



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

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INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS

Current economic circumstances and your local area

NAVCA Chief Executive Kevin Curley has asked NAVCA members to let him know how the current economic circumstances are affecting their area, and what steps they are taking. <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/economy.htm>

Current financial climate

NAVCA has been invited to a summit of third sector organisations to discuss responses to the current economic situation. They are interested to know:

- Have any organisations in your area been affected by the Icelandic banking crisis?
- Are there increased pressures on local organisations (e.g. advice agencies)
- What actions are you and local strategic partners taking in response? For example are you and your partners reviewing allocation of funds to each local area agreement priority, so that funds are focussed where the need is likely to be the greatest?
- Are funds being transferred from lower priority services to help frontline organisations and services under pressure?
- What should the government do to support the sector in the current economic crisis?

Please send responses to Peter Horner, peter.horner@navca.org.uk by **10 November**.

NAVCA has published statements from Unity Trust Bank and Charities Aid Foundation on its website:

<http://www.navca.org.uk/news/financialclimatestatements.htm>. For further information see Sandy Adirondack update under Legal Matters below.

NJC Pay Negotiations 2008/09

The local government services pay dispute has been referred to arbitration and given the time that has elapsed since the award was due, and the likelihood of further delays arising from the arbitration process, the two sides of the NJC have now decided that the Employers' final offer should be implemented, with effect from 1 April 2008. The new scales are available at:

<http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/scales>. These may be amended depending upon the results of the arbitration process.

Charitable Incorporated Organisations

The Office of the Third Sector and the Charity Commission have launched a consultation on the Charitable Incorporated Organisation - the new legal form for charities. NAVCA strongly urges members to read the consultation documents and to consider replying to the consultation. The consultation itself can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/Consultations/current_consultations/cio.aspx

New third sector skills body

The Government has announced plans to create a new Third Sector skills body which will identify and address skills gaps and shortages for charities, voluntary groups, social enterprises and other third sector organisations. £2.5m has been made available over 3 years.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/081021_skills.aspx

Pensions Trust Growth Plan

The Pensions Trust has provided a statement for NAVCA members concerning debts which charities may incur as an unforeseen consequence of pensions legislation affecting the Trust's Growth Plan.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/news/pensiontruststatement.htm>

'Circulation' 405

The October/November edition of 'Circulation' is now on the NAVCA website at: <http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/circulation/2008/405>. Articles include the Southall Black Sisters case, NAVCA's new local commissioning and procurement unit, NAVCA's Every Child Matters project, and the national third sector survey.

Infrastructure organisations: demonstrating your effectiveness

It is increasingly important that infrastructure organisations are able to demonstrate the effectiveness of their services. Charities Evaluation Services is carrying out a survey of the expectations you face and the resources you use. You can help CES to support you better by taking part in their online survey,

which should take 15 minutes to complete.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=OWcRzAvZ70ilcuelfWOC3Q_3d_3d
or <http://digbig.com/4xqya>.

The Future of LIOs

The latest Bulletin from ARVAC, the community research group, includes articles on the future of local infrastructure organisations by Richard Gutch, and Colin Rochester on the new Conservative vision for voluntary action.

<http://digbig.com/4xqwt> or <http://www.arvac.org.uk>.

Engagement arrangements in Surrey

NAVCA has been working in Surrey to develop new engagement arrangements. The proposal and consultation documents, and the consultation summary, are available on their website as an example of the work with third sector organisations and local public bodies on developing an engagement strategy.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/infobank/ilpunews/surrey.htm>

Local Commissioning and Procurement survey

NAVCA need your help to fill out a survey about what help LIOs need to face the challenges of commissioning and procurement. NAVCA need to know the activities that LIOs are involved in, where the major gaps are and the areas in which you would like support. The survey can be found at:

<http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/lcp/news/lcpusurvey.htm>

New COVER website goes live!

Visit the new and improved COVER website at www.cover-east.org for a comprehensive source of news and information for voluntary organisations in the East of England. An indispensable resource with all the latest regional and national developments for everyone involved in health, disability, older people, equality, social care, children and young people, volunteering and infrastructure.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

What Makes a Successful Local Compact?

The Commission for the Compact has published 'What Makes a Successful Local Compact?', based on research identifying practical approaches to increase the effectiveness of Local Compacts and partnership working. Key findings include that a lack of trust and communication between partners is a barrier and that ownership of the Compact at senior levels within local authorities is vital. The Commission hopes that this practical guide containing real life examples and case studies will be used as a basis of "healthy discussion in Local Strategic Partnerships, local authorities, Primary Care Trusts, community and voluntary sector organisations and in Compact implementation groups".

News item <http://preview.tinyurl.com/59sh7r>, or read report as pdf, 957KB, from <http://preview.tinyurl.com/5gvscy>.

Working with the third sector to reduce reoffending 2008/11

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has announced its commitment to further improve partnership work with the third sector.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/third-sector-reoffending.htm>

Mental health and community services

The Department of Health is introducing a new standard contract for mental health and community services from April 2009. Each Strategic Health Authority is holding a contract implementation support workshop for their commissioners and providers during October/November to introduce the emerging contractual requirements and processes. Details of the workshops can be found at

<http://www.pcc.nhs.uk/events>

Third Sector Update and News

A new regular newsletter produced by the Department of Health's Third Sector Partnership Team. <http://digbig.com/4xrrg> or <http://www.dh.gov.uk>

DTA Policy round-up

The Development Trusts Association produces a quarterly policy round-up, to inform its partners and stakeholders about current policy issues of relevance to the community enterprise sector. <http://www.dta.org.uk/whatsnew/news/pru.htm>

SARCs

Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) are one-stop locations where victims of sexual assault can receive medical care and counselling, and have the opportunity to assist police investigations into alleged offences. Funding is available for existing SARCS as well as for the development of new SARCs. Applications from partnerships led by third sector organisations are eligible, as long as the relevant statutory partners are included.

<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/sexual/sexual15.htm>

Working in partnership

'A Practical Guide to Working With Partnerships' has been written by N2 Consulting in conjunction with Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service to provide a step-by-step guide to planning, setting-up and launching a successful partnership. Download (pdf, 203KB) <http://n2-consulting.com/partnerships.html>.

LEGAL MATTERS

Disability Discrimination Act - tax guidance

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requires service providers to make 'reasonable adjustments' to their premises to tackle any physical features that prevent disabled people from using their services. Work carried out to meet new duties under the DDA may qualify for tax relief, either as a revenue expense, or

through capital allowances. Full details of tax relief are available at:
<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/specialist/disability-act-guidance.htm>

Consulting employees on health and safety

By law, employers must consult their employees on health and safety issues at work. The Health and Safety Executive has two new leaflets on this - one aimed mainly at employers in workplaces with fewer than 25 employees (pdf, 109KB) at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/web35.pdf> and a brief guide to the law (pdf, 136KB) at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg232.pdf>.

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

FSCS & Icelandic banks

The Charity Commission has issued guidance on the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and on the Icelandic situation. The guidance applies to non-charities as well.

"Financial Services Compensation Fund: What it means for charities":

www.charitycommission.gov.uk/news/fincomp.asp "Charities who have invested in Icelandic banks": www.charitycommission.gov.uk/news/ice.asp The Charity Commission is asking all charities affected by the Icelandic crisis to contact enquiries@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk so they can collate information. For up to date statements by HM Treasury www.hm-treasury.gov.uk For up to date info from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme www.fscs.org.uk/consumer/Latest_News/

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Parenting Fund

The third round of the Department for Children, Schools and Families Parenting Fund is now open. Projects will be funded from April 2009 to March 2011, and a total of £16m is available. Closing date for applications is 12 December.

<http://www.familyandparenting.org/ParentingFundFunding>

Joint planning and commissioning

The Every Child Matters website now contains information and case studies on joint planning and commissioning, aimed at anyone involved in commissioning for children, young people and families.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/planningandcommissioning/casestudies>

Small organisations survey

NCVCCO is carrying out a survey of small organisations (annual income less than £250k). This follows on from a similar survey conducted two years ago, published as 'Under the radar' (see <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/radar.htm>),

which received national media attention and helped to highlight the strengths and challenges of smaller organisations. NCVCCO wants to find out how the current children's services agenda is impacting on small organisations and what has changed for them. Please respond if you can. <http://digbig.com/4xrrd> or http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=C_2fz3dej_2bYyAJ5nU0F1RtGQ_3d_3d

Aiming High for Disabled Children

The Government has committed £5m over the next three years to support parent involvement in the planning and strategic development of local services for disabled children. <http://digbig.com/4xrry> or <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk>

THE ENVIRONMENT

Green Grants Machine

Green Grants Machine is a free source of information on grants, loans and awards available to help your organisation go green and save on energy bills. It contains information on over £1.2bn of funds available to help you: purchase hybrid fleet vehicles; install solar panels; or introduce a recycling scheme in the workplace, to name just a few. <http://www.greengrantsmachine.co.uk>

Carbon Trust Loans

The Carbon Trust has doubled the maximum size of its interest-free Energy Efficiency loans from £100,000 to £200,000, and increased the overall loans pot to £31m this year. The move is in response to the difficult market conditions and will enable small businesses to implement energy saving projects on a far more ambitious scale than previously possible.

http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/News/presscentre/290908_Changes+to+the+EEL+Scheme.htm

PUBLICATIONS

The Good Trustee Guide

This fifth edition of the Good Trustee Guide has been completely revised and updated to reflect the many changes in law, regulation and best practice affecting trustees over recent years. Ideal as an introductory pack for new board members or as a refresher or long-serving trustees. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/publications/publication.asp?id=1451>

Train to Gain and the Third Sector

The Learning and Skills Council have published *Train to Gain and the Third Sector*, which outlines how voluntary and community groups can use the scheme to access free training and development for their staff and volunteers. [Download the brochure here.](#)

New guide to using the Sustainable Communities Act

Local Works has produced a new guide for citizens on how to use the Sustainable Communities Act. The guide contains details on how the Act works as well as examples of what can be achieved by using it.

<http://www.localworks.org/?q=node/47>

NHS Supply2Health

NHS Supply2Health is an online resource advertising commissioning opportunities being offered by the NHS. <http://www.supply2health.nhs.uk>

Community Development Challenge

Whether you are working in a local authority, community development project, or as part of a regeneration or health initiatives team, four new books from CDF offer expert guidance. Community Development Challenge publications on: Democracy, Management, Strategies, and Evaluation can be downloaded from:

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

Hot topics for small organisations

NCVO has a free bulletin for small organisations, giving information and support on a range of relevant topics including employment and volunteering, and trusteeship. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/smallorganisations.asp>.

The Survivor's Handbook

A free online resource from Women's Aid providing practical support and information for women living with domestic violence.

<http://www.womensaid.org.uk/survivors-handbook>

Community Cohesion

The Institute of Community Cohesion has developed a new interactive website bringing together a range of practical advice and support on how to promote cohesion and integration. <http://www.cohesioninstitute.org.uk>

We Can!

The Autumn issue of WeCan!, the quarterly magazine for people interested in getting involved in and influencing the delivery of services in their local area, focuses on the Communities in Control white paper.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/wecanautumn2008>

VDU workstation checklist

The Health and Safety Executive has produced a VDU checklist for safety representatives. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/msd/campaigns/vduchecklist.pdf>

The Acid Test

The Acid Test is an online tool for third sector organisations which assesses your organisation's health and provides clear feedback on how to address key areas for concern. <http://www.theacidtest.co.uk>.

TRAINING/EVENTS

Recipes for community representation - what ingredients do you need?

Urban Forum is collaborating with NAVCA to run a series of events to help voluntary and community groups to increase the effectiveness of community representation in their area. <http://www.navca.org.uk/events/commrep.htm>

Facilities and Buildings Network

The Facilities and Buildings Network for Local Infrastructure Organisations is holding its second meeting on 1 December at Thurrock CVS. For more details email renae@thurrockvols.demon.co.uk or tcvs@thurrockvols.demon.co.uk.

What is wrong with offering an incentive anyway?

Volunteering England debate, AGM and launch of new membership package. 24 November, London.

<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/WhatWeDo/Events/Volunteering+England+Events>

Developing partnerships

Red Foundation, a new social action agency, is offering two one-day training courses for funding advisors on 'Developing Partnerships with the Corporate Sector'. The training courses will take place in London and Birmingham. For more details and contact information go to:

<http://www.redfoundation.org/whatwedo/redcci>

FUNDING

Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy

The Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy, Cass Business School, City University London, was launched on 1 October. An article on 'Recession and Charities' was specially written for the launch by Jenny Harrow and Cathy Pharaoh, Co-Directors of the Centre. <http://www.cass.city.ac.uk/philanthropy>

Big Thinking

Big thinking will be your chance to give the Big Lottery Fund your views and help it plan for the future. Over the next few months BIG will be asking you to help shape its funding policies. You can have your say by visiting the Big Thinking website from 17 November. <http://www.big-thinking.org.uk>

Parks for People

Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund are relaunching the Parks for People programme with changes which will simplify and shorten the application process. New application materials and guidance will be available in November. Parks for People offers grants of between £250,000 and £5m for projects involving urban or rural green spaces designed for informal recreation and enjoyment. <http://digbig.com/4xrrh> or <http://www.hlf.org.uk>

Changes to funding community sport

Sport England is changing the way it distributes around £45 million of National Lottery funding every year, following public consultation. Details of the application processes and award eligibility for the new programmes, including themed funding rounds, small grants and an innovation fund for community sport, will appear in the new year. News item at <http://preview.tinyurl.com/6ff44y>.

OTHER NEWS

Volunteering while receiving benefits

Renewed guidance from Jobcentre Plus. <http://digbig.com/4xqxr> or <http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk>

Switchover help scheme

The Switchover Help Scheme has been set up by the BBC, through agreement with Government, to offer practical help people who face barriers in switching to digital TV. <http://www.helpscheme.co.uk> or tel 0800 4085 900s

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: *Contact Sue McClinton, Herts Information Co-ordination Project. Email: sue@cvsstalbans.org.uk*

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