

HERTS CVS INFORMATION BULLETIN

January 2008

This month's sections are:	Page
Policy/Consultation	1
News from the Hubs	3
Legal/Charity Commission	3 (incls Sandy Adirondack updates)
Children & Young People	5
The Environment	6
Publications	6
Training/Events	7
Miscellaneous News	8

POLICY/CONSULTATION

DH Third Sector Strategic Funding and Investment Review

The Department of Health has launched a consultation about funding for the third sector. The deadline for comments is 20 March. Kevin Curley (NAVCA Chief Executive) gave a speech at the launch of the consultation on 12 December. <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/dhthirdsectorreview.htm>

Tackling Worklessness

In relation to Department for Work and Pensions proposals for tackling worklessness, including paying private and third sector organisations to get long-term jobless people into work. Kevin Curley has met DWP procurement heads who are keenly interested in identifying local third sector organisations to become sub-contractors in what will be called 'flexible new deal'. NAVCA will be working with DWP to arrange 30 sub-regional consultation meetings during 2008. <http://digbig.com/4wdbd> or <http://www.dwp.gov.uk>. See also 'DWP commissioning Strategy - interim report' at <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2007/com-strategy/cs-interim-report-07.pdf>

Working Together

The LSC has published an update on its strategy for working with the third sector.

- The LSC is extending coverage of Train to Gain to fully fund volunteers seeking Skills for Life or first Level two qualifications, and a contribution towards the cost of Level three qualifications.
- Third sector organisations were awarded 43 new contracts across England for delivery in 2007 and 2008.
- The LSC will fund a peer support programme for third sector organisations wishing to develop their procedure and practices to meet its financial, data and quality requirements.

- The LSC can now respond positively to the Compact recommendations for longer-term contracts.

Lynne Bryan, NAVCA's Learning and Development Manager, is a member of the Working Together Advisory Group. See <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/vcs>, also <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/news/latestnews/news-180108.htm>

Stronger Voices Research Project

The Improving Local Partnerships Unit, based at NAVCA, has commissioned some research on the skills and development needs of people who are engaged in representing the local third sector on thematic partnerships of Local Strategic Partnerships. Visit: <http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/infobank/strongervoices.htm>

Performance Framework for Local Government

Communities and Local Government has published a series of documents to support the new performance framework for local government, setting out what the new indicators will mean and the activities that will support them.

- An introduction to the Local Performance Framework: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localperformanceframework>
- The third sector: The crucial role of the new local performance framework: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/thirdsector>
- Delivering improved outcomes for children, young people and their families: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/youngpeople>
- Delivering health and well-being in partnership: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/health>
- Climate change and sustainability: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/climatechange>.

Success of CEMVO's Interface Project

CEMVO's Interface programme is an innovative approach to capacity building, designed to bring together infrastructure and frontline voluntary organisations to facilitate action learning. With three more months of the project to go, CEMVO are pleased to report that Interface has already exceeded the targets set for the complete fifteen month programme. By March 2008 CEMVO will have developed the organisational performance of at least forty eight peer and front-line groups, enabling them to better meet the needs and aspirations of the communities they represent. For more information about this project, please down the [December 2007 Project Review](#).

Free Public Policy Update

NCVO publishes a roundup of the latest developments in the policy world affecting voluntary and community sector including some of the issues raised here ie new public benefit guidance and the draft statutory guidance on creating strong and prosperous communities . See www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/ppu

BASIS Awards

NAVCA is celebrating two Big Lottery Fund BASIS awards: for expansion of the Improving Local Partnerships project - see <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/ilpexpansion.htm> and for the establishment of a Local Commissioning and Procurement Unit - see <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/localcpunit.htm>

NEWS FROM THE HUBS

The six national support services currently offer free services and information on finance , governance , ICT, performance, workforce and volunteering. They are designed to improve the quality of support available to voluntary and community organisations.

The best from six hubs: A new resource has been made available on the [Hubs website](#), providing the most up-to-date guidance on building a successful funding relationship.

The [Finance Hub](#) website already provides information to organisations looking to secure and successfully manage funding, but this new resource brings together everything organisations and funders need to work effectively together.

Adventures in Strategy

Five new 'think pieces' from the Performance Hub, addressing some of the main strategic choices facing third sector leaders and managers today. Includes 'Involving users', 'Steering through the funding environment' and 'Compete or collaborate?' <http://www.performancehub.org.uk/adventuresinstrategy>

For Love and Money: Governance and Social Enterprise

Report commissioned by the Governance Hub and the Social Enterprise Coalition. <http://digbig.com/4weqq> or <http://www.governancehub.org.uk>

LEGAL/CHARITY COMMISSION

Legal Updates – Sandy Adirondack Employment

Updated or added to the legal update website for voluntary organisations

From **1 February**: weekly amount for calculating redundancy pay up from £310 to £330; increases in minimum basic and maximum compensatory awards for unfair dismissal.

www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#weeklypay

From **29 February**: not only do you have to check whether the people you employ are entitled to work in the UK -- but if they have restrictions on their right to work here, you have to check again every 12 months.

www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#righttowork

EU agency workers directive delayed yet again, as it has been since 2002.

www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#agencyrights

Fees for Criminal Records Bureau checks will not go up in April.

www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#criminalrecordchecks

Really useful summary of rules on criminal record and other checks for employees, volunteers and governing body members in organisations working with children and vulnerable adults.

www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#childrenchecks

or go direct to <http://www.tinyurl.com/2eg4zl>

Equal pay claims must comply with the statutory grievance procedure, and the comparator must be referred to in the initial grievance letter.

www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#equalpay-grievance

Voluntary Sector Legal Handbook

Publication of the new edition of the Voluntary Sector Legal Handbook has been delayed, and is now expected in June. This means that when it comes out it will (a) include much of the detail of Charities Act and Companies Act implementation, and (b) include the government's proposals for employment and other legislative changes in 2008 and 2009. To order (or cancel an order because of the delay), send an email with the usual details, or use the form at www.sandy-a.co.uk/bookserv.htm.

Charity Commission News

The latest edition (issue 27) of Charity Commission News, the twice-yearly newsletter to keep trustees and the public up-to-date with important issues affecting charities, has now been published on their website at www.charitycommission.gov.uk/tcc/newslist.asp. It contains an important update on public benefit guidance for charity trustees . broad guidance to be followed by specific sector guidance. It is expected the public benefit requirement will become law from April this year. The newsletter also includes: news of the many provisions in the Charities Act 2006 coming up in 2008 and developments around Charitable Incorporated Organisations and the Charity Tribunal.

Financial threshold changes for charity reporting and accounts

The Charity Commission and Office of the Third Sector are consulting on raising the thresholds for financial reporting, such as the submission of annual accounts and Trustee Annual Reports. The changes would particularly affect small charities, and NCVO would welcome your views on this. Read the briefing and fill

in the online questionnaire. For more visit www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/financialthresholdproposals.

Free legal service: Community Matters and LawWorks have launched a new service providing free legal advice to the community sector. <http://www.communitymatters.org.uk/services/advice.php> (you will need to scroll down the page).

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Children's Fund – funding crisis looms

The NCVCCO/'Children and Young People Now' Children's Fund Survey has produced some worrying results - 65 per cent of local authority Children's Fund managers say projects are unlikely to continue beyond March, and 38 per cent of voluntary sector Children's Fund projects expect to deliver redundancy notices to staff before March. <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/ncvccosurvey.htm>

The Children's Plan

The Government has launched its Children's Plan, setting out the Department for Children, Schools and Families' goals for 2020. It includes a commitment to £160m investment in youth centres (over two years). See NAVCA short briefing paper and simplified version for newsletters. www.navca.org.uk/stratwork/children/cwdc/briefings.

Positive activities for young people

A £420m fund for more places to go and things to do for young people has been announced by Children's Minister Beverley Hughes. The money will pay for projects such as skate parks, basketball courts, and music workshops in areas where young people are at risk of getting into trouble. <http://digbig.com/4wdnr> or <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk>

Youth Sector Support Arrangements – consultation

This DCSF consultation seeks views from those working for the benefit of young people on how to improve the capacity, coherence, and quality of support arrangements for youth sector professionals, volunteers and organisations. Closing date is 9 April. <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1525>

NAVCA/CWDC Briefings

NAVCA, supported by the Children's Workforce Development Council, has produced guidance on the following topics:

- Putting workforce development on the agenda
- Integrated working
- ContactPoint.

In each case the guidance is available as a quick guide or as a detailed briefing. <http://www.navca.org.uk/stratwork/children/cwdc/briefings>

THE ENVIRONMENT

Make every action count for the environment

Are you committed to developing your local community and concerned about the environment? NCVO is working with the environmental campaign Every Action Counts to encourage people like you to become Community Champions. It gives you free training and is great campaigning experience. Register your interest now on the Every Action Counts website www.everyactioncounts.org.uk. For more visit www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/everyactioncounts.

Communities and Local Government: Sustainable development

The Communities and Local Government website has a page giving information on how the department integrates sustainable development into its policy making.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/howwework/sustainabledevelopment/>

Environmental responsibility: what role should charities play?

The Charity Commission has published a summary of its seminar looking at charities and their role in environmental responsibility, held last October.

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/enhancingcharities/enviro.asp>

PUBLICATIONS

From policy to practice: How is the environment enabling you to deliver or commission services?

This new free publication from NCVO's Public Service Delivery Network gives you best practice and top tips in areas such as collaboration, intelligent commissioning and bidding for contracts and captures the full content of their recent annual conference. For more and to download visit www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/psdnresources.

Towards Lifetime Neighbourhoods: Designing sustainable communities for all

Discussion paper from Communities and Local Government.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/lifetimeneighbourhoods>

Community Accountancy Services Toolkit

This website provides a range of free tools for new or existing community accountancy services (CAS). <http://www.communityaccounting.org>

The Efficiency Agenda: Preparing for the future and learning from the past

From the Improvement Network. <http://digbig.com/4wdyk> or

<http://www.improvementnetwork.gov.uk>

LSP 'peer challenge' report

IDEA report on developing effective LSPs setting out the findings from 12 'peer challenge' visits that took place between March 2006 and May 2007.

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/7717776> or

Reports from the Community Development Foundation

- 'Equalities and Communities: Challenge, Choice and Change'
- 'Community Health Development in Action: Learning from the Hull and East Riding Health Action Zone'
- 'Community Development Challenge' report arguing many of the current reforms in local government and other public services are unlikely to work without community development
- 'Setting up for Success - a practical guide for community organisations'.

<http://digbig.com/4wdnt> or <http://www.cdf.org.uk>

Survey on Social Clauses

The Office of the Third Sector has published the results of its survey on the use of social clauses in public contracts.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/public_services/social_clauses.aspx

Sample Governance Documents

A range of sample documents are now available from the Governance Pages website, including job/role descriptions, codes of conduct/governance codes and sub-committee remits. <http://www.governancepages.org.uk>

TRAINING/EVENTS

Enrol now – effective voluntary sector management online course

Are you a new starter in the voluntary sector? Enrol for the NCVO Working For A Charity online course which will give you an overview of working for a charity and boost your career. Course runs from February - October.

For more visit www.wfac.org.uk.

PQASSO Quality Mark peer reviewers

CES is recruiting people from within the voluntary and community sector to become PQASSO Quality Mark peer reviewers. This exciting role involves assessing organisations against the PQASSO standards. For more information and to apply to be trained as a peer reviewer, see

<http://www.pqassoqualitymark.org.uk>

Free supervision training

Parents as First Teachers is delivering free supervision training to supervisors of practitioners working with families with children 0-3 years, funded by part of the DCSF Early Learning Partnership Project. They welcome interest from both organisations and individuals. The one day training helps you think more about

the process involved. For more email
johnrobinson@parentsasfirstteachers.org.uk.

Financial Management Conference 2008

11 March 2008 London

Managing Finances in an Enterprising Age will benefit those responsible for the finances of a voluntary and community organisation (VCO), Treasurers, Trustees and Funding Advisors. It will examine the role of the finance professional, in this enterprising time where many VCOs are thinking about creative ways in which to build a stable future. For more and to book visit www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/fmc08.

What next for the children's workforce?

NAVCA and the Children's Workforce Development Council have teamed up to provide this one-day learning event to ensure that those working with children and young people know about the children's workforce reform agenda. 17 March, London. <http://www.navca.org.uk/events/cwdc.htm>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Goodmoves

On 28 January NAVCA launched goodmoves - a careers hub run by the sector for the sector. As an incentive to try out goodmoves.org.uk, the first 100 job adverts will be posted for free on the website! This includes as many downloadable documents as you wish, plus links direct to your website for online applications. You can also sign up to receive targeted Job Alerts. Look out for press advertising and advertise to your networks. They can supply buttons for websites, text for newsletters etc.

Your risk management strategy: understanding indemnity insurance

From Zurich/acevo. <http://digbig.com/4wdpc> or <http://www.acevo.org.uk>

Only Connect visit scheme

NCVO's Sustainable Funding Project runs the Only Connect visit scheme, which supports visits between third sector organisations to learn from each others' experiences of generating income. Applicants can apply to visit another organisation to develop a trading idea, or explore issues around public service delivery or loan finance. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/onlyconnect>

A no-cost income stream for your organisation

NCVO is working with Ask.com to bring you a no-cost income stream every time your supporters search the internet. You can benefit by getting your employees, beneficiaries, supporters and trustees to use a co-branded search engine dedicated to your organisation. For more visit www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/searchengine.

Get up to 60% discount on Adobe software

Adobe® offer all the latest software products, such as Acrobat® 8 & Photoshop® CS3 at reduced pricing . all you need to qualify is a charity number. Call Phoenix Software, the voluntary sector software specialists with more than 15 yearsq knowledge and experience, on 0845 265 1265. For more visit www.phoenixs.co.uk/Market+Sectors/Voluntary/VoluntarySector.htm.

New Personality Disorder service in Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust along with commissioners, carers, service-users and other stakeholders, are developing a model for a new Community Personality Disorder Service and are currently recruiting a Head of Personality Disorder Services.

Trainers and Consultants Direct

Are you looking for a trainer, consultant, temporary/project manager or non-managerial supervisor to assist you or your organisation? Look no further than Trainers and Consultants Direct (TCD). TCD is a free website resource aimed at the third sector. You can search for people and/or organisations by region and by over 50 specialist topic areas. <http://www.trainersandconsultantsdirect.org.uk>. Trainers or consultants wishing to be listed on the site (there is a fee to register) can email tcd@navca.org.uk for further information, or register online at the above web address.

Home Care Direct – local care and support at home

HomeCareDirect is a private sector organisation planning to set up a Community Interest Company. It is interested in working with NAVCA members to create a local care and support-at-home partnership paid for by direct payments or individual budget funding from the local authority or PCT. HCD would provide the administrative, legal, employment and internet-based infrastructure. Local third sector partners would provide the support-at-home services. For more information contact Gabrielle Clay or Roger Adams on 0845 061 9000.

Tendering for Care

TfC is offering special membership arrangements and reduced fees for local infrastructure organisations and their members. Email info@tenderingforcare.com for more information.

NCVO Leadership Services

NCVO Leadership Services support voluntary sector leaders by providing a platform for shared learning and networking, bringing together key products and support services that will help you to lead the way. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/whatwedo/leadershipservices>

Why Should I become a trustee?

Briefing sheet from Voluntary Arts Network.
<http://www.voluntaryarts.org/uploaded/map6441.pdf>.