

# Info Digest



Herts CVS Group: Promoting and developing voluntary activity across Hertfordshire

May 2010

## 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="#">The Environment</a>
	<a href="#">Learning &amp; Development/Events</a>
	<a href="#">Funding</a>
	<a href="#">Other News</a>

### NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

#### **Sustainable Models of Support Services**

Capacitybuilders has published a report bringing together high level findings from nine case studies looking at how support and development organisations (including Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action, Voluntary Action Rutland and Bournemouth and Poole CVS) have made their services more sustainable. <http://bit.ly/capbsss>

#### **Rationalising Local Support and Development Organisations: Some radical proposals**

NAVCA Chief executive Kevin Curley's recent addresses. [www.navca.org.uk/news/rlsdos](http://www.navca.org.uk/news/rlsdos)

#### **Circulation 414 (NAVCA members only)**

The latest edition of 'Circulation' also includes articles on why Community Action Derby set up a trading arm as a Community Interest Company, and on progress in the learning and skills world. It is now available at [www.navca.org.uk/publications/circulation/2010/414](http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/circulation/2010/414)

#### **Demonstrating the Local Social and Economic Value of Grant-making with the Local VCS**

This Centre for Local Economic Strategies/Voluntary Sector North West think piece should help defend grants locally. <http://bit.ly/clesdemval>

**NCVO Workforce Development** have recently collected new case studies from a variety of voluntary sector organisations, covering topics such as changing pension schemes, developing and implementing training programmes and improving recruitment and retention. These have now been published on their website and are available to download for free at [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/hr-case-studies](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/hr-case-studies)

### **Vetting & Barring: New guidance**

The new guidance is now available from <http://bit.ly/isavbuid>. Be aware:

- Frequency and intensity tests: frequent is once a week or more intensive is four days or more in a single month but in **health and personal care** services frequent is **once a week**.
- Exemptions from the requirement to register until 2013
- There will be a new CRB form.
- Volunteer Centres not personnel suppliers so requirement to check rests with the host organisation and not with the VC.

### **Voice4Change Compact webpage**

Voice4Change England (V4CE) has launched its refreshed Compact webpage. The webpage has been redeveloped to reflect the changes made within the refreshed Compact and its implications for the BME third sector.

[www.voice4change-england.co.uk/theCompact.html](http://www.voice4change-england.co.uk/theCompact.html).

### **NHS Commissioning Guidance**

The Department of Health has published 'The NHS commissioning environment: A guide for organisations in the third sector'. It provides a summary of the structure of the NHS and the whole approach to commissioning. It includes sections on the Compact and on Grants as a funding route (see p20 and p30-32). Important information for dealings with Primary Care Trusts, GP Commissioners or Local Authority Social Care Commissioners.

<http://bit.ly/nhscomgui>

### **Equality Bill**

The Equality Bill has passed all its parliamentary stages and been sent for Royal Assent. As the Equality Act 2010, its main provisions will come into force from October of this year. For a summary of provisions:

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

**Third Sector Future Jobs Opportunities:** From May 2010 the Community and Voluntary Forum Eastern Region (COVER) will be managing an allocation of Future Jobs Fund opportunities in the East of England specifically for Third Sector employers. They are looking for organisations willing to offer a six month period of employment to a young person aged 18 -24 who is currently unemployed. The employing organisation will have a delivery agreement and receive support and payment via COVER who are acting as the contractors for 3SC who are the prime contractor for Future Jobs Fund in this instance. If you want to find out more visit <http://www.cover-east.org/News.asp?selidx=1&viewmode=ViewRecord>.

[Home](#)

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

### **LAA/ Countywide Partnership News Safer and Stronger Communities**

- The [refreshed Thriving Third Sector report](#) is now available to view and download on the My Herts LAA website.
- The Office of the Third Sector has produced a [Guide to a Thriving Third Sector](#) and the NI7 survey to help both the statutory, and the third sectors understand NI7 better. The guide is available to view and download on the My Herts LAA website. Alternatively, you can visit the [OTS website](#).

### **Compact Knowledge Bank**

This new free to use online library will grow to hold all of the research and guidance relating to the Compact produced by the Compact Commission, together with a wide range of other information on partnership working between government and the third sector. [www.thecompact.org.uk/knowledgebank](http://www.thecompact.org.uk/knowledgebank)

### **Total Place needs local third sector involvement to be successful**

Communities and Local Government has published a report looking at the lessons from the Total Place pilots and how the delivery of public services can be transformed in future. Throughout the report there is mention of the importance of the third sector and its role in helping bring change to the way services are delivered. [www.navca.org.uk/news/clgtplace.htm](http://www.navca.org.uk/news/clgtplace.htm)

**GO East** have published their business plan which sets out how they will improve the lives of people in the East of England in 2010 and the challenging commitments the organisation has set itself. The plan can be accessed here <http://www.gos.gov.uk/goe/doc/187700/GOEBP1011.pdf>

[Home](#)

## LEGAL MATTERS

### **Charities Act Implementation**

The latest update of the Charities Act 2006 Implementation Plan is now available on the Office of the Third Sector website. <http://bit.ly/otscact>

### **Explaining Changes for Exempt Charities**

The charity web pages of ICAEW, the accountancy professionals' body, has an article on the changes for exempt charities still to take effect under the Charities Act 2006. It gives some useful background if you are unclear on where the concept of 'exempt' comes from, what exempt charities are, and how some will now need to register and some are to become excepted charities. <http://www.ion.icaew.com/charityblog/19797>

## **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)**

To sign up for Sandy's updates email [legalupdate@sandy-a.co.uk](mailto:legalupdate@sandy-a.co.uk)

### **Pay and pensions changes from 6 April 2010**

- All employers must now file their end of year PAYE return (P35 and P14s) online by 19 May – there is no longer an option for those with under 50 employees to send it in on paper. And new penalties are being introduced from 19 May for late or incomplete PAYE payments. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#paye](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#paye)
- Income tax personal allowances, basic rate and higher rate remain the same as last year – but there is a new 'additional rate' of 50% on taxable income above £150,000, and the personal allowance is withdrawn at the rate of £1 for each £2 of taxable income above £100,000.
- National insurance lower earnings limit goes up from £95 to £97 but other NI thresholds and rates are unchanged. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#taxallowances](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#taxallowances) or go direct to [www.hmrc.gov.uk/rates/index.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/rates/index.htm)
- State pension age for women starts going up from 60 to 65, the number of years needed to qualify goes down, and other changes in state pensions. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#statepensions](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#statepensions)
- Minimum age for taking an occupational or personal pension goes up from 50 to 55. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#occupationalpensions](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#occupationalpensions)
- New rule makes it easier for two associated organisations to merge without incurring pension withdrawal debt. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#cessationdebt](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#cessationdebt)
- Statutory sick pay remains £79.15 per week.
- Statutory maternity, paternity and adoption pay go up from £123.06 to £124.88. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#matpatpay](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#matpatpay)

### **Employment law and health & safety changes**

*All changes from 6 April unless indicated otherwise.*

- Fit notes replace sick notes; DWP guidance for employers and employees. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#fitnote](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#fitnote) or go direct to [www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/fit-note-employee-guide.pdf](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/fit-note-employee-guide.pdf)
- Tribunals can pass whistleblowing disclosures to regulators. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#whistleblowing](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#whistleblowing)
- Right to request time off for training, for employees in organisations with 250 or more employees (and from next April for smaller employers). [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#timetotrain](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#timetotrain)
- Statutory duty of employers to consider the capability of workers who carry out tasks related to fire safety. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#firesafety](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#firesafety)
- (From 1 February 2010): Maximum compensatory award for unfair dismissal was decreased, for the first time ever. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#weeklypay](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#weeklypay)
- (From 1 October 2009): Permitted work earnings limit for workers on incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance went up from £92 to £93 per week. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#permittedwork](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#permittedwork)

## Charity, company and CIC law changes during April

- From 1 April for charitable trusts, 6 April for all others: Charities and community amateur sports clubs have only four years, not six, to recover gift aid. The period for claiming gift aid transitional relief remains two years. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#giftaid](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#giftaid)

### **For financial years ending on or after 1 April 2009 (e.g. ending on 31 March 2010 for charities for an April to March financial year):**

- charities – whether incorporated or unincorporated – with annual income no more than £25,000 no longer need to send annual accounts and report to the Charity Commission unless the Commission requests (but charitable companies under £25k do have to send their accounts and report to Companies House);
- the threshold above which unincorporated and other non-company charities have to prepare accrual accounts rather than receipts and payments accounts goes up from £100,000 to £250,000;
- the threshold above which unincorporated and other non-company charities need an independent examination or full audit goes up from £10,000 to £25,000, and the threshold for full audit goes up from £250,000 to £500,000 (or from £100,000 to £250,000 if the charity has assets of more than £3.26 million);
- charitable companies defined as ‘small’ under company law now have an independent examination or audit under charity law rather than company law, with thresholds the same as for non-company charities;
- charitable companies defined as medium or large, and all non-charitable companies regardless of size, continue to be audited under company law.

[www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#unincorpaccounts](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#unincorpaccounts)

- For non-company charities which do not need a full audit, the Charity Commission’s CC16 (for receipts and payments accounts) and CC17 (for accruals accounts analysed on an activity basis) now include Excel and PDF templates which can be filled in. There is a new CC39 for accruals accounts analysed by ‘natural’ categories (fundraising, donations, staff costs, premises costs etc). [www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#unincorpaccounts](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#unincorpaccounts)
- Charity Commission Q&A pack on independent examination and audit for charitable companies. <http://tinyurl.com/ydlxgx4>

### **For financial years starting on or after 6 April 2008 (e.g. 1 April 2009-31 March 2010):**

- company directors (regardless of whether the company is or is not charitable, and regardless of its size) must not approve the annual accounts unless they are satisfied they give a true and fair view of assets, liabilities, financial position, and profit and loss (or surplus and deficit);
- the accounts do not necessarily have to be presented to the company members at an AGM (unless the articles require this), as there are now alternative ways to provide them to company members;
- the accounts have to be filed at Companies House within nine months (reduced from 10) from the end of the company’s financial year (and charitable companies still need to file them with the Charity Commission, for which the deadline remains 10 months after the end of the financial year).

[www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#companyaccounts](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#companyaccounts)

- From 6 April: Increased dividend and interest caps for community interest companies. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#cic-caps](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#cic-caps)

## Data protection, alcohol licensing, business rates changes during April

- From 6 April: Information Commissioner's Office can impose a penalty of up to £500,000 for serious data protection breaches.  
[www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#datapro-penalty](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#datapro-penalty)
- From 6 April: New mandatory licensing conditions for licensed premises and clubs. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#alcohol-mandatory](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#alcohol-mandatory)
- From 1 April: Properties have been revalued for business rates, and the thresholds for small business rate relief and empty property relief have changed.  
[www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#businessrates](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#businessrates)  
[www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#emptyproperty](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#emptyproperty)

## Tax & VAT changes during April

- VAT registration threshold increased from £68,000 to £70,000; deregistration threshold increased from £66,000 to £68,000.  
[www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-threshold](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-threshold)
- VAT-registered organisations with annual turnover over £100,000, and organisations registering for VAT on or after 1 April, must file their returns and make their VAT payments electronically. Organisations which can still pay by cheque may need to allow more time for cheques to be credited by HMRC.  
[www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-returns](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-returns)
- Easier options for VAT-registered organisations to determine whether they fall within the *de minimis* rules for partial exemption.  
[www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-partialexemption](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-partialexemption)
- New penalty for anyone who issues an invoice that includes VAT when they are not entitled to charge it. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-wrongdoing](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-wrongdoing)
- VAT status of education and training funded by the new Young People's Learning Agency and Skills Funding Agency, which replaced the Learning and Skills Council. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-education](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-education)
- Changes where a landlord opts to charge VAT on rent.  
[www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-optiontotax](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-optiontotax)
- From 1 January 2010: if you purchase services from outside the UK you may be affected by new place of supply and reverse charge rules, even if you are not registered for VAT. This is important. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-placeofsupply](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-placeofsupply)
- From 11 March: education and vocational training provided by a university subsidiary trading company is exempt from VAT.  
[www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-education](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-education)
- From 1 May: New fuel scale charges for VAT on private use of road fuel purchased by an organisation.  
[www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-roadfuel](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-roadfuel) or go direct to [www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2010/bn44.pdf](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2010/bn44.pdf)

## Employment law

- ACAS has a new 'volcanic ash' briefing for employers and individuals on whether you need to pay employees who can't get to work for reasons outside their control etc. [www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2913](http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2913)
- From 1 October 2010: Minimum wage goes up; the adult rate starts at age 21 rather than 22; new minimum wage for apprentices.  
[www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#minimumwage](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#minimumwage)
- For babies due on or after 3 April 2011: Additional paternity leave and pay.

- [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#matpatpay](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#matpatpay)
- From October 2012: Rules for auto-enrolment in the national employment savings trust (formerly referred to as personal accounts and the national pensions savings scheme). [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#nest](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#nest)

### **Immigration changes in the past few months:**

- 14 December 2009: resident labour test requires advertising for skilled workers (tier 2) for four weeks before someone from outside the European Economic Area can be issued with a certificate of sponsorship, unless the job is on the shortage list.
- 6 January 2010: tier 2 workers from outside the EEA must apply for ID card when renewing their visa.
- 6 April 2010: changes to the academic and financial requirements for highly skilled workers (tier 1); changes to the rules for intra-company transfers (tier 2); changes to the rules for migrant students (tier 4) and tier 4 sponsors. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#righttowork](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#righttowork)
- Anti-slavery Day Act passed. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#antislavery](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#antislavery)

### **Health & safety**

- Advice and support line for small employers (up to 250 employees) on employee physical and mental health. For details of advice lines for England, Scotland and Wales: [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#newh&s](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#newh&s)
- Updated Health & Safety Executive websites on first aid, workplace stress, and RIDDOR (reporting of injuries, diseases and dangerous occurrences). [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#newh&s](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#newh&s) or go direct to [www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/index.htm); [www.hse.gov.uk/stress/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/stress/index.htm); [www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/index.htm)
- Since September 2009, many previously priced publications from HSE have been free to download from the HSE website. [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)
- New version of the HSE poster, and a pocket card replacing the HSE leaflet - but the old posters and leaflets can be used until 2014, provided they contain up to date information. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#h&sposter](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#h&sposter) or go direct to [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/lawposter.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/lawposter.htm)
- HSE template for H&S policy and risk assessment in one document [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#riskassessment](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#riskassessment)
- Risk assessment for pregnant workers [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#pregnantworkers](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#pregnantworkers)
- Good practice guidance for school trips and similar youth activities. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#schooltrips](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#schooltrips)
- First corporate manslaughter case is adjourned. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#manslaughter](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#manslaughter)

### **Home**

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **HCC Consultation on SEN Provision for Children and Young People**

Hertfordshire County Council wants schools, children's centres, colleges and other providers of education and social care services to be responsible for all

children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND) aged 0-25 in their community. The deadline for responses to the consultation is 31 May 2010. Complete online form at [hertsdirect.org/specialneeds](http://hertsdirect.org/specialneeds) or email [performanceandimprovement@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:performanceandimprovement@hertscc.gov.uk)

### **Herts Children's Trust Partnership (HCTP)**

The latest [VCS Forum News](#) is now available to view and download: <http://www.myhertslaa.net/>

### **Opportunity 2012**

DCMS is offering young people the chance to become the first ever Opportunity 2012 graduates. Five hundred 14-19 year olds from will take part in opportunities inspired by 2012. The scheme will target young people that other initiatives find difficult to engage, such as young carers, those not in education, employment or training and those who have crime or behavioural problems, by using the unique appeal of the 2012 Games. <http://bit.ly/dcmsopp2010>

### **After School Sports Clubs**

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Ben Bradshaw has announced funding for 3,000 'Change 4 Life' sports clubs to get more young people playing sport as part of 2012 Olympic Legacy. <http://bit.ly/cmsassc>

### **Guidance for Grandparents Working as Childcare Support**

A new guide for grandparents, 'Family Life', has been launched by charity Grandparents Plus. It contains advice and guidance on how grandparents can balance work and care, support teenagers and help families through difficult times. [www.grandparentsplus.org.uk](http://www.grandparentsplus.org.uk)

### **Child Safety Week**

Child Safety Week 2010 is 21-27 June. More details and a free toolkit are available from: [www.childsafetyweek.org.uk](http://www.childsafetyweek.org.uk)

[Home](#)

## **THE ENVIRONMENT**

### **Changing the way we work**

Print copies of this Every Action Counts guide to greening your office are still available. If you would like a copy, email your name and address to [jane.oconnell@navca.org.uk](mailto:jane.oconnell@navca.org.uk)

[Home](#)

## LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT/EVENTS

### **Voluntary Sector Training from £20: Charityfair, 21 & 22 June, London**

Join professionals from across the voluntary sector at Charityfair 2010 on 21 & 22 June at the Hilton London Metropole Hotel. Gain new skills and update your sector knowledge with nearly 100 training sessions from £20. You'll also be able to make valuable contacts and check out the latest products and services in the Resource Area. Book today at [www.charityfair.org.uk](http://www.charityfair.org.uk).

### **Free Outsourcing Seminar**

18 May 2010, 2-4.30pm, NCVO Conference Suite, London, N1 9RL

With budgets getting even tighter and increasing demands for efficiency, outsourcing is an option that every voluntary organisation should seriously consider. NCVO has assembled a team of experts in HR, IT and Financial outsourcing to explore how to:

- Accurately assess the current cost of your finance, IT and HR functions
- Ascertain what your internal and external requirements are
- Determine if outsourcing is right for your organisation

For further information and to book online visit [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/outsourcing-event](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/outsourcing-event) or call Lauren on 0207 520 2597.

### **Effective Voluntary Sector Management**

Working For A Charity's online course is running again in October 2010 and registration is now open. [www.workingforacharity.org.uk](http://www.workingforacharity.org.uk)

[Home](#)

## FUNDING

### **SEN Consultation**

Herts County Council has launched a funding alert system. If you would like to be made aware of funding opportunities as they become available, please register your interest at: <http://www.hertsdirect.org/interactive/hccnewsupdates>

### **Woodward Charitable Trust**

The Woodward Charitable Trust awards grant funding to organisations in the UK working with social and ethnic minority groups, prisoners and ex-offenders, homelessness, people experiencing abuse and addiction. Small grants of between £100 and £5,000 and large grants of over £5,000 are available to UK registered charities with an annual turnover of less than £250,000. Next deadline: 24 May. [www.woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk](http://www.woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk)

### **Communitybuilders**

Communitybuilders is a £70m investment fund which takes forward a commitment within the 'Communities in Control: real people, real power' White Paper to build more cohesive, empowered and active communities. It invests in

the sustainability of multi-purpose, inclusive, community-led organisations (sometimes known as Community Anchors), and offers loans, grants and business support. [www.communitybuildersfund.org.uk](http://www.communitybuildersfund.org.uk)

### **Lloyds TSB Foundation Community Programme**

The foundation's Community Programme supports charities that help disadvantaged people play a fuller role in the community through improving social and community involvement. [www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk](http://www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk)

### **Venture Partnership Foundation**

VPF is dedicated to supporting social entrepreneurs and the dynamic charities that they run. It is currently looking at potential social ventures to be recipients for its next funding round, which starts soon. [www.vpf.org.uk](http://www.vpf.org.uk)

### **Northern Rock Foundation**

The foundation's trustees have agreed to increase the amount of funds available for grants in 2010 by £1m to £12m and have created two new programmes Managing Money and Having a Home for financial inclusion and homelessness projects. [www.nr-foundation.org.uk](http://www.nr-foundation.org.uk)

[Home](#)

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **More help from CBUK**

Charity Builder UK has introduced a new area of information with a range of practical tips and links from partners, NAVCA. 'More Help' includes guidance on CRB checks, Vetting and Barring, and Safeguarding, as well as how to get the most from the 2012 Games, community sport and a comprehensive guide to third sector jargon and terminology. Visit [www.charitybuilderuk.com](http://www.charitybuilderuk.com) to register or for more information.

### **Changes to Postal Rates**

For up to date rates from 6 April: [www.royalmail.com/prices2010](http://www.royalmail.com/prices2010)

### **Volunteers Week 2010**

The UK's annual celebration of the work done by volunteers takes place from 1-7 June. [www.volunteersweek.org.uk](http://www.volunteersweek.org.uk)

### **Volunteering for Civic Roles**

The Government, together with Business in the Community, has published an employer information pack to help employers understand the benefits of volunteering for civic roles, what is involved if their staff volunteer and how it can help their businesses. <http://bit.ly/otscivic>

### **Volunteering while Getting Benefits**

A reminder that this Job Centre Plus guidance is available at [www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/dwp1023.pdf](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/dwp1023.pdf)

**Speakup** have several resources that people with learning disabilities, parents with learning disabilities and other vulnerable and disadvantaged people can use to help them make choices. These resources have been funded through third sector grants. To learn more about the resources available visit [www.speakup.org.uk](http://www.speakup.org.uk).

### **PQASSO Quality Mark now available for Level three**

Charities Evaluation Services is now offering PQASSO Quality Mark reviews for Level three. [www.pqassoqualitymark.org.uk](http://www.pqassoqualitymark.org.uk)

### **Health for Work Adviceline**

Small organisations can access free occupational health advice from NHS Plus on any individual employee occupational, physical or mental health issue. Tel 0800 0 77 88 44 or [www.health4work.nhs.uk](http://www.health4work.nhs.uk)

### **Home**

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