

Info Digest



Herts CVS Group: Promoting and developing voluntary activity across Hertfordshire

June 2010

Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

New Government

Office of Civil Society

The Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office is now the Office of Civil Society. <http://bit.ly/covolsec>

Nick Hurd is the minister responsible for charities, social enterprises and voluntary organizations. He will be known as the Minister for Civil Society. www.nickhurd.com. Three stated priorities are:

- To make it easier to run a charity, social enterprise or voluntary organisation
- To get more resources into the sector; strengthen its independence and resilience
- To make it easier for sector organizations to work with the state

Big Society

David Cameron has set out the Government's policies for a Big Society. They include:

- Giving communities a greater say over their local planning system and saving local services.
- Creating a new generation of community organisers.
- Encouraging volunteering and involvement in social action.
- Piloting a new National Citizen Service.
- Using funds from dormant bank accounts to establish a Big Society Bank, which will provide new finance for neighbourhood groups, charities, social enterprises and other non-governmental bodies. <http://bit.ly/cobsoc>

Government information

The websites for most Government departments are set to change with the new Government. If you need old content, you can find it via the National Archives,

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk>. In particular the Office of the Third Sector pages are at <http://bit.ly/archiveots>.

Capacity Manager

ACEVO has launched an online tool to help you evaluate whether your internal support services are working effectively. www.capacitymanager.org.uk

NCVO Third Sector Foresight/Future Focus Series

Website at www.3s4.org.uk/drivers identifies and summarises key trends influencing the UK voluntary sector. Also produce Future Focus series of publications - eight introductory pocket guides to help organisations understand important trends that may impact on them in the future. Ideal for small and medium sized VCOs, these guides cover a range of topics from funding all the way through to membership, in bite-sized, easy to read formats.

<http://www.3s4.org.uk/about/publications/future-focus>

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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

LAA/ Countywide Partnership News (www.myhertslaa.net)

Safer and Stronger Communities

- This year's **Funding Fair** will be held on 13 October at the Fielder Centre.

Herts Children's Trust Partnership (HCTP)

- **Herts Forum (CYP/VCS) meeting** - The next meeting of the Herts Forum is 1:30 – 4pm on **29th of June 2010** at High Leigh Conference Centre, Lord Street, Hoddesdon EN11 8SG. For further details, email kevingarrod@ntlworld.com

Hertfordshire Forward

- This year's **Herts Forward Conference** will be held on 12 November. The theme for 2010 is '**Stronger Communities**'. For further information, email ben.wood@hertsc.gov.uk

Involving users in commissioning local services

Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published this study by Age Concern London, which brought commissioners and service users together to discuss how service users can be involved in shaping local services. Read the key points or download the summary from

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/users-local-services>

Local Spending Reports

The Government has published the second Local Spending Report, a breakdown of public spending by Local Authority area, as required by the Sustainable Communities Act. There is a new interactive website enabling you to see how public money is spent in your area. www.localspending.communities.gov.uk

IDeA has published a new guide: Understanding commissioning: a practical guide for the culture and sport sector designed to help people in the culture and sport sector understand the process of strategic commissioning in public services and how to engage in it to produce better outcomes for communities. For more information [click here](#).

UK Civil Society Almanac 2010

This essential publication has been completely revised to make it easier to use, but still reports on the key trends and characteristics of a range of topics including funding and finance, spending, workforce and employment, volunteering and beneficiaries of the voluntary sector. The Almanac is aimed at policy makers and practitioners with an interest in voluntary organisations and civil society. For further information and to order a copy visit NCVO [website](#). The almanac is now free to NCVO members.

Compact Speaker Service

Whether you need someone to conduct a workshop, contribute to a training session or speak at a conference or meeting, Compact Voice can help by providing a speaker who will explain the Compact and show how it will benefit your organisation. They can provide real stories of how others have benefited from Compact usage, and will give you tips, tools and inspiration to make it work for you too. For further information visit the [Compact Voice website](#).

Compact case studies

A series of case studies showing the Compact partnership working agreement in use within public sector organisations has been published on the Compact website. www.thecompact.org.uk/casestudies

National indicators for local authorities and local authority partnerships

The Audit Commission has a new National Indicator information portal, with the latest definitions, frequently asked questions and clarifications for each of the national indicators, and the targets to be met by local government. <http://bit.ly/acniport>

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LEGAL MATTERS

Mileage rates

The HMRC and local authority mileage rates for 2010/11 are now available on at www.navca.org.uk/localvs/scales

Recognising charities for tax purposes

New procedures and forms to apply for recognition as a charity for tax purposes have been published by HMRC. www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/tax/recognition.htm

Accruals accounts pack for small non-company charities

Charity Commission guidance to help treasurers of smaller charities prepare their accounts. <http://bit.ly/ccaccruals>

Equality Act

Sandy Adirondack has summarised the main points of the Equality Act 2010 that voluntary organisations need to know about as employers and providers of services, facilities and goods, and has listed some action points. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-act

Legal updates including Vetting and Barring scheme

The latest Charity and Social Enterprise Law Update from solicitors Bates Wells and Braithwaite has a range of useful articles. These include issues around the new Equalities Act, the European Commission's review of procurement legislation, social (enterprise) franchising and updates on the Vetting and Barring Scheme. The latter notes that "all new workers and volunteers who start or move into new regulated activity roles after 1st November 2010 must register with the ISA (Independent Safeguarding Authority) before they start in that new role." They will be able to register with the ISA from 26th July, with new disclosure application forms (for CRB disclosures and ISA registration) introduced - current CRB application forms won't be accepted after 26th July. Download at <http://www.bateswells.co.uk/Files/Updates/charity%20sum%202010%2006b.pdf>

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Department for Education

The Department for Children, Schools and Families is now the Department for Education, with responsibility for education and children's services. www.education.gov.uk

Young People and Money is a FREE one day course funded by the Financial Services Agency and is for all frontline staff and volunteers who work with young people (aged 16-24) who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or at risk of becoming NEET. For more information and details of the course being held on 17th June 2010 in Hatfield, Hertfordshire go to www.youngpeopleandmoney.co.uk.

Big Challenge has launched!

The Big Challenge competition for 16-25 year olds is open, deadline 6 July 2010. Be in with a chance of winning a share of £65 000 along with support to set up your own community project. Projects should inspire other young people. Check out www.bigchallenge.org.uk for full details and the online application.

Live UnLtd

Live UnLtd helps young people to create their own opportunities and to develop their community for the better. Young people can start up their own businesses, sports teams or recreational groups and host events. Funding of up to £2,000 is available, coupled with support from a designated development manager.

Deadline: 1 July. www.liveunltd.com

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THE ENVIRONMENT

The Energy Saving Trust offer support on how to start saving energy. You can search their database for grants and offers as well as keep up to date with local initiatives. You can contact their local advice centre on 0800 512 012 or visit:

www.energysavingtrust.co.uk

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FUNDING

Don't let your bid go in the bin

Directory of Social Change research shows that over the latest financial year over one-third of all applications to charitable grantmakers were ineligible – over 363,000 went in the bin. [Find out more](#) about what you can do to help stop the cycle of ineligible applications..

News feeds on funding news

The Funding Central online resource run by NCVO has some improved and new features, giving news and updates on funding opportunities (grants, contracts and loans) nationally and more locally. There are five types of news feeds (RSS) covering New and updated funds, Funds with deadlines in the next 30 days, Latest news, Latest events and Latest partners. Links at <http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/rss.aspx>

The Lloyds TSB Foundation has announced an increase in funding for its Community Programme for 2010 and is keen to encourage bids from voluntary groups in the region. To be eligible a group must be a registered charity with 12 month reserves or less. To view the full guidelines and find out if your charity is eligible [click here](#) or contact David White, Grant Manager, East, Mobile: 07912 798053

People's Postcode Trust provides funding opportunities to small organisations, community groups and charities through grants ranging from £500 - £10,000. For full details of criteria and priorities for funding visit:

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

Herts CVS publishes a monthly bulletin 'Find the Funding' which offers a useful resource for VCS organisations looking for funds. To view the May 2010 bulletin [click here](#).

Social Enterprise Feasibility Grants for Community Organisations.

Organisations will receive support from the business support team of Communitybuilders or through business development grants of up to five days of support for use with external consultants of professional advisors. For more information and to check your eligibility [click here](#).

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Foyle Foundation - small grants

The foundation's small grants scheme is designed to support smaller charities, especially those working at grass roots and local community level, in any field, across a wide range of activities. www.foylefoundation.org.uk

Community Spaces

Community Spaces is a £50m open grants programme to help community groups create or improve green, open spaces to enhance people's quality of life. Grants start at £10,000. www.community-spaces.org.uk

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OTHER NEWS

CharityBuilder UK

"I keep meaning to do our Staff Handbook ..." CharityBuilder UK can help you to produce legally required policies such as Disciplinary, Equal Opportunities, Grievance, Mobile Phone and Health & Safety, plus many others.- all for free. www.charitybuilderuk.com

New Help Managing Overheads – Capacity Manager

ACEVO have launched a new tool to help third sector organisations manage overhead spending effectively. For more information visit: <http://www.capacitymanager.org.uk/>.

The Collaboration Benefits website offers free resources to support collaborative projects. For more information [click here](#).

Guide To Developing Organisational Policy.

From the NCVO Campaigning Effectiveness team, a step-by-step process to policy formation, helping to ensure that policy positions are mission-aligned and

evidence-based. The guide can be downloaded here: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/infocus>

The Institute of Leadership and Community Management (ILCM) has launched a new online capability assessment system for VCOs. The assessment will help organisations to focus on the central principles for operating a voluntary or community organisation - and it is free to everyone who uses it. It is known as the ILCM Level 1 Capability Assessment and can be accessed by clicking here: <http://www.ilcm.org.uk/assessment>.

How charity chairs can help at times of crisis and change

KnowHow NonProfit, the learning and sharing website for nonprofit people, has a new 'In the Chair' feature with podcasts exploring how charity chairs are helping their organisations and fellow board members deal with times of crisis and change. <http://www.knowhownonprofit.org/leadership/governance/in-the-chair>

Trustee recruitment for small organisations

The Leadership and Governance workstream, led by NCVO have developed a trustee recruitment resource in partnership with NAVCA, Community Matters and the Community Sector Coalition. To access the toolkit see <http://bit.ly/trsmallorg>.

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DISCLAIMER: *This Info Bulletin 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@cvsstalbens.org.uk*

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