



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

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INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS

Third Sector Survey

The Office of the Third Sector launched the National Survey of Third Sector Organisations on 22 September. Over 100,000 charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises have been randomly selected from data supplied by Guidestar to take part. NAVCA is closely involved in the survey, and believes it is an important opportunity for third sector organisations to feedback on what is happening at grassroots level, and whether they are receiving the support they need. This study is the baseline for National Indicator 7 (An environment for a thriving third sector). NAVCA strongly encourages members and organisations to look out for this survey and to complete it if they receive one.

<http://digbig.com/4xmsm> or <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector>

Help shape NAVCA's response to the future of the Compact debate

The Commission for the Compact has been asked by the Minister for the Third Sector, Phil Hope MP, to lead a debate on the future of the Compact. To help NAVCA make sure our response reflects your views, please take a few minutes to fill in the NAVCA survey at

<http://www.navca.org.uk/news/compactdebatesurvey.htm> by 24 October.

Local area agreement - what's it got to do with me?

This new NAVCA publication is aimed at citizens who are engaged in community action. It provides a simple introduction to LAAs, making the links between community activity and how people can influence decision making in their local area with support from local infrastructure organisations.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/laa2>

Future role of the voluntary and community sector

A revised and updated version of this paper, which was produced by Sally Cooke on behalf of Bolton CVS, is now available on our website. It covers the national policy context within which the local third sector works, and was developed to share with others working on this agenda.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/futurerole>

Full Cost Recovery

Acevo has recently released its 'Full Cost Business Planner' which allows organisations to cost multiple projects to ensure that all overheads are allocated consistently and appropriately. The toolkit also includes a business plan writer which will help third sector organisations write their business plans in an efficient and effective way.<http://digbig.com/4xmyj>

The Third Sector and Local Area Agreements

Local area agreements (LAAs) have become an increasingly important part of the local picture. NAVCA represent the sector on the Communities and Local Government body which oversees the implementation of LAAs, so they are able to make sure that your experiences are relayed to the key policy-makers across government. Please take a few minutes to fill in our survey and let us know what's really going on at the sharp end. Deadline for completing the survey is 17 October. <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/laathirdsectorsurvey>

Voice4Change subscription

Voice4Change England (V4CE) has launched a subscribers' scheme that individuals and organisations can join to strengthen its role in building a thriving BME Third Sector.

http://www.voice4change-england.co.uk/subscriber_media_release.html

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The State of Independence

The Commission for the Compact has published the findings of research which looks at understanding of, and commitment to, the Compact, and at safeguarding the independence of the third sector.

<http://digbig.com/4xnjx> or <http://www.thecompact.org.uk>

Communities in Control: analysis and FAQs

Following the publication of the Empowerment White Paper, Urban Forum has produced an analysis and some frequently asked questions to supplement its policy briefing.<http://www.urbanforum.org.uk/new>

Three year funding

The Office of the Third Sector and HM Treasury have published guidance for government departments on their new obligation to report progress on

implementing three-year grant funding. <http://digbig.com/4xkss> or <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector>

Commissioning: one charity's meat is another's poison

Article by Debra Allcock Tyler, Chief Executive of Directory of Social Change on the problems with a culture of commissioning services traditionally delivered by charities on a demand-led grant basis.

<http://www.dsc.org.uk/NewsandInformation/News>

The Selector: News about the Sustainable Communities Act

LGA has launched a newsletter about the implementation of the Sustainable Communities Act, which is due to be implemented from October 2008 onwards.

<http://digbig.com/4xmwc> or <http://www.lga.gov.uk>

Cohesion delivery framework

This Communities and Local Government document aims to help local practitioners understand the concept of cohesion, map local communities to identify possible cohesion issues, and develop action plans. It also identifies other resources available to practitioners.

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

COVER releases updated PESTE analysis

COVER has released an updated PESTE analysis setting out the main drivers of change to the operating environment for VCS in the eastern region. The analysis looks at major trends affecting the sector, their level of importance for the sector and COVER's role in responding to them. Download the PESTE now at

<http://www.cover-east.org/interact/documents/word/2444.doc>

DCLG Communities Strategies

DCLG has published a series of evaluation reports into the impact of community strategies. Areas looked at include equalities, community engagement, relationship with local area agreements, relationship with local development frameworks and the role of elected members. COVER has produced a handy summary of the findings available for download at

<http://www.cover-east.org/interact/documents/word/2451.doc>

How your council works

This guide is published jointly by NAVCA, IDeA and Urban Forum with the support of the National Empowerment Partnership to provide information on how local authorities work and what they are responsible for.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/publications/council>

LEGAL MATTERS

Charitable Incorporated Organisations

A long-awaited consultation on the new corporate form for charities created under the Charities Act 2006, the Charitable Incorporated Organisation, is now under way. Run jointly by the Office of the Third Sector and the Charity Commission, it covers details of what the new form might look like and the rules a CIO will have to follow, contained within draft secondary legislation. Views needed by 10th December. Charity Commission introduction at <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/enhancingcharities/cio.asp> and www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#cio for background, and the Office of the Third Sector website via <http://tinyurl.com/558tku> for the consultation documents.

Look at some of the supporting documents as these provide further information on the proposals and what is likely to happen when the new form is introduced. For example Appendix G has information on how existing organisations that are both charities and companies will be able to convert to CIOs.

SANDY ADIRONDACK: UPDATED OR ADDED TO THE LEGAL UPDATE WEBSITE FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS.

Charity Law

- Revised Charity Commission guidance on payments to charity trustees, reflecting changes brought in by the Charities Act. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#trusteeremuneration
- Bar Pro Bono Unit sets up panel to provide assistance for charity tribunal cases. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#chartribunal or go direct to www.barprobono.org.uk
- Charities currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission, with annual income over £100,000, were expected to have to register from 1 October 2008. They do not now have to register until 1 January 2009, but can register voluntarily from 1 October. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#charityreg-excepted

Employment law

Be sure you are ready for the following changes that come into effect in October:

- Minimum wage goes up from **1 October**. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#minimumwage or go direct to the BERR minimum wage website at <http://tinyurl.com/34bp48>
- Employer's liability insurance certificates can be made available to employees electronically rather than being displayed, from **1 October**. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#empliersability-insurance
- Deadline 1 October for applying to become a sponsor if you want to hire someone from outside the European Economic Area for a Tier 2 job (skilled workers) or Tier 5 (youth schemes, or musicians, sports

- people, actors etc coming for a specific event) during or soon after November, or if you currently hire someone from outside the EEA whose work permit will need renewing then. Even if you are not immediately affected the new immigration rules will affect ALL employers who hire anyone from outside the EEA, so you are advised to read the intro at www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#righttowork and the detailed information at www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers
- If expected week of childbirth starts on or after **5 October**, or a child is expected to be placed for adoption on or after that date, employees must receive all non-cash contractual rights and benefits during additional as well as ordinary maternity or adoption leave.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#AMLbenefits.
 - HMRC guidance and the benefits employees on AML/AAL are entitled to, in 'Statutory maternity pay: Salary sacrifice and non-cash benefits' via <http://tinyurl.com/45z9ve>
 - Agency temps on fixed-term contracts of less than three months to be entitled to statutory sick pay, from **27 October**.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#agencyrights
 - A reminder that tax codes for employees on PAYE changed for wages/salaries paid on or after **7 September**. All employers will have received details from HMRC, but if you want to know more about what it means for you as an individual or an employer, go to www.hmrc.gov.uk/employers/epa.htm.

Company law

Coming into effect on 1 October, Some relatively small-scale company law changes, followed by one that is more significant:

- New rules on display of company name at registered office, places where company carries out its work, and place where certain company documents are kept.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#coname-premises
- New rules on company name, status and other details on paper and electronic documents.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#codetails-documents
- Companies must have at least one natural person (human being) as a director. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#codir-natural
- All company directors must be at least 16 years old.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#codir-age
- Non-companies can now object to a company name
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#nameobjection
- Conflict of interest - a more significant change:
The new company law statutory duties to avoid conflict of interest, not accept benefits from third parties and declare an interest in transactions with the company sound straightforward, but include a new statutory requirement for certain conflicts of interest to be approved by company

members or the directors. This includes situations where a person is 'wearing two hats' and could have a conflict of duties in two different roles (for example being employed by one organisation while serving as a company director of another, or being a local authority councillor on the board of a local organisation). In some situations approval is not needed if the memorandum or articles allows that type of conflict of interest; in other situations approval must be given but can only be if the memorandum or articles allows this. For more details bearing in mind this is a work in progress see www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#codir-conflict

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Governing for children

NCVCCO has published a guide to governance in the children, young people and families' voluntary sector. The guide aims to introduce and describe the key elements and essential role of all those who govern small charitable organisations. <http://www.ncvcco.org>

Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work

This new DCSF programme will support 50,000 low-income families where one parent is working and the second parent wants to improve their skills so that they can return to work. As well as free childcare, families will receive help from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to identify and attend training. The programme will be available from January 2009 in the 67 Local Authorities with the highest number of eligible families, and extended to all remaining Local Authorities in September 2009. http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0189

Growing Strong

NCH has launched a campaign to highlight the impact that emotional well-being has on young people's futures. NCH is calling on organisations that provide services that affect children to promote emotional well-being. <http://www.nch.org.uk/getinvolved/index.php?i=430>

Youth Alcohol Action Plan

Following a consultation earlier this year, the Government has published its action plan to stop young people drinking in public, help them make the right decisions about alcohol and provide clear information to parents and young people about the risks of early drinking. <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/youthalcohol>

Outcomes of the YOF/YCF

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published an evaluation of the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) and Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF), examining whether giving young people control and decision-making power over resources in their local area led to an increase in provision of positive activities and levels of

participation by young people. DCSF has also published guidance offering a range of examples direct from local authorities and groups of young people and key recommendations based on the evaluation.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/youthmatters/youthfund>

EYFS resource

The DCSF has published an 'Early Years Foundation Stage - everything you need to know' resource containing detailed information and case studies. Part of the Children's Plan and Every Child Matters agenda, the EYFS is a play-based framework, which provides support to those working with young children. <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/eyfs>

THE ENVIRONMENT

GreenChoices

The GreenChoices website is about the choices we can make in our everyday lives to protect our environment, for the benefit of all. It provides information on green alternatives which make a real, lasting difference.

<http://www.greenchoices.org>

PUBLICATIONS

Get Skilled Workbook

The 'Get Skilled Workbook' is a practical guide about how to create a learning and development plan for a third sector organisation. It was launched at NAVCA conference, and is currently free to anyone supporting local third sector groups.

Email skild@navca.org.uk for a paper copy - or see <http://www.skild.org.uk>

Keep Warm, Keep Well: A guide for families

Department of Health booklet for families on how to maintain good health during winter and take advantage of the financial help and benefits available.

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

Gift Aid made simple

Charity Finance Directors Group and accountancy specialists Sayer Vincent have produced 'Gift Aid made simple', a downloadable leaflet aimed at charity finance professionals. <http://digbig.com/4xmtc> or <http://www.sayervincent.co.uk>

An ICT survival guide for trustees

What has ICT got to do with governance? Why should trustees be interested in ICT? This guide is designed to help trustees understand the role of ICT, the importance of strategic planning to reduce the cost and risk implications, and to make a difference to your organisational effectiveness. Find out more and order your copy online.

<http://www.ncvovol.org.uk/publications/publication.asp?id=8802>

Accountability and Learning: Developing Monitoring and Evaluation in the Third Sector

Charities Evaluation Service study of monitoring and evaluation in the third sector, capturing the experiences of over 700 third sector organisations and over 100 funders and commissioners. <http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=424>

Commissioning: one charity's meat is another's poison

Article by Debra Allcock Tyler, Chief Executive of Directory of Social Change on the problems with a culture of commissioning services traditionally delivered by charities on a demand-led grant basis.

<http://www.dsc.org.uk/NewsandInformation/News>

Older People and Wellbeing

This Institute for Public Policy Research report highlights the significance of support to foster wellbeing and social and community participation for older people, particularly for those most at risk of isolation and exclusion. <http://www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=620>

Journal of Voluntary Sector Research

The first issue of the Journal of Voluntary Sector Research is now available. Articles include 'Developing a Culture of Volunteering: Beyond the Third Sector Approach' and 'Lessons for Older People's Involvement'.

<http://www.getheard.org.uk/journal.php>

TRAINING/EVENTS

Working for a Charity Induction Course

This course is for people newly arrived in the third sector who want to learn more about some of the key management issues facing the sector. It takes place in London on 12-13 November. <http://www.workingforacharity.org.uk> or call 020 7520 2512.

Secrets of Successful Tendering

Effective tendering requires an understanding of the legislative and practical background within which procurement is currently taking place and the processes which drive the tendering procedures. More events in this series have been organised due to demand: 15 October, Manchester and 12 November, London.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/events/secrets.htm>

FUNDING

Futurebuilders CVS roadshows

During the autumn Futurebuilders is holding free roadshows for CVS, infrastructure bodies and local authority funding advice workers. An opportunity

to find out about Futurebuilders' new funds and changes to the application process. Most accessible venues are: 3 October, Cambridge; 13 November, Birmingham; 27 November, Brighton; 28 November, London.

<http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk/content/Events/Roadshow.aspx>

Futurebuilders to work in partnership with RBS

Futurebuilders England and The Royal Bank of Scotland have announced a joint partnership arrangement to increase the financial support available to third sector organisations. <http://digbig.com/4xkst> or <http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk>

Grassroots Grants

The Grassroots Grants programme is now open for business. The programme, which is funded by the Office of the Third Sector and managed by the Community Development Foundation, aims to invest in a thriving community sector. It will run from 2008-11 and is divided into two parts: an £80m small grants fund for community organisations; and a £50m endowments programme. Local community groups can access Grassroots Grants via their Local Funder - for more information see: <http://digbig.com/4xktn> or <http://www.cdf.org.uk>

National Sports Foundation

The National Sports Foundation (NSF), funded by Sport England, provides match funding to facilitate and encourage partnerships between private investors and community sports projects in England. The scheme complements the similar SportsMatch programme. SportsMatch deals with supporting projects requiring £50,000 or less and the NSF programme deals with projects requiring more than £50,000. http://www.nationalsportsfoundation.org/about_foundation.html

Working with Offenders

The Weavers' Company Benevolent Fund provide grants of up to £15,000 to support UK-based organisations working with young offenders; prisoners and ex-prisoners; and young people who are at risk from criminal involvement. Grants can be provided for equipment, capital projects, salaries and running costs.

<http://www.weavers.org.uk/default.asp?section=111>

OTHER NEWS

NCVO Strategy and Impact Website

NCVO's Strategy and Impact website is now live. The site gives an introduction to the topics of strategy and impact, helping third sector organisations get to grips with strategic thinking and planning, and to demonstrate the difference they make. <http://www.strategy-impact.org.uk>

Free website for charities

Stevenson IT is giving away websites to the value of £1,500 each. Its aim over the next year is to design, free of charge, 300 websites for charity organisations.

To register for the Websites for Charities Project go to <http://www.stevensonit.com/charity.html>

CANN guidance

The Community Accountancy National Network has published a range of basic resources to help smaller third sector organisations with their accounting. <http://www.communityaccounting.org/?q=node/3>

Investing in governance

Stefan Kuchar, CEO of Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency, has published a new governance assessment framework designed to support boards of trustees and chief executives. <http://www.investinggovernance.org.uk>

NCVO Recommended HR Support

HR Services Partnership are NCVO's recommended provider of HR support and advice; offering ad-hoc support or a monthly package to NCVO members from only £89 per month. www.hr-services-partnership.co.uk

Charity Trustee Networks

CTN supports trustees by bringing them together and ensuring their voice is heard. Trusteenet is CTN's free online community providing opportunities for networking and access to information. CTN's newsletter offers advice, case studies and tips on how to fulfill the trustee role most effectively. Trusteenetplus provides additional benefits including individual indemnity insurance cover. <http://www.trusteenet.org.uk>

IT magazine for smaller voluntary organisations

Lasa's magazine Computanews, which provides straightforward, clear information on the use of IT for staff in small to medium-sized voluntary organisations, is now only available electronically, but this means it is downloadable by anyone. Download issue 149 (pdf, 562KB) and future editions from <http://www.lasa.org.uk/computanews/index.shtml>.

Online advice for older people and their carers

A service that provides a single source of information on care, housing and funding for older people has been created by a coalition of Help the Aged, Counsel and Care and the Elderly Accommodation Counsel. It is provided through the FirstStop web site at <http://www.firststopcareadvice.org.uk> and also the telephone Advice Line, currently being piloted in London and South East England.

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*

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

Funded by the HCC Strategic Leadership Contract

