

Info Digest



Herts CVS Group: Promoting and developing voluntary activity across Hertfordshire

October 2011

Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

Transforming Local Infrastructure Bid Support (*NAVCA members*)

NAVCA has been engaged to facilitate an away day for one local partnership to help them agree which change ideas they will focus on in their bid. If you would like a NAVCA facilitator to help you and your local partners arrive at a consensus about your local change programme please contact tlisupport@navca.org.uk

National Planning Framework

NAVCA has published a briefing paper on the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF makes provision for much greater local community involvement in planning for local areas. They also, however, contain a new 'Presumption in favour of sustainable development' and significant financial incentives for local councils to allow development proposals. The proposals have far-reaching implications both for local areas and for vulnerable communities, such as Gypsies and Travellers, and individuals. The consultation is open until 17 October. <http://www.navca.org.uk/influencing-planning-and-development>

Localism?

Thought piece by Hilary Barnard from Cass Business School. In it, he offers his personal view of the consequences of Government Localism and the Localism Bill for voluntary and community sector organisations. He advocates engagement with policy makers and opinion formers that works to retain the best of national frameworks and standards whilst enabling local initiative by voluntary and community sector organisations and their partners to meet local need. http://www.cass.city.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/103880/Whose_localism2.pdf

Plan your neighbourhood with Building Community

The Building Community programme offers free expert advice to help community groups get involved in the planning process and shape their local neighbourhood.

They offer free guidance, workshops and resources.

<http://locality.org.uk/projects/building-community/>

Business rates

The Government is reviewing how local authorities are funded. The Proposals for Business Rates Retention may result in less funding for areas with high levels of deprivation, although the Government sets out how it might mitigate the impact. Any changes to council funding is likely to affect a significant proportion of local voluntary and community organisations. NAVCA's briefing sets out the key issues. <http://www.navca.org.uk/local-government-finance-reform>

IBM pro-bono marketing support

As part of their centenary year celebration, IBM UK is launching a marketing bureau providing pro bono consultancy to charities and the voluntary and community sector. <http://www-05.ibm.com/uk/marketingmatters/>

Best Value

CLG has published new guidance on Best Value. On the positive side, it includes social value and the need to avoid disproportionate cuts. However, it also reaffirms the commitment to repeal Duty to Involve. It also states that "it is not necessary for authorities to undertake lifestyle or diversity questionnaires" in the interests of "economy and efficiency".

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/bestvaluestatguidance>

Implication of Best Value Guidance

But what does it mean if you are funded by your local authority - what difference could it make? Melanie Carter (right), a partner at Bates Wells & Braithwaite, has written this short commentary on what the Best Value guidance is, its legal status and how it might have an impact on any decision to cut funding.

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/BestValueGuidance.pdf>

Big Lottery Consultation

A reminder that the Cabinet Office is holding a consultation on the proposed policy directions of the Big Lottery Fund. NAVCA are keen to prevent a watering down of the commitment to the voluntary and community sector. The consultation is open until 18 November 2011. <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/big-lottery-fund-consultation-proposed-policy-directions>

Navigate the NHS Changes

Briefing from NCVO, NAVCA & Regional Voices to explain what the effects will be over the next few years and how you can adapt. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/news/civil-society/new-briefing-help-charities-navigate-changes-local-health-agenda>

Further NHS Discussion

The Government has asked the NHS Future Forum to continue a new phase of conversations with patients, service users and professionals following its listening exercise on the proposals to modernise the NHS. Three subjects of particular interest to the VCS are; Information, Education and Training, Integration. A slide pack has been designed if your organisation would like to run a listening event. <http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/say/>

Paying Trustees

Karl Wilding, Head of Policy, Research & Foresight at NCVO has written an interesting and easy to read blog on the subject of paying trustees. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/networking-discussions/blogs/209/11/09/25/payment-charity-trustees-inevitable>

MPs say Big Society will fail

The Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) has warned that the Big Society agenda will fail as civil servants do not have the skills to implement it, and there is a reluctance to do the reforms. http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/governance/news/content/10539/big_society_will_fail_says_committee_mps

Working with Job Centre Plus

Volunteering England with support from NAVCA, have published a guide to [working with Job Centre Plus](#) (JCP) which includes examples of different ways that volunteer centres are working with JCP. NAVCA and VE have also been working with JCP and DWP to ensure that JCP staff have a better understanding of the local voluntary sector and volunteering. <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/WhatWeDo/Policy/Benefits+and+employment>

Independent Action The NCIA September newsletter is out. Challenging as ever, it also manages to surprise by leading with an article saying there are reasons to be cheerful. <http://ymlp.com/zODrVi>

Charity Commission looks to Sector Umbrella Bodies

The Charity Commission is considering the possibility of sector umbrella bodies taking on aspects of its work. Commission chair Dame Suzi Leather, speaking at their recent annual meeting said "There have been discussions about an umbrella support coalition of sector groups taking on an advice function that feeds off Charity Commission guidance. Then, we could deal with a limited number of umbrellas rather than 180,000 charities." All charities might be expected to become a member of an umbrella body, and there might be a need to "seed" new umbrella bodies in areas where they don't exist. Articles & comment: <http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/news/article/1094973/>; <http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/10533/>; <http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/governance/news/content/10542/>

Guidance on Social Media in the Workplace

The employment relations body Acas has produced guidance on managing the use of social media in the workplace. There are fact-sheets giving practical tips on how to manage the impact of social networking on Managing performance, Recruitment, Discipline and grievances, Bullying, plus Defamation, data protection and privacy, with a guide on how to develop a social networking policy. <http://www.acas.org.uk/socialnetworking>

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Ofsted report says VCS not considered

This small-scale survey examines approaches to the commissioning of services for young people in 12 local authority areas and reports on the experience of national organisations involved in this work. The survey highlights that in most cases, local authorities were not giving sufficiently impartial consideration to new providers as part of their commissioning, particularly voluntary sector, community and charitable organisations. <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/evaluation-of-approaches-commissioning-young-peoples-services>

88% of local areas support the Compact

Compact Voice has published the results of a survey into the state of local Compacts. Overall, 88% of respondents agreed that "the Compact is important. <http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/survey2011>

User Guide to Local Compacts

Compact Voice has published 'Local Compacts: A User Guide' giving practical information on what Compacts can cover, communicating their contents, addressing non-compliance and more. ("A local Compact is a mutually agreed document and approach to partnership working between sectors.") Available in sections or as a complete download in pdf: <http://preview.tinyurl.com/3fsjeuu>, with other formats available on request.

Good Practice in Decommissioning

The National Audit Office has produced a fact sheet and guidance around good practice in decommissioning the third sector from delivery of public services http://www.thecovergroup.org.uk/cover/administrator/index.php?option=com_docman§ion=documents&task=download&bid=29

LEGAL MATTERS

SANDY ADIRONDACK: AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGAL UPDATE WEBSITE FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS at www.sandy-a.co.uk/legal.htm

- **1 October:** National minimum wage goes up.

- www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#minimumwage
- **1 October:** Agency temps have new rights not to be treated less favourably than comparable directly employed staff. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#agencyrights
- **1 October:** No more HSE infoline – for health & safety guidance we now have to depend on the HSE website. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#h&s-infoline
- **12 September:** Most accident and incident reporting required under RIDDOR now has to be done on their website - no more fax, post or email reporting, except for fatal and major incidents and injuries, which can be reported by either phone or website. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#riddor

To subscribe to Sandy's email updates, send details to legalupdate@sandy-a.co.uk

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT/EVENTS

Herts Funding Fair

Fielder Centre, Hatfield Business Park, Hatfield AL10 9TP

12th October 2011 from 10.00am to 4.30pm.

This FREE, all day event, sponsored by Hertfordshire County Council, and attended by numerous funders and specialist advisors, is aimed at Herts based or Herts operating groups and includes: expert advice seminars, informative exhibitions and stands and one to one sessions (including free advice from sponsor Mercer & Hole Chartered Accountants)

<http://hertsfundingfair.eventbrite.com/> or contact Patricia Saunders, Herts Community Foundation 01707 251351

Localism Conference *(NAVCA members only)*

NAVCA localism conference on Tuesday 22 November doubles up as our annual conference, and includes the AGM and Kevin Curley's farewell address to NAVCA members and friends. <http://www.navca.org.uk/events/home>

FUNDING

Learning from Unsuccessful Grant Applications

Guidelines on how charities can learn from unsuccessful grant applications has been published by the Centre for Charity Effectiveness at Cass Business School. [http://www.cass.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/103679/Promising Practice_Complete_Electronic.pdf](http://www.cass.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/103679/Promising_Practice_Complete_Electronic.pdf)

Social Action Fund

The Social Action Fund is a new grant fund of over £20 million. The Fund will launch on 3 October 2011 and close on 28 October 2011. It aims to inspire

organisations to create new social action opportunities through people giving what they have, be that their time, their money, or their assets, knowledge and skills. <http://www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org/our-funds/social-action-fund/>

Woodward Charitable Trust

The Trust aims to support small-scale, locally-based charitable initiatives in the UK. Funding is primarily for one-off projects, but the Trustees are willing to consider funding running costs, including core cost and salaries.

<http://www.woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk/index.html>

ScottishPower Energy People Trust

Charities and not-for-profit groups who are working to alleviate fuel poverty can apply for up to £50,000. Deadline 18 October.

<http://www.energypeopletrust.com/content/default.asp>

Live Unltd

Live Unltd offers support and up to £5000 in funding for young people aged between 11 and 21 to develop an idea that helps their community.

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

Porticus UK

Porticus UK awards grants of between £10,000 and £25,000 for activities that fall under the following categories: Strengthening Family Relationships, Enriching Education, Transformation through Faith and Ethics in Practice.

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

Yapp Charitable Trust

Yapp Charitable Trust awards grants to small registered charities to sustain existing work. Grants are normally for a maximum of £3,000 per year and most of their grants are for more than one year because they give priority to ongoing needs. <http://www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk/>

Small Grants

The Edgar E Lawley Foundation current annual grants programme amounts to approximately £250,000 per annum with a typical grant being in the region of £1,200 to £2,000. The Foundation supports six broad areas including children and young people. Deadline 31 October.

<http://www.edgarelawleyfoundation.org.uk/main.htm>

Land Aid

LandAid is a trust set up by the UK property industry to help disadvantaged youngpeople access facilities, skills and opportunities to achieve their potential. You can apply for two funds: a Training, Education and Support Fund and a Capital ProjectsFund. In both cases grants of between £5,000 and £25,000 are available across the UK. <http://www.landaid.org/grants/>

OTHER NEWS

Volunteers and the Minimum Wage

Updated official guidance has been published on the minimum wage for volunteers and work experience staff and interns.

<http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?r.l1=1073858787&r.l2=1084822773&r.l3=1081657912&r.s=tl&topicId=1096697303>

Community Toolkit

Zurich are supporting Community Toolkit, a free information resource for people who want to get involved in organising smaller, straightforward community activities. Get some guidance on how to set up and plan your community group's activities. Get a free personalised Community Toolkit Pack to help get your activity started. <http://www.communitytoolkit.co.uk/>

Community Newswire is back

Community Newswire, the free news distribution service is back thanks to Big lottery funding. The service lets charities and community groups upload their press releases and news stories, which are then picked up by journalists from the Press Association news agency, rewritten, fact checked and distributed to newsrooms nationwide. <http://www.mediatrust.org/get-support/community-newswire-1/>

Getting up to Speed with Technology

Digital Unite's Learning Zone provides a free online resource offering over 200 easy-to-use learner guides for people at all levels. Topics covered include getting started and how to email to using social networking sites and downloading music and films. <http://learning.digitalunite.com/>

BT Community Web Kit

BT has tools that let voluntary and community groups build and maintain their own simple website free of charge. <http://www.btck.co.uk/>

Co-op simply series

Co-operatives UK has launched a series of advice guides for community enterprises. The guides are free and are available online and as hard copies. <http://www.uk.coop/simplyseries>

NCVO Sustainable Funding Project

Sustainable funding requires a good plan - help is at hand

NCVO has lots of information on their website to help you fit income generation into your overall strategic planning:

- Strategy - the first steps to sustainability
<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/advice-support/funding-finance/planning>
- Strategy - a four phase process
<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/advice-support/strategy/four-phase-process>

- Planning tools

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/advice-support/change/looking-out/tools>

For the full guide to all NCVO funding and finance resources: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sfp/tools-resources>

NCVO Member Benefits

- **HR Support:** All NCVO members are eligible for HR telephone support and online documentation service provided by PEACe HR Services. They also provide an HR Health Check service. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/peace-hr-services>
- **VAT & Tax:** Helpline (free if annual income less than £100k) <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/products-services/preferred-suppliers/vat-advice>
- **Free Magazine Offer:** for a limited time, you can request two free editions of Charity Finance, Fundraising and/or Governance magazines. Fill in your choices at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Y8QG3T9>

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Funded by the HCC Strategic Leadership Contract

