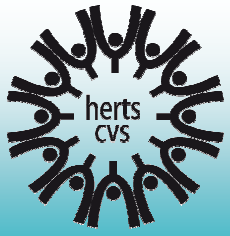
Info Digest



Herts CVS Group: Promoting and developing voluntary activity across Hertfordshire September 2011

Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Voluntary Sector

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NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

False Economy
False Economy has reported local charities face £100m cuts from local government. NAVCA's view is that local charities are without doubt in crisis although the report from 'False Economy' understates the problem. They think that the total cuts in statutory funding of all kinds could be as high as £1.2bn this year. They provide a downloadable spreadsheet of their research broken down by area. http://falseeconomy.org.uk/blog/exclusive-more-than-2000-charities-and-community-groups-face-cuts

More Cuts Information
Compact Voice research has shown that more than half of councils have cut funding to the sector disproportionately. This is in direct opposition to the reasonable expectations that Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, set out in a speech last year. Therefore Kevin Curley and other sector leaders have signed a letter expressing concern and calling for greater leadership by CLG. http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/letter

Sustainable Support: Innovation in income for Local Support Organisations
8th December 2011, 2-5pm NCVO Conference Suite, London
The recent drop in voluntary sector income has proved particularly difficult for local support organisations. NCVO's seminar is an opportunity to hear how other support providers from across England have tried and tested innovative approaches to finding a more sustainable income. http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/training-events/funding-finance/sustainable-suppor-master-class-series-event-1-becoming-more-entrepr

Social Enterprise
Independent consultant Andrea Westall answers the question 'Is social enterprise the cure to all charity ills?'. http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/networking-discussions/blogs/21433/11/08/01/social-enterprise-cure-all-charity-ills-guest-blog-andre with links to further information and resources at bottom of the page.

Survey report on state of Social Enterprise
The newly re-named Social Enterprise UK (previously the Social Enterprise Coalition) has published research on the state of social enterprise based on a survey earlier this year. It found that well over half of social enterprises grew last year, compared with around a quarter of conventional SMEs (small and medium enterprises). The report 'Fightback Britain' can be downloaded via http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/pages/publications.html

Big Lottery Fund receives Dormant Bank Funding
The Big Lottery Fund has received its first funding of £30m from dormant bank and building society accounts. http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/networking-discussions/blogs/21433/11/08/01/social-enterprise-cure-all-charity-ills-guest-blog-andre

Localism

- A quick overview of the government's approach to localism from NCVO http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/networking-discussions/blogs/18452/11/08/05/short-guide-localism
- ACEVO, ACRE, CDF, Community Matters, Locality, NAVCA, NCVO, Plunkett Foundation, Social Enterprise UK and Urban Forum have combined forces to produce two new joint briefings on the Community Right to Challenge and the Community Right to Buy, for the Report Stage of the Localism Bill in the House of Lords. http://www.navca.org.uk/localism-bill-navca-briefings

Community Organisers Resource
The Community Organisers programme being run by Locality has a new web resource which may have wider interest, called CoCollaborative, "a cupboard of knowledge and stories", http://www.cocollaborative.org.uk There's also a section that gives the location of community organisers and hosts.

Funding Case Study
Following on from last month's membership funding story (http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/networking-discussions/blogs/21433/11/07/06/funding-stories-how-theatre-company-used-their-supporter) a second video case study on how small charity Bold Vision successfully gained financial and in-kind support to build a new community meeting space. This useful and accessible case study shows how the board set up and funded their grassroots community project from scratch. http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/networking-discussions/blogs/21433/11/08/04/funding-stories-how-one-grassroots-community-project-got

What are the Seven Deadly Charity Myths?
Read Karl Wilding's blog dispelling common myths about charities. Karl is head of policy and research at NCVO and a St Albans CVS trustee. http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/networking-discussions/blogs/209/11/08/08/seven-deadly-charity-myths

LEGAL MATTERS

Basics of Agency Worker Regs
Some basic advice from Bates Wells and Braithwaite solicitors on what organisations which use agency workers should be doing before 1st October, when the new equal treatment regulations come in, at http://www.bwbllp.com/Updates/Agency-Worker-Regulations-2011.html Such organisations should be auditing use and working out how to comply, with the equalisation of "basic working and employment conditions" likely to cause the most issues, as this includes certain aspects of pay and holidays.

Anticipating work issues for the Olympics
Employment relations advisory body ACAS has set up a web page dedicated to issues around the London 2012 Olympics, covering such issues as managing attendance and flexible working. http://www.acas.org.uk/olympics

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Herts CC Updates
Children, Schools and Families becomes Children's Services
Changes at HCC mean that Children, Schools and Families is now Children's Services. Justin Donovan is now Director of Education and Early Intervention Services and Jenny Coles has a slightly amended title of Director of Children's Safeguarding and Specialist Services. New Board arrangements are in place, led by Justin and Jenny, with a monthly Children's Services Board to deal with joint issues.

Update on HCC children's services transformation in Hertfordshire
As part of the transformation of Children's Services in Hertfordshire, local partnerships of schools have been established to ensure a mechanism exists to promote a local network of universal and preventative services together with the establishment of teams that will deliver support for children with additional and special educational needs directly affecting their access to education and their engagement in learning. Named Integrated Services for Learning (ISL) their aim is to : "work in partnership to improve access to learning". http://www.thegrid.org.uk/leadership/transformation/ for more information, fact sheets and local partnership area maps. General enquiries about the programme can be emailed to lp@hertscc.gov.uk

Arial Briefing on Payment by Results
NCVYS has produced a briefing on Payment by Results as part of the Department for Education's (DfE) overarching strategic partnership.
http://www.ncvys.org.uk/UserFiles/NCVYS%20Briefing%20on%20Payment%20by%20Results%20-%20.pdf

Parenting Matters Report
The report highlights the role of the voluntary and community sector in providing parenting skills through training courses and it explores the role of the sector in supporting parents and families.
http://centreforum.org/index.php/mainpublications/222-parenting-matters-early-years

Grants for Young People
The Live UnLtd programme has grants of up to £5,000 (the average grant is £1,500) to help young people aged 11 - 21 turn an idea to make the world a better place into a reality. Non-financial support is also available
http://www.liveunltd.com/

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT/EVENTS

DSC Fundraising Training from £25
Fundraising Fair, Thursday **10 November** 2011 in Euston, London, is a day full of practical, punchy, action-focused workshops. Further your fundraising knowledge, hone your fundraising techniques, return to the office and make a renewed impact. Choose from 17 fundraising sessions and four masterclasses priced from £25. Book sessions:
http://www.fundraisingfair.org.uk/?dm_i=6S7,GMSN,TDRZE,1HEUL,1

Trustee Fair, not just for trustees
You're a trustee, thinking of becoming a trustee, or a senior manager wanting to understand the trustee's perspective. Come to DSC's first Trustee Fair, and choose from 17 sessions to improve your Board/senior management dynamic and learn key pointers on mergers, finance, Company Law and more. **29 September**, Euston, London, from only £25, Book now.
http://www.trusteefair.org.uk/?dm_i=6S7,GMSN,TDRZE,1HER5,1

FUNDING

Inspired Facilities
Sport England has launched a £50 million fund which can help voluntary and community groups with an interest in running sporting activity. Inspired Facilities is Sport England's programme to deliver a London 2012 legacy of increased mass participation in sport, it is investing £50 million of National Lottery funding in

up to 1000 community sports projects between 2011 and 2014.
http://inspiredfacilities.sportengland.org/

Every Little Helps
The Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards Scheme provides one-off donations of between £500 and £4,000. The funding goes towards providing practical benefits, such as equipment and resources for projects that directly benefit children, the elderly and adults and children with disabilities, living in the local communities around Tesco stores in the UK. Next deadline: 30 September.
http://www.tescoplc.com/media/142631/community_award_guidelines.pdf

LandAid
LandAid is a charity established by the UK property industry which helps disadvantaged young people access the facilities, skills and opportunities to achieve their potential. They have a Training, Education and Support Fund and a Capital Projects Fund, both offering grants of between £5,000 - £25,000.
http://www.landaid.org/grants/

Money Saving Expert Charity
The MSE Charity supports groups with grants of up to £5,000 for projects that educate people about money, debt and consumer issues.
https://www.msecharity.com/home.aspx

Woodward Charitable Trust
The Woodward Charitable Trust has announced deadlines for its General Grants and Summer Playscheme 2012 programme. They favour small-scale, locally based initiatives. http://www.woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk/guidelines.html

Prince's Trust Community Cash Awards
The Community Cash Awards, from the Prince's Trust, helps individuals set up projects that will benefit their community. Grants of up to £3,000 are available, with £1,500 given on average, to support setting up a project. http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/need_help/grants.aspx

OTHER NEWS

CharityWise free online materials for managing small charities
CharityWise is a collection of free Open University materials online for people who are on responsible for leading and managing small charities and voluntary and community organisations. http://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/CharityWise/

Social Impact reporting at the touch of a button!
Social Impact Tracker (SIT) is a secure online database that reports outputs, outcomes and your social impact. SIT benefits third sector organisations including charities, voluntary & community groups and social enterprises. For

more information please contact i-TRUST on 01223 861760
http://www.socialimpacttracker.org/

Pro Bono Legal Advice online
Law Works has launched a new web based system to provide pro bono legal advice. Initial Electronic Advice provides brief legal information in response to straightforward legal queries. It is designed to assist not-for-profit organisations and advice agencies providing help to those who cannot afford to pay for solicitors privately http://rake.io/lw.html

HR Templates
Another reminder that NCVO have lots of handy, free HR templates that you can easily customise to match your own needs. They're all based on the contents of their ever-popular Good Guide to Employment http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/products-services/publications/good-guide-employment

Vetting and Barring - referral update
The Independent Safeguarding Authority has now made available new guidance and a new referral form.
http://www.isa.homeoffice.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=379

Volunteer Drivers
The Association of British Insurers has surveyed its members and put together a list of each provider's policy on insurance for volunteer drivers. This is designed to reduce the number of issues that volunteer drivers have with insurance companies. Volunteering England will be monitoring how this works in practice and welcomes feedback to dan.sumners@volunteering.org.uk
http://www.volunteering.org.uk/VolunteeringEngland/Core/CrawlerResourceServer.aspx?resource=ca4bee31-9c79-4ce2-b416-d325a6a61d08

TRUSTEE RESOURCES
Online Training Videos for Trustees
You may well have heard about our new partnership with KnowHow NonProfit. They bring with them lots of great online learning resources.
http://www.knowhownonprofit.org/ Their StudyZone training videos are really popular and only cost £8.99. They come in four parts and you can watch 2 minute sample clips for free – including making your board effective and the essentials of charity finance. http://www.knowhownonprofit.org/studyzone/make-your-board-effective-the-role-of-chairs-and-trustees

How to be a Treasurer
Single parent advice organisation Gingerbread have published an online guide for the treasurers of their network of support groups. It contains some great advice that you can adapt for your own organisation.
http://www.gingerbread.org.uk/content/634/Treasurers-guide

Your Pocket Guide to Good Governance
NCVO summary of *Good Governance: A code for the voluntary and community sector* which has great tips to help guide board members. It's also useful for staff or advisers supporting governance. Topics covered include board leadership, board review and renewal, board delegation, board and trustee integrity and board openness. Free pdf of the full original publication downloadable. Special offer for multiple copies of summary for board members. http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/products-services/publications/good-governance-pocket-sized-version

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