



Monthly News Round-Up Providing Key Information for the Third Sector

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INFRASTRUCTURE & STRATEGIC NEWS

Key issues for chief officers

NAVCA has published a summary of the findings from its survey of members' chief officers. As many as 117 chief officers responded to the survey, and some of the results are controversial. For example 60% of members are not satisfied with Capacitybuilders. <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/keyissues.htm>

The survey was used as the basis for NAVCA Chief Executive Kevin Curley's address at NACVA's Chief Officers' Residential Event.

Check your websites!

Many NAVCA member websites still refer to NACVS. Has your website changed from NACVS to NAVCA? Please check.

Richard Gutch

Richard Gutch, former Chief Executive of Futurebuilders, is to join the NAVCA Trustee Board as a co-opted member from September. Richard hopes his experience at a national level will help NAVCA address the challenges faced by local development agencies and their members locally.

Voluntary Action Rotherham performance management information

Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) has published its Performance Management Framework information for 2007. It is available at <http://digbig.com/4wtea> or <http://www.varotherham.org.uk>.

This framework would be useful for members undertaking the NAVCA Quality Award to help with tracking evidence of outcomes.

Asset Development

High Peak CVS has published five fact sheets on the theme of asset development, focusing particularly on hard assets such as property and land, in

its KnowledgeBank. Titles are: 'Developing and Maximising the Use of a Community Building'; 'The Pros and Cons of Leading and Ownership'; 'Risk Reduction in Managing a Community Building'; 'Making the Figures Add Up'; and 'Selling the Case for an Asset Transfer'.

<http://www.highpeakcvs.org.uk/how/KnowledgeBank-AssetsPack.pdf>

NAVCA policy positions

NAVCA has published a series of policy positions on the following themes: Community participation; Health and social care; Lifelong learning; Local government; Local infrastructure services; Local third sector; Public service delivery. <http://www.navca.org.uk/stratwork/positions>

The National Association of LINKs Members

NALM was launched to coincide with the establishment by the Government of Local Involvement Networks. NALM argues that for the second time in five years, the DH has abolished Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) organisations across the country and dislocated the monitoring of health care by local people. NALM is concerned that the new, poorly-funded LINKs organisations could take years to recruit effective membership and establish themselves.

<http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/page/1177>

National Offender Management Service (NOMS) - National Provider Network (NPN)

The NPN searchable directory of providers and provider services is now online. The NPN is open to organisations currently providing, or interested in providing, offender intervention services. Registration is free, and providers benefit from having their details accessible by commissioners throughout NOMS, including Prisons and Probation. Regular bulletins are also issued to inform registrants of current business opportunities. To find out more about NPN, and to register, go to: <http://www.noms.justice.gov.uk/about-us/working-with-partners/service-providers/NPN>

National Performance Programme

The National Performance Programme is the new national support service on performance management, funded by Capacitybuilders and led by Charities Evaluation Services. It now has a website at:

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

Support for those supporting trustees

Do you provide services/events to support trustees, or do you run a trustee network? Charity Trustee Networks (CTN) can help advertise your work to more trustees and support you in working with trustees. For more information

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

Futurebuilders

The speed at which the new management of Futurebuilders England proposes to turn around finance agreements could create a 'sub-prime market', NCVO has warned. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/press/releases/?id=8890>. Futurebuilders has responded that feedback from the sector has indicated many organisations would benefit from a faster decision, and its commitment to speed up the application process was made in response to demand. <http://digbig.com/4wwbp> or <http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk>

Connected Neighbourhoods

A new forum around the concept of connecting neighbourhoods using digital technologies has been set up by DC10plus, a local authority-led social inclusion body. Connecting Neighbourhoods Forum is for the private sector, voluntary and academic stakeholders to collaborate, discuss and produce strategies and solutions. <http://www.connectedneighbourhoods.org.uk>

Compact Action Plan

The Joint Compact Action Plan for 2008/09 has been published, setting out the priorities for progressing the partnership between government and the third sector through the Compact. <http://www.thecompact.org.uk>

Local Compact Voice Forum

This forum is for members of Local Compact Voice to discuss issues and share information - a direct and secure way to find fast answers on getting Compacts to work. NAVCA members are invited to sign up to the forum - email paul.barasi@ncvo-vol.org.uk.

Local Compact Research

Commission for the Compact has begun a research study to identify the key factors behind successful local compacts and positive local partnership relationships. <http://digbig.com/4wxyr> or <http://www.thecompact.org.uk>

Community Allowance

The Community Allowance is a proposal from the CREATE Consortium to change the benefits system, enabling community organisations to pay claimants to do work that strengthens their neighbourhood without it affecting their benefits. <http://www.communityallowance.org>

Policy Skills Development

NCVO has been awarded a grant from the Big Lottery Fund to deliver a three-year policy skills development programme. rachael.stokes@ncvo-vol.org.uk

ImpACT Coalition

NAVCA has joined the ImpACT (Improving Accountability, Clarity and Transparency) Coalition, which brings together charities and trade bodies to

address public misapprehensions of charities by improving standards of transparency and accountability. <http://www.impactcoalition.org.uk>

NAVCA and Volunteering England

NAVCA and Volunteering England have a formal co-operation agreement in place, which has recently been updated. One practical outcome is improved sharing of information. <http://www.navca.org.uk/about/agreements>. Chief Officers of a NAVCA member can receive the Volunteering England email bulletin by emailing jocelyne.boorman@volunteeringengland.org

How to develop a local charter - a guide for local authorities

Local charters are a way for local authorities and other public agencies to work together to meet the needs of local people. Communities and Local Government has produced a guide providing advice to help plan a charter and including examples of successful charters.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/localcharters>. See also IDeA website at: <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=7993871>

Guidance produced on Community Governance Reviews

The Government has produced guidance for local authorities on undertaking community governance reviews and electoral arrangements for parish councils. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/communitygovernancereviews>

Righting local wrongs

Communities Secretary Hazel Blears has outlined plans to give every citizen in England three new rights to have a greater say to trigger action on local issues they care about. The Community Empowerment Bill will give local people the right to ask for a stronger say on spending decisions that affect their communities; a right to ensure councils consider the sale or transfer of under-used properties, lands or parks to local community groups; a right to force a debate on specific local issues onto the council agenda.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/804997>

Improving support

The nine new national support services funded by Capacitybuilders can now be found via the improving support website, <http://www.improvingsupport.org.uk>. You can also email questions and comments directly to the workstreams, and sign up to receive regular e-bulletins from the workstreams you are interested in.

New Fundraising National Occupational Standards launched

The UK Workforce Hub and The Institute of Fundraising have collaborated to revise and improve the Fundraising National Occupational Standards (NOS). The standards are for fundraisers, those who fundraise as part of their work and those that manage fundraising, whether it is in a voluntary or paid capacity. Voluntary and community organisations across the UK will be able to embed

these NOS into recruitment, selection, training and development practice in order to improve the skills of fundraisers. www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk/fnos08.

East of England Plan launched

The East of England Plan, the revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England, was published in May. The plan provides a sustainable long-term vision for development in the region. COVER has compiled an overview of what the plan is all about and why it matters to the voluntary and community sector. <http://www.cover-east.org/interact/documents/word/2413.doc>

LEGAL MATTERS

Data Protection

Security of Personal Information briefing from DSC.

www.dsc.org.uk/NewsandInformation/News/LegaleysDataProtection-SecurityofPersonallInformation

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

Employment & Equal opportunities

Consultation (until 25 July) on ACAS code of practice which will replace statutory disciplinary, dismissal and grievance procedures from April 2009

www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#discipline or go direct to www.acas.org.uk/dandgcode

Christian charity found to have discriminated unlawfully by saying virtually all new posts or promotions were open only to active Christians

www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#religion-gor

Agency temps to be entitled to same rights after 12 weeks as if they had been directly hired by the employer - possible implementation date April 2009

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

Right to request flexible working to be extended to parents and adopters of children under 17 - probably from April 2009

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

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Staying Safe

NSPCC is seeking opportunities to promote its Staying Safe Commitment Scheme through events, regional/local networks and newsletters. Over 50 organisations have registered on the scheme so far. Evaluations show

organisations have found the scheme very beneficial in enabling them to refocus on keeping children safe, review and update policy and procedure, and enhance the confidence of staff and volunteers in responding to concerns.

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/commitmentscheme> or commitment@nspcc.org.uk

Building Brighter Futures

Following publication by the Department for Children, Schools and Families of 'Building Brighter Futures: Next steps for the children's workforce', (see <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/childrensplan>), NCVYS has produced a briefing paper: <http://www.ncvys.org.uk/index.php?page=361>

CWDC invites Occupational Group Funding bids

Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) is inviting bids to its Occupational Group funding scheme for 2008-09. Bids are invited for projects up to £50,000 that support an integrated approach to workforce development across the various groups that CWDC supports. Of particular interest is the support available for volunteers. <http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/working-for-us/funding-opportunities>

CWDC Participation Fund

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) is inviting bids to its Participation Fund, which seeks to support creative and innovative ways of involving children and young people in all parts of workforce development. There is up to £30k for one project in each region. Existing projects are welcome to apply as well as new initiatives. The closing date is 1 July. <http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/tenders/show/3>.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Rural Community Carbon Network

A network of like-minded people taking action to tackle climate change. The network consists of communities who want to learn more about how to develop and maintain their projects - and share what they know and have learnt in the process. <http://www.communitycarbon.net>

Do the green thing

Green Thing is a new community that makes it easy and enjoyable to be a bit greener. Every month you'll get a different Green Thing to do. <http://www.dothegreenthing.com>

Green Public Procurement

The European Commission has just launched a Training Toolkit on Green Public Procurement. <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp>

Training for Community Partnerships and Networks from Community Action for Energy

CAfE are offering a free programme of training courses specially designed for those in the community sector who are keen to improve their knowledge of energy and learn how this can benefit their work and community.

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe/events>.

Buying a better world

Forum for the Future toolkit which aims to help public sector spenders make more sustainable purchasing choices.

<http://www.forumforthefuture.org.uk/node/1407>

PUBLICATIONS

Good Guide to Employment launched

The new *Good Guide to Employment: Managing and Developing People in Voluntary and Community Organisations* has been launched by the Workforce Hub and NCVO. The guide (previously the *Good Employment Guide*) is aimed at voluntary and community organisations that may not have Human Resources expertise. The book offers a step by step guide to help with the recruitment, management and development of staff. It contains helpful example template policies and HR documents, which are all available to download for free from www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk/ggemploymenttemplates.

Your Chair and Board - a survival guide and toolkit for CEOs

Updated acevo publication. <http://digbig.com/4wwab> or <http://www.acevo.org.uk>

Trustee Accredited Learning - Pilot Programme

In June 2007, the UK Workforce Hub took part in a test and trial project to test the trustee units that had been written by a voluntary and community sector group, including Redbridge CVS. The project aimed to gain a better understanding of the new Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) and see how the voluntary and community sector could engage with it. For further information and recommendations on taking the training forward www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk.

Sustainability Route Map

A new resource for South Yorkshire's third sector containing information relevant to organisations in other areas too. It is designed for voluntary, community and faith groups and organisations who want to find out about future options for sustainable funding. <http://www.syopenforum.org.uk>

New from NCVO

- 'The government's proposals for Gift Aid' briefing. <http://digbig.com/4wwgw> or <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk>

- 'Joint working for public services delivery' <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/collaborativeworkingunit/models>
- 'Future Focus' series: 'How is local democracy changing?' and 'How are social attitudes changing?' <http://digbig.com/4wwgx> or <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk>
- 'The Good Guide to Employment' (new edition) <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk>
- 'Is your campaign making a difference?' <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk>

NAVCA Circulation 403

For NAVCA members and includes articles on Support Services (summary of CapacityBuilders and its 9 workstreams); Mentoring and grass roots leadership, trustees and ICT, implications for charitable companies of the Companies Act 2006, and role of the third sector in enabling effective community engagement and participation. www.navca.org.uk/publications/circulation/2008/403

The 2008 Charity Pension Maze

Charity Finance Directors' Group/Barclays report focusing on some of the current pensions risks facing charities. <http://ma.gnolia.com/grebosturech> or <http://www.newsroom.barclays.com>

Hard knock life

New Philanthropy Capital report which shows that there are proven ways to keep women safe and help women recover from abuse. It also demonstrates that, by funding these interventions, donors can have an impact on linked issues such as child abuse, mental health, homelessness and substance abuse. <http://digbig.com/4wtqa> or <http://www.philanthropycapital.org>

Urban Forum CEN research 2008

Urban Forum's recent investigation into the state of Community Empowerment Networks. <http://www.urbanforum.org.uk/new>

Growing trust and confidence

Governance and partnership behaviour benchmark and health check from IDeA. <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=8226247>

BME Voluntary and Community Sector Workers

FCDL has published the report of its survey of the training and learning needs to support the skills development of black and minority ethnic workers, paid and unpaid, in the voluntary and community sector across England. <http://www.fcdl.org.uk/projects/BMEWorkersResearch2007>

Structures for consortium delivery of public services

New guidance from NCVO. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/collaborativeworkingunit>

Neighbouring and Older People

Community Development Foundation. <http://www.cdf.org.uk>

TRAINING/EVENTS

Local Third Sector Commissioning Conference, 27 June, St Albans

Come and hear about the services the local statutory sector want to pay the voluntary sector to provide – information, best practice, workshops, Q&As.

Influence the future and build a more sustainable voluntary sector.

www.cvsstalbans.org.uk

National Third Sector Commissioning Conference, 20 June, London

One-day conference seeking to get to the heart of the challenges of third sector commissioning through a series of plenary sessions and practical case studies.

More at http://www.eastspace.net/eecpe/documents/Third_Sector.pdf

Date for your diary: NAVCA Conference 2008

This year's national conference takes place on 16/17 September in Nottingham.

More details available soon.

FUNDING

BASIS 2

BIG has launched round two of its BASIS programme, which aims to ensure that voluntary and community organisations have access to high quality support that will help them be more effective. Closing date is 27 August.

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/pr_070508_eng_bas_launch

Social Enterprise Investment Fund

The Department of Health Social Enterprise Investment Fund has opened for its second round. The fund is open to multi-agency partnerships, particularly voluntary and community groups wishing to use their expertise to provide services across health and social care. Closing date is 31 July.

<http://digbig.com/4wwmq> or <http://www.dh.gov.uk>

Opportunities for Volunteering 2009-10

Volunteering England will shortly be advertising the Opportunities for Volunteering grant scheme for 2009-10. OFV is a Department of Health initiative which provides grants to local health and social care organisations in England.

The grants aim to enable organisations to involve volunteers in the delivery of their services. <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/WhatWeDo/Funding/ofvfunding>

OTHER MATTERS

Shell Step

Shell Step places second and penultimate year undergraduates, from all academic disciplines, with businesses to deliver real working projects. The placements run for eight weeks during the summer break and can be in any industry sector. <http://www.shellstep.org.uk>

Display Screen Advice

HSE's FAQs on Display Screen Equipment (VDUs) has been updated. www.voluntarynews.org.uk/wp/

Cranfield Trust

Cranfield Trust works with small-medium sized charities who would otherwise be unable to afford external support. In addition to consultancy with problems in a wide range of management areas, they provide a free internet-based advice service specially for shorter HR problems and questions, HRNet. www.cranfieldtrust.org.uk

FREE telephone conferencing

Find out the benefits of teleconferencing for FREE. Just quote 'dsc1' when booking your free one hour conference for up to 10 people before the 30th of September. Community Network, www.community-network.org, is the only conferencing organisation solely for the not for profit sector. Call 0207 923 5250.

Funded by the HCC Strategic Leadership Partnership

