

Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

NAVCA and Learning & Skills Council

The LSC has awarded a short contract to the TSNLA (Third Sector National Learning Alliance). The contract will ensure that third sector organisations in England are communicated with, and supported through the transition from the LSC to two new funders. NAVCA will project manage the work.

www.navca.org.uk/news/tsnlaawardedlsccontract.htm

New MAAs for LIOs (NAVCA members only)

NAVCA has launched a new model memorandum and articles (MAAs) for use by local infrastructure organisations (LIOs). This is fully compliant with the Charities Act 2006 and the Companies Act 2006, and approved as a charitable model by the Charity Commission. This can be used by existing or newly forming LIOs who wish to have an up to date and legally compliant governing document. For more information, to download the model and to read and hear guidance on how to use it visit www.navca.org.uk/memandarts (See *Legal Matters* for info on *Companies Act 2006 implementation*)

Thoughts on party conferences

NAVCA Chief Executive Kevin Curley recently attended the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative conferences, speaking at fringe events organised by the Charity Commission. You can read his speech, watch the podcast, and read Kevin's ideas about how NAVCA members can influence the Conservative Party's views on local charities and voluntary groups at:

www.navca.org.uk/news/partyconferencethoughts.htm

Skilling Up for Partnership Working

Are you involved in voice and influence work in your locality? Do you have responsibility for organising third sector networks, forums or assemblies? Have you got to develop training or a skills programme for representatives in the next

year? Skilling Up is a portfolio of materials and resources to support and develop the skills and understanding of local third sector representatives in effective partnership working. It has been designed to meet the need for local representation skills, summarised in publication 'Skilling up for Stronger Voices', see www.navca.org.uk/publications/strongervoices. To book NAVCA to deliver this training for you, see www.navca.org.uk/events

Social Investment Business

The Social Investment Business is the largest social investor in the UK. It manages the Futurebuilders Fund, the Communitybuilders Fund, the Modernisation Fund and the Social Enterprise Investment Fund. It brings finance, knowledge and expertise to help third sector organisations thrive - improving infrastructure, increasing capacity, helping them bid for, and win, public service contracts. www.socialinvestmentbusiness.org

Funding Central Dating Agency Launched

Funding Central, the smart web guide to over 4,000 grants, contracts and loan finance now enables you to search for potential organisations to collaborate with. All you need to do is create a public profile outlining what you do, plus your experience and expertise that others can benefit from. In the Find a Partner area, you can discover organisations that are looking to work together on a project or who are looking to put in joint bids for funding opportunities and contact them directly. It's a quick and easy to be involved – just register or sign in and create a “public profile”. There's a user guide to help you get started. <http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk>

Interested in learning, training or skills development?

Skills – Third Sector is the new independent skills body for the sector. Their new website has now gone live at www.skills-thirdsector.org.uk and is about to officially launch. The site contains all of the learning and skills resources previously found on the UK Workforce Hub website, alongside a forum to discuss any current issues around learning and skills and a space to promote your events and job vacancies.

New website, magazine and e bulletin launched to help support providers share their learning and resources

Improving Support brings together practical resources for all those providing support to third sector organisations. Funded by Capacitybuilders, the Improving Support website provides a gateway to the widest range of tools, contacts, information and support, creating an easily accessible community for the exchange of resources, ideas, advice and learning. Visit www.improvingsupport.org.uk and register as a member to make use of everything the website has to offer.

Information sharing

The Government has published guidance and supporting materials on information sharing, which have been updated to apply to those working with adults as well as with children and young people. <http://bit.ly/ecminfosharing> or <http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk>

Take Part

Take Part is a national programme, run at the local level, which aims to give people the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to have more of a say about what happens in their areas, and to help shape the decisions that affect their daily lives. The programme is managed by the Community Development Foundation on behalf of Communities and Local Government. www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/take-part. (see job vacancy below)

Update from My Herts LAA

- Visit <http://myhertslaa.blogspot.com> to find out more about the '**Silver linings in the recessionary clouds**', by Chris Lee, Social Enterprise East of England.
- Hertfordshire County Council is conducting a **Budgets and Priorities survey**. This is an opportunity to have your say about the county's priorities. The survey can be completed online at: <http://www.hertsdirect.org/haveyoursay/>
- **Take Part Project Worker** – Stevenage World Forum for Ethnic Communities. Temporary until March 2011, 20 hours a week. Job description available to view and download on the My Herts LAA [website](#).

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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Funding agreements

Four examples of funding agreements between local authorities and NAVCA members are now on their website. All four are regarded as good practice by Chief Officers in Tameside, Nottingham, Gloucester and Calderdale. www.navca.org.uk/localvs/funding/fundingagreements.htm

Hertfordshire Works Information Request

Hertfordshire Works, the county Economic Partnership, is collecting information on the delivery of services which meet skills, employability and enterprise needs in Hertfordshire for the new Skills and Economic Participation group. This includes any community based / outreach services and support for Social Enterprises. Comments regarding 'needs' and 'gaps' on front line services are also welcome. Please see template on the My Herts LAA [website](#). For further details, please contact Fiona Breaker-Rolfe on 01992 555382 or email Fiona.breaker-rolfe@hertscc.gov.uk

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LEGAL MATTERS

Small charity constitution

NAVCA, the Charity Commission and many other third sector organisations have developed a small charities constitution. The new constitution is designed to provide a concise, practical framework for charities with an income of under £5,000. It uses clear, direct language that is easy to understand, is only 700 words long and covers all the requirements for a very small charity which does not own land or employ staff. www.navca.org.uk/publications/smallcharityconst

Companies Act 2006 implementation

The Companies Act 2006 was fully implemented on 1st October 2009. If you are a trustee of a charitable company, an unincorporated charity considering incorporation or a director of a trading subsidiary owned by a charity, you should ensure you are familiar with the main changes brought about by the implementation, and the implications that such changes may have on your company, your governing document and your trustees' duties. For more details about the Act, and the final areas affected by the implementation please visit www.companieshouse.gov.uk

Changes to criminal record and vetting and barring checks - 12 October 2009

From the 12 October 2009 the three previous barring lists (POVA, POCA and List 99) have been replaced by two new barred lists administered by the Independent Safeguarding Authority. Checks of these two lists can be made as part of an Enhanced CRB check. www.navca.org.uk/localvs/crb/changes12oct.htm
NAVCA has also published a webpage on the changes to the system which took place on 12 October. www.navca.org.uk/localvs/crb/changes12oct.htm

First aid at work

New first aid training legislation came into force on 1 October, including revised guidance for employers and revised guidance for first aid training organisations. www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/training-guidance.htm

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Learning Launchpad

A reminder that the deadline for applications to the Learning Launchpad fund is 24 November. The Learning Launchpad is a fund delivered by the Young Foundation working in partnership with Edge to enable young people, whatever their background, to achieve their potential. The aim is to promote practical learning opportunities for young people. www.learninglaunchpad.org

Equality and Promoting Diversity in the Children's Workforce

Children England invite you to a series of free events on Building Equality and Promoting Diversity in the Children's Workforce. Regional seminars take place in Manchester and London during December, and there will be a national conference in Leeds on 9 March 2010. To find out more and to book a place, see www.childrenengland.org.uk/childrenenglandevents/415

Moving forward together: integrating workforce strategies in children's services

IDeA has published a report looking at what works best when all agencies involved in delivering children's services (including councils, education, health services, the police and voluntary organizations) - tackle their local shared workforce issues together. <http://bit.ly/ideachserv> or www.idea.gov.uk

Parent Volunteers and Vetting and Barring

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has a new frequently asked questions document on 'Parent volunteers and the new Vetting and Barring scheme' <http://preview.tinyurl.com/l4mlne>.

Your Family

NSPCC's award winning parenting magazine now has an accompanying website, www.yourfamily.org.uk.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-bullying week is 16-20 November 2009 - The focus of the week is cyber-bullying. www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

Every Night You Cry: the realities of having a parent in prison

Barnardo's has published a report on the outcomes of children with a parent in prison. It includes an audit of local authority children's plans and how they address the needs of prisoners' families. It calls for earlier intervention and support. <http://bit.ly/barnevni> or www.barnardos.org.uk

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PUBLICATIONS

Pathways Through the Maze: a Guide to Procurement Law

NAVCA and NCVO have jointly published 'Pathways Through the Maze', a guide to procurement regulations written for voluntary organisations and community groups. Available from www.navca.org.uk/publications/maze

New from the Charity Commission

- 'Helping charities through the economic downturn'
www.charitycommission.gov.uk/enhancingcharities/economic.asp

- 'Incorporating an existing charity as a company - Questions and answers'
<http://bit.ly/ccincorp> or www.charitycommission.gov.uk.

Parenting and wellbeing: knitting families together

The Young Foundation. <http://bit.ly/parentwellbeing> or www.youngfoundation.org

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TRAINING/EVENTS

Hertfordshire Community Foundation (HCF) AGM and Hertfordshire Infrastructure Consortium (HIC) Annual Conference.

1st December 2009 at the Fielder Centre in Hatfield. Programme and Booking form available to view and download on the My Herts LAA [website](#).

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FUNDING

Looking for Funding? See the [Herts CVS website](#) for specialist funding briefings from the Funding Advisors' Network, giving up-to-date funding sources for various categories. Alternatively, please see:
http://www.hertscvs.org.uk/looking_for_funding.asp

Community Cashback

Community Cashback is a new scheme which gives local people a say in how £4m of recovered criminal assets should be spent in their communities. You can suggest a project you would like to see happening in your area or have your say on a project suggested by someone else in your community.

<http://cashback.cjsonline.gov.uk>

Wilkinson and the community

Wilkinson makes donations to organisations through the Helping Hands Fund, and to individuals through the Wilkinson Local Stars scheme. Forms are available from your local Wilkinson store. <http://bit.ly/wilkchar> or www.wilkinsonplus.com

Clothworkers Foundation

Clothworkers Foundation has grants available for registered charities with incomes of less than £10m. Funding is granted for work in their key areas: encouragement of young people; social inclusion; elderly; disability; and visual impairment. www.clothworkers.co.uk/Grant-Making.aspx

Community Voices

Community Voices is a two-year nationwide programme funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for

Business, Innovation and Skills and delivered by Media Trust. It aims to engage and equip citizens who feel unheard or voiceless with the tools to help them express and exchange views on issues of relevance to them, thereby increasing individual and community empowerment. Running until March 2011, Community Voices will provide funding for 26 grassroots groups, alongside one major new initiative and a further 40 small grants of £500 for specific digital projects.

www.mediatrust.org/communityvoices

People's Postcode Trust

Charities can apply for grants of between £500 and £10,000 to support three-month projects from the People's Postcode Trust. The funding is available for charities and community groups working on human rights issues and environmental projects, as well as projects that prevent poverty and encourage community development and public participation in sport.

www.postcodetrust.org.uk/england.php

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OTHER NEWS

Charity Employees Benevolent Fund

Low wages and few benefits make people working for charities, and their families, vulnerable to serious financial hardship in times of illness, disability, bereavement and other unexpected disaster. The CEBF will provide assistance for people in these situations, bringing provision for charity employees in line with that for the rest of the UK workforce. The fund is now open for applications, with an official launch taking place on 16 November. www.cebf.org.uk

Volunteer Resources for Sports Clubs and Others

The Top Tips section of the Running Sports web site has been highlighted by Clink Volunteering and Mentoring bulletin as place for helpful tips on involving volunteers, not just sports clubs. There's also material on other areas, such as data protection.

http://www.runningsports.org/club_support/all_resources/top_tips/.

Risk assessment template

The Health and Safety Executive has published a template to create risk assessments and health and safety policies. It "brings together your risk assessment, health and safety policy and record of health and safety arrangements into one document to help get you started and save you time."

www.hse.gov.uk/risk/fivesteps.htm.

Using LawWorks to Help with Private Law Disputes

Initial Electronic Advice (IEA) is a free, automatic web based system which provides short, initial legal advice in response to relatively straightforward questions. It is designed to assist not for profit organisations and advice agencies

helping individuals who cannot afford to pay for solicitors privately. Organisations can send questions directly to the service via the dedicated web page: www.lawworksiea.org.uk In order to use the service you must register on-line at the time you first use the system. Organisations who are members of NCVO can also access the service via the NCVO website.

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

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