

Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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RESPONDING TO THE RECESSION

Real Help for Communities

On Monday 9th February the Government announced a **£42.5m package** of measures to provide **real help now to communities**, by supporting volunteering, charities and social enterprises. The headlines from the Real Help for Communities document are:

- Up to **£10m** investment in a **volunteer brokerage scheme** for unemployed people, creating 40,000+ opportunities
- **£15.5m Community Resilience Fund**, providing grant funding to small/medium providers in local areas at risk of deprivation
- **£0.5m** investment in the **School for Social Entrepreneurs**, doubling the number of social entrepreneurs who benefit
- **£16.5m modernisation fund**, to help with the cost of mergers, partnerships and moves to more efficient sharing of back office functions for at least 3000 third sector organisations.
- National **campaign** to raise awareness of the Government's commitment to **pay invoices within 10 days**
- DWP pilot **accreditation process and independent ombudsman**, protecting third sector providers of welfare to work services
- Independent **review of incentives for investment in social enterprise**

More information can be accessed at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/real_help_for_communities.aspx

Capacitybuilders and 'Real Help for Communities'

Further to the publication of 'Real Help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises', Capacitybuilders has confirmed details of £1m of investment that will be distributed to local support organisations as an immediate

response to address the impact of the recession. <http://digbig.com/4ygcd> or <http://capacitybuilders.org.uk>

Third sector and the downturn

Charities Aid Foundation has opened a confidential Financial Crisis Helpline. Charity leaders worried about their organisation's financial viability can request a one-off confidential discussion with experienced managers who will listen to concerns and suggest steps for survival. Phone 0800 980 2000, or see <http://www.cafonline.org/Default.aspx?page=17031>.

Charity Finance Directors' group has started a 'Recession Watch' webpage at: http://www.cfdg.org.uk/cfdg/influencing_recession_watch.asp.

NCVO funding commission

NCVO has launched a funding commission tasked with looking at future funding of the third sector. Widespread consultation with the sector will take place and everyone will be given the opportunity to contribute at a series of regional events or by written submission. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/press/releases/?id=12700>

Managing in a recession

ACAS and CIPD have jointly launched guidance on managing the workforce in a recession. <http://digbig.com/4ygxh> or <http://www.cipd.co.uk>

Backing Communities: local solutions

Joint Local Government Association/NCVO publication highlighting some of the positive ways in which local authorities can work with the third sector in response to the recession. <http://digbig.com/4yfrm> or <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk>

Third Sector Issues Update

The February edition of this newsletter from the Local Government Association includes articles on working with the third sector to support people through the recession and the Office of the Third Sector's recession action plan. <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=40483>

Surviving the Economic Downturn - A Charity's Guide

ACEVO has published a compilation of advice from key experts in the fields of HR, fundraising and finance. <http://www.acevo.org.uk>

Credit Crunch: Fundraising in an economic slowdown

Research from the Institute of Fundraising and the Charity Finance Directors' Group, together with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, which looks at the potential impact of an economic slowdown, on fundraising organisations. The results are of particular relevance to fundraising and finance directors, and will support charities' plans for the future. <http://www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/informationaboutfundraising/CreditCrunch.htm>

The Credit Crunch and Regeneration: Impact and Implications

This study from Communities and Local Government assesses what the effect of the economic downturn has been, what might happen next, and what the key implications are for partners involved in regeneration. <http://digbig.com/4yfmk> or <http://www.communities.gov.uk>

No council of despair, recession guide and checklist

'No council of despair: positive local leadership in a recession' is a resource for local councils, councillors and officers, to support them to develop a coherent response to the local impact of the recession. Download: <http://www.idea.gov.uk/>

NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

***NAVCA Members only:* Practical commissioning and procurement resources**

NAVCA's Local Commissioning and Procurement Unit has produced a resources list, mapping practical commissioning and procurement resources for local infrastructure organisations to use with frontline organisations grappling with commissioning and procurement matters.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/lcp/briefings/resources>

***NAVCA Members only:* Members' news**

NAVCA will be introducing a new section in 'Circulation'. This will highlight news and successes from members. If you have launched a project, have a new chief officer, have had a particular achievement or opened a new building, or any other news, please inform NAVCA. They are looking for things that will be of interest to other local infrastructure organisations - things they might want to copy or learn from. Email any items (70 words max) to : jane.oconnell@navca.org.uk

***NAVCA Members only:* Strategic plans**

NAVCA is collecting examples of strategic, business and work plans from members, to be shared via their website. If you have a recent plan you are happy to share, please email it to jane.oconnell@navca.org.uk

***NAVCA Members only:* 'Circulation' 407**

The February/March issue of 'Circulation' is now on our website at: <http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/circulation/2009/407>. Articles include the Big Lottery Fund's consultation on its future funding policies, and how to challenge unfair tendering processes.

Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill

NCVO has published a briefing on the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, which aims to enhance local democracy and empower communities by allowing Government to meet key commitments made in the

2008 White Paper 'Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power'.
<http://digbig.com/4yfrp> or <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk>

Recognising the BME third sector's contribution

NAVCA affiliate Voice4Change England has launched a 'Valuing the BME Third Sector' campaign to increase recognition of the positive contribution made by the black and minority ethnic third sector in bonding communities and promoting equality. The aim of the campaign, which builds on an Early Day Motion tabled by Alun Michael MP, is to increase political support amongst MPs for adequate and equitable resourcing of the sector to bring about better outcomes for BME communities. V4CE needs the support of frontline groups in educating MPs about the issues facing the sector, and is urging individuals and organisations to contact their local MP to ask them to sign the EDM. In addition, V4CE is encouraging frontline groups to invite their MP to visit and meet with staff and beneficiaries of the service. <http://www.voice4change-england.co.uk>

Responding to a Funding Cut

A reminder that this NAVCA document, aimed at helping organisations plan a campaigning strategy in response to a funding cut, is available on their website at: <http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/lio/fundingcut>

Single/equality group case studies

In 2008, LVSC commissioned three single/equality groups (CAIA, O" - Bay Community Trust and Southall Black Sisters) to write a case study about their impact as a group. The case studies have now been brought together into a report that seeks to demonstrate the value of these organisations and others in relation to the Communities and Local Government guidance/consultation on single group funding in 2008. The report can be used as a communication tool for equality groups to promote their case to funders and policy-makers, and as a campaigning tool for specialist support organisations to raise awareness amongst funders and policy-makers about the value of equality groups.
<http://digbig.com/4yeta> or <http://www.lvsc.org.uk>

Labourspace

The Labour Party has launched a website allowing organisations and individuals to set up campaigns they want to bring to the attention of Labour politicians:
<http://digbig.com/4ygcj> or <http://www.labour.org.uk>

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

Detailed information on the operation of the new performance assessment system for local authorities, coming in from 1 April, is now available on the Audit Commission's website, <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/caa/framework.asp>. The Audit Commission also publishes a newsletter aimed at all inspectorates and

key stakeholders involved in the creation of the CAA. <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/caa/news.asp>

Compact commissioning guidance

The Commission for the Compact has published guidance in response to the increasing number of local authorities and other public sector bodies commissioning third sector organisations to provide public services.

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

County sports partnerships looking for partners and participants

Sport Unlimited, which was launched last April as an important part of the Government's PE and Sport Strategy for Young People, aims to get young people to take up 10-week courses in a range of sports. The project is looking for more partners and participants to get involved in Sport Unlimited, so contact your local county sports partnership for more details.

http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/county_sports_partnerships.htm

Support for women who have experienced violence

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission has announced that it will target over 100 local authorities with the threat of legal action over their failure to provide specialised services for women who have experienced violence.

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

New Procurement Helpdesk

A new procurement helpdesk is now available from NHS Primary Care Contracting. Both providers and commissioners will be able to use the helpdesk to email questions and seek advice on procurement issues, particularly around the PCT Procurement Guide. The helpdesk is available at:

<http://www.pcc.nhs.uk/procurement-helpdesk>

Improvement East New Website Launched

The Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership has officially launched its new website at www.improvementeast.gov.uk. The site already contains information about the partnership, ongoing projects, case studies events and much more.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Children's' Safeguarding Unit for Third Sector

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is being funded by the government to create a set of child protection standards, working with Children England. It will support the voluntary sector in meeting those standards, with sector infrastructure body NAVCA acting as a delivery partner in the National Safeguarding Unit for the Third Sector in England. More on the Unit at

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/nsu_wda63026.html, or see CYP Now item at <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/875614/>.

Every Child Matters - Delivering better outcomes for children and young people

NAVCA's first Every Child Matters conference will take place in Birmingham on 30 March. It is aimed at local infrastructure organisations and third sector organisations that deliver services for children, young people and their families. <http://www.navca.org.uk/events/ecm.htm>

Ready Steady Go! Moving forward with youth services

NCVYS has published its annual review 2007-08. <http://digbig.com/4yfrn> or <http://www.ncvys.org.uk>

Young People and Alcohol Guidance

The DCSF has launched a consultation on alcohol guidance, advice and information for parents, children, and young people. It would welcome the views of children, young people, parents, carers and those organisations and professionals working with young people. Closing Date is 23 April. <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations>

How are the kids?

As part of the Change4Life campaign, the Department of Health has launched a survey of children's health. Families in England are being asked to give information about their eating and activity habits. In return they will receive a specially tailored plan including healthy diet and activity tips. To register for helpful information, games, tools, tips and a free welcome pack, see: <http://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

Keeping children safe

This Home Office newsletter features some of the latest developments in Government policy on safeguarding children and young people. <http://digbig.com/4yhbt> or <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>

THE ENVIRONMENT

Every Action Counts at your event

This new EAC guide provides guidance on how to run sustainable events in your organisation. It offers practical advice including hints, tips, checklists and direct experience from those who have done it themselves. It also provides a step by step approach to planning, reviewing and learning. <http://www.everyactioncounts.org.uk/guides>

Toolkit for Sustainability

The West Sussex County Council has adapted its toolkit so that it can be more easily used by third sector organisations. The Toolkit takes about an hour to complete. It asks a series of questions about sustainability and includes resources to help organisations take actions to make improvements.

<http://digbig.com/4yhbw> or <http://www.westsussex.gov.uk>

PUBLICATIONS

Civil Society Almanac

NCVO has released the 2009 edition of the UK Civil Society Almanac, which provides statistics and facts on the third sector and other parts of civil society. An executive summary can be downloaded from: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/publications/publication.asp?id=12516>

Age Agenda Bulletin

The Age Agenda Bulletin is Age Concern's free monthly online update on older people's issues and the policy and legislation changes that have an impact on their lives. http://www.ageconcern.org.uk/AgeConcern/age_agenda_bulletin.asp

National minimum wage - the basics and who is entitled to it

Revised guidance on the national minimum wage and its implications for volunteers and voluntary workers. <http://digbig.com/4ygxg> or <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk>

SKiLD Audit Toolkit: case study

'Skills toolkits benefit development workers, frontline groups and help carry community football club to victory', a case study of how Wootton Park Rangers used the SKiLD 'Skills Audit Toolkit' to better organise their club, which went on to win their football league, is available at <http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/goodprac/sport>

TRAINING/EVENTS

CHARITYFAIR 2009

A range of 92 one-hour and two-hour seminars priced from £20 - £60 per delegate are offered at Charityfair, which takes place at Central Hall Westminster Wednesday June 24 and Thursday June 25. In addition there are free sessions on campaigning, mentoring, finance and being a trustee as well as free book launches. www.charityfair.org.uk

Thinking About Social Enterprise?

What is social enterprise all about? Is it viable for your organisation? Are you fit for trading? Come along to explore these and other questions at a FREE

introductory half-day workshop in your part of the East of England. The workshops are from 9.30am – 1pm, followed by lunch, and the Hertfordshire date is 19 March. For details and booking form e-mail chris.lee@seee.co.uk or call him direct on 01234 834710. www.seee.co.uk

SKiLD Summer Learning Programme

Courses through to August 2009 are now on the website. Courses include: Options for premises, Assertiveness for development workers, and Human rights and equalities. <http://www.skild.org.uk/training>

Working with the Faith Sector

Do you work in partnership with faith groups, or are you part of an organisation that seeks faith representation? Would you like to build your relationship with the faith sector? The East of England Faiths Council and East of England Regional Assembly are running two one-day events, both with the same programme: 23 April 2009 at the Hilton Hotel, Stansted Airport and 6 May 2009 at Center Parcs, Elvedon, Nr Thetford. Contact Sue.Houlder@eera.gov.uk

FUNDING

What to do in a funding crisis

South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau has updated its factsheet. <http://www.syfab.org.uk/infshstsp/crisis.pdf>

Speaking Out Small Grants Programme 2009

The Speaking Out project has opened a second round of the Small Grants Programme worth up to £30,000. Members of the NCVYS and Children England networks will be able to apply for small grants of up to £1,000 to deliver activities which raise the voice of the children and young people's third sector.

OTHER NEWS

New site to tackle work-related stress

The Health and Safety Executive has a new work-related stress website. As well as advice and guidance on managing stress at work, the site provides access to a new self assessment tool for line managers to test their stress management skills. Go to <http://www.hse.gov.uk/stress>, or news item at <http://preview.tinyurl.com/cebo6p>.

Making sense of Futurebuilders terminology

What can you do with revenue funding? What does a community-interest company do? What exactly is working capital? Sometimes we come across words that may not be in everyone's daily usage. This article is the first in a series that aims to make sense of many of the terms that are used in the sector.

<http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk/enewsletter/lt.php?id=N0UHCFZYBkoEVwIIAAwEVw%3D%3D>

Three steps to a warmer winter

A free pack from Help the Aged giving advice for older people on claiming extra benefits, reducing energy bills, and how they can stay out of fuel poverty.

<http://digbig.com/4yfrk> or <http://www.helptheaged.org.uk>

Domestic Violence

The Home Office has published a leaflet providing information about how to support a friend or relative who is in a violent relationship.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/reducing-crime/domestic-violence>

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*

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