

Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

Charity Builder UK (*LIOs Only*)

Nearly 200 NAVCA member organisations are now offering Charity Builder UK as a membership benefit and as an incentive to encourage new members to join. CBUK is a free, easy to use, online service which provides practical solutions to key administrative tasks: policy and contract writing, governance, volunteering and insurance. It has been developed to help local charities and community groups carry out key administrative tasks quickly and easily. It has also been designed for funding applications by helping groups provide key policies when asked to as part of the application - allowing smaller groups to better compete with larger organisations that can afford to pay for external advice.

<http://www.charitybuilderuk.com/>

NHS Standard Contracts and Guidance 2010/11

The NHS Standards Contracts and guidance for 2010/11 have now been published. <http://bit.ly/nhssc2010> or www.dh.gov.uk

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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

LAA/Countywide Partnership News

- Visit <http://myhertslaa.blogspot.com> to read more about Hertfordshire as a 'Place' (*recent Area Assessment*)
- **Hertfordshire Community Assembly (former Hertfordshire Infrastructure Consortium or HIC) update:** The HIC restructure is underway and all interested Third Sector organisations are encouraged to sign up to become members of the new grouping. A steering group met in

January to begin the process of charting the way forward. Minutes of the meeting will be distributed as soon as they become available.

- **Safer and Stronger Communities.**

As part of the Cohesion Strategy Consultation, Herts County Council will be conducting two workshop consultation events as follows:

9:30am – 12pm on the 11th of February at Ware Priory

6:30pm – 9pm on the 18th of February at the Fielder Centre in Hatfield.

For further details, please email Karen.griffiths@hertsc.gov.uk or call 01992 556709.

- **Better Places to Live**

Julie Evans-Hughes, the new BPL Programme Manager is now in post.

[Email Julie.evans-hughes@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.evans-hughes@hertsc.gov.uk)

- **Transport, Access & Sustainable Development**

Emma Edgill, the new T ASD Programme Manager is also now in post.

[Email emma.edgill@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:emma.edgill@hertsc.gov.uk)

The Department of Health has issued new guidance to primary care trusts stressing the importance of grant funding to charities. The guidance says contracts "should not inappropriately replace grant funding" and grants are particularly appropriate for organisations that care for people with long-term conditions. You can read the guidance by following this link:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/@sta/@perf/documents/digitalasset/dh_109867.pdf

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LEGAL MATTERS

VAT rate change – free toolkit to calculate your costs

From 1 January 2010, the Value Added Tax (VAT) rate has reverted back to the standard 17.5% rate. If your organisation delivers contracts you will need to keep this in mind when putting together your costings. For a [free toolkit](#) to help you understand the liability to register for and charge VAT where appropriate when earning income - [Download our VAT toolkit](#), [read VAT guidance](#) for charities and [Q&A: Charity tax and VAT](#).

Companies Act

Full information about the Companies Act changes (from October of last year) is available on the Companies House website. <http://bit.ly/chousecact> or www.companieshouse.gov.uk

ADDED OR UPDATED ON THE LEGAL UPDATE WEBSITE FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AT www.sandy-a.co.uk

Equal Opportunities

- Equality bill update www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-act

- Discrimination is unlawful even if there is a benign or justifiable reason for it. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#discrimination-motive
- A derogatory remark may be harassment. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#harassment-remark
- An individual may be able to bring a claim for a discriminatory job advert. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#job-advert
- Hair length and s-- discrimination
- www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#hair
- Mandatory (default) retirement age is lawful. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#mra
- Review of default retirement age www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#retirement-review

Charity law

- Charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) consultation update, and Scottish CIO consultation. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#cio
- Update on public benefit guidance, reporting and assessments. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#publicbenefit
- Update on registration of currently exempt charities. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#charityreg-exempt
- New model constitution for very small charities (under £5000). www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#smallchar-constitution
- Charity tribunal now part of the first-tier tribunal. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#chartribunal
- Consultation on consolidation of charity law. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#charitiesact

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Personal finance handbook

Child Poverty Action Group, Toynbee Hall and the FSA have released the third edition of the Personal Finance Handbook, a guide to family budgets in a recession. www.cpag.org.uk/publications/personalfinance

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THE ENVIRONMENT

The Sustainability Challenge: implementing change that doesn't cost the earth

This report from ACEVO, Charities Evaluation Services and the National Performance Programme shows that addressing sustainability can be a critical

strategy in developing strong and effective third sector organisations.
<http://bit.ly/suschalchange> or www.acevo.org.uk

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RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Strong Independent Roots

NAVCA has launched 'Strong Independent Roots 1 - Local Infrastructure: Leading Voluntary Action'. This is the first in a series of five detailed policy documents that expand on the campaigning document 'Strong Independent Roots' that was launched at NAVCA's Annual Conference last year.

www.navca.org.uk/roots

Providing and using references

Updated CIPD factsheet. <http://bit.ly/cipdref> or www.cipd.co.uk

Volunteering and mentoring work with offenders

A series of Volunteering and Mentoring Guides to support organisations working with offenders have been published by Clinks. Titles include 'Setting up a project', 'Managing volunteers', 'Demonstrating effectiveness' and 'Quality standards'. <http://www.clinks.org/volunteeringguides.aspx>

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LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT/EVENTS

NCVO HR Masterclass

Repeated due to popular demand! Book before 29 January and receive a 10% discount. 4 and 5 March, London. www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/hr-masterclass

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FUNDING

Reaching Communities

Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities programme provides grants of between £10,000 and £500,000 for work that improves the life chances and well-being of disadvantaged people. It is intended as a bridge between the old Big Lottery Fund programmes and new programmes due to start coming into effect in 2010. <http://bit.ly/bigreachcomm> or www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Awards for All offers grants of between £300 and £10,000 for projects that improve communities, and the lives of people within them. It's for voluntary and

community groups, schools and health organisations, parish and town councils and is open for applications now. For more www.awardsforall.org.uk

NB: We understand that both these lottery funds have been undersubscribed recently

Will Charitable Trust

The Will Charitable Trust is currently seeking applications to its funding programmes, which support blind people and people with learning disabilities. Grants range from £5000 to £20,000 and are unlikely to be given for more than one year. www.willcharitabletrust.org.uk

Transformation Trust

The trust supports activities in state schools that inspire young people to achieve their potential and overcome disadvantage. It is seeking applications from third sector organisations that wish to play a role in enriching extra-curricular activity in areas where there is the greatest disadvantage and lack of current provision. Projects will need to develop the skills, self esteem and confidence of the young people. www.transformationtrust.org.uk

Community Voices

Community Voices is about supporting communities to make a meaningful difference to their lives and the lives of others within their community with the help of digital media. They have 26 grants of up to £14,000 available, but hurry you only have until 28 February to apply. <http://www.mediatrust.org/community-voices/>

Henry Smith Charity

The Henry Smith Charity has grants available for a number of social welfare causes, including projects that: support families in areas of high deprivation; provide culturally appropriate services to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities; promote integration and access to mainstream services; help the rehabilitation and resettlement of prisoners and/or ex-offenders. www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk

Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances

The society assists women domiciled and habitually resident in the United Kingdom who are living alone in their own home (either owned or rented) and in genuine need, irrespective of age or social status. The deadline for applications is 26 March. www.salrc.org.uk

Inspiring Voices

From now until the end of March the Media Trust's Inspiring Voices fund is giving one £500 award per week to allow groups that feel unheard or voiceless to express themselves using digital media. <http://bit.ly/mtinspv> or www.mediatrust.org

Comic Relief Older People programme

The programme welcomes applications from community groups and organisations where older people are developing ideas for action and change. Comic Relief encourages applications using a variety of approaches including the development of social enterprises, forums for older people, local community activities and campaigning. <http://bit.ly/croldpeop> or www.comicrelief.com

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OTHER NEWS

Free Web Resources

Courtney Consulting has launched its new website with a resources section full of useful articles and links. Articles include Fundraising in a Recession, the 15 Biggest Mistakes in Strategic Planning and Writing Engaging Copy. www.courtneycounseling.co.uk.

Ask The Expert – Financial Management

If you are an NCVO member, you can [ask experts](#) from the voluntary sector questions on a variety of topics relating to your work. On financial management, Paul Palmer, Professor of Voluntary Sector Management, who is also the author of NCVO's Good Financial Management Guide for the Voluntary Sector – answers questions. You will need to register or login to [see Paul's answers](#) and the answers from previous experts

Sports clubs urged to register on CASC scheme

Amateur sports clubs across the UK are being urged to join the Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) scheme, which allows them to benefit from tax savings. Over 5,500 clubs have already signed up, but the government is concerned that thousands more are missing out on mandatory business rate relief and the potential to claim Gift Aid on donations. Culture Department news item at http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/6584.aspx

Possible Savings on Stationery and Office Supplies

The first charities have already registered with the Foundation for Social Improvement (FSI) and started saving money on their stationery and office supplies purchases. [FSI BUYING GROUP](#)

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