

Info Digest



Herts CVS Group: Promoting and developing voluntary activity across Hertfordshire

July 2010

Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

NCVO Budget Update

NCVO has published a [short summary](#) of the key points to help you understand what the Emergency Budget means for those working in, or with, the voluntary and community sector and how it will affect your organisation.

Public spending cuts

NCVO has also launched a [‘Coping with the Cuts’ section](#) on their website with advice and support to help you, and your organisation, cope with the cuts. There are useful guides and practical tools to help you diversify your income, strengthen key relationships and manage your workforce to guide you through the challenges ahead.

They have published a blog that outlines the extent of cuts in public spending and how they might hit the sector. <http://bit.ly/axman>. It is also conducting a survey of how the cuts will affect the sector. www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/cuts. Respond now.

Cabinet Office support for sector

A new committee for civil society, to start work in November, is among the proposals published by the Cabinet Office. (See section 6 especially on Big Society) www.navca.org.uk/news/costructuralreform. The Cabinet Office has also published the draft business plan for Office for Civil Society. <http://bit.ly/coocsbp>

Spending Review 2010

The Government has announced its approach to the 2010 Spending Review. This review will inform the spending plans for all government departments from the period 2011/12 to 2014/15 and there will be a public consultation on

proposals from August. Treasury press release: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_10_10.htm

Local authority grant cuts

Communities and Local Government has announced details of the cuts in its grants to local authorities. Full details are now available of what each authority will now receive in individual grants, and of which grants are being 'de-ringfenced' to give councils more budget flexibility.

www.navca.org.uk/news/cutsdetailforcouncils

Big Society

The NAVCA website now has a page on the Big Society, the Government's policies to redistribute power from the state to society; and from the centre to local communities, and to give people the opportunity to take more control over their lives. www.navca.org.uk/big society

Strengthening local leadership: key issues facing local support and development

Kevin Curley's address to the Chief Officers' Residential Event (CORE) is now on the NAVCA website. www.navca.org.uk/news/keyissues2010

Progress for providers

Progress for providers is a self-assessment toolkit developed by Walsall Voluntary Action to allow organisations providing adult social care services to check their progress in responding to the personalisation agenda.

<http://bit.ly/pfpwals>

Charity Commission warns of bogus telephone calls

The Charity Commission has warned of a scam involving telephone calls from individuals claiming to be from the "debt collection department" of the Commission and demanding payments (sometimes of thousands of pounds) for various services and advertisements. The Commission has been contacted by a number of people who have received calls of this nature and has already reported this matter to the police. <http://bit.ly/ccbgc>

New funding for volunteering and sport

Sport England is investing £93,000 in Volunteering England. The funding will be used to help volunteer centres to work more closely with local sports clubs; develop opportunities for people to volunteer; and to promote sports volunteering opportunities locally. <http://bit.ly/newfundvs>

Vetting & Barring

The Government has announced it will remodel the Vetting and Barring Scheme, back to "proportionate, commonsense levels". As a result, the ISA-registration stage of the scheme will not launch on 26 July as planned. See Legal Update from Sandy Adirondack below

Empowering the Voluntary Sector advice line: Little red phone is a service which brings together the expertise of NCVO's Compact Advocacy team and Public Law Project to support you. This support can range from a simple discussion to preparation for Judicial Review. If you need support, contact the advice line by calling 020 7520 3161 or email evsAdvice@ncvo-vol.org.uk.

'Circulation' 415 (*NAVCA members only*)

The latest edition of 'Circulation' is now available on the NAVCA website. It includes an introduction to Total Place and members' experiences of the Total Place pilots; an introduction to Judicial Review; and key issues relating to the Vetting and Barring Scheme. www.navca.org.uk/publications/circulation/2010

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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Visit <http://myhertslaa.blogspot.com> to find out more about sailing 'The winds of change'.

Please note: The My Herts LAA website (www.myhertslaa.net) and blog will be undergoing changes to reflect the abolition of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and changes in the way LAA-related activity is delivered. In future, these portals will operate under the name **My Herts Together** and the domain names will be changed accordingly. Changes will be gradually effected over the next few weeks.

Hertfordshire Forward

- The current issue of the **2021 Bulletin** is now available to view and/ or download on the My Herts LAA website.
- The Herts Forward 2012 Annual report is now available to view and/ or download on both the Herts Forward and the My Herts LAA websites.

Safer and Stronger Communities

The current issue of the **Migration Impact Partnership** newsletter is available to view and/ or download on the My Herts LAA website.

Guidance for LA on Budgetary Revisions

The Commission for the Compact has issued a reminder on its guidance for local authorities on managing budgetary revisions, <http://preview.tinyurl.com/23zf266>

Compact Voice has published a map showing the difference local partnerships have made across the country. [Click here](#) for more information.

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LEGAL MATTERS

Charity Commission Financial Guidance

The Charity Commission has updated financial guidance covering risk management; financial difficulties and insolvency; reserves and internal financial controls. <http://bit.ly/ccfguid>

Managing charity resources

The Charity Commission's new website has a section giving advice and guidance to help trustees understand good practice and the extent of their powers and duties when managing charity resources. <http://bit.ly/ccommr>

Guide to tax implications of charity trading

The Charity Finance Directors' Group has produced a comprehensive guide on 'The Tax Implications of Charity Trading' which can be downloaded from their Good Practice publications page.

http://www.cfdg.org.uk/cfdg/good_practice_publications.asp

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

Work with children and vulnerable adults

- Summary of recent VBS changes, the current review of the scheme, and Home Office guidance on the scheme as a whole and on safeguarding during the review period. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#vbs
- Changes to the definition of regulated activity (including charity trustees) following the Singleton review. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#regulatedactivity
- Registration of health and adult social care providers with the Care Quality Commission – from **1 October**. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#careregistration

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Children's Commissioning Group Fund

The Children's Commissioning Group (CCG) embodies a new vision for Children, Schools and Families (CSF) of involving children and young people to commission their own services. The CCG will play a key role in deciding which services will deliver preventative and early intervention support services for children and young people who are most vulnerable. The CCG fund is targeted at all organisations delivering services for those aged 5 - 13 years.

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/hcc/csf/childrenstrust/partnerships/ccg1011/>

Department for Education: ministerial appointments

The Department for Education has confirmed ministerial appointments and responsibilities. Minister of State for Children and Families is Sarah Teather.

<http://bit.ly/dfeminapp>

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Green ICT

The Green ICT website is a resource for all those interested in greener ICT.

<http://greenict.org.uk>

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RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Writing better fundraising applications

DSC. www.dsc.org.uk/publications

NCVO Diversity Resources Guide

NCVO Workforce Development recently published a guide which outlines what diversity resources are available for voluntary sector organisations and where to go for information and advice. The guide outlines available resources on sexual orientation, working parents, carers, gender and disability equality and more.

[Click here](#) to download the guide for free.

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LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT/EVENTS

Small organisations can have a Big Voice ... at a low cost

NAVCA and prospectus are holding a free workshop for our members on branding and communications for small community-based organisations. 23 July, London. www.navca.org.uk/events

Challenging the withdrawal of funding - What are the options?

Bates, Wells and Braithwaite. 20 July, London. www.bwblp.com/Seminars

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FUNDING

Big Lottery Proposals

The new government proposes to change to the share of money allocated from the National Lottery. Each of the arts, heritage and sport good causes would increase to 20 per cent, with the Big Lottery Fund receiving the remaining 40 per cent and focusing its support exclusively on the voluntary and community sectors. Read the [press release](#) or go direct to [the consultation](#). Deadline for comments 21st August.

Comic Relief Older People's Programme

This programme supports older people to bring positive change to their communities, enabling them to contribute their time, energy and skills to those individuals who need it most. Deadline: 3 September.

www.comicrelief.com/apply_for_a_grant/uk/olderpeople

Community Wildlife Fund

The Big Lottery Fund has launched the Community Wildlife funding programme. It will offer grants of between £300 and £10,000 to projects that bring communities together to improve or protect the natural environment by raising awareness of threatened wildlife or places. Deadlines: 21 July, 22 September and 24 November. www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/communitywildlife

Church Urban Fund

The Church Urban Fund supports faith-based social action in England's poorest communities. www.cuf.org.uk

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OTHER NEWS

Volunteer Management Portal

Volunteering England has launched a volunteer management portal with links to over a thousand resources across England. For the first time, information on support, training and development opportunities for people managing volunteers is available to view in one single place. www.volunteering.org.uk/vmportal

Charity Trustees Network (CTN)

CTN is the national charity for trustees. It offers various services including:

- Access to other network organisers' experience and knowhow
- Hints and tips on setting up and running a network.
- Topics for meetings and fielding speakers
- A regular e-newsletter (Network Focus) for network organisers or anyone interested in trustee support
- Ongoing telephone support as and when needed

- Showcasing and promotion for your network and/or events through website and e-newsletters

For more information and to sign up visit: <http://www.trusteenet.org.uk>.

Data Protection

Any organisation that holds personal information about it's members or users will need to be registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO is to have new powers to issue fines of up to £500, 000 for serious personal data security breaches. Further information about data protection can be found on the ICO website: www.ico.gov.uk

HRBank: New policies and job descriptions to request

NCVO's HRBank is an online resource consisting of a huge variety of job descriptions and policies that have been donated by voluntary and community organisations. If you need to check your policies or write a new job description, you can request the documents free of charge and tailor them to your needs, which saves you starting from scratch. 44 new policies added this month. Visit HRBank at www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/workforce-development/hrbank.

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DISCLAIMER: *This Info Bulletin contains extracts from key Third Sector updates received by Herts CVS from different sources. Herts CVS does not endorse any publications, events and services mentioned and is not responsible for the content of external websites*

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