

Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

Merger resources

This new NAVCA webpage gives links to a wealth of information on mergers available on the internet and within publications from third sector agencies.

www.navca.org.uk/localvs/lio/mergerresources

NCVO Guidance for voluntary groups preparing for the next financial year

A resource sheet for organisations worried about possible changes to the funding they get from public bodies. It highlights some of the main issues that organisations are coming across and gives ideas for action that can be taken.

www.compactvoice.org.uk/information/102232/new_financial_year_guidance/.

New NAVCA webpage

NAVCA has new web pages on Chair and trustee support

www.navca.org.uk/services/trustees.

Strong Independent Roots

NAVCA campaigning publication promoting better commissioning and fairer procurement processes. It demonstrates the value of local infrastructure and shows how NAVCA and its members can help politicians support local voluntary action. <http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/roots/>

Important Survey

COVER is carrying out an important piece of work investigating the current state of the Voluntary and Community sector in the East of England. The results of this survey will be used to influence policy makers on behalf of the sector at a regional and national level, and will be available to the sector to use locally as well. If you are a Voluntary and Community sector organisation operating

anywhere in the East of England, complete the survey by clicking on the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/B85TQXW> or www.cover-east.org

FSI Community: From Wednesday March 10th small charities will be able to log on to the Community to chat with other charities, share information, join in online forums discussing the issues that affect them the most, and access exclusive online FSI content. The FSI Community is like Facebook for small charities and it is totally free to register and use. Visit <http://www.thefsi.org/category/news/> to find out more.

The East of England Implementation Plan, the first of its kind in the country has now been published. The plan sets out how the region will deliver the long-term vision and targets in the regional economic and spatial strategies which were published in 2008. More information at <http://www.eeda.org.uk/4916.asp>

General Election

Charities Q&A: Elections

In the latest in a series of Society Guardian pieces giving legal advice to the voluntary sector, Rosamund McCarthy, partner at Bates Wells and Braithwaite solicitors, answers questions on charities and elections. <http://bit.ly/graunelect>

Ten campaigning tips for lobbying MPs
nfpSynergy guide. <http://bit.ly/lobbypmpnfp>

DSC Guidance on Campaigning at Election Time

Holding a husting? Promoting a policy? Manifesto Mania? Directory of Social Change's round-up of some relevant guidance that you need to be aware of if your organisation is engaged in the political process. [Read more.](#)

The Power of Volunteering

Volunteering England has launched a manifesto setting out how the next Government can support volunteering. Alongside the manifesto, it has also published a 'Volunteering Pledge' which it is asking all MPs and candidates to sign up to. www.volunteering.org.uk/manifesto

The Good Society

Five days paid leave for volunteering, more mutuals, co-operatives and credit unions and the right of the voluntary sector to campaign are at the heart of an election manifesto launched by NCVO. <http://bit.ly/ncvogoodsoc>

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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Successful Commissioning

The National Audit Office has launched a new version of the Decision Support Tool, 'Successful Commissioning: How to secure value for money through better financial relationships with third sector organisations'. This vital resource is aimed at local commissioners, rather than central government, making it extremely useful for the voluntary and community sector. Crucially, it supports a continued role for grant funding.

http://www.nao.org.uk/guidance_and_good_practice/toolkits/successful_commissioning.aspx?alreadysearchfor=yes

NAVCA Commissioning Resources

For up to date Commissioning and Procurement Resources including handy resources for supporting front line organisations on planning, costing services, quality accreditation, demonstrating impact, legal issues, tendering as well as a number of recently produced resources such as the new Kindle guide, the updated EU procurement threshold and the Children England 'Love your tender' toolkit. Visit the [LCPU Resource List](#)

National Survey of Third Sector Organisations User Guide

The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) has published a user guide to the National Survey of Third Sector Organisations (NSTSO). This short guide aims to help local authorities, their Local Strategic Partnership partners, as well as third sector organisations, make the most of the rich data made available through the national survey. <http://bit.ly/nstso pilot> and www.nstso.com

Launch of Herts Equalities Council

Visit <http://myhertslaa.blogspot.com> to read more about 'Getting along together' – the launch of the Hertfordshire Equalities Council. For further details, email faizal.hakim@cdaforherts.org.uk

Joining the dots: Public Services – Sourcing from the Third Sector

Tuesday 20 April 2010, 10am – 3pm at the Rowley Mile Conference Centre, Newmarket, CB8 0TF. This one day, free conference and workshop will examine the findings of the Social Impact Measurement (SIM) project. Commissioned by EEDA. The SIM project undertook work to enable Third Sector organisations – particularly Social Enterprises – to trade more effectively with the public sector and to support public bodies sourcing from the Third Sector. To book a place, visit www.alivecom.co.uk/events/SIM20April Alternatively, you can email events@alivecom.co.uk

The role of the third sector in education and learning services

The Cabinet Office has published a report into the role of the third sector in delivering personalised learning opportunities. The report highlights the important role the third sector plays in driving forward innovation in this sector, informing,

supporting, shaping and stimulating service improvement and redesign.
<http://bit.ly/innovationadvisor>

Volunteering: involving people and communities in delivering and developing and social care services

The Government has published its strategic vision for volunteering in the health and social care system. <http://bit.ly/dhvolvis>

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LEGAL MATTERS

Change from Sick Note to Fit Note

On 6 April the sick note will change and become the fit note. When an employee falls ill or injured, their doctor will be able to advise whether, with appropriate support from their employer, they could return to work while they recover.

www.dwp.gov.uk/fitnote

Charities, Trading and The Law

The 2nd edition was published last year by Jordans (1st edition 1995). Written by Stephen Lloyd and Alice Faure Walker of Bates Wells & Braithwaite Solicitors, it covers charity law and tax issues, specific types of trading activity, trading subsidiaries, and broader commercial issues such as contracts, intellectual property, insurance and insolvency as they apply to charities. It can be ordered for £50 + £5 p&p – send an email with order details to sandy@sandy-a.co.uk

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

Sandy says if the click takes you to the wrong item, just go to the contents list at the top of the webpage, scroll down to the appropriate section

Governance; charity law

- A raft of new and recent resources on governance and trusteeship:
 - new versions of CC3 *The essential trustee* and CC10 *Hallmarks of an effective charity*;
 - guidance for trustees with learning disabilities, and for local authorities as corporate trustees;
 - guidance for trustees of charities for children and young people, and trustees of faith based charities;
 - guidance on coping in the economic downturn, risk management, legal compliance, and more.

www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#governanceresources

- Charitable incorporated organisations (CIOs) postponed yet again – this time until late 2010 or even 2011. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#cio

- Updated version of Charity Law Association model articles for charitable company, with changes brought in by the Companies and Charities Acts, now available. (I haven't had time to do a comparison, but I generally prefer the CLA's models to the Charity Commission's.)
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#modelarticles
- Reporting serious incidents to the Charity Commission
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#seriousincidents
- Consolidation of Charities Acts 1993 and 2006 and Recreational Charities Act 1958 will not happen until after the election.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#charitiesact

Events, licensing and campaigning

- Campaigning and political activities in the run-up to an election: electoral law (for all organisations, both charitable and not charitable) and charity law rules. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#election
- Proposed Licensing Act changes to make it easier to get a temporary event notice (TEN), and to exempt venues staging live music events for 100 or fewer people from the need to be licensed for regulated entertainment (consultation on this change ends 26 March, so you still have time to make your views known).
- Plus changes from last summer that make it easier to vary a premises licence, and for some organisations to allow the committee as a whole to take responsibility for the supply of alcohol rather than having to appoint a designated premises supervisor.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#premiseslicence
- Abolition of voluntary sector exemption from needing a PPL licence to pay recorded music is now likely not to take effect from 6 April – so there is still time to lobby for the exemption to remain (probably unlikely to happen), or for the fee to be reasonable (hopefully possible).
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#ppl

Funding & fundraising

- **IMPORTANT:** If you still have gift aid donations from 2004/05 and 2005/06 on which you have not yet recovered gift aid, do it now! From 1 April gift aid has to be recovered within four years from the end of the accounting period (or for charitable trusts, within four years from the end of the tax year) to which it applies, rather than six years as it has been.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#giftaid
or go direct to www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/gift_aid/reclaim.htm
- A very useful guide for businesses that want to support charities, jointly published by the Treasury, Office of the Third Sector and HMRC.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#businessgiving
or go direct to <http://tinyurl.com/y8bcvqr>
- Slimmed-down Compact, plus guidance for local authorities on applying the Compact when “revising budgets” (i.e. making cuts).
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#compact

- Four really useful free publications on commissioning, procurement and tendering, from Tendering for Care, NCVO/NAVCA, and the Commission for the Compact.

www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#publicservicesdelivery

Data protection & freedom of information

- Data protection round-up:
 - Alzheimer's Society gets in trouble for data protection breach
 - Computanews guide to ICT security: Essential reading if you don't want to be the next one to get in trouble:
 - Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) plain English guide to data protection
 - TUC guidance on access to medical reports requested by an employer
 - Draft ICO guidance on collecting information online
 - New British Standard on personal information management systems
 - Increase in annual ICO notification fee for large non-charities
 - Change in rules for transferring personal data outside the EEA

All at www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#datapro

- Government has decided not to make charities subject to the Freedom of Information Act (but in some situations a charity could be subject to the Act). www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#foi-publicbodies

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Commissioning and the community sector: Challenges, changes and opportunities for children and young people's services

A NAVCA event for voluntary and community sector organisations wanting to explore new funding opportunities and secure contracts from local authorities for children and youth services. 22 April, London.

www.navca.org.uk/events/commsector

All together, a better way of working

NAVCA is working alongside the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) to promote a range of tools to help everyone involved with children and young people to work better together. This is the initial phase of the CWDC's new campaign to promote a more joined up way of working.

www.navca.org.uk/news/alltogether

Embedding the Play Strategy

DCSF has launched new guidance for Children's Trusts and other key stakeholders involved in the delivery of play strategies in local areas.

<http://bit.ly/embedplaystrat>

LankellyChase Foundation

Each year the foundation sets aside funds for a summer small grants programme. This year it has decided to concentrate these funds on activities that benefit children and young people aged 5-17 years who are living in refuges for families escaping domestic violence or who are young carers. The deadline: 14 May. www.lankellychase.org.uk

Safer Recruitment

[Safer recruitment e-learning and guidance](#) from CWDC More details about the training and support materials, and access to them, can be found at: www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/safeguarding/safer-recruitment

Are They Safe?

This Safe Network resource pack will help community and voluntary groups to help managers, staff and volunteers feel confident about what they need to do to safeguard children effectively. <http://bit.ly/aretheysafe>

Joanies Trust

The trust welcomes applications from organisations working with young people aged 11 to 25. They want to support projects that offer intensive support as well as those that promote preventative work, and specially those that are designed to lead to individual development through integration, work opportunities or accreditation. Deadline: 30 April. www.joaniestrust.org.uk

Trial and error

New Philanthropy Capital report exploring the issue of youth offending and highlighting some of the innovative and promising ways that charities are helping young people to stay out of trouble. <http://bit.ly/npctande>

Think Big

Think Big is a new funding scheme from mobile phone company O2, developed in conjunction with the National Youth Agency and UK Youth. It gives 13 to 25 year olds the chance to apply for a £300 grant to fund projects aimed at addressing local issues identified by the young people themselves. www.o2thinkbig.co.uk

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Green Communities is a programme from the Energy Saving Trust that aims to support, facilitate and promote community based energy projects. Visit <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe> to find out more about free training and advice focused on project planning and funding to technical support and resources.

Environment Funding Guide

Directory of Social Change has published a new edition of its guide to sources of funding for environmental groups. <http://bit.ly/dscenvfund> or www.dsc.org.uk

Greener lifestyles: Directgov

The Directgov Greener Lifestyles webpage gives information on how people can make changes in their homes, gardens, workplaces and shops to lead greener lifestyles. <http://bit.ly/dgglife>

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RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Charity Effectiveness in SocietyGuardian

SocietyGuardian has a new Charity Effectiveness web section, www.guardian.co.uk/charity-effectiveness

Building Community Cohesion and Improving Race Equality

Community Development Foundation. <http://bit.ly/cdfbcc>

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LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT/EVENTS

Advocating Intelligent Commissioning *(LIOs only)*

If you are a local support and development organisation providing support to other organisations in the South East region and want to advocate intelligent commissioning in order to achieve better services these seminars are for you. 22 June, London www.navca.org.uk/events

Coming soon: New communication using social media

The ICT Champions, in partnership with the Modernising Volunteering workstream, will be running workshops in all regions between May and November 2010. Details will be released on www.skild.org.uk/training shortly. However, as demand will be high please register your interest by emailing skild@navca.org.uk (Quote reference: NewComms).

Charityfair 2010

Join 1,000 of your peers to learn and share at this unmissable event. Charityfair provides affordable, high quality training for everyone in the voluntary sector with a FREE resource area packed with coaching, talks, bookshop, exhibitors, networking and much more. **21 & 22 June** at the Hilton London Metropole Hotel in Central London. [Click here for full training sessions, details and booking.](#)

Introduction to Islam and the Muslim Culture

Course – Tuesday, 25 May 2010, Watford. Specifically designed for non-muslims who work with and for muslims from diverse communities.

www.educationislam.org; info@educationislam.org

Does your organisation need Outcomes Training?

COVER is offering bespoke Outcomes Training in conjunction with Yannick Auckland, Charity Evaluation Services trained Outcomes Champion. Dates to be arranged by mutual agreement.

<http://www.cover-east.org/cms/uploads/MEDIA/DOCUMENTS/OUTCOMES-TRAINING-flier-Mar-10-FINAL.doc>

Coach Programme Bursary Update

The Micro Coaches Project offers Peer2Peer Support sessions from individuals working in social enterprises in the East of England to other social enterprises in the region. May find solutions to everyday fire-fighting, income generation, strategic and sustainability issues. Sessions cost £195, but CapacityBuilders funding pays for 50 bursaries of £150, leaving just £45 to pay.

www.microcoaches.org.uk

Bursaries to support volunteer management skills development

Volunteer Management Programme: Capacitybuilders is offering volunteer managers the opportunity to apply for a skills development bursary up to £1950.

www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/vmpskills

Use it or lose it!

Don't lose your training budget for 2010. [Order a DSC voucher now](#) and redeem it against any DSC product or service!

Carers Wellbeing Programme

Regency Training Foundation. One day per week, May-June 2010. Visit

www.rtfoundation.org.uk

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FUNDING

JustGiving for sports clubs

Sport England has announced a campaign to bring an extra £22m into grassroots sport over the next five years through a new partnership with JustGiving, the fundraising website. As part of the campaign, JustGiving will waive its membership fee for community sports clubs. <http://bit.ly/sejustgive> and www.justgiving.com

Cash 4 Clubs

Cash 4 Clubs is a sports grants scheme which provides funding to support



grassroots UK sports clubs. It gives clubs a chance to win grants ranging from £250 to £1000. Grants can be to improve facilities, purchase new equipment, gain coaching qualifications, or generally invest in the sustainability of the club. www.cash-4-clubs.com

BBC Children in Need - Fun and Friendship

The purpose of this programme is to help projects create and enhance opportunities for disabled young people to meet friends and have a good time, as independently as possible. www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey

Charity Employees Benevolent Fund

The CEBF is the only benevolent fund that the charity sector can call its own, and thanks to the support of organisations within the sector and charities themselves, the CEBF is now providing advice and financial assistance for the families of charity employees in need. <http://www.cebf.org.uk>

FORCES in MIND

The Big Lottery Fund has announced details of a new £35m fund to help veterans who struggle with the transition to civilian life. <http://bit.ly/civstreet>

Groundswell

Groundswell offers grants of up to £700 to homeless people to set up their own projects. They welcome applications from anyone with experience of homelessness. Deadline: 15 April. www.groundswell.org.uk

The Erach and Roshan Sadri Foundation

The Erach and Roshan Sadri Foundation awards grants to organisations in the UK for purposes that include education and welfare and relieving poverty by alleviating homelessness. Grants of between £2,000 and £100,000 are available. Deadline: 1 June. www.ersf.org.uk

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OTHER NEWS

Smart Advice

AdviceUK has launched a campaign for intelligent thinking about, and funding of, advice services. www.adviceuk.org.uk/smartadvice

Free advice on improving your annual report

DSC has teamed up with Intelligent Giving to produce FREE best practice guidance on planning and writing your annual report. [download report](#).

Home Heat Helpline: this is a free, not for profit phone line set up and funded by Britain's leading energy suppliers to help customers who are struggling to pay their energy bills and keep warm. Expert advice on grants, benefits and payment schemes. Call 0800 33 66 99 or visit www.homeheathelpline.org.uk

ICT HELP

ICT help desk for East of England

Front Line Engagement through Regional Infrastructure (FERI) has launched an free ICT helpdesk for voluntary and community groups in the Eastern region. **Tel 0800 028 0085** or see www.i-trust.org.uk. Help includes:

- Initial ICT support and signposting to local trusted sources of 2nd line support
- Impartial advice and guidance on ICT infrastructure issues and signposting to experts who can help you develop your ICT more strategically through a range of services including ICT Health Checks
- Advice and guidance around purchasing of ICT hardware and software and signposting to suppliers that cater for the specific needs of the VCS

See also www.herts-ic.org.uk for further information on strategic advice and assistance. Experienced computer engineer available for onsite work at £30 per hour and 40pm per mile. Email ICT@herts-ic.org.uk

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