

# Info Digest



Herts CVS Group: Promoting and developing voluntary activity across Hertfordshire

April 2010

## Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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### NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

#### **NAVCA, NCVO and ACEVO joint letter to local authorities**

Following Communities Secretary Eric Pickles saying he would take action against local authorities acting unreasonably towards the local voluntary and community sector, NAVCA has written a joint letter with NCVO and ACEVO to all local authorities. The letter asks what action they are taking to ensure that: cuts are not disproportionate; there is consultation; at least three months notice of cuts is given. <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/lacutsletter.htm>

#### **COVER has published its March 'Summary on a Page', which looks at the**

Government's proposed Budget 2011 as announced by Chancellor George Osborne on 23rd March. Focus is on the changes most relevant to the VCS. <http://www.cover-east.org/cms/uploads/MEDIA/DOCUMENTS/SOAP-march-2011.pdf>

#### **Hertfordshire's Draft Bus Strategy and Intalink Strategy Consultation**

The consultation of Hertfordshire's draft Bus Strategy and Intalink Strategy has started and you are invited to make comments by **6 June 2011**. To view documents and comment go to [www.hertsdirect.org/ftp](http://www.hertsdirect.org/ftp).

#### **Free Publication for NAVCA members**

All NAVCA members can claim a free copy of 'Bridge between two Worlds', a report exploring how NAVCA members, working in partnership with public bodies, can develop, promote and shape really good, intelligent, local commissioning practices. <http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/bridgebetween/>

#### **Big Society Ideas**

Big Society Ideas is an email bulletin from the Big Society Programme Team at

Communities and Local Government. To subscribe email [big societyideas@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:big societyideas@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Views**

Views is a new social enterprise which aims to help charities and voluntary organisations to prove the impact of their services and evidence the value of outcomes achieved. <http://www.views.coop/>

### **Monitoring and evaluation on a shoestring**

You're used to being told to do it, and it's getting more important than ever to be able to demonstrate your impact. This free online publication from Charities Evaluation Services is a great overview of how to capture and communicate your organisation's effectiveness. <http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=763>  
Further information about monitoring your impact is available from NCVO: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/strategy-impact/what-is-impact>

### **Train to Gain Funding**

The Projects Company is offering £500 Train to Gain funding to organisations looking to train their staff in fundraising, management or websites. Qualifying organisations will have between 5 and 249 members of staff and would not have received previous funding under the Train to Gain scheme. To find out more, telephone Vicky on 020 8502 2327 <http://www.theprojectscs.co.uk/training-services/funding-2/>

## **WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**

### **Compact Voice case studies**

Compact Voice has published a new collection of case studies that highlight some recent examples of effective Compact working. <http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/resources/good-practice>

### **The Functions of GP Commissioning Consortia**

The DH has published a description of the proposed duties and powers of GP commissioning consortia as set out in the Health and Social Care Bill. <http://www.navca.org.uk/teams/hsc/news/gpcommissioningconsortia.htm>

### **Carers Hub**

The Carers Hub is a new website created by The Princess Royal Trust for Carers and Crossroads Care. It is designed to support health and social care commissioners in developing and delivering support for unpaid carers. <http://www.carershub.org/>

## LEGAL MATTERS

### Health and safety made simple

There is a new 'Health and safety made simple' section to the Health and Safety Executive's website, at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/index.htm> The content is also available at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/simplehealthsafety.pdf> It gives the necessary basics and links for more resources and key issues.

### SANDY ADIRONDACK: AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGAL UPDATE WEBSITE FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS at [www.sandy-a.co.uk/legal.htm](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/legal.htm)"

#### Equality

- Default retirement age will be abolished from **1 October** and employers will not be able to require any employee to retire unless there is an objective reason. Under transitional arrangements, employees who be 65 or over by 30 September can be given notice to retire – but this has to be done **no later 5 April**, i.e. in the next three weeks. The arrangements have been described as “fiendishly complex” so be sure you get them right. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#defaultretirement](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#defaultretirement) or go direct to [www.acas.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3203](http://www.acas.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3203)
- More info about pre-employment questions about health and disability. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-healthquestions](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-healthquestions)
- From **6 April** – preference can be given to a person from an under-represented or disadvantaged group where there are two candidates of equal merit. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-preference](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-preference) or for Government Equalities Office guidance go direct to <http://tinyurl.com/49ebudr>
- Statutory guidance laid before Parliament on the Equality Act definition of disability – in effect from **1 May**. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-concepts](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-concepts)
- Employers (including voluntary sector) with 150 or more employees encouraged to report on gender pay gap. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-genderpaygap](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-genderpaygap)
- Government consultation until **25 May** on abolishing age discrimination in provision of goods, services and facilities. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-ageservices](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-ageservices)
- More about the importance of charities reviewing their objects if their beneficiaries are limited to specific groups. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-charities](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-charities)
- Public sector equality duty in effect from **6 April**. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-advancement](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-advancement)
- Government will not implement Equality Act socio-economic duty, requiring public sector to consider measures to reduce socio-economic inequality. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-social-eco](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-social-eco)
- Government considering whether to add caste to the description of race in the Equality Act. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-caste](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-caste)

#### Volunteering

- Court of appeal confirms volunteering is not an ‘occupation’ for the purposes of discrimination law. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#vol-occupation](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#vol-occupation)

- Volunteers without certificate of sponsorship not allowed into UK. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#vols-tier5](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#vols-tier5)
- Volunteer Rights Inquiry issues call to action. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#volrightsinquiry](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#volrightsinquiry)

### Charity law

- Charities should review their objects if their beneficiaries are limited to specific groups protected under the Equality Act. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-charities](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-charities)
- Bill introduced in Parliament to consolidate charity law. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#charitylaw-consolidation](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#charitylaw-consolidation)
- Consultation on promotion of amateur sport as a charitable purpose (until 31 May).  
First-ever registration of a charity with the aim of advancing amateur sport by promoting the game of bridge. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#charpurpose-sport](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#charpurpose-sport)
- Charity Commission's public benefit assessment of four sport and recreation charities: three pass; one does not provide sufficient access for those who cannot afford annual membership fee. *Emerging findings*: summary of the Commission's public benefit reviews of arts, recreation and leisure charities.
- Charity Commission guidance on rents charged by charitable housing associations.
- Challenge to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and fee-charging schools to be heard in upper tribunal starting 17 May.
- Charity tribunal to rule on status of benevolent funds for employees of a particular employer, and other charities for the relief of poverty with a restricted class of beneficiaries. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#publicbenefit](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#publicbenefit)
- Updated Charity Commission guidance on registration of excepted and exempt charities (no significant changes – and still no indication of when charitable industrial and provident societies to cease to be exempt). [www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#charityreg-exempt](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#charityreg-exempt) or go direct to <http://tinyurl.com/4z9ceap>

To subscribe to Sandy's email updates, send details to [legalupdate@sandy-a.co.uk](mailto:legalupdate@sandy-a.co.uk)

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### Improving Futures

The Big Lottery Fund has launched Improving Futures, a £20m programme funding local voluntary sector organisations working in partnership with public services to help families with children aged between five and 10 years old with housing, health, employment and other needs. Deadline for expressions of interest: 12 May. [http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_improving\\_futures.htm](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_improving_futures.htm)

## THE ENVIRONMENT

### **Sustainable development is directly relevant for many organisations**

NCVO has produced 'The Sustainable Organisation: what does sustainable development really mean for voluntary and community organisations?' from a project to stimulate fresh thinking about the relevance of sustainable development to the missions and strategies of non-environmental organisations. Download via <http://preview.tinyurl.com/69muczr>

## RESOURCES FOR TRUSTEES

### **Good Governance: a Code for the Voluntary and Community sector**

The second version of the Code was published in October 2010. It sets out best practice for governing a voluntary or community organisation. For more information and to download the new code, visit: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/codeofgovernance>.

### **Good Governance: a practical guide for trustees, chairs and CEO's**

This new publication highlights key governance and leadership issues your organisation needs to consider. It contains templates and real-life examples and experiences to help make your governance more effective. Written by a leading governance expert and bringing together a range of updated publications, including the best selling Good Governance: a Chair's role, and Good Governance: a Chief Executive's role, it provides practical information and tools on effective governance. To pre-order (available April) your copy email [greg.lamyman@ncvo-vol.org.uk](mailto:greg.lamyman@ncvo-vol.org.uk).

### **The Good Trustee Guide**

Ideal as an introductory pack for new board members or as a refresher for long-serving trustees, The Good Trustee Guide provides comprehensive information about a trustee's role and guidance on developing an effective trustee board. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/products-services/publications/good-trustee-guide>

### **Trustee Bank**

Ever considered being a trustee? Is your organisation looking for new board members to help take it to the next level? It's now even easier to upload your vacancy for **free** to the website, using the new online form. Search functions have also been improved so potential trustees can find vacancies quickly and easily. [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/trusteebank](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/trusteebank)

### **Trustee and small charity support merge**

The Small Charities Coalition and Charity Trustee Networks have agreed to the merger of the activities of the two charities "with immediate effect", <http://www.smallcharities.org.uk/news/#c418> While both names and offices will continue for now, SCC is taking over CTN assets.

See also **Charityfair 2011** <http://www.charityfair.org.uk>.

## LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT/EVENTS

### **Charityfair 2011**

Train & network with 1,000 voluntary sector colleagues from only £25 on 27 & 28 June at the Hotel Russell, Russell Square, Central London. Training is for every level of the sector and there is a free Resource Area and free one-to-one coaching sessions. For full session listings, all the Resource Area activities and to book online, visit <http://www.charityfair.org.uk>.

## FUNDING

### **Locality Budget Scheme**

Are you a member of a community group or local charity which is looking for a funding boost in these tough economic times? Ask your county councillor about the Locality Budget Scheme – for the financial year ending 31 March 2012, each county councillor has £10,000 to spend on worthwhile community projects in their division. Before application, you must contact your county councillor.

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/councillors/localitybudgetscheme09/> for information and online request form or contact Michelle Cowin ([michelle.cowin@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.cowin@hertsc.gov.uk) - 01992 555602) or Julie Tese ([julie.tese@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:julie.tese@hertsc.gov.uk) - 01992 556484).

### **Your Heritage**

The Heritage Lottery Fund's Your Heritage programme offers grants between £3,000 and £50,000 for projects that help people to learn about, look after and celebrate heritage in a fun and enjoyable way.

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/yourheritage.aspx>

### **Foyle Foundation Small Grants Scheme**

Supports smaller charities in the UK, especially those working at grass roots and local community level. <http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk/small-grants-scheme/>

### **Caron Keating Foundation**

Assists small cancer charities who finance professional carers, treatment centres and support groups. <http://www.caronkeating.org/>

### **Daily Telegraph/RBS**

Have launched a new grants programme to support community and amateur sports clubs across the country. Five grants of up to £1,000 will be awarded on a monthly basis.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/othersports/amateur/8281664/Enter-your-sports-club-for-a-1000-grant.html>

### **eaga Charitable Trust**

Supports projects and research in two main areas: the relief of fuel poverty and the promotion of energy efficiency; and vulnerable consumers.

<http://www.eagacharitabletrust.org/>

### **Worshipful Company of Weavers**

Funds projects working with young people in need or at risk, rehabilitation and resettlement of young prisoners and ex-prisoners.

<http://www.weavers.org.uk/charitable-grants>

### **Pink Ribbon Foundation**

The Pink Ribbon Foundation is a grant making trust with a mission to fund projects and provide financial support to UK charities which relieve the needs of people affected by breast cancer. Deadline: 30 April.

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

### **Lloyds TSB Foundation Community Programme**

The Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales is celebrating its 25th birthday by donating over £20 million to charities through its Community Programme.

<http://www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk/FundingProgrammes/Pages/Community.aspx>

### **Santander Foundation**

As well as responding directly to applications made by charities, the Santander Foundation supports fundraising undertaken by Santander staff and pensioners in the UK through a matched donation scheme. It also has a payroll giving scheme in place. In the areas where Santander has a significant presence it has established Community Partnership Groups to assess applications. These groups are made up of existing staff as well as some retired staff plus a representative from a local infrastructure charity, typically a community foundation or CVS. <http://www.santanderfoundation.org.uk/>

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **CRB checks**

As a result of recent Government changes to the Vetting and Barring Scheme the cost of an Enhanced CRB check will increase by £8 from 6 April. All other fees will remain unchanged.

### **Make the Most of Social Media – Free Guide**

NCVO's Campaigning Effectiveness team has made available a free guide explaining how to successfully build social media into your work. It includes overviews of tools like Twitter, Facebook, Youtube and concise explanations of techniques like blogging. There are excellent case studies as well which demonstrate how others have put the theory into practice successfully. [http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/In\\_focus\\_social\\_media.pdf](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/In_focus_social_media.pdf)

### **ICT Resources to share**

There are now over 25 factsheets, reports and toolkits on the download section of the ICT Champions website. There are resources for all organisations covering many topics including ICT Volunteering, an ICT Induction, Cloud Computing and Social Media. <http://www.ictchampions.org.uk/downloads/>

### **Wondered what to do with old records?**

Contact HALS to find out if they are interested in keeping hold of your old records. <http://www.hertsdirect.org/libsleisure/heritage1/HALS/deposit1/> Telephone 0300 123 4049 or email [hertsdirect@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:hertsdirect@hertscc.gov.uk) or write to Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies, Register Office Block, CHR 002, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8EJ

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