

Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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COALITION, CUTS AND BIG SOCIETY

NAVCA Response to The Big Society

A letter from NAVCA Chief Executive Kevin Curley was published in 'The Independent' on 22 July:

"It is remarkable and welcome that our Prime Minister wants to strengthen local voluntary action and has made this a priority for his government. Success will mean in five years' time that many more people are volunteering in their communities, there are many more neighbourhood groups, most people are donating regularly to local charities and most local companies are supporting local causes. This will not happen because the government says so. It needs patient, long-term development work by support charities such as Councils for Voluntary Service and Volunteer Centres. It is precisely these organisations which are now being hit by deep cuts in local authority grants. There is a serious disconnect between the aspiration to build a Big Society and cuts in funding to local charities"

Funding for the Local Voluntary and Community Sector: How do we respond to the cuts?

Kevin Curley's address to the East Midlands Funding Advice Conference is now available on the NAVCA website. <http://www.navca.org.uk/>

Coping with the cuts

- **NCVO:** [Information, advice and briefings from NCVO.](#)
- **ACEVO Cutswatch** - ACEVO has launched a [website](#) to support third sector organisations through public spending cuts.
- **Guardian Cutswatch** The Guardian website also has a [Cutswatch](#) section.

- **Cuts and the Compact** see working in partnership below

Cuts – to challenge or not to challenge?

The Empowering the Voluntary Sector project has produced a [special edition of its newsletter](#) giving information about the processes and remedies that voluntary organisations and community groups can use to challenge funding cuts.

See Also amendments to Sandy Adirondack Legal Updates “Funding, Contracts & Cuts” below.

[The Coalition and the third sector: A policy analysis](#) Bates Wells & Braithwaite.

Herts Together

Visit <http://myhertstogether.blogspot.com> to find out ‘**More about the Big Society**’.

[Building the Big Society: Opportunity or threat?](#) Bassac

The voluntary sector skills landscape

This [briefing by Skills-Third Sector](#) sets out some of the key messages for the voluntary and community sector that have come out of recent legislation and policy announcements.

Independent Panel on Community Development

The Community Development Foundation is setting up an independent panel to consider the context, future role, and support needs of communities and community development in the light of new and emerging policy agendas. You can share your views on the future of community development and join the debate via [CDF on Facebook](#).

NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

Tender Support Project

NAVCA has extended the availability of the [Tender Support Project](#). Local voluntary and community sector organisations anywhere in England can use the project to improve their ability to bid for public service contracts.

Rethinking infrastructure services and funding advice

[The presentation by Bill Freeman](#) (NAVCA's Director of Consultancy Services) to the 'Advisers in FunderLand: Exploring the Changing World of Funding Advice' event organised by Funding Information North East (FINE) is now available on NAVCA website.

Guides to help prepare for collaboration or merger

A guide to help organisations get ready for working in collaboration has been produced by Bassac. 'Getting ready for collaboration:

Learning from experience' aims to help with all forms of collaboration, from sharing information and developing a common policy response to mergers. See Bassac's list of collaboration resources at

<http://www.bassac.org.uk/dms/list/36/all/all/collaboration>

Elsewhere, there is a discussion of critical success factors for mergers, based on a recent review of four mergers. 'Forewarned is forearmed: critical factors for mergers' <http://preview.tinyurl.com/26jop3j>

Research that you can use to argue for investment in volunteering

Speaking at the NAVCA Chief Officers' Residential Event, Justin Davis Smith, Chief Executive of Volunteering England, quoted research demonstrating the value of volunteering. These figures and references can be accessed via the [CORE 2010](#) pages of NAVCA website.

Charity Builder UK - Where to start with Risk Management?

NAVCA members can use Charity Builder UK to guide the voluntary organisations and community groups they support through a checklist of procedures to assess risk in their organisation, and decide accident, incident and emergency procedures. For more information visit the [Charity Builder website](#)

Vodcast: Peter Holbrook, Chief Executive of the Social Enterprise Coalition

In [NAVCA's latest vodcast](#), Peter Holbrook (Chief Executive of the Social Enterprise Coalition) talks to Kevin Curley about social enterprises.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Cuts and the Compact

The lack of government consultation with the voluntary and community sector around recent major cuts to public spending has raised concerns across the sector. Compact Voice has raised these concerns in a letter to key ministers, non-departmental [public bodies](#) and other agencies.

Compact Voice's [website](#) has a [page](#) giving information about the importance of the Compact when making spending cuts and the Compact Commission website has a [guidance note](#) for local authorities on managing budget revisions.

Compact Voice funding cuts survey

Compact Voice has published a [survey](#) to collect cases of cuts which have been done in a non-Compact compliant manner (and which can, therefore, be challenged).

Herts Together

Please note that the blog has moved to <http://myhertstogether.blogspot.com> and the website has moved to www.myhertstogether.net

- **Safer and Stronger Communities:** Indications are that the **National Survey of Third Sector Organisations (NSTSO)** which is used to measure NI7 (Thriving third Sector) will go ahead this autumn, despite the CAA and related activity having been abolished. Confirmation awaited from the Office of Civil Society.
- **Healthier Communities and Older People:** 2010 District and County Health profiles are now available on the Association of Public Health Observatories (APHO) [website](#).

LEGAL MATTERS

Get Legal

NCVO and Bates Wells and Braithwaite have launched [Get Legal](#), A free online reference tool to help anyone looking to set up a charity, social enterprise or co-operative. www.getlegal.org.uk

The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 replaces the existing antidiscrimination laws with a single Act. It simplifies the law, removing inconsistencies and making it easier for people to understand and comply with it. It also strengthens the law in important ways to help tackle discrimination and inequality. [download the summary guide .pdf](#) here.

Charity Commission News

The latest issue of Charity Commission News has been published: http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/About_us/About_the_Commission/newslist.aspx. This issue includes important information on the Equality Act, expenses and managing risks to your charity. It also contains the results of our latest economic survey, alongside new guidance on environmental sustainability and the abolition of cheques.

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

Funding, contracts and cuts

- Dealing with cuts and their impact: a list of new resources including cuts websites, a policy briefing on the Coalition and the third sector, and a briefing on how to use the Compact, public law and equality law to challenge cuts. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#challengingcuts
- New commissioning and procurement guidance from the National Audit Office and Department of Health. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#publicservicesdelivery

- New remedies when challenging how public sector contracts are awarded. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#remediesdirective
- BIS beginner's guide to state aid – could be important for any organisation that gets subsidies, preferential loans or asset transfers below market value from public sector bodies. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#stateaid or go direct to <http://tinyurl.com/2wm3vhn>

Fundraising & tax-effective giving

- Updated Charity Commission guidance on fundraising. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#cc20 or go direct to www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/cc20.aspx?
- HMRC eases up slightly on its 'fit and proper persons' test, for charities and community amateur sports clubs (CASCs) reclaiming gift aid tax or claiming other tax reliefs and exemptions. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#fitandproper
- Guide for claiming gift aid on donations to charity shops www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#giftaid-shops or go direct to www.sayervincent.co.uk/Asp/uploadedFiles/File/Hospice%20shops%20-%20Accounting%20and%20tax%20issues.pdf
- Gambling Commission advice on competitions, draws and lotteries www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#gamblingcommission
- Revised guidance on when 'administrative' telephone calls can be made to supporters. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#telephonefundraising

Property & the environment

- Regulations from 1989 require local authorities to give at least one year's notice before reducing or revoking discretionary rate relief, and any change can only take place at the end of a financial year. **Keep this in mind if your local authority threatens to reduce or remove discretionary relief.** www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#discretionaryraterelief
- Water companies will be allowed (but not required) to offer concessionary surface water charges for charities and community groups. Consultation on DEFRA guidance for the water companies opened on 12 July. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#raintax
- **'Meanwhile' leases and licences** for temporary non-commercial use of vacant shops and land by charities, other voluntary organisations, artists, performers etc. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#meanwhile
- Government reconsidering future of community infrastructure levy, which some local authorities are implementing to replace section 106 agreements. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#cil
- Resources: Updated Planning Aid England website. Information about managing premises, and advertisements for premises available for rent or hire, on new My Community Space website. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#propertyhelp or go direct to www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid and www.mycommunityspace.org.uk

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

vcashpoint

[vcashpoint](#) is giving away £2,500 to 16-25 year olds with ideas for London 2012 inspired projects in their communities. Deadline: 6 September.

Co-operative Apprenticeship Academy

The [Co-operative Apprenticeship Academy](#) is a new £9m scheme which will offer 2,000 young people the opportunity to gain a range of transferable skills, competencies and qualifications.

Commissioning and the community sector: Challenges, changes and opportunities for children and young people's services

[Presentations from this joint NAVCA/Community Matters event](#) now available on NAVCA website.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable Developments

Sustainable Developments is a new monthly bulletin from CDF on sustainability for voluntary and community sector organisations. To subscribe email kate.hand@cdf.org.uk

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

[Equality Act 2010](#) TUC briefing.

[Equality Act 2010: What do I need to know?](#) Government Equalities Office.

[Place-based budgets - the future governance of local public services](#) Local Government Association.

[Wanted: better, cheaper public services](#) The Guardian.

[The Future is Local: Empowering communities to improve their neighbourhoods](#) Sustainable Development Commission.

[A Guide for New Employers](#) ACAS

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT/EVENTS

National Skills Strategy for the Voluntary Sector

Skills - Third Sector is developing a National Skills Strategy to support a skilled

workforce for the voluntary sector. An online consultation is now open. **Deadline: 1 October.**

http://www.skills-thirdsector.org.uk/research_policy/skills_strategy_consultation/

FUNDING

Comic Relief

The following [Comic Relief](#) programmes are currently open for applications: Mental Health; Domestic and Sexual Abuse; Refugee and Asylum Seeking Women; Sport for Change; Local Communities; Older People; Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Young People; Young People and Alcohol; Young People with Mental Health Problems.

Help the Homeless

[Help the Homeless grants](#) are available to small to medium sized charities in the UK working to assist homeless people to return to the community. Deadline: 30 September.

Communitybuilders Feasibility Grants

[Communitybuilders](#) is offering grants of up to £75k to voluntary and community organisations wanting to develop project plans for new or refurbished community buildings.

OTHER NEWS

Guidance on Safeguarding during Vetting and Barring Scheme review

The Criminal Records Bureau has published a [briefing on interim arrangements](#) during the Vetting and Barring Scheme review.

Charity Builder UK (CBUK) is a Tennyson Insurance initiative designed to help not-for-profit groups become compliant quickly, easily and free of charge. It will guide you through key areas such as Human Resources and Health & Safety and help you produce documents such as contracts, policies and job descriptions. [Click here](#) for more information.

Improving Support: disability resources

The Improving Support website now has a [gateway for disabled people's organisations](#) to learn more about the resources and initiatives that are available to strengthen their organisations and support what they do. It will also help mainstream organisations better understand how they can meet the needs of disabled people's organisations through their work.

Calling all Information and Advice Providers in Hertfordshire

Complete HCC on-line survey: www.hertsdirect.org/websurveys/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.cgi?F2FKF3 to contribute to design and implementation of coordinated approach to provision of accessible information and advice in Herts. Initial stage is auditing what is currently available so get online before **deadline 3 September**.

21st Century Welfare – Consultation on Welfare Reform

Options published include combining elements of the current income-related benefits and tax credit systems, bringing out-of-work and in-work support together in a single system and supplementing monthly household earnings through credit payments reflecting circumstances such as children, housing and disability. Background papers can be found here:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2010/21st-century-welfare/>

Guardian article on the launch can be found here:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/jul/30/iain-duncan-smith-benefits-system>

Closing Date 1 October.

Cutting Business and Third Sector Regulations

The Cabinet Office is seeking ideas from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors on how it might free up business and third sector regulations. Enter your suggestions on how to reduce the deficit via the Cabinet Office's website: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/>

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