

Info Digest



Herts CVS Group: Promoting and developing voluntary activity across Hertfordshire

August 2011

Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

Transforming Local Infrastructure

NAVCA has produced a briefing with answers to the big questions asked by their members about this fund. Members can access the briefing (also emailed) on [navcaboodle](#), their professional networking site.

£10million to kick start Big Society public services

Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Civil Society has announced that a [£10million fund](#) is being made available to charities and social enterprises to help them develop the skills and infrastructure to win more capital investment and public service contracts. <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/%C2%A310million-kick-start-big-society-public-services>

Open Public Services White Paper

The Government thinks it can improve how public services are delivered by introducing choice and competition into the commissioning process.

NCVO Policy Manager James Allen comments: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/networking-discussions/blogs/18158/11/07/15/so-what-does-opswp-mean>

Value of Sector in E Sussex

The three NAVCA members in East Sussex (3VA, HVA and RVA) have worked together to produce [important research demonstrating the value of the sector](#). The research finds VCS groups in East Sussex have a combined annual income of £476 million, and the sector is a major employer of 7% of the county's working age population. <http://www.eavs.org/index.php?action=report&id=348>

Sustainable Funding guide launched

If you support small organisations looking for accessible funding advice, take a look at the recently launched [Norfolk Sustainable Funding Guide](#). Written in collaboration with Voluntary Norfolk, WNVCA and Norfolk RCC, this new free guide gives lots of practical case studies and sign-posting to more funding advice. http://www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk/sustainable_funding

Free Factsheets

Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support has a series of [free online factsheets](#) about setting up and running VCS organisations
<http://www.gmvss.net/factsheets>

National Sector Survey 2010

The results of the 2010 National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises have been published by the government, following up the previous survey in 2008. It covers all local authorities across England. A headline figure is the increase in the delivering of public services - nearly a quarter of organisations reported this to be their main role in 2010, compared with 14% in 2008. See official news item at <http://preview.tinyurl.com/65hu5qo>, or the survey website at <http://www.nscsesurvey.com>

Working with Job Centre Plus

NAVCA has produced [a briefing on working with Job Centre Plus](#). This includes an explanation of the Work Together initiative and the co-location project.
<http://www.navca.org.uk/volunteering>

LEGAL MATTERS

2012 Jubilee Bank Holiday

The [2012 late May bank holiday](#) will be moved to Monday 4 June 2012 and an additional Jubilee bank holiday will be on Tuesday 5 June 2012.
http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_197517

Cheque Mate

The UK Payments Council has announced that it has [abandoned its target date for the abolition of cheques](#) and they will remain as long as customers need them. They have recognised the importance of cheques for charities.
http://www.paymentscouncil.org.uk/media_centre/press_releases/-/page/1575/

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Thinking about Merger?

IVAR has republished '[Thinking about... merger](#)', in partnership with Bates Wells & Braithwaite solicitors. This publication is written for organisations considering merger as a possible option. <http://www.ivar.org.uk/publications/reports-and-publications/thinking-about-merger>

Twitter and Facebook Etiquette

A new document has been launched by the Institute of Fundraising and BT. The guide explains the best way to use social media tools, such as blogs, Facebook

and Twitter, for fundraising.

http://www.btplc.com/mydonate/Networked_for_good.pdf

Volunteering with Criminal Record

[Back on Track](#) has published a booklet which shares success stories of ex-offenders getting involved in volunteering, and tips for volunteering with a criminal record.

<http://www.backontrackmanchester.org.uk/publications/Volunteering%20with%20a%20criminal%20record/>

FUNDING

Information on New Charitable Trusts and Foundations

One hundred grant-making trusts and foundations registered in 2010 are featured for the first time in DSC's new fundraising directory, *The Guide to New Trusts*, downloadable from

http://www.dsc.org.uk/Publications/Fundraisingtechniques/@114242?dm_i=6S7,FNH1,TDRZE,19L3R,1

The Homelessness Transition Fund

The [Homelessness Transition Fund](#) is a £20m CLG funded scheme, administered by Homeless Link. The scheme aims to protect essential services for single homeless people and support the introduction of 'No Second Night Out' standard. Voluntary sector organisations that spend most of their income on homelessness services, will be able to apply for grants. You need to register to receive the criteria when published. <http://www.homeless.org.uk/fund>

Inspired Facilities

Community and voluntary organisations can apply for grants worth between £20,000 and £50,000 from the [Inspired Facilities fund](#). The first round of funding runs from 1 August to 28 September 2011. Designed to be as accessible as possible, the fund is ideal for small community groups with an interest in running sporting activity who might have previously been put off from applying for public money <http://inspiredfacilities.sportengland.org/about/what-is-inspired-facilities>

WREN small grants scheme

WREN awards grants to community and environmental projects across the UK to projects located within 10 miles of a WRG landfill site. The [Small Grant Scheme](#) assists small projects that can make a real difference to their local communities. <http://www.wren.org.uk/schemes/small-grant-scheme>

Heart Research UK

As well as large grants to hospitals and universities across the UK they award [Healthy Heart Grants](#) of up to £10,000 to community groups around the

UK to allow them to run projects to encourage people to lead Healthy Heart lifestyles. <http://www.heartresearch.org.uk/grants>

Innovation Grants Programme

The [Innovation Grants Programme](#) is a fund for the Money Advice Trust, supported by the Nationwide Building Society. It funds innovative work that will improve the money-advice sector
<http://www.moneyadvicetrust.org/content.asp?ssid=119>

Allen Lane Foundation

The [Allen Lane Foundation](#) is a grant-making trust set up in 1966 by Sir Allen Lane, founder of Penguin Books, to support general charitable causes. They make grants for up to three years, with a value of £500-£15,000 in total. <http://www.allenlane.org.uk/>

Alec Dickson Trust

The [Alec Dickson Trust](#) provides up to £500 to help under 30 year olds run a project in their local area which involves local volunteers.
<http://www.alecdicksontrust.org.uk/>

Hilden Charitable Fund

The [Hilden Charitable Fund](#) makes grants to projects that address disadvantages and in particular wants to support projects that address homelessness; asylum seekers and refugees; community based initiatives for disadvantaged young people; and penal affairs. <http://www.hildencharitablefund.org.uk/about.htm>

Clothworkers' Foundation

The [Clothworkers' Foundation](#) funds work to improve the quality of life, particularly for people and communities facing disadvantage.
<http://www.clothworkers.co.uk/Grant-Making/Grant-Making.aspx>

The Santander Foundation

The [Santander Foundation](#) funds local, regional and national charities for their work within the UK. They are committed to helping disadvantaged people through their two charitable priorities – education and training and financial capability. <http://www.santanderfoundation.org.uk/>

OTHER NEWS

Preparing for Pension Reform

NCVO have launched a new service for members with Scottish Widows and Lucas Fettes financial advice service providing tailored advice and guidance on pension services. Upcoming pension reform is likely to have financial impact on most organisations so you need to start preparing now. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/products-services/preferred-suppliers/pensions>

Other NCVO Preferred Suppliers

See <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/preferred-suppliers> for other NCVO preferred suppliers to voluntary sector workers including providers of home insurance with additional benefits at no extra cost and low cost healthcare. Available to NCVO members.

Intern or volunteer?

A new Volunteering England Information Sheet: 'Internships Explained'. <http://preview.tinyurl.com/6gcv5jo> It aims to clarify the difference between an internship and volunteering, but does also come up with the concept of a "volunteer internship".

Employment Advice Resources

PEACe, the Personnel, Employment Advice and Conciliation Service project run by London Voluntary Service Council, has a new website containing a range of useful HR material for voluntary sector employers. While many services and publications have a cost, others don't. <http://www.lvsc.org.uk/peace>

Community Toolkit

[Community Toolkit](http://www.communitytoolkit.co.uk/) is a FREE information resource for people who want to get involved in organising smaller, straightforward community activities. Created by Zurich Insurance to address barriers to community volunteering, it provides guidance on some legal, health and safety, insurance and planning issues. <http://www.communitytoolkit.co.uk/>

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*

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