



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

Infrastructure News	1
Working in Partnership	
Legal Matters	
Children & Young People	
The Environment	
Publications	
Training/Events	
Funding	
Other News	

### INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS

#### Evaluating NAVCA 2008

The annual NAVCA survey can be found at <http://www.navca.org.uk/evalnavca>. As well as letting them know how they are doing, the survey helps them plan to meet future needs. Take ten minutes to complete it.

#### Commissioning and procurement resources

NAVCA's Local Commissioning and Procurement Unit has produced a list of commissioning and procurement resources. This information sheet can be downloaded from: <http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/lcp/briefings>. Also don't forget - Advisers at NAVCA's Local Commissioning and Procurement Unit are available to provide information, guidance and advice on all aspects of commissioning and procurement on the dedicated advice line: 0114 289 3989 or email: [lcpu@navca.org.uk](mailto:lcpu@navca.org.uk) or <http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/lcp>

#### Capacitybuilders Capital Grants Programme

Capacitybuilders has launched a £5m Capital Grants Programme to develop third sector local resource centres. The programme will run until March 2011 and is the last main funding programme to be announced by Capacitybuilders under the Office of the Third Sector's 2008-11 investment in ChangeUp. <http://capacitybuilders.org.uk/capital>

#### Capacitybuilders modernisation grants

Capacitybuilders has announced £2.5m of grant awards for the modernisation of third sector support services. The funding is the second phase of grant awards to a range of projects across England with the aim of achieving a step change in the quality and relevance of support available to frontline organisations. <http://digbig.com/4xtpk> or <http://capacitybuilders.org.uk>

### **Big thinking**

The Big Lottery Fund's consultation on its future plans is now open. NAVCA will be responding and encourages its members to do so. <http://www.big-thinking.org.uk>

### **Futurebuilders**

Futurebuilders says it has pledged to lead the third sector through the recession by offering a range of support, information and resources to new and existing customers and the sector as a whole. It is currently sourcing new investments and will continue to do so in order to meet the needs of organisations that may be 'unbankable' in the current lending environment.

Futurebuilders England is also doing away with its application form as part of the launch of its new, customer-focused website. Instead of completing a form, organisations interested in applying to the fund will be offered a menu of options to begin the application process, including submitting an online enquiry, requesting a callback, sending an email, or calling the information line. <http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk>

### **England Volunteering Development Council**

The England Volunteering Development Council are interested in case studies on the impact of the work of volunteer centres. NAVCA members are encouraged to send in examples of effective volunteer centre activity, to [saskia.daggett@volunteeringengland.org](mailto:saskia.daggett@volunteeringengland.org).

### **Public believes 40% of charity income goes on admin**

People hugely overestimate how much charities spend on fundraising and administration, according to research published this week by nfpSynergy. Actual figures are close to those respondents deem acceptable. [www.nfpsynergy.net](http://www.nfpsynergy.net)

### **Sector will be transformed to meet recession**

The voluntary sector is facing years of reorganisation and transformation to manage the recession, Richard Harvey, former chief executive of Aviva, told delegates at the Charity Finance Live conference as part of his address on transforming the role of leader. [www.charityfinance.co.uk](http://www.charityfinance.co.uk).

### **Peninsula - Employment Law Advice and Tribunal Protection Service**

If you need to renew your Peninsula subscription you will have already received a reminder email from NAVCA. If you are not yet subscribed and wish to join and start receiving valuable advice and guidance on many aspects of personnel and health and safety issues please complete an application form and return by 12 December. For more information:

<http://www.navca.org.uk/services/offers/Peninsula.htm> (members and affiliates only).

### **NAVCA Local Grants Forum**

Kevin Brennan, Minister for the Third Sector, has accepted NAVCA's invitation to the next meeting of their Local Grants Forum, which will discuss local commissioning. His letter states "...commissioning of services by local authorities and other local public bodies offers third sector organisations opportunities to bid to deliver a wider range of services. This does not necessarily mean contracts - local statutory authorities should use the most appropriate form of finance for the outcome they are trying to achieve, which in many instances will be a grant arrangement". For more information on the forum contact: [kevin.curley@navca.org.uk](mailto:kevin.curley@navca.org.uk)

### **Promoting NAVCA's Performance Standards and Quality Award**

If you gain the NAVCA Quality Award, with your agreement, NAVCA will write to the Chief Executive of your local authority, the Chief Executive of your Primary Care Trust, your MP and any others you suggest telling them that you have gained the Quality Award and what this means for local third sector groups in your area. For more information contact: [andrea.allez@navca.org.uk](mailto:andrea.allez@navca.org.uk)

### **Charity Forecast Survey**

NCVO's fourth charity forecast survey is now open. If you are a chief executive, director, chairman or trustee, join other leaders in the sector by taking this short survey and contribute to this quarterly planning tool. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/research/index.asp?id=7720>

### **Full Cost Business Planner**

Acevo's Full Cost Business Planner allows organisations to cost multiple projects to ensure that overheads are allocated consistently and appropriately. <http://digbig.com/4xwjg> or <http://www.acevo.org.uk>

## **WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**

### **Compact Consultation**

NAVCA has responded to the Commission for the Compact's recent consultation on the future of the Compact. <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/compactresponse.htm>

Compact Voice has published a position paper, 'Problems, Issues, Solutions: The Future of the Compact'. The paper calls for new methods of monitoring and evaluating local Compacts to combat "widespread cynicism". 85% of people surveyed by Compact Voice said the national Compact should set minimum standards that must be followed locally.

Compact Voice has also published 'The Compact: Strengthening Voluntary Sector Independence', a report based on the findings of focus groups of third sector employees. <http://www.compactvoice.org.uk>

### **Concise Compact Guide**

The Commission for the Compact has published a 'Concise Compact Guide', designed to act as a reference tool and checklist to help public sector and third sector organisations. <http://www.thecompact.org.uk>

### **Integrated Working Bulletin**

CWDC have launched a monthly email bulletin on integrated working. The updates are designed to provide the latest news, policy updates and top tips on integrated working in the children's workforce sector.

<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/integrated-working/campaign>

### **From Communities and Local Government**

- 'LAA Annual Review 2008/09' <http://digbig.com/4xtqb> or <http://www.communities.gov.uk>
- 'LAA negotiations in 2008: Lessons Learnt' <http://digbig.com/4xtqe> or <http://www.communities.gov.uk>.

### **Herts 2021 Bulletin – November 2008**

These monthly bulletins update partners on the development and work of Hertfordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), Local Area Agreement (LAA1) and LAA2.

<http://www.hertscvs.org.uk/userimages/LAA%202021%20%20LAA2%20Bulletin%2015.doc>

### **LAA Plus**

LAA Plus is a practitioner-led support network for people delivering local area agreements, run by Shared Intelligence. <http://www.laa-plus.net>

### **Multi Area Agreements**

Summaries of the first set of Multi Area Agreements, signed on 14 July, are now available on the Communities and Local Government website.

<http://digbig.com/4xwhy> or <http://www.communities.gov.uk>

### **Improving Financial Relationships with the Third Sector: Guidance to Funders and Purchasers**

The HM Treasury document has a new url: [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/guidance\\_to\\_funders.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/guidance_to_funders.htm)

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

### **Charity Commission News**

The autumn edition of CC News (Issue 28) contains details of how the Financial Services Compensation Scheme works for charities and some important advice

for charities about reviewing risks and their financial position in these challenging economic times. The newsletter also includes:

- Details of the New Register of Charities
- An overview of the consultation on Charitable Incorporated Organisations
- A range of areas where good governance increases effectiveness
- Updates on new guidance and publications and much more.

Encourage your trustees to look at the site or print off copies for them. The newsletter is at <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/tcc/ccnews28.asp>.

An updated version of 'CC36 - Changing your Charity's Governing Document' is available on the Commission's website.

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/cc36.asp>

The Commission has also published guidance on public benefit reporting and sample annual reports showing how trustees can approach the duty to report on public benefit. <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publicbenefit>

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

### **Employment law:**

- Final version of ACAS code of practice on disciplinary and grievance procedures was issued on 7 November for parliamentary approval. In effect from 6 April 2009 to replace the statutory disciplinary, dismissal and grievance procedures (hurrah!). ACAS has also issued a detailed guide to what has changed since the earlier (consultation) draft of the new code. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#discipline](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#discipline) or go direct to [www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2114](http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2114)
- From 27 November you must be a licensed sponsor, registered with the Border Agency, if you want to employ a new skilled worker (Tier 2) from outside the EEA (EU + Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, + Switzerland), or if a current employee's work permit expires and you want them to continue working. Also if you bring in a temporary worker such as a musician, actor or sportsperson for a specific event (Tier 5). [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#righttowork](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#righttowork) or go direct to UK Border Agency [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/)
- From March students (Tier 4) who are not from the EEA or Switzerland will be allowed in only if they are sponsored by an educational institution licensed as a sponsor. Links as above.

- EU Temporary Agency Work Directive (a/k/a Agency Workers Directive) has finally been approved by the European Parliament - will give agency temps many (not all) of the same statutory and contractual rights as if they were directly hired, after they have worked for an employer for 12 weeks. No date yet for implementation. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#agencyrights](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#agencyrights) or go to EU press release via <http://tinyurl.com/5hhtrk>

### **Employment of Casual Workers – Advice from Sandy Adirondack**

Anyone taking on staff, whether full-time or part-time, permanent, temporary or casual, must have employer's liability insurance, and must comply with all relevant statutory obligations. These obligations will depend on whether the so-called "casuals" are in fact legally employees and therefore have the full range of employment rights, or fall into a wider range of "workers" who may not be legally employees, but are nonetheless entitled to some employment rights - including equal opportunities rights, minimum wage, working time rights including paid holiday leave, part-time workers' rights, and some other rights. The organisation will also have to operate PAYE - even if the people earn less than the lower earnings threshold, the organisation could still have to deduct tax if someone has taxable income elsewhere and is using their personal allowance there. Failure to operate PAYE when they should could leave the organisation open to a very large bill for uncollected tax and national insurance, plus penalties, well into the future.

In terms of whether the organisation has to advertise etc: there is no statutory obligation to do so, but failure to recruit openly could leave them open to a claim of discrimination (because they have not made the job opportunities known to a wide range of potential applicants) and/or could be in breach of the requirements of funders, who often require open recruitment for posts they fund.

You are advised to take legal advice about the potential status of so called casuals.

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **New law to strengthen children's trust boards**

Children's Secretary Ed Balls has announced the Government will introduce new legislation to ensure that multi-agency Children's Trust Boards are operating in every local authority area. Under the new law, for the first time, every local authority will be required by law to have a Children's Trust Board with responsibility for improving the safety and well-being of all children and young people in the area. <http://digbig.com/4xwwf> or <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk>

### **Ofsted Annual Report**

Ofsted has published its 2007/08 annual report, which covers the first full year of Ofsted's wider remit - inspecting and regulating education, childcare, social care, children's services, adult learning and the skills sector. <http://digbig.com/4xwwg> or <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk>

### **Information sharing**

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has published new guidance on information sharing between practitioners and organisations across all sectors. The guidance now extends to data about adults and families, as well as children and young people.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/informationsharing>

### **NCVCCO becomes Children England**

The National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations will become Children England on 2 December. The new name is part of its current efforts to increase the visibility of its members' work and to provide a powerful platform for their experiences, to influence decisions and services which affect the lives of children and families. <http://www.childrenengland.org.uk>

### **National Academy for Parenting Practitioners**

The Academy's programme of free training and support aims to reach over 6,000 parenting practitioners by 2010. It will equip practitioners who work with parents with skills that have been shown to improve the lives of parents, children and families. <http://digbig.com/4xwjc> or <http://www.parentingacademy.org>

### **Ending child poverty: Thinking 2020**

Report and think-pieces from the Child Poverty Unit conference on how child poverty could be eradicated in the UK by 2020.

[http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report\\_abstracts/wp\\_abstracts/wpa\\_056.asp](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/wp_abstracts/wpa_056.asp)

### **What is needed to end child poverty in 2020?**

New research from Joseph Rowntree Foundation,

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2275.asp>

### **Children's Social Care Professional Development Framework**

The Children's Workforce Development Council is working with partners to develop a Children's Social Care Professional Development Framework for people who work with children, young people and their families in social care jobs. In January and February CWDC will be visiting all the regions within England to consult people working in the social care field about the framework. There is also an online questionnaire if you are unable to attend the consultation events. <http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/social-care/professional-development-framework>

## THE ENVIRONMENT

### **Defra Greener Living Fund and Third Sector Strategy**

Defra has announced a £6m Greener Living Fund which will help third sector organisations to promote positive environmental changes to individuals and communities, helping them reduce their carbon footprints, make greener lifestyle choices and find new ways to rely less on our natural resources.

Defra has also launched its Third Sector Strategy which sets out how the department will improve the way it works with third sector groups.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2008/sustainable-1103.htm> and

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/how-do-we-work/third-sector/strategy>

## PUBLICATIONS

### **SKiLDbites**

The latest issue of SKiLD's e-newsletter for development workers who support third sector groups is now available. <http://www.skild.org.uk/skildbites.htm>

### **New from Health and Safety Executive**

- 'Involving your workers in health and safety: A guide for small businesses' <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/web35.pdf>
- 'Consulting employees on health and safety: A brief guide to the law' <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg232.pdf>.

### **Voluntary Sector Analysis 2008**

The sixth edition of the Voluntary Sector Strategic Analysis for 2008/09 has been published by NCVO, which concludes that a period of relative stability for the sector appears to be coming to an end. The report examines trends of changing participation both within organisations and more widely within the wider community; changing patterns of distribution and consumption; the economy; and the impact of national politics on the future of the sector. More analysis and how to order at <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/press/releases/?id=11338>.

### **Threats and opportunities for charities and the charity sector that arise from the current financial and economic environment**

'Think piece' from CCLA Investment Management Ltd.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/ccla.htm>

### **Public officials and community involvement in local services**

Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2319.asp>

### **Setting up a Successful Mentoring or Befriending Programme**

A toolkit from the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation.  
<http://www.mandbf.org.uk/news/newsinfo/article/3343/40/>

### **Mediation at work**

CIPD factsheet. <http://www.cipd.co.uk/subjects/empreltns/general/mediation.htm>.

### **From the New Local Government Network**

- Deal or No Deal? Delivering LAA Success
- Sustainable Communities Act: The key that finally unlocks real local potential?

<http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/publications>

### **Ethnic minorities and the criminal justice system**

The Race for Justice coalition has published 'Less Equal than Others: ethnic minorities and the criminal justice system', which highlights the strength and value of the numerous voluntary and community-based organisations that support those whose lives have been affected by the criminal justice system.  
<http://preview.tinyurl.com/6s7r9u>.

## **TRAINING/EVENTS**

### **Skild Training for development workers**

The new SKILD spring training programme is now available at:  
<http://www.skild.org.uk>. Course include Project management, Making partnerships work, and Being a new development worker.

### **In a Nutshell: Free online introductory course to Sustainable Communities**

A ten-week online course delivered by the Academy for Sustainable Communities. Work with other professionals and community workers to develop a real understanding of the term 'sustainable community' by exploring the national and regional policy context and perspectives. Course cost of £100 per participant is being funded by the ASC.

<http://www.ascskills.org.uk/pages/learning-and-skills/nutshell>

### **Community Accounting National Network 2009 annual conference**

27-29 January, Stoke on Trent. <http://www.communityaccounting.org>

### **NCVO Annual Conference 2009**

Civil Society: Building trust in uncertain times 18th February, London  
NCVO are delighted that Dr Benjamin Barber, leading US political theorist and author will be joining them at their flagship Annual Conference to share his global perspective on the issues we face today. Choose from a comprehensive programme of practical workshops, covering topics such as future funding and

governance and benefit from personalised support sessions. Early bird discounts available until 19th December. For more information and to book visit <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/annualconference09>, or email: [annual.conference@ncvo-vol.org.uk](mailto:annual.conference@ncvo-vol.org.uk)

## **FUNDING**

### **Empowerment Fund**

Communities and Local Government is inviting applications to the £7.5m Empowerment Fund, which will run from 2009-12. The Fund was announced in the 'Communities in Control' white paper and will provide three-year grants for community empowerment organisations operating across England. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1005709>

### **Awards for All**

Following a review of the Awards for All England programme, changes are to be made to the small grants scheme's existing format when it comes to an end in March 2009. From 1 April 2009 each of the lottery distributors supporting the scheme will have their own small grants programmes up and running. Applications can still be made under the current arrangements until 31 March 2009. <http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/england>

### **It's Your Community**

O2's It's Your Community awards provide up to £1,000 to local groups and individuals for anything that can be shown to benefit their community. <http://www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk>

### **Naturesave Trust**

The Trust supports environmental and conservationist groups in the UK. Grants are available to fund projects that deal with specific environmental and/or conservationist problems. Small grants range between £100 to £10,000. [http://www.naturesave.co.uk/naturesave\\_trust.html](http://www.naturesave.co.uk/naturesave_trust.html)

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Herts Resilience 'Care Providers - are you prepared?'**

A new guide for organisations who provide care services, for example, residential homes, respite centres and children's nurseries to help them prepare for emergencies. The guide will help you to assess how prepared you are, and includes practical assistance to help you improve your arrangements. It has been developed by Hertfordshire Resilience, the county's partnership of emergency services, local authorities, health services and voluntary agencies, who work together to prepare for and respond to major emergencies. To enter a

prize draw and to see a copy of the guide go to [www.hertsdirect.org/businesscontinuity](http://www.hertsdirect.org/businesscontinuity) and follow the care providers link.

### **Free contact management database**

Lasa is making its AIMS contact management database available free of charge to all agencies across the third sector. <http://www.lasa.org.uk/aims>

### **NOMS National Provider Network**

The NOMS National Provider Network (NPN) is a free online resource providing information about organisations that have expressed an interest in providing intervention-based offender management and related services to NOMS. Providers registered on the NPN will be notified by email of current opportunities including tender notices, market consultations, conferences, and training opportunities. <http://digbig.com/4xtqa> or <http://www.noms.homeoffice.gov.uk>

### **Gift Aid Toolkit**

A new CD Toolkit to help charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs boost their income through Gift Aid has been launched by HM Revenue and Customs. The toolkit can be obtained by calling HMRC Charities on 08453 020203 or emailing [charities@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:charities@hmrc.gov.uk)

### **Gift Aid Help**

The Institute of Fundraising has set up an online Gift Aid Mentoring Forum for small organisations looking to maximise their Gift Aid income and share best practice, with experts available to answer questions. <http://www.giftaidhelp.org>

### **Fifty forward**

Fifty forward is a new website providing ideas, advice and support for the over 50s. <http://www.fiftyforward.co.uk>

### **Community Justice Portal**

Sheffield Hallam University's Community Justice Portal brings together the latest news, publications and events in the community justice sector. Registration is free and open to all. <http://www.cjp.org.uk>

### **Involving service users and volunteers in communications**

Five ideas for charity workers to involve service users and volunteers in campaigning communications from the Ask Charity blog at [http://www.askcharity.org.uk/blog/2008/11/communications\\_volunteers.php](http://www.askcharity.org.uk/blog/2008/11/communications_volunteers.php).

### **Volunteer Training Bank**

Material developed by a project to provide basic training for volunteers in museums is now available to download, primarily for museums who want to run their own in-house training but of potential interest to others. London Museums Hub Volunteer Training Bank at <http://www.mlalondon.org.uk/renaissance/index.cfm?NavigationID=450>.

### **Further Education volunteering project toolkit**

Volunteering England has produced a step-by-step guide on the initial stages of developing student volunteering programmes and how to set up successful, sustainable projects. See <http://preview.tinyurl.com/6s45vy>.

**DISCLAIMER:** *This Info Bulletin contains extracts from key Third Sector updates received by Herts CVS from different sources. Herts CVS does not endorse any publications, events and services mentioned and is not responsible for the content of external websites*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** *Contact Sue McClinton, Herts CVS Information Co-ordination Project. Email: [sue@cvsstalbans.org.uk](mailto:sue@cvsstalbans.org.uk)*

Funded by the HCC Strategic Leadership Contract

