

## Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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### NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

**NAVCA Event for Smaller LIOs (*NAVCA members only*)** NAVCA is holding a networking and development event designed and priced with the needs of smaller LIOs in mind. 3 February, Reading.  
[www.navca.org.uk/events/shoestring.htm](http://www.navca.org.uk/events/shoestring.htm)

#### **Circulation 411 (*NAVCA Members Only*)**

The latest edition of 'Circulation' is now on the NAVCA website. Articles include The Department of Health Green Paper 'Shaping the Future of Care Together'; Volunteering and Citizenship; an introduction to twitter; and the long-awaited NJC payscales 2009/10.

[www.navca.org.uk/publications/circulation/2009/411](http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/circulation/2009/411)

#### **NJC scales 2009/10**

Final agreement has been reached for 2009-10. In general, they represent a 1% increase, but there is a higher increase for some of the lower scale points.

[www.navca.org.uk/localvs/scales](http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/scales)

#### **Personalisation Agenda – free event**

Find out all about the new personalisation agenda by attending **Transforming Together** on 27 November 2009 at Stevenage Football Club hosted by Beds, Herts and Luton Social Care Workforce Development Brokerage. The event is open to organizations who provide a minimum of 50% of their services in Herts, is aimed at senior staff and is an opportunity to find out how personal budgets will impact on voluntary organisations. Email [bhlbrokerage@herts.ac.uk](mailto:bhlbrokerage@herts.ac.uk) for further details.

### **State of the Voluntary Sector**

NCVO has recently published 'The State and the Voluntary Sector ... Recent trends in government funding and public service delivery'. One of the key trends identified is clear shift from grants to contracts from local authorities and the fall in grant income (in 2007 Local Authority grants fell from £1.6 billion to £1.3 billion - a fall of 20%.) 77p in every £1 of local authority funding to the sector comes in contracts as opposed to grants, and a disproportionately high amount of that contract funding is concentrated in large and medium sized charities.

<http://bit.ly/stateofvolsec> or [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk)

### **Real Help Now**

The Government's 'Real Help Now' programme aims to support individuals, families, charities and businesses through the recession. info4local has brought together key information from central Government on 'Real Help Now' schemes. Although targeted at local authorities, the information is useful to help voluntary and community sector organisations to understand what is on offer and what local authorities should be doing to help.

[www.info4local.gov.uk/realhelpnow](http://www.info4local.gov.uk/realhelpnow)

### **Social Investment Business**

Social Investment Business, the new trading name for the Adventure Capital Fund and Futurebuilders England, is now operational.

[www.socialinvestmentbusiness.org](http://www.socialinvestmentbusiness.org)

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## **WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**

### **Proposed Merger of Herts PCTs**

A consultation has been launched on the proposed merger of East and North Herts PCT with West Herts PCT. Closing date for responses is 11 November 2009. For a copy of the proposal email [lyn.hibbert@herts-pcts.nhs.uk](mailto:lyn.hibbert@herts-pcts.nhs.uk) or contact the PCTs chief executive at [Anne.Walker@herts-pcts.nhs.uk](mailto:Anne.Walker@herts-pcts.nhs.uk) with any queries.

### **Update from MyHertsLAA:**

- Using the Compact to deliver NI7. Compact Voice has produced a scorecard to help inform NI7 action. The **Compact Scorecard for a Thriving Third Sector** is available to view and download on the both the [Compact Voice](#) and the [My Herts LAA](#) websites.
- **Business and the Third Sector: Innovation through tough times.** An Office of the Third Sector (OTS) publication. Available to view and download on the My Herts LAA [website](#).
- After a review of the procedure, Children Schools and Families (CSF) and the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children board have agreed that the **'What if' conversations** (where professionals are able to contact CSF for a

professional conversation without giving case details) will no longer operate. For further details, please see:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/caresupport/childfam/childprotection/15418660/>

- And at <http://myhertslaa.blogspot.com> read how the Hertfordshire CABx are working to beat the recession.

### **Better commissioning for carers**

A guide which will serve as a blueprint for better commissioning for carers has been jointly published by a number of care charities and official bodies.

'Commissioning for carers' can be found at

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=13255730>

### **CAA and sustainability**

Sustainability is one of the four themes underlying comprehensive area assessment (CAA). The Improvement Network has produced a new online briefing resource for public sector officers and LSP partners, demonstrating how embedding sustainability in their work improves performance and adds value.

<http://bit.ly/caasustainability> or [www.improvementnetwork.gov.uk](http://www.improvementnetwork.gov.uk)

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## **LEGAL MATTERS**

### **All employers to file annual returns online**

New PAYE Regulations mean that employers with fewer than 50 employees will be required to file Employer Annual Returns online from the tax year ending 5 April 2010. The return remains due by 19th May. HMRC will send employers further details later in the year <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/employers-bulletin/bulletin33/annualreturns.htm>.

### **National Minimum Wage rates from October**

The National Minimum Wage rates increased from 1st October. The new amounts are £5.80 an hour to workers aged 22 and above, and £4.83 an hour to workers aged 18 to 21. HMRC item at <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/employers-bulletin/bulletin33/nmw.htm>

### **Revised charitable company registration documents**

The Charity Commission has released a new model Memorandum and Articles of Association (GD1) for charitable companies, revised to meet requirements of the Companies Act 2006 for registrations from 1st October.

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/registration/gd1new.asp> And a Question and Answer Pack "Incorporating an existing charity as a company"

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/supportingcharities/incqanda.asp>.

Existing charitable companies do not need to change the format of their current governing documents - from the date of the change, the provisions in the existing memorandum of association will become part of the articles.

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## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### **Guidance on child employment**

The Department for Children Schools and Family has produced an excellent 'Guide on the Employment of Children', covering everything from the types of work children can (and cannot) do, through the number of hours they can be required to work, to specific health and safety requirements. <http://preview.tinyurl.com/nq7ota>.

### **Children's workforce activity**

NAVCA has published an updated snapshot of children's workforce activity across the country at [www.navca.org.uk/stratwork/children/cwdc](http://www.navca.org.uk/stratwork/children/cwdc) (follow link under Good Practice).

### **CWDC website**

CWDC has launched a new look website and refreshed branding to reflect the organisation's increased remit and responsibility to lead change in the children and young people's workforce. [www.cwdcouncil.org.uk](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk)

### **Tune In - Year of Music**

Tune in is a new national project from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, aiming to encourage children and young people across England (from birth to nineteen) to take part in more music-related activities. [www.dcsf.gov.uk/tunein](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/tunein)

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## THE ENVIRONMENT

### **10:10**

10:10 is an empowering climate change campaign from the Guardian, which aims to get individuals, companies and institutions to reduce their carbon footprints by 10% during 2010. You can sign up on the 10:10 website at [www.1010uk.org](http://www.1010uk.org)

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## PUBLICATIONS

### New DSC Publications

- **The Russell-Cooke Voluntary Sector Legal Handbook**  
Third edition. £60 + £6 p&p
- **Managing in a Downturn: Staying Solvent and Surviving Well'** £18.95
- **365 Ways to Cut Costs** £16.95

[www.dsc.org.uk/publications](http://www.dsc.org.uk/publications)

### Reserves policies made simple

This Sayer Vincent guidance is now available via a link from the NAVCA website.

[www.navca.org.uk/localvs/governance](http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/governance)

### Assessing community group influence

A tool which helps community groups and networks to assess and improve the influence they have on agencies and partnerships has been created by a consultancy specialising in community empowerment. There are some resources on 'Voice' at <http://changesuk.net/resources/axis-of-influence-series-voice-and-echo/> which can be used to: assess and monitor community influence, prompt discussion and debate within groups and help plan how to become more influential.

### Types of collaboration

Bassac website. <http://bit.ly/collaborationtypes> or [www.bassac.org.uk](http://www.bassac.org.uk)

### Considering collaboration or merger?

The Charity Commission has published two toolkits to help charities decide whether collaborative working or merger would help them and their beneficiaries.

[www.charitycommission.gov.uk/news/prcollmer.asp](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/news/prcollmer.asp)

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## TRAINING/EVENTS

### Creating a thriving third sector

COVER annual conference and AGM. 21 October, Cambridge. [www.cover-east.org/Events.asp](http://www.cover-east.org/Events.asp)

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## FUNDING

### **Reaching Communities**

The Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities fund is a demand-led programme which encourages voluntary and community organisations to identify their own local ideas for funding. It will support projects that improve the quality of life of communities across England, offering help where it is most needed. The minimum grant awarded is £10,000 and the maximum grant is £500,000.

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_reaching\\_communities](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_reaching_communities)

### **Drinkaware Grants**

Drinkaware has a programme of grants aimed at changing the UK's drinking culture for the better. Activities should influence public behaviour and find innovative ways to raise awareness about the effects of alcohol, reduce its misuse and minimise alcohol-related harm. Grants of up to £100,000 are given throughout the UK. [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)

### **Trusthouse Charitable Foundation**

The foundation is accepting applications to fund small projects working specifically with prisoners and ex-offenders to improve their mental health and to help their integration into the community. The next deadline for applications is 27 November. [www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk](http://www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk)

### **Comic Relief UK Grants Programmes 2009/12**

Comic Relief welcomes applications from organisations who work in the UK and have charitable aims. There are currently eight UK programmes: refugee and asylum seeking women; domestic and sexual abuse; sexual exploited and trafficked young people; young people and alcohol; mental health; young people with mental health problems; sport for change; local communities. Programmes for older people and young carers will open later this year. [www.comicrelief.com](http://www.comicrelief.com)

### **Awards to help small organisations get online**

The BT Community Connections IT award scheme is once again open for applications from community and charitable organisations which want to get online. Groups able to demonstrate how an award will benefit their work and the local community, can apply for a laptop and a year's worth of broadband connection. Online applications by 7th January 2010,

<http://www.btcommunityconnections.com>.

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## OTHER NEWS

### **Making good use of empty shops**

The Meanwhile Project, led by the Development Trusts Association, has been set up to boost community uses of empty shops in town centres. There are various resources, such as a Rates matrix - a guide to the current business rates system in England, and links to a discussion network, at <http://www.meanwhile.org.uk>.

### **Free Legal Advice**

Lawworks is a small independent charity which matches volunteer lawyers with opportunities to use their skills for the public good (pro bono). The Choices Project matches unemployed lawyers (and there are increasing numbers!) with pro bono activity while Initial Electronic Advice is an automated, web-based system, which allows not for profit organisations and advice agencies to submit a short legal query and have this answered by a trained lawyer via email, completely free of charge. Contact [www.lawworksiea.org.uk](http://www.lawworksiea.org.uk).

### **Advice for employers of lone workers**

A leaflet from the Health and Safety Executive, giving advice and guidance on how to keep lone workers healthy and safe, has been updated. Download 'Working alone Health and safety guidance on the risks of lone working' from <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg73.pdf>.

### **Networking for befriending schemes**

VitalLinks is a new national network of befriending schemes for older people, <http://www.counselandcare.org.uk/networks/vitallinks/>.

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