven; principally reinvest any financial surpluses to further social, environmental or cultural objectives. The term encompasses voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, co-operatives and mutuals both large and small". http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/about_us.aspx

Welfare reform

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, James Purnell, has outlined his vision for the future of the welfare system, devolving power, and opening the door for local providers to offer their own solutions to unemployment. <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/aboutus/news/#culture>

Now is the Time

Shelter has launched a new campaign calling for more affordable homes, protection for people who are homeless or in bad housing and an end to the housing divide. http://england.shelter.org.uk/housing_issues/now_is_the_time

Community Asset Transfer

Unity Trust Bank has announced a Community Asset Transfer loan account for charitable, voluntary or community groups taking on a community asset transferred from public ownership under the government scheme. <http://digbig.com/4xcwe> or <http://www.unity.co.uk>

Health profiles

The DH and Association of Public Health Observatories have published health profiles for every local authority and region across England. The profiles use key health indicators to capture a picture of the nation's health down to local level. This year's data also includes new information on child health inequalities. <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=52791>

Third Sector Advisory Body members appointed

Phil Hope, minister for the third sector, has appointed the panel of the new Third Sector Advisory Body (TSAB) which has been set up to provide ministers with clear and authoritative advice on policy regarding the third sector. More at <http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/channels/Policy/Article/828383/Members-third-sector-advisory-panel-named/>

COVER responds to sub-national review

COVER has made a formal response to the Government's 'Prosperous Places: Taking forward the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration'. The response concentrates on the need for the voluntary organisations to be able to play a full part in decision-making, and for economic growth objectives to be considered alongside social and environmental aims. Download a copy of the response at <http://www.cover-east.org/interact/documents/word/2430.doc>

NHS contracts e-bulletin

The Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Team at the Department of Health has launched an e-bulletin giving details of current NHS contracts. To subscribe email hannah.white@dh.gsi.nhs.uk

National Equality Partnership - Have your say!

NAVCA is a member of the National Equality Partnership, a new three-year project funded by Capacitybuilders. Its remit is to deliver services to infrastructure organisations to improve how local groups tackle equality, diversity and human rights. If you are from a local infrastructure organisation you can help ensure our work programme is focussed on the support you need by completing this short survey. <http://digbig.com/4xejb> or http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=BoJ9HELKf1eQLjk7HA5NMg_3d_3d

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Public Services and the Third Sector: Rhetoric and Reality

NAVCA has welcomed the publication of the first ever House of Commons Select Committee Report into the Third Sector. The report by the Public Administration Select Committee looks at third sector involvement in public services delivery. <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/pasc.htm>. The report itself is available at: <http://digbig.com/4xeja> or <http://www.publications.parliament.uk>

Sustainable funding in practice

The NCVO Sustainable Funding Project has published a new case study which looks at how Norfolk County Council and Voluntary Norfolk have lobbied for and developed projects to significantly increase the understanding and capacity for joint working between the two sectors. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sfp>

New third sector guide for public sector commissioning

A new guide has just been produced by Voluntary Norfolk to give commissioners and procurement staff a better understanding of how involving the third sector can help meet local service outcomes. The guide includes a checklist of questions designed to work alongside existing commissioning frameworks. Download the guide at <http://www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk/thirdsectorguide.php>

What are local area agreements?

'What are local area agreements?' is an information leaflet for LIOs and the broader third sector. It explains how local area agreements (LAAs) work and why and how third sector organisations should engage with them.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/laas>

Thriving third sector seen as high priority across England

A thriving third sector has been recognised as a high priority for nearly two thirds of top tier local authorities in England. In drawing up a shortlist of 35 'National Indicators' on which they will be measured (out of the set of 198), 62 per cent chose to include one or both of the two third sector indicators: NI6 - participation in regular volunteering; or NI7 - creating an environment for a thriving third sector. Society Guardian has a short item at

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/jul/02/voluntarysector.localgovernment>.

or see the Office of Third Sector news item, <http://ma.gnolia.com/crutuchupich>.

National Indicators and Local Priorities – What are your local priorities?

Communities and Local Government has published a list of the top 20 most popular National Indicators (including NI 8, adult participation in sport and active recreation) and the number of Local Area Agreements that have them as priorities. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/866468>

You can find out which local priorities have been chosen for your own LAA at <http://www.localpriorities.communities.gov.uk>

Local Area Agreements

All 150 new local area agreements have now been formally signed off by Communities Secretary, Hazel Blears. To celebrate the round two LAA sign-off, LGA has produced a series of 'LAA: real life success' stories from round one LAAs. The stories are based on more detailed LAA case studies that have been developed for IDeA's new Partnerships and Places Library at:

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/laa/home.do>.

The Compact

Third Sector Minister Phil Hope has asked the Commission for the Compact to examine whether the agreement should be placed on a statutory footing. This will form part of an ongoing review of the Compact and all its Codes of Practice led by OTS. <http://digbig.com/4xejg> or <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector>

The Commission for the Compact has published the interim findings of research it commissioned on the independence of the third sector. 'Perspectives from central government departments on the Compact and the independence of the third sector' is available via: <http://www.thecompact.org.uk>

Sir Bert Massie CBE, Commissioner for the Compact, has called for a debate on the future of the Compact and the role of the Commission for the Compact.

<http://www.thecompact.org.uk>

Improving the strategic commissioning of public services

This joint Confederation of British Industry/Local Government Association plan aims to change how local authorities, businesses and the third sector work together. It defines how the CBI and LGA perceive the commissioning of public services and how procurement and contracting processes can meet new demands on services. <http://digbig.com/4xejk> or <http://www.lga.gov.uk>

Excellence and fairness: Achieving world class public services

The Cabinet Office Strategy Unit, working with departments across government, has published a report on the next stage of improving public services. http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/work_areas/public_services.aspx

Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities

Communities and Local Government has also published a summary of responses to its consultation on draft guidance for local authorities and their partners on creating strong, safe and prosperous communities. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/responsessummary>

LEGAL MATTERS

New and updated from Charity Commission

- The Charity Commission has updated its guidance 'Trustee expenses and payments' (CC11) to include changes brought in by the Charities Act. <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/cc11.asp>
- 'Complaints about charities' (CC47) has also been revised, (<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/cc47.asp>) and a statement on the Commission's approach to 'Conflicts in your charity' has been published on the Commission's website (<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/investigations/conapp.asp>)
- 'Affordable Home Ownership - Charitable Status and Tax', published jointly with HMRC and the Housing Corporation, explains when providing affordable low cost home ownership may be charitable, and the legal and tax implications. <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/supportingcharities/homeown.asp>
- 'Charity Commission Annual Report 2007/08' http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/recent_changes/annualreport.asp
- 'Independent Examination of Charity Accounts' updated guidance. <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/cc31.asp>

Watching TV online

Employers could be fined up to £1,000 if staff watch TV online when the organisation doesn't have a TV licence. TV Licensing has warned that its officers are visiting unlicensed addresses throughout this summer's sports tournaments. <http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/information/businesses.jsp>

Music licensing

The UK Intellectual Property Office has launched a consultation in respect of certain copyright exemptions which apply to playing recorded music in public. This has implications for charities and other third sector organisations.

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/consult-musiclicensing.htm>

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

- Consultation (until 10 September) on **time to train**, proposed new right to request time off for training. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#timetotrain or go direct to www.dius.gov.uk/consultations/con_180608_timetotrain.html
- Third party pressure to dismiss (e.g. from funder). www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#thirdparty-dismissal
- New decision on expired warnings and dismissal. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#expiredwarnings
- Equal pay comparator cannot be successor (but can be predecessor). www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equalpay-successor
- *If your organisation runs a cafe, bar etc with paid staff*
Tips and gratuities paid to staff through a separate tronc account do not count towards minimum wage. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#minimumwage-tips

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Parenting 'mixed' children: difference and belonging in mixed race and faith families

New research from Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2232.asp>

Every Organisation Matters

NCVCCO and the NCVYS have launched new mapping research on the size and scale of the children and young people's third sector. The research found that the children's sector employs one in three of the total third sector workforce and generates income in excess of £1.5bn a year. <http://www.ncvcco.org>

Youth crime

The Home Office has published its Youth Crime Action Plan with a commitment of £100m to reduce crime by under 18s. Key measures include improving activities for young people, better support for victims and witnesses, expanding crime prevention partnerships and family intervention projects, and tougher enforcement measures. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/youth-crime-action-plan>

Child Poverty

The Government has announced a package of new initiatives to help families and end child poverty as part of a renewed drive to increase social mobility.

<http://digbig.com/4xccr> or <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk>

THE ENVIRONMENT

Birmingham eco doctors

BVSC in partnership with Be Birmingham has launched a project to support voluntary and community groups in the city to reduce their carbon emissions. The project will place environmental consultants or 'eco doctors' in organisations to help them measure their current level of carbon emissions and then develop ways of reducing them. <http://www.bvsc.org/latest-news/press-release.html>

Your sustainability questions answered

IDeA has compiled some of the most common questions about sustainability, sustainable development and climate change. <http://digbig.com/4xejs> or <http://www.idea.gov.uk>

PUBLICATIONS

PQASSO Quality Mark

The PQASSO Quality Mark offers accreditation against the PQASSO quality standards - the most widely used quality system in the third sector. <http://www.pqassoqualitymark.org.uk> . Charities Evaluation Service has published the third edition of its quality assurance system for small organisations. The new edition includes: a sharper focus on the importance of outcomes; more emphasis on the importance of planning and marketing of services; better support for working in partnership. The new edition also highlights the increased role of third sector organisations in public service delivery and gives greater prominence to their 'voice' role. <http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=339>

Warm Words II

Warm Words II is a new publication from the Institute of Public Policy Research on how the climate story is evolving and the lessons we can learn for encouraging public action.

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=561>

Working with refugee community organisations: a guide for local infrastructure organisations

New resource from CES for managers and development workers within support agencies who wish to engage with refugee community organisations.

<http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=415>

Social Return On Investment

SROI website is for anyone interested in SROI in the UK or anyone wanting to contribute to the growing bank of knowledge and experience of measuring social value. <http://www.sroi-uk.org>

Health Inequalities - Progress and Next Steps

Outlines the Government's approach to meeting the 2010 Health Inequalities PSA targets, assessing what has and hasn't worked, and setting the direction of travel beyond 2010. <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthinequalities>

Think Research

Web-based document from the Social Exclusion Task Force which gives commissioners and providers of services for vulnerable people guidance on how to use research evidence in the commissioning process. <http://digbig.com/4xccw> or <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk>

Citizenship Survey April 2007 - March 2008

The survey covers active and empowered communities, community cohesion and racial prejudice and discrimination. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/citizenshipsurveyaprmar08>

New from Joseph Rowntree Foundation

- 'A minimum income standard for Britain: what people think' <http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2244.asp>
- 'Community engagement and community cohesion' <http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2240.asp>
- 'Problems in the delivery of benefits, tax credits and employment services' <http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2233.asp>
- 'Local initiatives to help workless people find and keep paid work' <http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2246.asp>

New from Community Development Foundation

- 'Connect and include' community development and mental health <http://digbig.com/4xdaa>
- 'Funding for single identity groups' <http://digbig.com/4xccy>
- 'Community spaces in diverse communities' <http://digbig.com/4xcda>
- 'Neighbouring and older people: An enfolding community?' <http://digbig.com/4xcdb> or <http://www.cdf.org.uk>

Untangling governance

An initial guide to becoming a well-run organisation from BVSC. <http://www.bvsc.org>

Community Development Challenge: Democracy

Community Development Foundation study showing how community development enhances community empowerment, the quality of local governance and democracy. <http://digbig.com/4xenc> or <http://www.cdf.org.uk>

New from LinksUK

Knowing the regulations: Volunteering whilst on benefits
<http://comlinks.beepweb.co.uk/linksuk/?p=44>

TRAINING/EVENTS

Professional Coaching for Leaders

NCVO have teamed up with [Mirus Coaching](#) to offer high quality low cost coaching to leaders and entrepreneurs. Mirus want to work with people who demonstrate leadership qualities, are motivated, enterprising and are ready to take responsibility to put their purpose into action. If you are looking for an accredited coach and are willing to commit to the coaching process then [contact us](#) outlining your answers to the following 3 questions;
What motivates you to work in the field of social change?
What is your vision for your projects work?
What would you like to achieve through working with the coach?

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>.

Social franchising, 11 September, Luton

Investigate the opportunities that social franchising can offer to social enterprises and hear from organisations developing franchise operations. More at <http://www.see.co.uk/eventsdetail.asp?itemid=525&itemTitle=Social+Franchising§ion=000100010003&monthSelected=1&calendarDate=2008/9/01>

Third Sector Performer

The Third Sector Leadership Centre has launched a National Occupational Standards-based assessment tool for third sector leaders.
<http://digbig.com/4xeka> or <http://www.thirdsectorleadership.org.uk>

Effective Voluntary Sector Management online

New starters in the voluntary sector can now start to enrol for the 2008 NCVO Working For A Charity online course, which will give them an overview of working for a charity and boost their career. <http://www.workingforacharity.org.uk>

FUNDING

v Match Fund

Youth volunteering charity v has launched a revised Match Fund. Up to £15m of match funding will be available from the government. The fund has six categories to focus funding: community cohesion, environment, health, human rights, supporting children and young people, and poverty. There are two application deadlines: 29 August and 31 October. <http://digbig.com/4xcdc> or <http://www.wearev.com>

Innovation Exchange Programme

The Innovation Exchange Next Practice programme and the associated NESTA Innovation Exchange Fund are now open for expressions of interest. The programme aims to help third sector innovators to develop and evaluate their work, by offering a combination of in-kind support and funding. Funding awards will be up to £50k. In-kind support will involve some generic elements - coaching support and a small number of events - and bespoke support, designed around projects' needs. <http://innovation-exchange.org/next-practice-programme>

UnLtd/Guardian Green Living Awards

The Guardian and UnLtd have teamed up to offer awards of between £500 and £5,000 to people who want to take action to improve the environment, whether it's through a local community recycling scheme, a high impact climate change project or campaigning to bring local food to your area. <http://unltd.org.uk/template.php?ID=83>

SOFII

The Showcase of Fundraising Innovation and Inspiration (SOFII) is a new, free, online resource containing examples of fundraising ideas and campaigns from around the world. <http://www.sofii.org>

Community technology innovation awards

This year's TalkTalk Innovation in the Community Awards are open for entries. This enables charity and community groups throughout the UK to harness the power of the internet, with 30 winners receiving grants of £2,000 each to fund technology related projects, and five overall winners will also get technology equipment of their choice. Last year's winners ranged from chat rooms on health issues to web-based support networks. See <http://www.talktalk.co.uk/innovation>, and apply by 30th September.

Triodos Opportunities Fund

Triodos Bank has launched the Triodos Opportunities Fund, a venture capital fund for social enterprises. Triodos is seeking to invest between £200,000 and £750,000 in social enterprises with a proven business model that are looking to grow and scale up their operations. <http://digbig.com/4xejx> or <http://www.triodos.co.uk>

OTHER NEWS

NonProfit e-Learning Network

City University is looking for volunteers to trial an innovative online knowledge sharing site on how to run voluntary/non-for-profit organisations. To register your interest email Sonja.weirauch.1@city.ac.uk

CRB checks

Volunteering England has updated its online information sheets on CRB checks, including new information sheets on 'When To Get a CRB Check' and 'Screening Volunteers'. <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/Resources/information/onlineinformationsheets>

Volunteer drivers

Volunteering England has published a statement on volunteer mileage expenses - an issue of concern for groups who operate driving schemes, and also those who reimburse volunteers for car usage when travelling to and from their volunteering activity. <http://digbig.com/4xejp> or <http://www.volunteering.org.uk>

Have You Heard About CaSE Insurance?

CaSE (Charity and Social Enterprise) Insurance was set up to provide charities and social enterprises with good quality, appropriate and low cost insurance. NCVO and CAF, amongst others, are partners in the scheme. CaSE Insurance can cover all your insurance needs including; Trustee Indemnity, Professional Indemnity, Buildings and contents, Employers liability and Public liability.

Complete the online [contact form](#) and a member of the CaSE Insurance team will contact you at the relevant time to discuss your requirements or go to www.caseinsurance.co.uk/ncvo

First Class Communications Solutions

Are you paying more than you need to for your telecoms? Whether you're looking to move office, connect with remote workers, upgrade your telephone system, or review your broadband or mobiles, Class Telecommunications can help ensure you do not pay more than you need for your services, and that you maximise the effectiveness of your telecoms. Class has been NCVO's approved telecoms service provider for over 10 years and NCVO members can benefit from a wide range of discounted telecom services. [More information](#)

LawWorks offers free legal advice to small organisations

LawWorks, an independent charity working to increase the delivery of free legal advice to individuals and communities in need, is urging organisations that might benefit from their services to apply for support through their referral and matching service. For more information visit www.lawworks.org.uk or telephone 020 7929 5601.

National Association of Black Supplementary Schools (NABSS)

NABSS is a not-for-profit community organisation which offers resources, services, advice and information for black families, schools and community organisations. <http://www.nabss.org.uk>

Funded by the HCC Strategic Leadership Partnership

