

Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

NAVCA Sounding Board (*NAVCA Members only*)

NAVCA is establishing a Support and Development Sounding Board. The Board will help NAVCA ensure that whatever new initiatives they are developing for members meet your professional and organisational development needs. They are looking to recruit a number of chief officers, chairs and senior managers to be part of the board. For more information email vivienne.brown@navca.org.uk

Members' news (*NAVCA members only*)

NAVCA has introduced a section in 'Circulation' highlighting news and successes from members. If you have launched a project, had a particular achievement or opened a new building, or have any other news which would benefit other infrastructure organisation, they would like to know. Email: jane.oconnell@navca.org.uk

NAVCA members only

The latest edition of Circulation is now on NAVCA's website at: <http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/circulation/2009/410/> (for NAVCA members and affiliates). Articles include what members are doing about the recession, setting up a flu friends project, and funding and equalities resource lists.

Voluntary Impact Bucks

Voluntary Impact Bucks is a consortium of infrastructure charities providing support, information and advice services to voluntary and community groups in Buckinghamshire. The consortium partners are Vale Volunteers, The Priory Centre, Voluntary Action (South Bucks and Chiltern) and Buckinghamshire Community Action. In 2007 Voluntary Impact Bucks successfully won the contract led jointly by the County and District Councils to deliver a comprehensive support service to the voluntary and community sector. At a

meeting of the Trustees of all Voluntary Impact Bucks members on 16 July it was decided to recommend the merger of the four separate organisations with effect from April 2010. thepriorycentre@googlemail.com

Disciplinary and grievance procedures

NAVCA's revised procedures are now available on their website at www.navca.org.uk/about/navcapolicy

Opportunities and threats facing local organisations - can we handle them?

Kevin Curley's address to Community Voluntary Service Tending's Thriving voluntary sector conference (1 July): www.navca.org.uk/news/tending

Volunteer Management Programme

The Volunteer Management Programme was announced by the Government in direct response to the Commission on the Future of Volunteering in 2008. It is now a £3m fund over a two year period. The fund will aim to improve support to those who manage volunteers in all sectors, and to remove some of the barriers that can be encountered in accessing volunteer management support. <http://bit.ly/volmanagers> or www.volunteering.org.uk

Supporting volunteering by civil servants

The final report from the Prime Minister's volunteering champion Baroness Neuberger is on employer-supported volunteering in the civil service. Recommendations include that all government departments should have some sort of employer supported volunteering scheme in place by 2011, and civil servants should be allowed up to five days a year to volunteer. <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/218600/neuberger%20civil%20service.pdf>

Improving Support

Improving Support brings together practical resources and information for all those providing support to third sector organisations. Funded by Capacitybuilders, this website provides a gateway to a range of tools, information and support, creating an easily accessible community for the exchange of resources, ideas, advice and learning. An 'Improving Support' magazine and regular e-bulletins also help you to stay informed and share learning on a range of issues relevant to your work as a support provider. www.improvingsupport.org.uk/about

Large increase in demand for sector support services

There has been a big increase in the demand for voluntary sector support services, according to a new report by Capacitybuilders, the government-backed infrastructure funder. Based on the first of a series of surveys of local third sector support providers, it finds that over three quarters saw an increase in demand for their services over the past 12 months. See the Building Resilience section of the Improving Support web site, <http://preview.tinyurl.com/n2bb2o>

Investing in Leaders

ACEVO is offering opportunities for leaders from third sector support provider organisations to access free mentoring and peer learning with colleagues from the private and public sector, as well as 50% bursaries for top leadership development programmes. See <http://bit.ly/investingleadership> or www.improvingsupport.org.uk and <http://bit.ly/acevoleadershipdev> or www.acevo.org.uk

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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

LAAS Failing to Engage Fully with the Third Sector

The results of NAVCA's survey of its members about local area agreements (LAAs) show local third sector organisations are generally positive about LAAs but believe a lot more needs to be done if the sector is to be allowed to become fully engaged. However, a sizable minority believed their LAAs had not benefited the third sector. www.navca.org.uk/news/navcalaasurvey.htm

LAA tracker

IDeA has published a revised version of its Local Area Agreement tracker, recording the take-up of individual National Indicators in the 152 'renewed and refreshed' LAAs. <http://bit.ly/7cfRs> or www.idea.gov.uk

Handy Guide to LAAs

Urban Forum. www.urbanforum.org.uk/handy-guides

CAA Now

The Audit Commission's regular e-newsletter to all interested in Comprehensive Area Assessment. <http://bit.ly/caanow> or www.audit-commission.gov.uk

Councils and local partners urged to adopt Total Place

Local Government Association deputy chairman Richard Kemp has urged councils to carry out Total Place-style audits with their local partners, whether they are part of the government's official programme or not. <http://bit.ly/totalplace> or www.navca.org.uk/ilpnews

Third Sector monitoring - new guidance

The National Audit Office and the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) have published new guidance on monitoring, designed to help government bodies reduce the reporting burden on the third sector organisations they fund.

- 'Intelligent Monitoring' (National Audit Office):
<http://bit.ly/intelligentmonitoring> or www.nao.org.uk

- 'Principles of Proportionate Monitoring' (OTS):
<http://bit.ly/proportionatemonitoring> or www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Mapping third sector quality standards

This new report published by the Commission for the Compact found the Compact to be complementary to third sector quality standards. The research, which was carried out by the Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR) on behalf of the Commission, looked at eight quality standards (including NAVCA's Quality Award) and how they relate to the Compact. <http://bit.ly/compactqstand> or www.thecompact.org.uk

Independence Matters

Guidance from the Commission for the Compact which aims to increase understanding in both the public and third sectors about the importance and benefits of independence and how it can be threatened.

<http://bit.ly/independencematters> or www.thecompact.org.uk

A councillor's guide to social media

An early draft of concise guidance on how councils and councillors can use social media to improve services and connect with citizens may be of wider interest, particularly once it has more content. At <http://ideasocial.wetpaint.com>

Public funding and third sector organisations

The National Audit Office has developed a Decision Support Tool for people working in the public sector who are responsible for financial relationships with third sector organisations. <http://bit.ly/betterfunding> or www.nao.org.uk

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LEGAL MATTERS

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

From Sandy Adirondack's Legal Update

Minimum wage increases from 1 October 2009; adult minimum wage to apply to 21 year olds from 1 October 2010; possible extension of minimum wage for apprentices. <http://bit.ly/12D2kc> or www.sandy-a.co.uk

Getting a worker's employment status right

HM Revenue and Customs Employment Status Indicator tool is designed to check the employment status of an individual or group of workers - that is, whether they are employed or self-employed for tax, National Insurance

contributions (NICs) or VAT purposes. As Sandy Adirondack's Legal update points out, treating someone as self-employed when they should be on PAYE can land an organisation with a very large tax bill. See Sandy's background at <http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#esi>, or go direct to <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/calcs/esi.htm>.

Property:

- Campaign against 'rain tax' - changes in how water companies charge for surface water drainage. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#raintax
- Charity Property Help from RICS offers one-hour free consultation on property matters. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#propertyhelp or go direct to www.charitypropertyhelp.com
- Updated CC28 on selling, leasing, transferring or mortgaging charity property. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#charitydisposal or go direct to www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/cc28.asp

Charity and company law

- Charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) structure not likely to be available until **April 2010**. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#cio or go to <http://tinyurl.com/cp7tao> for Office of the Third Sector's updated implementation plan for the Charities Act.
- Revised Charity Commission guidance on amending a charity's governing document. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#charity-amendment or go direct to www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/cc36.asp
- Model articles available now, but not in effect until **1 October 2009**, for private companies limited by shares, public companies, and private companies limited by guarantee. The model articles for companies limited by guarantee should not be used for charitable companies. The Charity Commission and Charity Law Association will have model articles for charitable companies - hopefully in time for 1 October. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#charM&A-amendment www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#companyformation
- As part of restructuring of the tribunals service, charity tribunal will become part of general regulatory chamber in the first tier tribunal from **1 September 2009**. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#chartribunal

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Safe Network

The national third sector safeguarding unit has now been launched. With £2.2m in funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) the

Safe Network will be managed by the NSPCC and Children England, and based in the NSPCC National Training Centre. www.safenetwork.org.uk

Children England small grants

Children England is offering small grants of up to £2,500 to support good practice on equality and diversity by children and young people's organisations, and is also seeking examples of current good practice. audie@childrenengland.org.uk

Make Space for Health

Make Space is 4Children's campaign to transform opportunities for young people with the development of a new network of contemporary out of school clubs for 11 to 19 year olds, providing exciting places to go and things to do. Recommendations from the pilot programme have now been published. www.makespace.org.uk

Young runaways

The Government has published new statutory guidance for all local authorities setting out how they must work with the police and voluntary sector, and across local authority borders to better support young runaways. <http://bit.ly/youngrunaways> or www.dcsf.gov.uk

The Youth of Today Leadership Fund

Gordon Brown has launched The Youth of Today Leadership Fund worth £1m to support innovative leadership opportunities for young people. www.theyouthoftoday.org

Funding Guide to Workforce Development

The NAVCA/NCVYS Funding Guide to Workforce Development has been updated to reflect recent changes to funding schemes. <http://bit.ly/fundingguide> or www.ncvys.org.uk

Youth4U – Young Inspectors Programme: This is a new programme run by the Look Listen Change consortium (BYC, KIDS, NCB). It aims to give young people the chance to look at services available in their area and give constructive advice to the people in charge of them and/or who commissioned them. The 3rd round of applications is now being sought and the deadline is 28 August 2009. If you want to know more about the programme visit www.participationworks.org.uk/topics/young-inspectors.

Are you looking for funding for your youth media project?

Do you work with young people on media projects? If so, a variety of grants are available through the Mediabox scheme to create and distribute youth-led media projects that enable young people to get their voices heard. Mediabox offers disadvantaged 13 - 19 year olds the opportunity to create their own media projects, from photography and design to print and video games and funds range from £1,000 to £40,000. Also if you are working with young people on a media

project and would like to get some free practical support from trained mentors, go to [Youth Mentoring scheme](#).

Learning Launchpad

Delivered by the Young Foundation, in partnership with independent education foundation Edge, the Learning Launchpad fund is open to applications from individuals, emerging charities, social enterprises or mainstream business committed to delivering social change for young people. The fund supports start-up or spin-off organisations that work to promote or provide opportunities for practical learning for young people aged 14 to 25. Next deadline is 24 November. <http://www.learninglaunchpad.org>

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Green Communities

The Energy Saving Trust has re-launched its Community Action for Energy programme as Green Communities, a new hub to help UK communities reduce their carbon footprint. Community groups are invited to register to access tools and advice. www.greencommunities.org.uk

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PUBLICATIONS

Improved campaigning opportunities for small charities

A lack of big brand campaigns opens up opportunities for smaller charities campaigning at Westminster according to a recent nfpSynergy editorial. <http://bit.ly/nfpcampaigning> or www.nfpsynergy.net

A Gateway to Work

Volunteering England publication produced to meet the growing interest in volunteering as a means of improving people's employability. <http://bit.ly/modernisingvol> or www.volunteering.org.uk

Personalisation briefings

Social Care Institute for Excellence briefings for providers and commissioners on the implications and opportunities offered by the personalisation agenda. www.scie.org.uk/adults/personalisation.asp

Working together

Stonewall guidance for employers on managing perceived tensions between

Sexual Orientation and Religion. <http://bit.ly/workingtogether> or www.stonewall.org.uk

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TRAINING/EVENTS

DSC events

- Managing People conference: 7 October, London
- Funding your future conference: 15 October, London.

www.dsc.org.uk/Conferences

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FUNDING

Step forward for funding to build community organisations

The government's Communitybuilders seventy million pound funding programme has taken a step forward with the announcement that a consortium led by the Adventure Capital Fund will manage it. There is the bare bones of a web site at <http://www.communitybuildersfund.org.uk>. A mixture of loans and grants will be available later in the summer, plus access to expert support and mentoring services to help organisations work towards long-term financial stability and away from grant dependency, and is aimed at organisations such as Community centres, Multi-purpose settlements and social action centres, Development trusts and community enterprises, Community land trusts.

Hardship Fund

OTS has announced that the Hardship Fund will be delivered by the Community Development Foundation. Grants of between £50,000 and £250,000 will be available to organisations with a turnover of at least £200,000 that are in financial hardship which is impacting on their ability to deliver services in the following areas: health and social care; housing support; education and training; information, advice and guidance. The fund will be open from the end of July, you can register your interest by emailing hardshipfund@cdf.org.uk. See also <http://bit.ly/cdfhardshipfund> and <http://bit.ly/3dR4n> or www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector

Supporting Health Groups

GSK's IMPACT Awards are now open for applications. If you are a health charity, at least 3 years old and with a total annual income of between £10,000 and £1 million and seeking core funding go to www.kingsfund.org.uk/gskimpactawards. Closing date is 25 September.

Innovation in the Community Awards

The Innovation In The Community Awards from TalkTalk provide funds for both technology-related projects and technology equipment, to help 30 groups make the most of the internet. Deadline is 30 September.

<http://bit.ly/innovationcommunity> or www.talktalk.co.uk.

DH Third Sector Investment Programme

The Department of Health has published details for the 'Third Sector Investment Programme' (Section 64) for the Innovation, Excellence and Service Development Fund for 2010-11. Closing date for Stage 1 applications is 4 September. www.dh.gov.uk/thirdsectorinvestment

Community Cashback

Community Cashback is a new scheme which gives local people a say in how £4m of recovered criminal assets (for example confiscated cash or property) should be spent in their communities. You can suggest a project you would like to see happening in your area, and/or have your say on a project suggested by someone else in your community. <http://cashback.cjsonline.gov.uk>

Social Enterprise Investment Fund

The Social Enterprise Investment Fund provides loans and grants to help new social enterprises start up and existing social enterprises grow. It is managed by Futurebuilders in partnership with Partnerships UK, on behalf of the Department for Health. <http://bit.ly/seinvestmentfund> or www.dh.gov.uk

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OTHER NEWS

Give your organisation's work real impact

Free Media and Communications Advice. If you're in need of some ongoing or specific communications support, try the Media Trust's [Media Matching service](#). They match media professionals as volunteers with charities that require help with a specific marketing or communications issue. They have hundreds of volunteers keen to offer free advice on anything from perfecting your press releases to writing a marketing strategy.

Help to Hit the Headlines

[Community Newswire](#) is an innovative, free service helping charities to gain valuable media coverage for your campaigns. Send your stories and a Press Association journalist will write it up into a news story which then goes out on the PA Newswire reaching thousands of journalists across the country.

But, in the meantime, here are some tips to get you started...

- Think like an editor
- Write like a journalist

- Stop thinking press release. Start thinking news story
- Look at what is in the news and who is writing about stories like yours
- Find a news hook for your story
- Send your news to communitynewswire@mediatrust.org

Marketing Matters – Media Trust

The Media Trust has produced a video full of tips and helpful advice that proves why marketing matters. [Watch the video now](#) to get an overview into what marketing really means and how getting it right can transform your organisation.

Cranfield Trust

The Cranfield Trust provides project management support to the not for profit sector. Its volunteers are professionals from the commercial sector who donate their time and expertise to help charities with management issues.

www.cranfieldtrust.org

Work strain injuries guidance

The Musculoskeletal disorders web pages is the latest section of the Health and Safety Executive site to be relaunched, and includes new Upper Limb Disorder guidance. Musculoskeletal disorders include problems such as low back pain, joint injuries and repetitive strain injuries of various sorts, and Display Screen Equipment guidance is also here, <http://www.hse.gov.uk/msd/index.htm>.

VitalLinks for older people's befriending

Counsel and Care invites befriending scheme co-ordinators and practitioners to join the new national network VitalLinks. An online directory of schemes will be published later in the year and the network will also develop as a tool for sharing best practice and peer support. Register online at:

www.counselandcare.org.uk/networks/vitallinks

REACH good practice and guidance

Guidance for Black and Minority Ethnic Voluntary and Community Organisations from Communities and Local Government's project aimed at raising the aspirations, attainment and achievement of Black boys and young Black men.

<http://bit.ly/reachguidance> or www.communities.gov.uk

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