



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

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POLICY

Commission on Integration and Social Cohesion

The Government has published its response to the Commission on Integration and Social Cohesion, and announced a consultation on cohesion guidance for funders. NAVCA strongly encourages its members to engage with this consultation. <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/coisresponse.htm>

Issues facing local third sector organisations

Kevin Curley's address to the Annual Conference of the Community Accountancy National Network is now available on the NAVCA website at: <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/cann.htm>

Public Service delivery is not suitable for the vast majority of smaller charities!

The DSC gave evidence to the House of Commons Public Administration Select Committee which has been examining whether charities should deliver public services. To read DSC's evidence and report from CE visit www.dsc.org.uk.

LGA Updates

The Local Government Association is now producing regular updates on policy issues relating to the third sector. <http://digbig.com/4wjwg> or <http://www.lga.gov.uk>

New Local Area Agreement Guidance

Urban Forum policy briefing. <http://digbig.com/4wjwp> or <http://www.urbanforum.org.uk>

The third sector: The crucial role of the new local performance framework

This recent Communities and Local Government publication has a useful planning sheet 'The journey to delivery' (see p13).

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/thirdsector>

Futurebuilders

The Office of the Third Sector has announced the appointment of the Adventure Capital Fund to manage the second phase of the Futurebuilders fund. ACF will be responsible for investing an additional £65m of government funds, on top of the £150m already made available to the Futurebuilders Fund, to develop third sector delivery of public services between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2011. ACF will also manage the existing investments. Current investees and third sector organisations that have applications in the pipeline will not be affected.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector

Compact Voice launches online discussion forum

Compact Voice has launched an online discussion forum for charities to share their experience of contracting with government. Launched in January, the forum already has over 100 members who are contributing to the 6 topics that are currently running. For further information contact the National Compact Voice Officer at NCVO or visit the [compact discussion forum](#) to register directly.

Community Contracts

Communities Secretary Hazel Blears has announced plans for new 'community contracts' across England. These will give communities the opportunity to agree deals and written guarantees with their council on a wide range of service standards, from tackling drug dealing to bin collection, clearing graffiti and street cleaning. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/669822>

Effective partnership working: updated LSP resource

As local authorities continue to negotiate their new LAAs, IDeA has updated its guidance for local strategic partnerships (LSPs).

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageld=316976>

Are LSPs public bodies?

Louise Whitfield from the Public Law Project gives her point of view.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/infobank/lsppublicbodies.htm>

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Government has introduced provisions in the Planning Bill for the new community infrastructure levy, which will establish a better way to increase investment in the vital infrastructure that growing communities need. The Bill allows for regulations to empower local councils to apply a community infrastructure levy on new developments in their areas to support infrastructure delivery.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/infrastructurelevyguidance>

Comprehensive Area Assessment Consultation

Commission for the Compact calls for greater funding sustainability and more specific referencing to the Compact in its response to the Audit Commission's consultation on CAAs. <http://www.thecompact.org.uk>

Survey on social clauses

The Office of the Third Sector has published a summary of responses to its survey on social clauses (requirements within contracts or the procurement process which allow the contract to provide added social value through fulfilling a particular social aim).

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/public_services/social_clauses.aspx

National Muslim Women's Advisory Group

The Prime Minister has launched the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group (NMWAG). The group represents a wide spectrum of communities, professions and traditions. It will discuss issues and concerns affecting Muslim women, such as education, employment, access for women to mosques and their management committees and cultural barriers.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/680335>

National Offender Management Service

The National Offender Management Service has published a national commissioning and partnerships framework for the 2008-09 commissioning round. It covers national measures to ensure that regional and local commissioners are able to deliver offender services within the resources available. <http://www.noms.justice.gov.uk/about-us/commissioning-07>

NAVCA Circulation List 401 contains:

- Voluntary Action Median: results of a survey on what a typical infrastructure organization looks like
- Results of a survey into engagement of local infrastructure organizations with the sports sector
- Developments in commissioning of legal advice services
- Best practice in using IT volunteers

www.navca.org.uk/publications/circulation/2008/401/home.htm

NEWS FROM THE HUBS

Funding advisers network

The Finance Hub has produced a feasibility study on the establishment of a funding advice national network in England. The report looks at the need for a network to support the work of funding advisers to the third sector in England and

includes responses from over 250 advisers throughout the country.
<http://www.financehub.org.uk>

Getting Ready for that Local Authority Contract

Sheffield Community Enterprise Development Unit has set up a blog to disseminate findings from work they are doing for the Finance Hub. Quite a few case studies are already online at <http://contracting.wordpress.com>

The Performance Hub

- 'Banking on outcomes for the third sector: Useful? Possible? Feasible?'
<http://digbig.com/4wjwk> or <http://www.performancehub.org.uk>
- 'Peer Review in the Third Sector: A guide to improving your services'
<http://digbig.com/4wjwm> or <http://www.performancehub.org.uk>

LEGAL MATTERS

Big Lottery funding and redundancies

NAVCA has raised with BIG the issue of whether posts in projects newly funded by BIG can be offered to staff who are facing redundancy elsewhere in the host organisation. BIG's reply states:

"Our terms and conditions mean that, even though there may be internal candidates, the grant recipient must advertise externally. Internal candidates can, of course, apply and, if the match in competencies is close, may well be likely to be offered the job. However we do not permit an internal applicant to be merely slotted in.

It is true that the Employment Act states that employers must consider available and suitable alternative employment for employees likely to be made redundant. However, having considered it in the context of our grant and the terms and conditions relating to it, employers should dismiss it as a consideration, since to do otherwise would lead to a breach of our terms and conditions. Newly funded posts through BIG are not available to them as 'alternative employment' because they would not exist at all unless funded by BIG and our terms and conditions require open recruitment.

This policy of open and fair recruitment for new project posts is important and is in place to ensure that all applicants are treated consistently."

If BIG takes over funding of an existing post, there is, of course, no need for a recruitment process.

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

Health & safety

HSE guidance on health & safety at work for disabled people and their employers. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#h&s-disability or go direct to www.hse.gov.uk/disability/index.htm

New HSE mini-website for management committee/board members.

www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#newh&s or go direct to www.hse.gov.uk/leadership/index.htm

Trade union anti-bullying email hotline, to report workplace bullying in voluntary organisations. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#bullying or email banbullying@unitetheunion.com

Lots of good information from TUC book *Hazards at Work* now available free online. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#newh&s or go direct to www.tuc.org.uk/h_and_s/index.cfm

Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Killing Act will come into effect on 6 April, making it possible for a governing body member or senior manager to be prosecuted without having to show they were the "controlling mind" behind the action. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#manslaughter

Information:

New rules on registration of trade marks similar to other marks - VERY IMPORTANT if your organisation has any registered trade marks. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#trademark

Information provided when bidding for a public sector contract - even if marked confidential - may need to be disclosed by the public authority under the Freedom of Information Act. And the government is proposing bringing all voluntary organisations delivering public service contracts within the scope of the FoIA. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#foi-contractinfo

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Creative Partnerships

The Government has announced that each child should be offered at least five hours of high quality culture per week, in and out of school. It is seeking expressions of interest from partnerships wishing to explore how this could be achieved. The deadline for submitting an expression of interest is 7 April. <http://www.creative-partnerships.com/offer>

Funding workforce development

A new edition of the NCVYS/NCVCCO 'Funding guide to workforce development' will be published shortly. NCVYS is looking for case studies of third sector organisations who have been successful in obtaining grant, charitable or loan funding to fund staff and volunteer workforce development. If you can help please email nichola@ncvys.org.uk

Staying Safe Action Plan

The DCSF has published an action plan setting out the work which the Government will take forward over the next three years to drive improvements in children and young people's safety.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/stayingsafe>

Safeguarding children and young people: A shared responsibility

New publication from the Healthcare Commission. <http://digbig.com/4wjwq> or <http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk>

How well are they doing?

Ofsted has published a report evaluating the impact of services provided by extended schools and Sure Start children's centres. <http://digbig.com/4whcq> or <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk>

What's Your Adventure?

The Scout Association has launched 'KidsOutdoors', a new campaign to promote outdoor adventure to more young people, their parents, youth leaders and schools across the UK. <http://www.kidsoutdoors.com>

Your Game

Your Game is a partnership between the BBC and the Football Foundation which offers young people, aged 16 to 25, from under-served communities, the chance to get involved in football, music and the media. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/yourgame>

THE ENVIRONMENT

Changing the way we work

NAVCA/Every Action Counts have produced a guide to making your office or other workplace 'greener'; see <http://www.everyactioncounts.org.uk/guides>.

Be an Eco-champion

Are you committed to developing your local community and concerned about the environment? Every Action Counts is looking for volunteer champions. Free training is provided to help local charities and community groups be more environmentally friendly. Register your interest now on the Every Action Counts website www.everyactioncounts.org.uk.

An article about being an EAC Community Champion is available on the NAVCA website via <http://www.navca.org.uk/eac> and can be reproduced in your own newsletter.

Regional sustainable development indicators for the English regions

Regional versions of the UK Government's indicators of sustainable development have been published to help provide a perspective on sustainable development in each region. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/080131b.htm>

PUBLICATIONS

DSC publications

The new Directory of Social Change publications catalogue is out now, containing over 150 voluntary-sector specific publications.

http://www.dsc.org.uk/images/books_cat08.pdf

Trustees Guide to Fundraising

Institute of Fundraising. <http://www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/trusteesguide>

Community Money Matters

Free comprehensive guide to financial management and accounting for small charities and community organisations from Community Matters/CASH.

<http://www.communitymatters.org.uk/resources/docs/Moneymatters.pdf>

New Deal for Communities: A synthesis of new programme-wide evidence

Report from a 10-year evaluation of the New Deal for Communities programme.

<http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/publications.asp?did=1930>

Sustainable Communities Act The Government has published a guide to the Sustainable Communities Act which received Royal Assent last October.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/sustainablecommunitiesact>

Local Links - developing active networks in local communities

Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2184.asp>

Paul Hamlyn Foundation Evaluation Resource Pack

Co-published by NIACE and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

<http://www.niace.org.uk/publications/P/PaulHamlyn.asp>

Faith, Cohesion and Community Development

The first evaluation of the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund from the Community Development Foundation. <http://www.cdf.org.uk>

Empowering Muslim Women: Case studies

Communities and Local Government.

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

Mentoring

CIPD factsheet.

<http://www.cipd.co.uk/subjects/lrnanddev/coachmentor/mentor.htm>

Managing Conflict at Work – a guide for line managers

A new guide from CIPD. <http://digbig.com/4wjwn> or <http://www.cipd.co.uk>

Clever Communications

A free book from the Voluntary Action Media Unit for voluntary organisations who want to know more about working with the media. Email book@vamu.org.uk for a copy.

We Can

This is a quarterly magazine for people interested in getting involved in, and influencing, the delivery of services in their local area.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/wecanwinter2008>

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. www.trainersandconsultantsdirect.org.uk.

Trainers or consultants wishing to be listed on the site (there is a fee to register) can email tcd@navca.org.uk for further information, or register online at the above web address.

Charity Law Conference

DSC annual event to be held on 10 April at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole St, W1. Plenary will consider whether a charity should ever break the law and there are 12 different workshops. Book online at www.dsc.org.uk

SKiLD winter learning programme

The full SKiLD winter learning programme is available at <http://www.skild.org.uk>.

FUNDING

B&Q One Planet Living awards

B&Q is pleased to announce that the all-new One Planet Living Awards for 2008 are now open for applications. Is there an environmental group, community organisation, school, charity or sports club in your area that could be transformed with an award of between £1,000 and £10,000 of B&Q products?

<http://digbig.com/4whta> or <http://www.diy.com>

Kelloggs Active Living Fund

Grants of up to £1,000 are available through the Kellogg's Active Living Fund for projects that remove the "barriers" which stop people being active. The fund is open to charities and other voluntary and community organisations for activities that directly lead to people taking part in sustained physical activity.

<http://www.kelloggs.co.uk/company/corporateresponsibility/activelivingfund>

Age Concern Barclays Programme

Voluntary organisations that are providing, or wish to provide, services for older people can apply for small grants through the Age Concern administered Barclays Programme. Grants of up to £150 are available to voluntary organisations with an income of less than £50,000 per year towards new or expanding services or activities which directly benefit older people.

<http://digbig.com/4whtc> or <http://www.ageconcern.org.uk>

Sport relief

The Community Foundation Network is distributing Sport Relief grants of up to £10,000 to projects that use sport to build the confidence and self esteem of people who are having major problems in their lives. Other projects will give people who would otherwise miss out, the chance to take part in sport. UnLtd is distributing Sport Relief grants of up to £5,000 to young people who use sport to bring people together in their local area to enhance community relations and reduce conflict where they live.

<http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/uk/sport-relief>

OTHER NEWS

Disability LIB (Listen Include Build)

Disability LIB - a disability-led alliance of seven organisations that have joined together to build the capacity of disabled people's organisations across England – has now been launched and its first research report, 'Thriving or Surviving: Challenges and Opportunities for Disabled People's Organisations in the 21st Century' published. www.scope.org.uk

Charity registration online

Organisations wishing to register with the Charity Commission can now complete and submit their application form online. Initially this service will only be available to organisations using approved governing documents. The process should be more flexible and easier to use than the manual form, and time taken to register should be reduced.

Furniture Re-use Network

The FRN is the national specialist network supporting third sector organisations reusing furniture, electrical goods and computers for the benefit of people on low incomes. It provides specialist support including: funding and business planning,

environmental legislation, contracting with local authorities and the private sector, and best practice in running re-use projects. The FRN also brokers national deals for end of line, warehouse/shop damaged and customer returned items to be passed on to charities. <http://www.frn.org.uk>

Sporting Equals

Sporting Equals is a new organisation working across the UK to promote opportunities for BME communities in sport. <http://www.sportingequals.com>

Small Charities Coalition open for business

The newly-formed Small Charities Coalition matches charities with charities to share problems and find solutions and is now recruiting members. Membership is free to any charity with a turnover of less than £1m pa. For more information visit www.smallcharities.com

Communicating important information to new local residents

Communities and local government has published web-based guidance on how to produce an information pack for new migrants.

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/newmigrantsinformation

Alexandra Rose Day

Alexandra Rose Day helps smaller, usually very local, charities that do not have the national profile or manpower to achieve significant fundraising on their own.

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

NAVCA LINX - Local Infrastructure News eXtra, Issue 84 & 85

NAVCA Circulation List 401

NCVO Briefing February 2008 DSC E Newsletter Issue 56

Charity Matters Feb 08 Issue 9

Legal Update, Sandy Adirondack 803 & 804

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