

# Info Digest



Herts CVS Group: Promoting and developing voluntary activity across Hertfordshire

June 2011

## Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

<b>Index</b>	<a href="#">News for Support Agencies</a>
	<a href="#">Working in Partnership</a>
	<a href="#">Legal Matters</a>
	<a href="#">Children &amp; Young People</a>
	<a href="#">Learning &amp; Development/Events</a>
	<a href="#">Funding</a>
	<a href="#">Other News</a>

### NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

#### **Giving White Paper**

The Giving White Paper was launched this week (<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/giving-white-paper>). To be administered by BIG, the funding is designed to improve support for frontline civil society organisations by helping infrastructure organisations to modernise and improve the relevance of their services. [http://www.bigfund.org.uk/index/about-uk/big-fund/local\\_infrastructure.htm](http://www.bigfund.org.uk/index/about-uk/big-fund/local_infrastructure.htm). To sign up for updates: [supportingcivilsociety@biglotteryfund.org.uk](mailto:supportingcivilsociety@biglotteryfund.org.uk)

#### **Red Tape Report**

The Red Tape taskforce, led by Lord Hodgson, has published its report called Unshackling Good Neighbours. <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/unshackling-good-neighbours>. Includes support for the use of grants in a section on commissioning, calculating social value when judging tenders, reforms to the law to clarify the liability of charity trustees and volunteers, simplifying fundraising licensing and encouraging volunteering among the unemployed. <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/view-article/navca-welcomes-red-tape-report>

#### **Big Society Bank**

The Cabinet Office has endorsed the Outline Proposal for the Big Society Bank. This gives the green light to proceed with the implementation of the proposal. <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/big-society-bank-outline-proposal>

#### **Report from Commission on the Big Society**

Charity chief executives body ACEVO has published the report from its Commission on the Big Society. It states that the government needs to provide more leadership and protect charities and voluntary organisations from funding cuts to allow them to flourish. Read The Guardian's coverage at <http://preview.tinyurl.com/64hyffc> ACEVO's press release at

<http://www.acevo.org.uk/document.doc?id=1517> or download the report 'Powerful People, Responsible Society' from <http://www.acevo.org.uk/document.doc?id=1515>

### **Factsheets for Manchester Voluntary Sector**

Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support has collated information from across its member organisations to create a set of short information guides and factsheets for the local voluntary sector. Many will be of wider interest, available in Word format from <http://www.gmvss.net/factsheets>

### **Birmingham City Council Legal Decision.**

Could be of great help to any other organizations who may be under the threat of closure due to cuts in funding by HCC/NHS Herts. See article re the high court decision where Birmingham City Council were found to have unlawfully cut services to people who fall under the remit of the Disability Discrimination Act. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-13455068>

### **Community News Hubs**

The Big Lottery Fund have awarded the Media Trust a grant to create a network of local community news hubs that will enable local groups to tell their stories for online, print and broadcast media.

[http://news.biglotteryfund.org.uk/pr\\_260511\\_uk\\_medtrus\\_community\\_news\\_journalism\\_networks?regioncode=-uk](http://news.biglotteryfund.org.uk/pr_260511_uk_medtrus_community_news_journalism_networks?regioncode=-uk)

### **Stressed Employees**

New research from Mind says that stressed employees are remaining silent for fear that speaking out will put their job in jeopardy. Mental health is too often ignored with 1 in 6 workers experiencing depression, anxiety or stress. <http://www.mind.org.uk/employment>

HSE has a simple stress checklist tool:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/stress/standards/pdfs/indicatortool.pdf> as well as web information about work related stress. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/stress/>

### **Localism Bill Update**

The Localism Bill completed its legislative passage in House of Commons and now goes to the House of Lords. See amended briefing <http://www.navca.org.uk/localism-bill-navca-briefings> and you can still sign up to support the Real Powers for Communities campaign <http://www.rp4c.org.uk/>

### **Reminder about Political and Consultation Updates**

COVER's political updates webpage and consultations page are regularly updated to provide you with the latest information about emerging policies and consultations <http://www.cover-east.org/Political-Updates.asp>; <http://www.cover-east.org/Shaping-Policy.asp>

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

### **TUC response to voluntary sector delivery of public services**

A TUC report, 'Civil Society and Public Services: Collaboration not Competition' examines the potential impact of the government's policies on civil society as well as public services. <http://www.tuc.org.uk/economy/tuc-19587-f0.cfm>

### **Government looks to charities to deliver public services**

The BBC and other news outlets have reported that the government is scaling back plans to use the private sector to deliver public services. This information has come from leaked documents suggesting ministers have decided the "wholesale outsourcing" of public services to the private sector would be politically "unpalatable". Ministers instead want to use more charities, social enterprises and employee-owned "mutual" organisation'  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-13273932>

## LEGAL MATTERS

### **The Fit and Proper Persons Test**

Want the real story on HMRC's Fit and Proper Persons Test? Read this helpful analysis of what charities need to know about the controversial Finance Act 2010 requirement that charity "managers" be "fit and proper persons".

[http://www.dsc.org.uk/PolicyandResearch/news/legaleyesthefitandproperpersonstestwhatcharitiesneedtoknow?dm\\_i=6S7,FK65,TDRZE,199OV,1](http://www.dsc.org.uk/PolicyandResearch/news/legaleyesthefitandproperpersonstestwhatcharitiesneedtoknow?dm_i=6S7,FK65,TDRZE,199OV,1)

### **Insurance Guide**

The Charity Commission has produced a revised version of its guide giving an overview of the different types of insurance available, legal obligations and the options trustees have when identifying and managing risks.

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Publications/cc49.aspx>

### **SANDY ADIRONDACK: AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGAL UPDATE WEBSITE FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS at [www.sandy-a.co.uk/legal.htm](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/legal.htm)**

#### **Health & safety**

- HSE infoline to disappear from 1 October. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#h&s-infoline](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#h&s-infoline)
- Lord Young's recommendations on H&S and the 'compensation culture'. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#h&s-youngreport](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#h&s-youngreport)
- H&S policies and risk assessments, including an online risk assessment tool for offices, consultation on an online tool for shops, the H&S made simple website, and a website specifically for organisations which use volunteers. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#riskassessment](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#riskassessment)
- Managing stress at work. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#h&s-stress](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#h&s-stress)

- Basic first aid leaflet. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#firstaid](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#firstaid)
- Changes to RIDDOR, including nearly all reports to HSE having to be made via the HSE website from 12 September. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#riddor](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#riddor)
- Register of occupational safety and health consultants [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#h&s-resources](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#h&s-resources)
- Abolition of the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#adventureactivities](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#adventureactivities)

### Health & safety cases

- Risk, liability and the social value of activities – a round-up of h&s and negligence cases including a game involving diving headfirst into a pool with 18” of water at a fun day, a headteacher taking students celebrating their A-level results onto the roof of the school, and lots more. Useful if you take out groups. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#h&s-cases](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#h&s-cases)
- Harassment at work. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#h&s-harassment](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#h&s-harassment)
- First corporate manslaughter conviction. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#manslaughter](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#manslaughter)

### Equality

- Government Equalities Office short guide on health and disability questions during recruitment. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-healthquestions](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-healthquestions) or go direct to <http://tinyurl.com/5vlraln>
- It's now too late for an employer to make an employee retire because of their age, unless the retirement can be objectively justified. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#defaultretirement](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#defaultretirement)
- New edition of joint CIPD/TUC guidance on managing age in the workplace. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#managing-age](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#managing-age) or go direct to [www.tuc.org.uk/extras/ManagingAgeGuide.pdf](http://www.tuc.org.uk/extras/ManagingAgeGuide.pdf)
- Dual discrimination provision will not be implemented [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-dualdiscrimination](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-dualdiscrimination)
- the government is going to consult on removing the provision that employers should take reasonable steps to stop harassment by third parties (customers, clients, contractors etc) when it's happened twice or more and the employer knows about it. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-thirdparty-harassment](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-thirdparty-harassment)
- From 6 April, an employer can in some circumstances give preference in recruitment or promotion to a person with a 'protected characteristic' if two candidates are equally well qualified. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-preference](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-preference)
- General public sector equality duty in effect in England, Scotland and Wales from 5 April; specific public sector duties in effect in Wales from 6 April, but specific duties for England (and devolved bodies in Scotland and Wales) and Scotland still under consideration. Even if voluntary organisations are not public bodies as defined in the Equality Act or carrying out public functions as defined in the Human Rights Act (the

- Equality Act uses the same definition), those which receive public sector funding or contracts are likely to have to comply with aspects of the public sector duty as part of their grant or contract conditions.
- [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-advancement](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-advancement)
- Compromise agreements may not be valid in relation to discrimination claims. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-compromiseagreement](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-compromiseagreement)

To subscribe to Sandy's email updates, send details to [legalupdate@sandy-a.co.uk](mailto:legalupdate@sandy-a.co.uk)

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### **Herts VCS Targeted Sustainability Fund**

The VCS Targeted Services Fund is a **new** 18 month fund for VCS organisations to help deliver targeted services that prevent the needs of children and young people and their families from escalating. The criteria for the fund will be based on the Hertfordshire 'Meeting the Needs' framework, available on HertsDirect:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/hcc/csf/childrenstrust/integrated/ippractice/meethneeds/>

Applications by **8 August 2011**. Queries to Gemma Brace , Commissioning Officer (01992 555818) or Tim Parlow, Commissioning Manager (01992 555749) [gemma.brace@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.brace@hertsc.gov.uk) or [tim.parlow@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:tim.parlow@hertsc.gov.uk)

### **Youth Unemployment**

There is a new government website to help tackle youth unemployment. 'What's Your Destination?', will link to charities providing offering volunteering opportunities.

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/channels/Communications/Article/1069833/New-government-website-youth-unemployment-will-list-volunteering-placements/>

### **NAVCA Child Poverty Strategy Briefing**

NAVCA has produced a briefing of the Child Poverty Strategy which aims to improve understanding of its key areas and how local voluntary action can contribute to it. <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/childpoverty.htm>

### **No Change to Children Age Limit – Vetting & Barring**

The government has changed its mind on plans to move the age limit on vetting and barring arrangements for children's professionals to only cover those working with up to 16 year olds. They will be keeping the cut off age at

18. [http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletin/cypnow\\_daily/article/1067841/](http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletin/cypnow_daily/article/1067841/)

## LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT/EVENTS

### **NCVO/BWB Trustee Conference 2011**

31 October 2011, London. Pre-register for early bird discount  
<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/trusteeconference2011>

### **How Technology can make it easier to be a Good Trustee**

There has been an explosion in really easy-to-use online tools which can help your board operate more smoothly. They can save you loads of time and remove a huge amount of the stress from meeting planning, recording and coordination between trustees. NCVO ICT Development Officer Louise Brown is an expert on all things digital and wrote a really useful, plain english blog pointing out the best of them. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/networking-discussions/blogs/18088/10/12/23/how-can-you-use-technology-be-more-effective-trustees>

### **Become a Better Leader**

Are you a Chair of Trustees, Chief Executive or leader within a small to medium sized voluntary sector organisation? The NCVO Barclays Leadership Development Programme will help you tackle challenges head on.  
<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/barclays-leadership-programme-2011/12-INFO>

### **Charityfair 2011**

Join 1,000 of your peers at Charityfair 2011 on **Monday 27 & Tuesday 28 June 2011** for affordable, high quality training for everyone in the voluntary sector, with a **FREE resource area** packed with coaching, talks, bookshop, exhibitors, networking and much more. Can you afford not to go?  
<http://www.charityfair.org.uk/index.html>

### **PQASSO Course**

PQASSO is a quality standard developed for third sector organisations including VCS groups. This course has information on how to carry out a self-assessment as well as step-by-step guidance on how to achieve the Quality Mark. Click here to access the course. <http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/>

### **Training for Directors and Senior Managers**

Interchange is offering training for Directors and Senior Managers to help them navigate the difficult economic climate and grow their organisations. Any organisation employing 5 to 249 people can apply. Organisations can only access this fund once. <http://www.interchange.org.uk/content/?q=node/149>

## FUNDING

### **Green Grants Machine**

Green Grants Machine offer a FREE website to help you find the funding on offer to improve environmental performance.

<http://www.greengrantsmachine.co.uk/Default.aspx>

### **JustTextGiving**

JustGiving and Vodafone have launched a service to allow fundraisers and charities to receive donations by text message without incurring set-up or network charges.

[http://www.justgiving.com/JustTextGiving?gclid=CKL10dK736gCFcJP4QodeW54\\_Q](http://www.justgiving.com/JustTextGiving?gclid=CKL10dK736gCFcJP4QodeW54_Q)

### **The Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards Scheme**

Provides donations of £500 to £4k to local projects that support children and their education and welfare, elderly people and adults and children with disabilities.

Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 <http://cr2010.tescopl.com/communities/tesco-charity-trust.aspx>

### **Triangle Trust 1949 Fund**

Makes grants of £1,000 to £10,000. It prioritises smaller charities and is interested in funding new activities.

<http://thetriangletrust1949fund.org.uk/index.htm>

### **The Newby Trust Ltd**

Provides grants up to £1,000 and larger grants up to £10,000 for activities relating to medical welfare, education, training and research, and relief of poverty. <http://www.newby-trust.org.uk/>

### **The Hilden Charitable Fund**

Is accepting applications at any time. It makes grants to projects that address disadvantages and in particular wants to support projects that address homelessness; asylum seekers and refugees; community based initiatives for disadvantaged young people; and penal affairs.

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

### **The Wakeham Trust**

Supports groups of individuals and small VCS groups that want to improve their communities. It is particularly interested in supporting neighbourhood projects; community arts projects; projects involving community service by young people; and projects set up by those who are socially excluded.

<http://www.wakehamtrust.org/>

### **ACT Foundation**

Provides grants for charities that enhance the quality of life for people in need, especially those focused on mentally and/or physically disabled people. There are no minimum or maximum grant amounts and funding can be used for building modifications, equipment such as mobility aids and financial assistance for things like short-term respite breaks.

<http://www.theactfoundation.co.uk/applying-for-a-grant-mainmenu-4>

### **The Drapers Charitable Fund**

This fund provides grants under £10,000 for charities working with the homeless, people under the age of 25 who are excluded, prisoners, the elderly and disabled adults. [http://www.thedrapers.co.uk/Charities/Grant-making-trusts/The-Drapers-Charitable-Fund.aspx?dm\\_i=3MG%2CENYU%2C8LRPK%2C17VSF%2C1](http://www.thedrapers.co.uk/Charities/Grant-making-trusts/The-Drapers-Charitable-Fund.aspx?dm_i=3MG%2CENYU%2C8LRPK%2C17VSF%2C1)

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Request for Unwanted Computer Equipment**

A reminder that your unwanted computer equipment is needed. i-trust will recycle or refurbish it for sale and use profits to support volunteers and other VCS activities, or they will send it for use by projects in developing countries. Contact: [trevor.simons@i-trust.org.uk](mailto:trevor.simons@i-trust.org.uk) <http://www.i-trust.org.uk/>

### **Updated Social Media Resources**

Facebook has an improved resource centre for non-profits, at <https://www.facebook.com/nonprofits> The Resources section has new case studies, best practices and tools.

### **Trustee Resources**

Useful pages on NCVO website for new and existing trustees:

**Frequently asked questions:** <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/advice-support/trustee-governance/trustee-bank/becoming-trustee>

**Support and advice on financial management:** <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/advice-support/funding-finance/financial-management/financial-management>

### **The risks of becoming a trustee**

Briefing from charity specialist solicitors Russell-Cooke 'What are the Risks of Becoming a Charity Trustee?', As they say, rewards of being a trustee, and giving back to society, should outweigh any such worries. <http://www.russell-cooke.co.uk/clientUpload/document/file/What%20are%20the%20Risks%20of%200Becoming%20a%20Charity%20Trustee%20-%20April%202011.pdf>

### **Online Source of Surplus Goods**

Charities and community groups can obtain a range of goods and equipment free of charge by registering with Giving World Online. Charity puts in touch

companies wanting to dispose of surplus items - such as computers, household appliances, educational materials, clothing and stationery with charities and community groups. Free of charge other than postage costs and transportation.  
<http://www.givingworldonline.com/>

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***FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:*** *Contact Sue McClinton, Herts CVS Information Co-ordination Project. Email: [sue@cvsstalbans.org.uk](mailto:sue@cvsstalbans.org.uk)*

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