

Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

News for Support Agencies	1
Working in Partnership	2
Legal Matters	4
Children & Young People	6
The Environment	7
Publications	8
Training & Learning	8
Funding	9
Other News	10

NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

Threat to Big Lottery funding for the sector

The Big Lottery Fund consultation on its future programmes includes a question on whether to continue its current commitment that 60-70% of its total funding should go to the third sector each year. In most parts of England the Big Lottery Fund is a major funder of the third sector, and there is a risk of substantial loss of funding should this commitment not continue. Please take part in the consultation by responding to the questionnaire.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/news/biglotteryfundingthreat.htm>.

Defending Local Grants

The Local Grants Forum, a partnership of national organizations which campaigns to protect grants for the local third sector, has launched 'Defending Local Grants', a guide that shows where you can find the resources you need to defend grant funding locally.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/news/defendinglocalgrants.htm>

Engaging with the Local Area Agreement - an opportunity or threat for the local third sector?

NAVCA Chief Executive Kevin Curley's address to the Herefordshire Voluntary Sector Assembly is now available at:

<http://www.navca.org.uk/news/herefordshirevsa>

How principled is your partnership?

NAVCA's Improving Local Partnerships team have produced a summary of the Principles of Representation, including a checklist for third sector engagement in the design and delivery of public services.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/prinrep>

Supporting offenders and their families to reduce re-offending

NAVCA's Supporting Offenders Project has developed pages that provide local infrastructure organisations the information and resources they need to effectively support local third sector organisations which work with offenders, ex-offenders and their families. <http://www.navca.org.uk/supportingoffenders>

Where to find tenders

NAVCA's LCPU has produced a list of websites providing a useful idea of what the public sector is buying both locally and farther afield, and how they advertise tenders. <http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/lcp/briefings/wheretenders.htm>

Intergenerational Volunteering Fund

Liam Byrne, Minister for the Cabinet Office, has announced a new £3m volunteering fund to improve interaction between generations. The aim will be to recruit 20,000 volunteers over the next two years. <http://digbig.com/4ycfs> or <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk>

New Opportunities

The Government has published the New Opportunities White Paper which sets out its agenda for capturing the jobs of the future and investing in families, communities and citizens. <http://www.hmg.gov.uk/newopportunities.aspx>

Staff Share

Work Wise UK, an organisation promoting smarter working practices, has created online facility StaffShare to allow businesses to offer the services of employees who are underused or in a redeployment pool for short or medium-term secondments with charities. <http://www.staffshare.co.uk>.

Measuring overheads

The ACEVO-led Income Generation Workstream of the National Support Service is working with Peach Consultancy to consider the development of a capacity and overhead measuring tool that enables senior managers to compare and assess the efficiency of their overheads and support services. They are asking infrastructure colleagues to help them develop this tool by completing the survey at: <http://digbig.com/4ydwg> or http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=dHQ_2bwotHRNQ18X9oRV6cRg_3d_3d

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

National Survey of Third Sector Organisations

The Office of the Third Sector has published initial results from the survey of almost 50,000 third sector organisations carried out towards the end of last year. First results show that 58% of those who had direct dealings with local government bodies said that they had a positive or very positive effect on their success. However, over half of all respondents (51%) said they felt public sector

bodies had no overall influence on their success, meaning public sector bodies have more to do to improve contact and support to their local third sector.

<http://www.nstso.com>

Cohesion guidance

Communities and Local Government has published new guidance for councils and third sector organisations on 'building a local sense of belonging'. It builds on the Citizens' Day Framework that was published with the Citizenship Foundation last year. <http://digbig.com/4ydtm> or <http://www.communities.gov.uk>

Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill

The Government published the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill. This wide-ranging legislation will give communities and local people new rights to have a say in their local services, strengthen local democracy, reform local and regional governance arrangements and implement measures to drive economic regeneration. <http://digbig.com/4ybsj> or <http://www.communities.gov.uk>. NCVO has produced a briefing on the bill, <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/policy/index.asp?id=12220>

Improving Empowerment practice

Case studies of innovative approaches to community empowerment from Communities and Local Government. <http://digbig.com/4ybte> or <http://www.communities.gov.uk>

Bids invited for projects to better inform citizens

The Timely Information to Citizens project team at CLG is inviting local authorities in England to submit funding proposals for innovative pilot projects to provide better local information to citizens. This project has been set up to deliver on the government commitment in Chapter 3 of the recent White Paper: "Communities in control: real people, real power", to improve citizens' access to information on local services and performance, in order to empower them to hold local service providers to account. Further information at: <http://www.esd.org.uk/esdtoolkit>

Government initiatives relating to the third sector: PASC report

The Government's response to the Public Administration Select Committee report provides a useful summary of the main government initiatives relating to the national and local third sector. <http://digbig.com/4ydtm> or <http://www.publications.parliament.uk>

New standard NHS contracts

The Department of Health's guidance on its new standard contracts includes 'Community NHS Contract Integrated Guidance' which makes it clear that grants are an appropriate funding mechanism as well as contracts. The contracts guidance are available at: <http://digbig.com/4ybsb> or <http://www.dh.gov.uk>. You

can also contact DH for help with using the contracts by emailing contractshelp@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

Understanding the new NHS commissioning environment

This recent Department of Health seminar for strategic leaders in the third sector is now available as a webcast. <http://digbig.com/4ybsm> or <http://www.dh.gov.uk>

LAA Targets

'Local Government Chronicle' reports that despite warnings that house-building and worklessness targets will prove impossible to hit during the downturn, the Government has indicated it will not allow substantial changes to Local Area Agreements (LAAs). <http://digbig.com/4ydts> or <http://www.lgcplus.com>

LAA story: lessons from the voluntary sector – IDeA Southend Case Study

Southend's voluntary and community sector played an integral part in the development of the area's local area agreement (LAA). This ensured that the people it represented were at the heart of the agreement. Due to the demographics, size and resources of the area many of the lessons can be applied in authorities throughout the country. <http://www.idea.gov.uk>

Transforming community services: currency and pricing options for community services

Department of Health resource for commissioners and providers of community services to help create transparent models of funding through the use of new currencies and better pricing at local level. <http://digbig.com/4ycjw> or <http://www.dh.gov.uk>

Socially Excluded Adults Community of Practice

Kevin Brennan, Minister for the Third Sector and for Social Exclusion, launched an interactive community forum for people involved in working with Public Service Agreement (PSA16) client groups, to share ideas and information, and help shape Government policy. The community is open to anyone involved or interested in helping to improve services to vulnerable groups. <http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/welcome.do>

Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships - A Councillor's Guide

The Local Government Association has published a useful guide to Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships: <http://digbig.com/4ydwk> or <http://www.lga.gov.uk>

LEGAL MATTERS

NJC pay scales 2009/10

The Trade Union Side of the NJC has formally tabled a pay claim for 2009/10 for "...an increase of at least the level of retail price inflation, with additional salary increases for the lowest paid". The unions were informed that the employers

would not be making a formal response to the claim until both the arbitration process and regional pay briefings were concluded, which would be end of March at the earliest. <http://www.lge.gov.uk> and <http://www.unison.co.uk>

Disability Discrimination Act

Following a landmark decision of the European Court of Justice last summer that employees associated with disabled people (such as parents and carers) are entitled to protection from discrimination in the workplace under European law, the Employment Tribunal has ruled that this protection can be given under existing UK law. <http://www.bwbllp.com>

Public benefit guidance

The Charity Commission has published online the finalised supplementary public benefit guidance for charities whose aims include preventing or relieving poverty, advancing education or religion, and those that charge fees. This is in addition to the general public benefit guidance issued in January 2008 for all charities. <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/news/pblatest.asp>

Charity Law and Regulation

NCVO's Charity Law and Regulation webpage has been updated following recent developments in charity law. Recent news concerns the Charity Commission's new Public Benefit Guidance, and NCVO's Response to OSCR's Consultation on Monitoring Cross-Border Charities. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/policy/index.asp?id=1136>

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

Employment:

- From **6 April 2009**: statutory sick pay increased from £75.40 to £79.15 per week; statutory maternity, paternity and adoption pay flat rate increased from £117.18 to £123.06. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#sickpay
www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#matpatpay
- Time off for dependants does not have to be for an emergency (but it does have to be for an unexpected situation).
www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#dependant-leave
- European Court of Justice says workers on sick leave during an entire leave year accrue statutory annual leave.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#holidaysickness
- ACAS draft guidance to go along with the new code of practice on discipline and grievance www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#discipline or go direct to www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2124
- ACAS/CIPD employer's guide to mediation
www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#mediation-guide

or go direct to www.acas.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=949&p=0
or for a summary go to
www.cipd.co.uk/subjects/empreltns/general/mediation.htm

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Every Child Matters - Delivering better outcomes for children and young people

NAVCA's first Every Child Matters conference will take place in Birmingham on 30 March. It is aimed at local infrastructure organisations (LIOs) and third sector organisations that deliver services for children, young people and their families.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/events/ecm.htm>

Every Child Matters project

NAVCA's Every Child Matters project now has a web page at:

<http://www.navca.org.uk/stratwork/children/ecm>. It includes a link to the project's new publication 'What is Every Child Matters'.

Funding guide to workforce development

NAVCA, in partnership with CWDC and NCVYS, has published an updated version of the popular funding guide to workforce development for both local groups and infrastructure organisations. It is available to download free of charge at: <http://www.navca.org.uk/stratwork/children/cwdc/resources>

vTalent Year

33 local authorities (incl Herts) across England will pilot a programme from youth volunteering charity v to get young people volunteering full time in children's services. The vTalent Year scheme starts in March offering placements in children's centres, youth work, play and other services. <http://digbig.com/4ydw> or <http://www.wearev.com>. For a list of local authorities involved, see: <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/873287/>

2020 CYP workforce strategy

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published the '2020 Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy'. This sets out the priorities for development of the children and young people workforce over the next ten years. <http://digbig.com/4ybsr> or <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk>

Children England and NCVYS have produced briefing papers on the strategy: <http://digbig.com/4ybst> or <http://www.childrenengland.org.uk> and <http://digbig.com/4ybsy> or <http://www.ncvys.org.uk>.

Integrated Working Explained

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) has produced a booklet providing an overview of what is meant by integrated working, and the tools, advice and guidance available. <http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/integrated-working-explained>.

Kids in the Middle: An Agony Aunt's guide for parting parents and their children

This DCSF guide contains small, simple steps to help separating parents realise the impact of their actions on their children and provide them with support through this difficult time. <http://digbig.com/4yawa> or <http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk>

THE ENVIRONMENT

Pledge to save energy

EAC has a new Saving Energy pledge page on its website, which you can use to promise to take action to save energy. The page includes links to EAC's energy saving partners as well news of the latest pledgers to sign up and what they're doing to make a difference. <http://pledge.everyactioncounts.org.uk>

Green Office Survey 2008

Groundwork London has released the results of the 2008 EAC survey of green office practices in the third sector. In comparison to the 2007 findings, some of the positive outcomes include:

- In 2007 only 27% of respondents had an environmental policy, compared to 52% in 2008.
- 54% of organisations now monitor and review their energy use, compared to 39% 18 months ago.

The survey also highlights a general increase in the amount of waste being recycled, the number of ethical or green suppliers contracted, the use of public transport or cycling and the development of green travel plans. <http://digbig.com/4ycaw> or <http://www.everyactioncounts.org.uk>

Grants for tree planting events

The Woodland Trust is offering grants of up to £100 for community groups that hold a tree planting event this winter. To qualify, the projects should involve planting primarily native broadleaf trees on public land and the event should be open to all the community.

<http://www.treeforall.org.uk/GetDigging/Events+grants.htm>

Adapting to Climate Change

LGA has published guidance notes designed to help manage the process of delivering against National Indicator 188 (Adapting to Climate Change) as part of the Local Area Agreement process.

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelD=1382860>

Local food grant programme

Grants from £2,000 to £300,000 are available from the Wildlife Trusts for not-for-profit groups and organisations delivering projects such as growing, processing, marketing and distributing local food; composting and raising awareness of the benefits of such activities. <http://www.localfoodgrants.org>

PUBLICATIONS

Survive and thrive

Top tips to deal with economic uncertainty from NCVO. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sfp/?id=12100>

Crunch time

Councils are well placed to ride out the immediate effects of the credit crunch, according new Audit Commission research. A study of council finances shows that most local authorities anticipated the increased costs and loss of income to some extent. <http://digbig.com/4ybtg> or <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk>

From recession to recovery: the local dimension

LGA Research showing how each area of the country could be affected differently by the economic downturn. <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/publications/publication-home.do>

Improving small scale grant funding for local voluntary and community organisations

A discussion paper from the Young Foundation. <http://digbig.com/4ybtj> or <http://www.youngfoundation.org.uk>

Train to Gain

Train to Gain, the government's flagship skills service, has produced three brochures for the third sector.

- 'Train to Gain and the third sector: Opportunities for the third sector to access support for training and developing paid staff and volunteers': <http://digbig.com/4ybqs>
- 'Tailormade training for the third sector': <http://digbig.com/4ybqq>
- 'Leadership and Management within Train to Gain': <http://digbig.com/4ybyq> or <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/vcs>

TRAINING & LEARNING

SKiLD: Network Grants Scheme and E-peer Action Learning Sets

SKiLD is offering grants of up to £500 to enable support workers' networks to hold networking or training events. It will also be piloting an E-peer Action Learning Sets programme for experienced development workers. <http://www.skild.org.uk>

Management and leadership – free online learning

If you have a .gov.uk email address, you can access free learning guides on management and leadership, supported by practical ideas for applying what you've learned, self-assessment exercises and summaries of key management books. <http://www.idea.gov.uk/>

PQASSO Quality Mark: Peer reviewer training

Charities Evaluation Services is training peer reviewers to be part of an exciting initiative to accredit quality throughout the third sector. Course dates are: 24-26 February, London; 30 March-1 April, London; 20-22 April, Birmingham; 2-4 September, London. To find out more or to download an application pack, visit <http://www.pqassoqualitymark.org.uk>

Boardscount benchmarking for governance 2009

BoardsCount Benchmarking for governance is open for 2009, with the earlybird discount now available for all organisations. This initiative helps you to review your own governance, but also compares your governance with others within the sector and shares best practice from other organisations. Find out more and register your interest at <http://www.trans4mgt.com/boardscount/future/>.

FUNDING

Revised guidance on professional charity fundraising

The OTS has published revised guidance to help charities, professional fundraisers and commercial participators involved in fundraising to comply with changes that have been made to legal requirements. <http://digbig.com/4ybtik> or <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector>

Collaborative working to generate income

A new free publication from NCVO's Collaborative Working Team and Sustainable Funding Project introduces different ways of working with other organisations to generate income. Subjects covered include fundraising events, joint trading, payroll giving through consortia, legacy giving and appeals. A series of case studies illustrate voluntary and community sector experience of joint fundraising activities. Read online, or order a free hard copy by email collaborate@ncvo-vol.org.uk or call 020 7520 2440.

Sport Unltd

Sport England has announced the national roll-out of its £36m 'Sport Unlimited' initiative to get more children and young people taking part in sports outside school. The three-year programme will enable 900,000 more 11-19 year olds to choose from a vast range of sports including several in which Team GB has excelled at the 2008 Olympics as well as less traditional sports like dodgeball, snowboarding and American football.

http://www.sportengland.org/sport_unlimited.htm

Funding sport in the community

Sport England has published details of future investment programmes available to community sports groups as part of its new funding strategy. 'Funding sport in the community' sets out how Sport England will focus its investment on

grassroots organisations and projects that can deliver the key outcomes of its overall strategy - 'grow, sustain and excel'. From April 2009, it will be accepting applications to four funding streams worth a maximum of £45m per year.

<http://digbig.com/4ybtm> or <http://www.sportengland.org>

Futurebuilders Small Organisation Tender Fund

Futurebuilders' new Small Organisation Tender Fund offers grants to small third sector organisations who need small sums of money to help them tender successfully for specific public sector contracts. Grants are invested in amounts up to 10% of the contract, with a maximum investment of £15,000.

<http://digbig.com/4yeaa> or <http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk>

The Home Office Community Fund

The Home Office has announced a £4.5m community fund to provide small grants to voluntary and community organisations. Projects should support young people to stay away from guns, gangs and knives. The fund is available to grassroots organisations who work within 13 key areas. The application deadline is 3 April. http://grantsadmin.co.uk/homeoffice_communityfund

Only Connect

Only Connect is a visit scheme sponsored by Triodos Bank. It enables you to visit another third sector organisation to learn about their experiences and the key issues to consider when generating earned income. Closing date for the next round of applications is 13 March. For more information see the NCVO website at: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sfp/?id=7278>

OTHER NEWS

Health and Safety Executive: Diversity in the workplace

HSE is committed to protecting workplace health, safety and welfare for everyone, whatever their race, gender, disability, age, work pattern, sexual orientation, religion or beliefs. Its new website contains information and toolkits to help you by providing advice, guidance and best practice.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/diversity>

Tools for Tomorrow

A practical guide to strategic planning for voluntary organisations from NCVO.

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/tools>

Survive and thrive: dealing with the economic uncertainty

Reduce the risk of having your own economic crisis by putting some work in the key areas of your organisation. NCVO's Sustainable Funding Team have five top tips to help you weather these hard economic times. Read them at

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sfp/?id=12100>.

Tending your board

Are your board meetings working? A new year can be a new start. You should consider whether the board's papers, agendas and minutes are serving the right purpose for your organisation. Is the right information being sent to the board meetings to allow your trustees to make their decisions? Are the outcomes of meetings communicated to staff or volunteers in your organisation? By increasing the information and communications for these core meetings, you can increase the effectiveness and transparency of decisions made.

Invest for future growth

Many organisations will already be looking at ways to reduce costs and improve efficiency as a result of the recession. However, some organisations will need to think ahead and will be looking at ways to develop services and trading to generate growth. NCVO is collaborating with BIG Invest to increase awareness and access to finance to develop social enterprise. To find out more go to www.biginvest.co.uk or email ncvo@biginvest.co.uk.

DISCLAIMER: *This Info Digest 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*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: *Contact Sue McClinton, Herts CVS Information Co-ordination Project. Email: sue@cvstalbans.org.uk*

Funded by the HCC Strategic Leadership Contract

