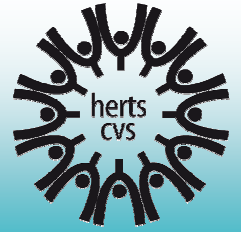


Info Digest



Herts CVS Group: Promoting and developing voluntary activity across Hertfordshire

February 2011

Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

Voluntary Sector Cuts

www.voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk is a new website giving voluntary and community organisations the opportunity to share their concerns about funding cuts and how they will impact on their ability to deliver vital services. It is a joint project bringing together NAVCA, NCVO, ACEVO, Volunteering England and other leading voluntary and community sector bodies.

Decommissioning

NAVCA's commissioning and procurement minisite has a new page on decommissioning listing tools and resources currently available to assist support and development organisations faced with decommissioning of local services. <http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/lcp/briefings/decommissioning.htm>

Supporting a Stronger Civil Society

NCVO has responded to the Government consultation on Supporting Civil Society, calling for a strategic approach that will move the sector's infrastructure toward a more sustainable, long term footing and enable the full range of voluntary and community activities to flourish. http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/NCVO_response_to_Supporting_a_Stronger_Civil_Society.pdf

NAVCA responds to further consultations on the Health White Paper

NAVCA has submitted responses to two further consultations on aspects of the proposals in the Health White Paper - Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control <http://www.navca.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4D9399A4-4E4B-4C26-BA04-37E6BAED731D/0/ChoiceControlNAVCAResponse.doc>

and Liberating the NHS: An Information Revolution.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/CC41EFB4-56AA-4F26-AB63-8A50AB40C10E/0/InformationRevolutionConsultationresponse.doc>

COVER has recently restructured its political updates webpage. As well as being updated regularly with relevant news items, the page now provides information about and useful summaries of newly published Government Business Plans, White Papers, Green Papers, Bills and Acts and has a dedicated section on the Big Society. <http://www.cover-east.org/Political-Updates.asp>

New merger case study

NAVCA's new [case study of the merger of Community Impact Bucks](#) looks at the bringing together of four NAVCA members in Buckinghamshire.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/lio/mergerresources/>

Newsletter update from Charity Commission

The latest Charity Commission News is available

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/2aklwzj> including reminder on why it is important to file your charity's documents on time, presents the result of new research into collaboration between charities and asks for views on their updated investment guidance. It also clearly states that the new legal structure for charities, the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), is due to be introduced in late Spring.

Invitation for Charity Secondments

The John Lewis volunteering programme, which is handled by the Golden Jubilee Trust, has issued a call for charities to apply for secondees from the company for periods of up to six months. See news item at

<http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/fundraising/news/content/8132/>

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

LOCALISM

NAVCA has organised the Real Power for Communities campaign to ensure that the Localism Bill delivers on the promises of the Government. Join the campaign to make sure the critical issues are raised in these important stages.

<http://www.rp4c.org.uk/>

NCVO have produced a briefing on the Decentralisation and Localism Bill

which focuses on the relevant areas most likely to impact on the voluntary and community sector. [http://www.ncvo-](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/Decentralisation_and_Localism_Bill_briefing.pdf)

[vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/Decentralisation_and_Localism_Bill_briefing.pdf](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/Decentralisation_and_Localism_Bill_briefing.pdf)

Localism in Practice is a publication by the National Association of Local Councils which gives case studies of how local town and parish councils are taking local initiatives on issues.

http://www.nalc.gov.uk/Publications/Booklets_and_Resources.aspx

NAVCA's guide to help you unravel voluntary and community sector jargon has been updated and is now available on their website.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/9E2AD173-D380-4F46-BDB9-1443E0DC4113/0/acronymslongonreportpaper.doc>

We do so much more than shelve books and say 'shhh'

The Guardian on 12 January had an article on cuts to libraries and the use of volunteers under the Big Society.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jan/11/north-yorkshire-libraries-cuts-closures-big-society>

LEGAL MATTERS

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

Employment: Pay

- From **1 February**, 'weekly pay' for the purpose of calculating redundancy pay and the basic award for unfair dismissal goes up from £380 to £400; maximum compensatory award for unfair dismissal goes up from £65,300 to £68,400. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#weeklypay
- Tax allowances and national insurance thresholds for 2011/12 (from **6 April**). www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#taxallowances
- Start-up charities which do not have a 'business element' unlikely to be eligible for national insurance holiday. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#NICs-holiday
- New HMRC benchmark rates for reimbursement of overseas expenses. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#overseas-expenses
- Statutory sick pay from **6 April**. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#sickpay
- Changes in state pension age. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#statepensions
- Pension auto-enrolment and the national employment savings trust (NEST) (from **October 2012**). **If you are an employee or your organisation has employees THIS AFFECTS YOU!** www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#nest

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Herts Young Carers Conference

This free conference aims to help practitioners understand the true effects of caring on children and young people. 23 February. 9.30 am to 4 pm. Robertson House, Stevenage, SG1 2FQ. To book: anne.snaith@hertsc.gov.uk

Ten pitfalls and how to avoid them: What research tells us

NSPCC has published a guide to help social workers avoid common mistakes. http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/findings/tenpitfalls_wda78613.html

Human rights and equality law resources

The Children's Rights Alliance for England has launched a series of resources on human rights and equality law for children and young people.

<http://www.crae.org.uk/protecting/advice/resources-for-young-people.html>

Young Roots

Young Roots is a Heritage Lottery Fund grant programme designed to engage young people aged 13-25 with their heritage.

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

THE ENVIRONMENT

Growing Trends

The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens has published Growing Trends, an online resource for groups or individuals interested in local food growing schemes, from landsharing to guerrilla gardening.

<http://www.farmgarden.org.uk/home/local-food-project/growing-trends>

Young people and the environment

The JJ Charitable Trust supports environmental education projects that involve children and young adults. <http://www.sfct.org.uk/jj.html>

Greening Your Church Community Project

Church Urban Fund has produced a resource to help church projects to be more environmentally friendly and reduce their carbon footprint.

<http://www.cuf.org.uk/act/resources-projects/greening-your-project>

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Big Society: More than a soundbite?

BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-12163624>

Local Enterprise Partnerships & Civil Society Infrastructure

Capacitybuilders. <http://www.improvingsupport.org/resources/view/2114-local-enterprise-partnerships-leps-and-civil-society-infrastructure#>

Keeping track of Employment Law Developments CIPD

The full details are largely for members only, but it is a useful checklist, <http://www.cipd.co.uk/subjects/emplaw/general/legaldevs.htm>

Working without the Default Retirement Age

With the confirmation of the removal of the Default Retirement Age (DRA), due to be effective from 30th September 2011, the last date to provide 6 months' notice required under the DRA's provisions is 30th March. ACAS guide for employers. <http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3203>

Top Tips for Better Management

A new online resource from employment mediation service ACAS brings together what they consider as the best material from a variety of sources. <http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2966>

Celebrating the Sport Partnership Project

NAVCA and Sport England have published the evaluation of the Sport Partnership Project. The evaluation celebrates the successes of the three-year project, showcases best practice and highlights the importance of local support and development organisations supporting community sports clubs at a local level. <http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/sport/sportnews/celebratingsport.htm>

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT/EVENTS

Use the 2012 games to develop volunteering in your organisation

Free Volunteering England workshop. 22 February. 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Cheshunt Marriott Hotel. <http://www.volunteeringherts.org/olympics/benefits-for-organisations.html>

FUNDING

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation has announced its strategic aims for 2011. Funding is available to support a small number of exceptional ideas and/or projects that contribute to meeting objectives under the Foundation's main strategic aims: cultural understanding, fulfilling potential, environment, and maximising social and cultural value. Please pass this information on to your members. <http://gulbenkian.org.uk/news/news/138-Calouste-Gulbenkian-Foundation--UK-Branch--2011.html>

Allen Lane Foundation

The Allen Lane Foundation funds groups working with asylum seekers and refugees (but not groups working with a single nationality); gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people; gypsies and travellers; migrant workers; offenders and ex-offenders; older people; people experiencing mental health problems; people experiencing violence or abuse. <http://www.allenlane.org.uk/>

Church Urban Fund Mustard Seed Programme

The Church Urban Fund's Mustard Seed Programme provides grants of up to £5,000 to enable churches and faith-based organisations working in very deprived communities to engage in social action. <http://www.cuf.org.uk/act/cuf-funding>

Drinkaware Grants

The Drinkaware Grants scheme aims to change the UK's drinking culture for the better. It works to positively influence public behaviour and find innovative ways to raise awareness of the effects of alcohol, to help reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol-related harm. <http://www.drinkaware.co.uk/grants>

Freemasons' Grand Charity

The charities and projects supported by the Freemasons' Grand Charity are chosen because they deliver important services, complement the work of other charities or tackle issues that are less popular with other funders. The Charity supports people in need and funds the work of charities helping the wider community. Deadline: 25 February. <http://www.grandcharity.org/>

Santander Foundation

The Santander Foundation (formerly the Abbey Charitable Trust) supports disadvantaged people through one or both of its charitable priorities: education & training and financial capability. Grants of up to £10,000 can be awarded anywhere in the UK. <http://www.santanderfoundation.org.uk/>

Garfield Weston Foundation

The Garfield Weston Foundation provides funding for projects in the UK, with a wide range of charitable activity being supported. There is no strict limit on the size of the grant given as every application is considered on its own merits. In general, the Trust looks for organisations to have raised the majority of funding through local or statutory sources before an application is made. <http://www.garfieldweston.org/>

Hedley Foundation

The Hedley Foundation supports young people, disabled people and the terminally ill. Few grants exceed £5,000 and most go to charities where they can make an impact. <http://www.hedleyfoundation.org.uk/>

Kids Closer to Nature

Arla will be awarding a number of grants worth up to £1,500 each this spring and summer to individuals and community groups that have a project to help children and young people get closer to nature. Deadline: 25 March

<http://www.kidsclosetonature.co.uk/grants/>

Football Foundation Grow the Game

Is funding for new projects that use football to increase participation by both players and volunteers in England. Organisations will be able to receive a £5,000 grant over two or three years with financial support being reduced in the second or third year of the project. Deadline for applications for southern and eastern regions of England: midnight 28th February 2011.

<http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/apply/grow-the-game/>

OTHER NEWS

In Kind Direct

In Kind Direct redistributes surplus goods (including office equipment, clothing and footwear, sports equipment) from manufacturers and retailers to UK charities working at home and abroad. <http://www.inkinddirect.org/>

European Year of Volunteering

2011 is the European Year of Volunteering, an EU-wide drive to recognise volunteers' contributions and encourage more people to give their time.

<http://europa.eu/volunteering/>

HRBank Updated

NCVO has added 112 new policies to their HRBank. HRBank contains an extensive collection of human resources policies and job descriptions which have been donated by voluntary and community organisations. These are available for organisations to amend and tailor to their own needs. Free for voluntary and community organisations <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/advice-support/people-hr-employment/hrbank/hrbank>

ICT Champions

The ICT Champions website (<http://www.ictchampions.org.uk/>) has some new factsheets to download:

- Ten ways to work better using ICT <http://www.ictchampions.org.uk/wp-content/Briefing-6-Ten-ways-to-work-better-FINAL.doc>
- Top tips for an effective website <http://www.ictchampions.org.uk/wp-content/Briefing-5-Top-tips-for-an-effective-website-FINAL1.doc>
- Fundraising and the Internet <http://www.ictchampions.org.uk/wp-content/Briefing-4-Fundraising-and-the-Internet-FINAL1.doc>

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.

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

Good Governance: a practical guide for boards, 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 your copy email 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>

Using technology to help you be more effective trustees

NCVO has updated technology web resources, with a section on ICT and how you can use technology to be more effective trustees. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/advice-support/ict/ict-and-your-role#Governance>

Are you confident that your trustee board is working as effectively as it can be? Technology can help. In a blog post, <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/networking-discussions/blogs/18088/10/12/23/how-can-you-use-technology-be-more-effective-trustees>, Louise Brown lists different ways that free online tools can help you share papers, run meetings, network, discuss issues, keep up to date with the latest sector news, recruit new trustees and more. To find out more about your role in governing your organisation's ICT and using technology to be more effective download a copy of "From Nightmare to Nirvana: an ICT survival guide for trustees" http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/Nightmare_to_Nirvana.pdf

Resources from Trustee Seminars Online

Handouts from NCVO seminars for Chief Executives and trustees available online. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/TrusteeSeminarHandouts.pdf>

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 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

Get Legal

Get Legal has been developed by NCVO, with support from BWB, to enable organisations and their advisors to access clear information and guidance on the most appropriate legal form and governance structure for delivering their goals.
www.getlegal.org.uk

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Funded by the HCC Strategic Leadership Contract

