

Info Digest



Herts CVS Group: Promoting and developing voluntary activity across Hertfordshire

January 2011

Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Consultation on the St Albans City and District Draft Inclusion Strategy 15 November 2010 – 7 February 2011

Read the draft inclusion strategy and give the views of your organisation by completing a short online survey accessed by visiting this webpage: www.ors.org.uk/StALbans/Inclusion. Alternatively hard copies of the strategy and survey or copies in other formats or languages are available on request by emailing: inclusionstrategy@stalbans.gov.uk or telephoning: 01727 819243.

Health and Wellbeing Review.

As part of their consultation process, Herts County Council's Health and Wellbeing Unit has set up a Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Herts-Share/162431923793704>

Breaking the cycle

The Ministry of Justice has launched its green paper [Breaking the cycle: effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders](#).

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/breaking-cycle-071210.htm>

Deadline: 4 March. NAVCA has produced a [briefing on the green paper](#) and the implications for the voluntary and community sector.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/supportingoffenders/news/breakingthecycle.htm>

Public Health White Paper

Healthy lives, healthy people is the recently published Public Health White Paper. The Government has identified a number of questions for the public relating to this document and the deadline for responses is **8th March 2011**. Headlines including areas such as obesity, alcohol awareness and physical activity (including sport funding) and other initiatives such as the formation of a National Citizen Service will be piloted for 10,000 young people in 2011. The appendix

also gives a 'Vision of the role of the Director of Public Health'. Link for the 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England' White Paper;
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_121941 Link for 'Our Health and Wellbeing Today';
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_122088

Localism Bill

The Localism Bill is making its way through the Houses of Parliament. The Bill has had its first reading in the House of Commons and the second reading will take place on Monday 17 January. Soon after that, the Bill will enter the Committee Stage.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/126/part1/11126.i-v.html> 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 of the Bill. <http://www.rp4c.org.uk/>

Sustainable Communities Act - an invitation to inspire the Big Society

Minister for Decentralisation Greg Clark has written to local authorities inviting them to consult their communities on how they would like to improve their local area. Sustainable Communities Act - an invitation to inspire the Big Society
www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/scainvitation2010

Breaks for carers

The Government has announced in its paper [A vision for adult social care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens](#) that everyone eligible will get a personal budget by 2013 so they can be in control of their own care and more carers will get breaks. The Government is making £400m available through the NHS over the next four years to support carers breaks.
<http://www.navca.org.uk/teams/hsc/news/visionadultsocialcare.htm>

Carers strategy

The Government has published a cross-Government strategy: [Recognised, valued and supported: next steps for the Carers Strategy](#) setting out priorities for ensuring the best outcomes for carers and those they support.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_122077

GP commissioning pathfinders announced

The first groups of GPs who will take the lead in commissioning health services have been announced by Health Secretary Andrew Lansley. The 52 groups of GP practices have been selected to take on commissioning responsibilities as part of the Government's plans set out in the NHS White Paper Liberating the NHS: Equality and Excellence

(http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_117353). Includes the Red House group in Herts.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/Features/DH_122396

COVER has a webpage page dedicated to current consultations where you can find regularly updated information on consultations. <http://www.cover-east.org/Shaping-Policy.asp>

COVER has a new political updates page on its website. This page is updated regularly to provide you with relevant information on key policy changes, budget cuts and new responsibilities under the new coalition government.
<http://www.cover-east.org/Political-Updates.asp>

NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

Critical issues for the local voluntary sector in 2011

NAVCA Chief Executive Kevin's Curley's address to the Northern Rock Foundation Conference 9 December
<http://www.navca.org.uk/news/criticalissues.htm>

Volunteering Works

V has created Volunteering Works, a new web-based tool which enables companies to offer, implement and measure volunteering opportunities across their organisation. <http://www.volunteeringworks.org/>

New HR Case Studies available online

NCVO is in the process of developing their library of HR and Employment Practice case studies. The case studies can be a useful tool for learning from other voluntary organisations' experiences.

New case studies include:

- Hillingdon Association of Voluntary Services share how they update and consult on their HR policies (pdf)
- Shelter discuss using Equality Impact Assessments (pdf)
- British Society of Haematology discuss how they recruit new staff (pdf)
- Mind in Croydon share their experience of staff engagement projects (pdf)
- Whittington Park Community Association talk through their major restructure (pdf)

All of these – and several more – can be found at <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/hr-case-studies>

New merger case study

New NAVCA [case study of 3VA in East Sussex](#) describes the reasons behind the merger of two organisations that took place in 2009, and the main benefits, challenges and learning that have come out of the process.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4A25F9F4-5F44-4F6F-9DB3-408BEBDE51FA/0/Casestudy3VAMerger.pdf>

Transition Fund

The Big Fund has launched the Transition Fund, which will help civil society organisations which deliver high quality public services adapt to a different funding environment during a period when they are at risk from reductions in taxpayer funded income. **Deadline: 21 January.**

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/transitionfund>

Value of Infrastructure: Show the difference your support makes

The Value of Infrastructure project is an NCVO initiative developing tools and training for infrastructure organisations to show their impact. The Value of Infrastructure Programme (VIP) outlines the common difference that infrastructure organisations make with a range of tools to help you evidence and learn from your impact. These tools will be available online with accompanying training courses as part of the VIP package. The whole package is heavily subsidised and starts at £180 per infrastructure organisation.

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

Barrier Busting

Communities and Local Government has launched a new Barrier Busting website where charities and community groups can ask for help in overcoming bureaucratic obstacles to their work. <http://barrierbusting.communities.gov.uk/>

Circulation 418 (NAVCA members only)

The latest issue of Circulation is now available on our website (for members and affiliates only). Articles include: The role of trustees in collaborations and mergers; Fiscal sponsorship; Major changes in health and social care.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/circulation/2010/418/>

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Renewed Compact

The renewed Compact has been published and reflects the role local support and development organisations play in making the Compact work; something that requires adequate resources if they are to be able to help local voluntary organisations and community groups implement the Compact.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/news/newcompact2010.htm>

National Indicators

The former national indicator set (NIS) has been abolished, but national government will still require local councils to collect a significant quantity of data from April 2011. The government has published 147 draft indicators for consultation include 15 new ones arising out of the coalition's new policy

initiatives. Deadline: 4 February

<http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/infobank/ilpunews/newdraftindicators.htm>

Think Local, Act Personal

Think Local, Act Personal is a newly published partnership agreement which sets out the next steps for personalisation and community-based support.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/teams/hsc/news/thinklocal.htm>

National Youth Homeless Scheme knowledge base

The [National Youth Homelessness Scheme knowledge base](http://www.communities.gov.uk/youthhomelessness/) is a resource for local authorities and their partners to help prevent and tackle youth homelessness. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/youthhomelessness/>

LEGAL MATTERS

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

Adverse weather (not on legal update website for voluntary organisations)

- Travel disruption and employees' rights at work.
www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Employees/Timeoffandholidays/DG_184199
- ACAS guidance for employers, including FAQs on issues such as having to stay home to look after children when schools and nurseries are closed, and how to deal with employees who are at work and are not very happy if absent employees are being paid.
www.acas.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2797
- An article left over from last February's snow – 'Bad weather commuting's snow joke'. www.worksmart.org.uk/news/2009/02/bad-weather-commutings-snow-joke
- TUC advice for employers on what to do when workers can't get in because of the weather, including an example of a 'bad weather' policy.
www.tuc.org.uk/workplace/tuc-18870-f0.cfm
- Clearing snow and ice yourself from pavements and public spaces – the 'snow code'.
www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_191868

Events, licensing and campaigning

- End of PPL (licence to play copyright music) exemption for charities and other not-for profit organisations – from 1 **January 2011**, but with a grace period until **1 January 2012** during which charities and other non-governmental not-for-profit organisations won't have to pay. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#ppl
- Home Office review of the Licensing Act 2003, including premises licensing, temporary event notices (TENs) and club premises certificates.

www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#premiseslicence or go direct to <http://tinyurl.com/37w6az6>

- Additional mandatory conditions for alcohol-licensed premises from 1 October 2010 www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#alcohol-mandatory
- Simplified paperwork for street parties and fetes (start planning your royal wedding festivities now). www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#streetparty or go direct to www.communities.gov.uk/news/communities/1700144

VAT

- Standard rate VAT goes up **4 January** from 17.5% to 20%. If your organisation is registered for VAT, be sure to start charging the new rate on goods and services supplied on or after 4 January. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-threshold or go direct to <http://tinyurl.com/35cosc8>
- Changes in road fuel scale charges for VAT-registered organisations from **4 January**. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-roadfuel
- From **1 January**: changes to the place of supply rules for cultural, artistic, sporting, scientific, educational, entertainment and similar services. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-placeofsupply
- Recent decision could affect VAT in some cases where employees are on joint contracts of employment and one employer recharges the other for salary and related costs. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-jointstaff
- Pay-per-click sponsored links on search engine websites are now zero rated for charities. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-ppc
- From **31 January**, some Royal Mail services become standard rated rather than exempt from VAT. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-post
- VAT-registered charities may be able to reclaim some VAT on investment management fees. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-investmentgmt
- Updated HMRC guidance on zero rating for new charity or residential buildings. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-newbuild
- Changes in rules on opting to tax. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-optiontotax

THE ENVIRONMENT

Creating your Green Action Plan

NAVCA has just published Creating your Green Action Plan, with tips and ideas for how to develop a sustainable development action plan for your organisation <http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/greenactionplan>

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT/EVENTS

Increasing Impact Through Technology – free events for CEOs and trustees

At a time of real uncertainty for the voluntary sector we are all having to review how we run our organisation as efficiently as possible, how we reach people more effectively, how we can deliver services at a lower cost and how we can demonstrate our impact to funders and the public. Technology offers opportunities to voluntary organisations in all of these areas but have you thought about how technology might work for you? NCVO is running a series of free events supported by the City Bridge Trust, for chief executives and trustees, to help you explore how technology can support your work at this difficult time. Find out more and book online at www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/increasing-impact-through-technology

Talking about social enterprise

An introductory training day for the Voluntary and Community Sector
St Albans –Tuesday 1 February 2011 Social enterprise is being advocated by some as the way to meet the challenge of sustaining quality services amid cuts in public spending. But what is social enterprise, and is it the answer? For a booking form and further information: call SEEE on 01234 834710
<http://www.seee.co.uk/eventsdetail.asp?itemid=1521&itemTitle=Talking+about+Social+Enterprise§ion=22§ionTitle=Events>

Strategy Training 1 February 2011

A one-day introduction to NCVO's ground-breaking approach to organisational strategy. Book online <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/strategytrainingfeb2011>

Understanding Impact, 16 February 2011

A one-day training course to help you improve your organisation's approach to demonstrating impact, and explore the wider benefits of becoming impact-led. Book online <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/impacttrainingfeb2011>

FUNDING

New Product, New Market tool goes interactive

Finally, We've launched a new tool on Funding Central – if you've ever used the paper-version of our New Market, New Product tool you'll know how useful it is, and now you can now use it online. The tool allows you to explore new options for yourself or the groups you work with, and grow ideas to increase your financial sustainability – try the new product, new market tool.
<http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/page.aspx?sp=6310>

Big Funding Advisors

Big Lottery Fund has launched Big Funding Advisors, a website for funding

advisers wanting information about the fund's programmes, training and events. You can also link up with Big's regional teams and colleagues across the voluntary sector to share advice and experiences

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

The Co-operative Membership Community Fund

The Community Fund awards grants of up to £2,000 to local groups for community projects all year round. Community groups, self help groups, voluntary groups and community charities (or local branches of national charities) are all eligible to apply. <http://www.co-operative.coop/communityfund>

Reaching Communities

Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities programme has a new pot of £75m now available for extending and refurbishing buildings for use by the community. Community groups can apply for grants between £100,000 and £500,000 to improve or replace buildings where a wide range of community activities take place. http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_reaching_communities

True Colours Trust

True Colours Trust has a small grants fund of up to £10,000 for organisations working with disabled children. <http://www.truecolourstrust.org.uk/>

UIA Charitable Foundation

The UIA Charitable Foundation is a small-grant-making trust, established to provide financial support to organisations that help people in need. Deadline: 1 February. <http://www.uia.co.uk/About/Charitable-foundation/>

Grow the Game

The Football Foundation's Grow the Game Fund supports projects that use football to increase participation by both players and volunteers in England <http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/apply/grow-the-game/>

Hilton in the Community Foundation

Focusing on children and young people, the Hilton in the Community Foundation works to improve the quality of education and the provision of health care to relieve suffering and equip individuals. Deadline: 15 February. <http://www.hilton-foundation.org.uk/>

Jubilee People's Millions

The Jubilee People's Millions will give communities throughout the UK the opportunity to win local public support and share in £3.6m of Lottery funding, marking the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Grants of between £20-60,000 will be provided for projects that transform local environments and offer opportunities or facilities for people to take part and enjoy their local area. Deadline: 4 February. <http://www.peoplesmillions.org.uk/apply>

Society for the Assistance for Ladies in Reduced Circumstances

SALRC has announced that in 2011 it will make £50,000 available for grants to other organisations. Priority will be given to smaller projects where it can be demonstrated that the Society's grant will make a real difference. Deadline: 25 March. <http://www.salrc.org.uk/>

OTHER NEWS

Guardian Jobs has announced a new service allowing you to advertise your organisation's volunteer roles online free of charge. Tel 0203 353 3400 or email Guardian Sales. sales@guardian.co.uk

iPhone app for young volunteers

v, the national young volunteers service, has launched an iPhone app which bring thousands of volunteering opportunities onto an online platform. See <http://voluntarynews.org.uk/news/story/vinspired-is-going-mobile>

Trustee Bank

NCVO has recently updated their online trustee recruitment service Trustee Bank. 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. For more information, please visit: www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/trusteebank. The site also provides information about becoming a trustee and on recruitment and induction practices.

Also available, trustee materials tailored specifically for sports and recreation organisations. <http://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk/smart-sport/board-recruitment>

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