

Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

Reflections

NAVCA has published 'Reflections', an account of the restructuring of local infrastructure organisations (LIOs) in Leicestershire earlier this year. It highlights many issues that are important to any charity considering greater collaboration or merger. www.navca.org.uk/news/reflections

OTS third sector regulation pages

These new pages should help people who run third sector organisations by: highlighting recent and ongoing changes and initiatives that are intended to make life easier for them; links to more detailed information. <http://bit.ly/tsreg> or www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector

Charity Builder UK *(NAVCA Members only)*

Charity Builder UK (CBUK) is an interactive, web-based service that you can provide free of charge to your members to help provide Human Resources and Health & Safety services to local charities and community groups, and use as an incentive to attract new members. CBUK promotes compliance and simplifies administrative tasks; it doesn't just signpost advice but interacts with the user to create tailor-made documents such as staff contracts, handbooks and essential policies. To register go to <http://charitybuilderuk.com/register.php>. NAVCA states its members are rushing to sign up to this free service

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 the widest 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 ebulletins also help you to stay informed and share learning on a range of issues relevant to your work as a support provider. [Visit the Improving Support website to find out more.](#)

MyHertsLAA.blogspot.com

Visit <http://myhertslaa.blogspot.com> where Theresa Gillard from the Birmingham Centre for Voluntary Action is encouraging colleagues to get together through the VCS/ statutory Peer Support Programme and to find out more about Online Fundraising and elusive green flags.

Two NAVCA Publications:

[Defending local grants](#) has been updated and contains resources that you can use at local level to convince councillors, commissioning officers and procurement professionals that grants should continue to fund local organisations and groups.

[Do we need ISO?](#) This contains information of how quality systems and accreditation are scored in the selection or pre-qualification stage of a competitive tender process.

Champions Learning Scheme *(NAVCA Members Only)*

A small number of £500 grants are available under the NAVCA/CWDC Champions Learning Scheme to support local infrastructure organisations working with children and young people's groups. We are particularly keen to hear from local infrastructure organisations wishing to share good practice in relation to mapping the workforce, supporting representation or forum support. www.navca.org.uk/stratwork/children/cwdc/grants

Circulation' 412 *(NAVCA Members Only)*

The December/January edition of 'Circulation' is now on the NAVCA website at: www.navca.org.uk/publications/circulation/2009/412. Articles include NAVCA's new model Memorandum and Articles of Association for local infrastructure organisations; 'intelligent commissioning' and the new Vetting and Barring scheme.

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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

LAA/COUNTYWIDE PARTNERSHIP NEWS:

- **Safer and Stronger Communities:** The countywide Cohesion Strategy is now out to consultation. You can view and/ or download it at: <http://www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward/15communitystrategy/safstromcom/14078356/14145484/> Contact: Karen Griffiths - Karen.griffiths@herscc.gov.uk Tel: 01992 55 6709

- **Hertfordshire Works:** Reminder: The countywide Economic Strategy is out for consultation. You can view and/ or download it at: <http://www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward/15communitystrategy/HertfordshireWorks/>
- **Safer and Stronger Communities:** The Chief Officer Group (COG) and Safer & Stronger Performance Group (SSPG) have been disbanded and replaced with the Safer and Stronger Exec Group (SSEG). Contacts for the partnership remain unchanged. For 'Stronger' issues (Third Sector incl. NI7, Cohesion and issues relating to Communities) email Andrew.burt@hertscc.gov.uk. For 'Safer' issues (Crime & Safety, Anti-Social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and related issues), email gary.ray@hertscc.gov.uk.

Refreshed Compact

The refreshed Compact has now been published. The Compact itself and a summary of key changes are available at <http://bit.ly/refrcom> or www.thecompact.org.uk

Cabinet Office publishes updated plan to cut red tape

The Cabinet Office has published its updated Simplification Plan, <http://bit.ly/caboffsim> or www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk. A key part of this plan is the Office of the Third Sector (OTS)' work to cut red tape for third sector organisations. This includes commissioning and funding practices and using regulation to empower third sector organisations. The Government welcomes ideas that will cut red tape and they can be submitted via the Better Regulation Executive website, www.betterregulation.gov.uk.

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) reports on life in local areas

Oneplace, an interactive website providing information on the outcome of CAA in all top tier local authority areas, was launched on 9 December. CAA is the new way of measuring the performance of councils and other local public bodies, such as the police and fire service, in every area. It focuses on partnerships and outcomes and as such the role of the third sector is extremely important. <http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk>.

Local Spending Reports

Communities and Local Government has published a report setting out its broader aims for the future of Local Spending Reports. <http://bit.ly/clgpublicspend> or www.communities.gov.uk

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LEGAL MATTERS

New model constitution for charities with income under £5,000

A simplified model constitution has been produced for small charities which have an annual income under five thousand pounds. It is not meant for charities that own a building, employ people or intend to register with the Charity Commission. <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/registration/smallcharity.asp>.

Charities and The Law

Three more in The Guardian and Bates Wells and Braithwaite solicitors series of articles on 'Charities and the Law':

- **Charities and Trading:** clears up a number of common misconceptions <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/nov/03/charities-trading-questions>.
- **Charities & VAT:** explains why VAT is not a simple subject for charities <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/dec/15/charities-tax-vat>
- **Community Interest Companies:** all round explanation of the Community Interest Companies legal model <http://preview.tinyurl.com/yzm9xzo>.

Charity Commission News

The latest edition (issue 30) of Charity Commission News is at www.charitycommission.gov.uk/tcc/newslst.asp This edition contains the results of their most recent economic survey of charities and suggestions to help them weather the continued downturn. It also includes details of a number of new initiatives and publications - including their yearly report highlighting lessons learned from our compliance work. In response to feedback, there is also a fundraising feature to help trustees undertaking this work.

SANDY ADIRONDACK: AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGAL UPDATE WEBSITE FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS at www.sandy-a.co.uk

Company law

- The company constitution and changes to articles of association (from 1/10/09). www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#companyconstitution
- Companies Act, Charity Commission and SCVO model articles. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#modelarticles
- My concerns (for what they are worth) about the conflict of interest clauses in the Charity Commission's model articles. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#codir-conflict
- Regulations on company and business names (from 1/10/09). www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#companyname
- Company directors' residential and service addresses and restricting disclosure of residential addresses (from 1/10/09). www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#codir-address
- 5% of members (reduced from 10%) have statutory right to require company general meeting to be held (from 3/8/09).



- www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#companyrequisition
- Clarification that a proxy who holds multiple votes has only one vote on a show of hands (from 3/8/09)
- www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#companyproxy
- Full information about the Companies Act changes on 1/10/09, including all the new forms (the old forms are no longer valid). On the Companies House website via <http://tinyurl.com/lkhyme>

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Funding guide to workforce development

NAVCA, NCVYS and CWDC have published an updated version of this popular funding guide for workforce development activities for both local groups and infrastructure organisations. www.navca.org.uk/publications/fundingguide

Children in Need

Children in Need is offering small grants of up to £10,000 a year for three years for third sector organisations working with children and young people. Grants will be allocated in four tranches, with application deadlines on 15 January, 15 April, 15 July and 15 October. www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey

Youth Sector Development Fund

This fund aims to build capacity within third sector organisations who deliver services and activities for young people, particularly the most disadvantaged. Through a mixture of grant funding and business support the fund enables third sector youth organisations to sustain and grow their provision, including strategies to diversify their income streams. Deadline for applications is 4 February. <http://ysdf.ecotec.com/>

Sported

Sported is a one stop shop, providing funding and organisational development support to groups that use sport to improve the lives of young people in disadvantaged communities. www.sported.org.uk

Safeguarding children: scrutiny guide

A new publication from IDeA. Although designed mainly for councillors and council officers, it has background information about local safeguarding children's boards and local structures and systems.

www.navca.org.uk/teams/cyp/news/scrutinyguide

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Green Up! Five ways of working with your council on sustainability

This practical guide from the Community Development Foundation explains how community groups can use everything from Local Area Agreements to Sustainable Community Strategies to get their work supported, and explains the jargon often used by local councils. <http://bit.ly/cdfgreenup> or www.cdf.org.uk

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PUBLICATIONS

Charity Incorporation Made Simple

From Charity Finance Directors' Group. <http://bit.ly/cisimple> or www.cfdg.org.uk

Plain English Guide to Data Protection

A guide to data protection law accredited by the Plain Language Commission has been published by official regulator the Information Commissioner's Office. 'The Guide to Data Protection' gives practical advice to those with day-to-day responsibility for data protection, taking a straightforward look at the principles of the Data Protection Act and helping organisations safeguard personal data. http://www.ico.gov.uk/for_organisations/data_protection_guide.aspx.

Faith in Good Governance

Tailored guidance for faith-based charities covering key aspects of the legal and good practice framework, from the Charities Commission.

www.charitycommission.gov.uk/tcc/faithgov.asp

ICT Security Guide

The latest LASA Computanews guide.

www.lasa.org.uk/publications/computanews-guides

Lone Working: A guide for safety representatives

TUC. <http://bit.ly/tuclonew> or www.tuc.org.uk

Revised guide to tackling work-related stress

A web-friendly version of the Health and Safety Executive's 'How to tackle work-related stress: A guide for employers on making the Management Standards work' has been published. www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg430.pdf.

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TRAINING/EVENTS

Managing Better

A conference for voluntary sector managers, advisors and trustees organised by

LVSC's Personnel, Employment Advice and Conciliation Service. 16 March, London. www.lvsc.org.uk/peaceconference

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FUNDING

Funding Help:

Visit <http://myhertslaa.blogspot.com> to find out more about Online Fundraising.

Funding Central is NCVO's website which gives you free access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities. Visit www.fundingcentral.org.uk to register and receive personalised, weekly email alerts and access a wide range of tools and support.

DH Volunteering Fund

The Department of Health has announced its Volunteering Fund, which replaces the Opportunities for Volunteering scheme. The fund will provide two distinct grant funding schemes:

- A local grant scheme aimed at supporting volunteering in health and social care.
- A national portfolio scheme - national organisations will be able to apply for more substantial awards to deliver more strategic or developmental volunteering programmes. www.volunteeringfund.com

Childwick Trust

The Childwick Trust provides funding to registered charities to assist people with disabilities, the promotion of health, and the elderly in need.

www.childwicktrust.org

Winter Grants

Age UK is offering grants of up to £500 to clubs for older people. The grants are available to any voluntary or charitable clubs for older people throughout the UK earning less than £50,000 per annum and with charitable objectives that are similar to those of Age UK.

<http://www.ageconcern.org.uk/AgeConcern/08D1C0F9EA804291B35B0DAE63BA5134.asp>

Sport England - Sustainable Facilities Fund

Sport England has launched a new application round for its annual Sustainable Facilities Fund. £10m is available for innovative projects that transform places where sport is played. <http://bit.ly/sustfaci> or www.sportengland.org

Sport England Small Grants

Sport England's small grants scheme funds community projects that encourage people to become involved in sport and ensure that they have a quality sporting

experience. Grants of between £300 and £10,000 are available for revenue and small capital projects. www.sportengland.org/funding/small_grants.aspx

Faiths in Action

The second round of the £4m Faiths in Action grant programme run by the Community Development Foundation is now open. Grants of up to £6,000 are available for faith/inter faith activity in local communities.

www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/faiths-in-action

Virgin Money Giving

Virgin Money Giving is a not for profit company launched by Virgin Money dedicated to helping charities and fundraisers raise money for good causes.

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving>

Nationwide Foundation Small Grants

The Nationwide Foundation is a registered charity, set up and funded by the Nationwide Building Society. Its Small Grants programme offers grants of up to £5,000 to registered charities with incomes of under £500,000. Current priorities are survivors of domestic abuse and older people.

www.nationwidefoundation.org.uk

Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards

The Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards scheme provides one-off donations of between £1,000 and £4,000 to local projects that support children and their education and welfare, elderly people, and adults and children with disabilities.

www.tescopl.com/tescocharitytrust

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OTHER NEWS

i-Volunteer Now Live

i-Volunteer is a social network for people who are passionate about volunteering.

To join the Hertfordshire group, go to <http://www.i-volunteer.org.uk/groups/volunteering-in-herts/>. For General information about i-Volunteer www.i-volunteer.org.uk

Hertfordshire contact: Heather Allen, heather@volunteeringdacorum.org Tel: 01442 254227

Cranfield Trust: free management consultancy

During the current economic downturn many charities are facing very uncertain times. The Cranfield Trust can help by offering support with projects in the following key areas: financial management; business planning; human resources; change management and restructuring; marketing and communications.

<http://bit.ly/ctservices> or www.cranfieldtrust.org

Free Support for all Small Charities

The Small Charities Coalition exists to help small charities access the skills,

experience and resources they need to achieve their aims. The Coalition is like a voluntary sector matchmaking service, matching small charities with other organisations that have the skills that the small charity lacks.

www.smallcharities.org.uk or call 0207 391 4812.

Need help with research, fundraising or extra capacity in the form of a placement student?

The recently launched Social Enterprise Unit of the University of Hertfordshire may be able to help. The Unit was created to promote and facilitate the involvement of the University of Hertfordshire Business School students and staff with the local Voluntary Sector. For further details, please email

j.1.filosof@herts.ac.uk

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