

Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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HCC RESPONSE TO CHANGE AGENDA

HCC 'Council for the Future'

The transformation of HCC to being a 'Council for the Future' is a response to the need to be more effective in the use of reduced resources (CSF has to make £50m of savings in the next three years). Information distributed by HCC detailing what's involved is available at:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/councilforthefuturetp>

Review of spending on Prevention & Wellbeing Services in the VCS

A joint letter from Adult Care Services and Children, Schools and Families highlighting principles on which future commissioning of VCS services would be based has been distributed. If you have not received a copy of this, please email william.allen@checc.org.uk

Herts Stakeholder Events: Prevention/Wellbeing/Voluntary & Community Services Review

All providers, voluntary organizations, charities, social enterprises and service users are invited to attend consultation events in Hitchin (14 October at Town Hall), St Albans (15 October at Vineyard Church), Watford (1 Nov at Holywell Community Centre), Ware (2 Nov at Wodson Park Sports Centre), Hatfield (10 Nov at Jim McDonald Centre). All 10 am to 4 pm and 7-9.30 pm in Hatfield with registration earlier. Booking required. For further details contact Andy Nazer 01438 844111 Email: andy.nazer@hertsc.gov.uk

NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

Voluntary Sector Delegation to Minister for Civil Society

Key discussion points from meeting between Voluntary sector delegation and Nick Hurd MP, the Minister for Civil Society.:

- That every area of England needs a strong organisation capable of representing the local voluntary and community sector and how valuable it would be if this recognition could be included in the Spending Review Report.
- A willingness to be involved in the Roadshows that will showcase good practice in local government/local VCS relationships.
- That members would like to follow-up the Roadshows by co-producing guidance on the steps which need to be taken locally to ensure good relationships.
- The voluntary sector must be closely involved in place-based budgeting.
- Offering support and practical help in developing a programme of volunteer placements all over England.
- It is important that new GP commissioners are encouraged to work with the local voluntary sector.
- Encouraging more private sector support for local voluntary action.

NCVO is exploring the evidence behind the Big Society policy agenda and has set up an evidence base that aims to bring together some of the key evidence sources to inform the debate and contribute to current thinking about how the different dimensions of the agenda might be taken forward. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/big-society-evidence>

Third Sector Foresight has produced free guides for infrastructure organisations. Each booklet in the Future Focus series takes a complex issue and breaks it down into easily accessible chunks of information. It also has tips and suggestions that organisations can build into their planning. http://www.improvingsupport.org.uk/resources_by_topic/change/uploaded_resources/latest_thinking/future_focus_-_free_infrastruc.aspx?lang=en-gb

Support from the Media Trust (NAVCA Members only)

Media Trust is offering free support to NAVCA members to help them to develop communications plans. http://www.mediatrust.org/get-support/improving-support-1/?dm_i=46N,7PY5,RCXAY,JI4Q,1

Updated model memorandum and articles of association

NAVCA has updated the model memorandum and articles of association for local support and development organization. Guidance and terminology are brought up-to-date, and additional information included about how to deal with membership options. <http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/llo/structure>

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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Prime Minister urges councils not to slash funding for voluntary groups

In response to a parliamentary question, David Cameron said "We should say to every single council in the country, when it comes to looking at your budgets and trimming your budgets, don't do the easy thing - which is to cut money to the voluntary bodies and to organisations working in our communities".

The local economic and social value of grant making with the voluntary and community sector

An edited version of this paper, published in March by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies and Voluntary Sector North West, is now available at <http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/grantmaking/>

Hertfordshire Forward – Annual Conference

The **Annual Herts Forward Conference** has been scheduled for 12 November at the Fielder Centre in Hatfield. Title: **Hertfordshire's Big Society**. For further details, please email joan.green@hertsc.gov.uk

Improving The Compact in line with government policies

A six week consultation has started on a new version of The Compact, which seeks to govern relationships between the public and voluntary sectors. The draft has been produced by Compact Voice, which represents the voluntary sector on the Compact, to reflect the approach of the new coalition government and in advance of October's Comprehensive Spending Review. The new version has 37 key principles compared with 95 previously. Civil Society Media news item at <http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/7332/> or <http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/renewal> Responses by 29th October.

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LEGAL MATTERS

Get Legal

In case you missed it earlier in the year, Get Legal is a new on-line reference and decision making tool that helps individuals and organisations choose the most appropriate legal form for their needs. Many organisations are already using this tool. Take a look at www.getlegal.org.uk

Central offices for pro bono legal advice

A new National Pro Bono Centre, which brings together LawWorks, the Bar Pro Bono Unit and the ILEX Pro Bono Forum in shared offices, is providing a central resource for people seeking pro bono legal advice and representation, including community groups. Interim website at <http://www.nationalprobonocentre.org.uk>

Ensure you are up to speed with online PAYE tools

HM Revenue and Customs is urging employers who are using Employers CD-ROM 2010 to update it now, to ensure up-to-date guidance and calculators, at <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/employers/cdrom/> They will be replacing the CD-ROM in February 2011 with a new downloadable application 'Basic PAYE Tools' and the September update will help take full advantage. Employers should, if they haven't already, register for HMRC's email alert service at <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/payef/forms-publications/register.htm>

Work-related stress: what the law says

The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD), with support from the Health and Safety Executive, ACAS and others, has published new guidance for employers highlighting the importance of managing employee stress through tough economic times. It is in employers' interests to tackle staff anxiety through good people management, and there are legal risks if they ignore their responsibilities. Download from CIPD at http://www.cipd.co.uk/subjects/health/stress/_work-related-stress-what-law-says.htm

Charity Commission consults on plans to make its services available online only

The Charity Commission is consulting on plans to make a range of its services accessible online or by email only. The Commission hope that their online strategy will help ensure it remains able to provide a wide range of services to charities and provide a quicker service. The Commission would like to know what you think of the proposals and ways in which it can improve its online provision of services.

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/About_us/About_the_Commission/ols_consultation_intro.aspx

SANDY ADIRONDACK: AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGAL UPDATE WEBSITE FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Equality Act

The main provisions of the Equality Act will come into effect in October as planned, but it is still not completely clear exactly what will and will not be in effect. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-act

Resources

- Government Equalities Office: 10 new Equality Act summary guides: including four specifically for voluntary and community sector organisations.
- ACAS: Equality Act 2010 quick start guide for employers
- Equality and Human Rights Commission: More detailed guidance for employers, employees, service providers and service users, as well as guidance on the definitions of protected characteristics. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equality-resources

Consultation

- Until 31 October on guidance on the revised definition of disability.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#concepts
or go direct to www.officefordisability.gov.uk/working/equality-bill.php
- Until 10 November on extension of public sector equality duty to cover age, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, religion/belief, and sexual orientation
www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#advancement
or go direct to www.equalities.gov.uk/news/specific_duties_consultation.aspx

Equality Law – changes not directly related to the Equality Act

- BIS proposes that from October 2011, retirement on the basis of age will be unlawful unless it can be objectively justified – consultation ends 21 October 2010. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#defaultretirement or go direct to www.bis.gov.uk/retirement-age
- Equality and Human Rights Commission/British Chambers of Commerce quick-start guidance on equal pay audits for small and medium employers. They say a basic audit should take about half a day for an employer with up to 20 employees in five different jobs. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equalpay-guide or go direct to www.equalityhumanrights.com/equalpay-quickstart
- TUC list of disability access resources (sign language interpreters, Braille transcribers etc). www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#access-resources or go direct to <http://tinyurl.com/2g34a2h>

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Herts Children's Trust Partnership (HCTP)

- The 2010 **Herts Safeguarding Children Board Conference** will be held at the Fielder Centre on 1 November 2010. Theme: **Neglect – the elephant in the room** For further details, please see: www.hertssafeguarding.org.uk
- **VCS/ CYP Forum meeting**: 1:30 – 4:30pm, Friday 24 September 2010, Cecil Room, Hatfield House. Contact: office@nhcvs.org.uk
- **Training opportunities** are available for Volunteers and staff of voluntary sector organisations that work with children and young people. For further details, please see the Documents and Downloads page on <http://www.myhertstogether.co.uk/>
- The latest **CYP/ VCS forum newsletter** is now available to view and download on <http://www.myhertstogether.co.uk/>

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LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT/EVENTS

Develop your voluntary sector management skills

NCVO Working For A Charity's online course in Effective Voluntary Sector Management is commencing in October and online enrolment is now open. The course is accredited by Roehampton University and offers online tutor support. The course allows you to develop your management skills at a time and location that suits you. Topics covered include financial management, governance and fundraising. <http://www.wfac.org.uk/training/online-learning-course.html>

Winning the Contract

Winning the Contract is a free online public procurement course helping small organisations bid for public sector contracts. The course is aimed at anyone responsible for business development within their organisations. It takes place online and takes a maximum of four hours, to be completed at the convenience of the delegate. Once registered, delegates have six months to complete the course. <http://www1.learn-direct-business.com/business-courses/winning-the-contract/>

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FUNDING

Hertfordshire Sustainability Funding Fair

The Hertfordshire Sustainability Funding Fair is taking place on **13th October** at the accessible Fielder Centre in Hatfield. This is a free, all day event aimed at Hertfordshire VCS organisations. To book: <http://herts-sustainable-funding-fair.eventbrite.com/>

Funding in Herts

See <http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/hcc/stratandpart/rpu/funding/>, Herts CC's Funding Information Gateway, for a range of information on funding.

Sustainable Investments in Communities Fund re-opening

Sport England has announced that its Sustainable Investment in Communities Fund will re-open for applications on 26 October. Deadline: 21 December. http://www.sportengland.org.uk/funding/sustainable_facilities.aspx

Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards

The Tesco Charity Trust is accepting applications for projects that support older people, adults and children with disabilities living in the communities around their stores in the UK. One-off grants of between £500 and £4,000 are available. <http://cr2010.tescopl.com/communities/tesco-charity-trust.aspx>

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OTHER NEWS

Repairing Workplace Relationships

Mediation Herts is expanding its service for Workplaces. Specialist mediators are available to assist with personnel problems arising with both paid and voluntary workers. Save costs, foster better working relationships, For further information about this confidential and cost-effective service contact Elaine Mercer on 07866 119749 or Elaine.mercer@mediationherts.org.uk

Volunteer for the Olympics

The London 2012 Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games is calling on dedicated and passionate people to apply to its London 2012 Games Maker volunteering programme and be part of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Applications for generalist roles open at 8am on 15 September 2010. People now have until midnight on Wednesday 27 October 2010 to apply online. <http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/volunteer/volunteering-landing.php>

Cut Price Stationery Offer

In Kind Direct and Staples are offering charities preferential pricing on the full range of products at Staples Advantage. In Kind Direct is a charity that re-distributes new goods donated by manufacturers and retailers. For further information and to register, please see: www.inkinddirect.org

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