

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

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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Implementing National Indicators 6 and 7

Kevin Curley gave a speech on implementation of National Indicators 6 (increased volunteering) and 7 (thriving third sector) at a recent Office of the Third Sector conference for Leaders and Chief Executives of Local Authorities.
<http://www.navca.org.uk/news/nationalindicators6and7.htm>

Community Empowerment White Paper

Alongside the White Paper, Communities and Local Government has published statutory guidance to local authorities and their partners on creating strong, safe and prosperous communities. It covers the duty to involve and duties around Local Area Agreements in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. 'Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities: Statutory Guidance' is available at:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongsafeprospous>

Communities and Local Government has also published the 'Community Power Pack' - a practical guide to help people play a more active role in their communities.

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

- Info4Local has published a guide to the white paper:
<http://digbig.com/4xfth> or <http://www.info4local.gov.uk>
- An NCVO briefing is available via: <http://tinyurl.com/5skbn3> or <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk>
- ACRE's response: <http://digbig.com/4xftf> or <http://www.acre.org.uk>
- National Neighbourhood Management Network briefing via:
<http://www.neighbourhoodmanagement.net>

Community empowerment and engagement

The latest news on the community empowerment and engagement agenda (including the Empowerment White Paper) from IDeA. <http://digbig.com/4xftj> or <http://www.idea.gov.uk>

Empowerment White Paper and Statutory Guidance for Local Strategic Partnerships

These two policy documents, recently published by Communities and Local Government, suggest a tension in CLG's thinking between the promotion of engagement with national and local government by individual citizens on the one hand, and by third sector organisations on the other. NAVCA has published a briefing that seeks to clarify these positions.

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

Principles of Representation: A framework for effective third sector participation in Local Strategic Partnerships

This free document provides advice to the third sector on how best to organise themselves to maximise their input on Local Strategic Partnership boards (LSPs); help LSPs decide how best to involve the sector; and assist all LSP partners agree an inclusive approach involving the sector more and, through them, empower their communities to exert more influence over local decision-making.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/923277.pdf>

Roles and responsibilities in the local performance framework

This Communities and Local Government document provides an overview of what councils, local strategic partnerships, government offices, inspectorates and central government departments will be doing to implement the new local performance framework following sign-off of Local Area Agreements in June 2008.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/frameworkrolesresponsibilities>

ILP Infobank refreshed

The Improving Local Partnerships Infobank has been refreshed and renewed. It has information on new topics: 'new' LAAs; equalities issues in local partnerships; recent developments in community participation and representation.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/infobank>

Future of Local Area Agreement Reward Scheme

The Government has set aside £340m (and an additional £50m for areas eligible for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund) to provide a financial incentive to local authorities and their partners, but wishes to develop an improved scheme which is simpler to operate, integral to the negotiation of LAAs and capable of incentivising performance across the LAA. Responses are requested by 26 September.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/laarewardschemeconsultation>

Community of Practice on third sector indicators

Communities Minister Phil Hope has launched a joint project by the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) and IDeA to support local authorities and their partners in delivering increased participation in volunteering and an environment for a thriving third sector in their area. <http://digbig.com/4xgtc> or <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector>

National survey of third sector organisations

For the first time, all local authorities are to be judged on their performance in creating an environment for a thriving third sector. To measure this performance, the Government is commissioning the largest ever survey of the third sector. The survey will be conducted by Ipsos MORI and results will be available early in the new year. The results will drive change locally and nationally, by revealing performance against a key local government performance target (National Indicator 7 - An environment for a thriving third sector). <http://digbig.com/4xgwc> or <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector>

Face to Face and Side by Side: A framework for partnership in our multi faith society

The Government has launched its new inter-faith framework, setting out how faith communities, government and wider society can bring people with different religions and beliefs together.

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

Believing in local action

To coincide with the publication of 'Face to Face and Side by Side' NAVCA has published a report showing that communities are best served by local faith organisations and local infrastructure organizations working together. The report was commissioned by Communities and Local Government and carried out as a partnership between Communities and Local Government, the Church Urban Fund, and NAVCA. <http://www.navca.org.uk/believing.htm>.

Public Services and the Third Sector: Rhetoric and Reality

A NAVCA briefing on the Public Administration Select Committee report is available via: <http://www.navca.org.uk/stratwork/procurement/pascreport.htm>

Sport and the third sector

NAVCA's sport portal is now live. Pages include: Sport, the third sector and your local area; Sport and local area agreements; Sport and volunteering.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/sport>

Equality and Cohesion in Diverse Britain

A report of the proceedings of Voice4Change England's inaugural policy symposium is available via their website at: <http://digbig.com/4xhme> or <http://www.voice4change-england.co.uk>.

LEGAL MATTERS

Corporate manslaughter

The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 is now in force, creating a new offence for organisations causing death through gross negligence. The Act applies to organisations and charities (or their subsidiaries) incorporated either as a company or by Royal Charter or statute. We recommend that LIOs look at their risk management plan to see if it needs amending.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/corpmanslaughter>

Public Benefit

The Charity Commission's policy director has used a 'Society Guardian' article to reassure charities that the public benefit reporting requirement (from next March) will, for many, be more about a shift in thinking than the diversion of valuable resources to meeting the goal. It will largely mean trustees presenting information already needed for their annual report a little differently. She goes on to give an idea of what other help will be available from the Commission.

<http://digbig.com/4xjga> or

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/aug/12/voluntarysector>

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

Finance & VAT

- *If you use staff who are employed and paid by someone else - such as temps from an agency* - From 1 April 2009 there will be VAT on the wages element - as well as the agency fee, commission or management fee - that you pay to the employment agency or employment business. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-staff
- Resources for socially responsible/ethical investment: charity SRI website from EIRIS, guide to ethical investment from CAF. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#sri
- Overpaid VAT or unrecovered VAT can be recovered for periods from 1973 to 1997, but only until 31 March 2009. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-cap
- VAT on fundraising holidays and charity events www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-challenge
- Updated HMRC guidance on the VAT status of research funded by government grants. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-research

- Monthly briefings on VAT and fundraising from *Professional Fundraising* magazine and Saffery Champness accountants. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#vat-fundraising-pf

Work with children and vulnerable adults

- Updated information about the Vetting & Barring Scheme (formerly called the Independent Safeguarding Authority scheme) - in operation from 12 October 2009. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#safeguarding-scheme
- Office of the Third Sector guidance on when to carry out - and not to carry out - CRB checks on volunteers. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#criminalrecordchecks
- New registration requirements for childcare providers (nurseries, creches, playgroups, activity providers etc) - from 1 September 2008. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#ofsted-registration

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth Sector Development Fund

Up to £30m is being made available through the second round of DCSF's Youth Sector Development Fund. The focus is particularly on those offering services to young people at risk of involvement in crime or anti-social behaviour. The closing date for receipt of full proposals is 3 October.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/TP00046>

NAVCA/CWDC small grants schemes

With funding from the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC), NAVCA is currently offering two small grants schemes which may be of interest if you are a local or sub-regional infrastructure organisation working with children and young people's groups:

- grants of £2,000 for training/other development activity related to the Every Child Matters agenda (closes 26 September)
- grants of £3,000 to share your experiences of supporting the development of the children's workforce (closes 19 September).

Further information and application forms can be found

at: <http://www.navca.org.uk/stratwork/children/cwdc/grants>

Children, Young People and Families grant programme

The DCSF has launched the children, young people and families grant programme 2009. This national programme funds work by the third sector to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. Activities and outcomes funded under this stream must fit within one or more of the Every Child Matters outcomes or Children's Plan objectives. Applications are invited until 31 October. <http://digbig.com/4xjfd> or <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk>

Young People's Fund 2 Local Grants Open for Business

Following the recent launch of the Young People's Fund 2 (YPF2 - local grants) the Big Lottery Eastern Region has put together a set of briefing notes for potential applicants to the programme. The note cover topics such as: key programme information, examples of projects funded under YPF1, sample project outcomes and also provides a 'tick box assessment' of whether a project is potentially fundable. <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/eastern/about-e/region-update-e.htm#story02>

New briefings and quick guides on children's workforce development topics

New briefings and quick guides including 'common core', 'induction standards' and 'integrated qualifications framework' are now available to download. They are free to copy or adapt for your own publications and web pages

<http://www.navca.org.uk/stratwork/children/cwdc/briefings>

Youth activities

Children's Minister Beverley Hughes has announced £4.5m funding to support a range of activities for young people including adventure, arts, media projects and residential summer camps. It is anticipated that these activities will bring together young people from different backgrounds and will aim to help promote positive community relations. <http://digbig.com/4xjrp> or <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk>

THE ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable development indicators in your pocket 2008

This free Defra booklet provides a statistical overview of the country's progress in tackling key economic, social and environmental issues. It covers a wide range of topics of everyday concern such as health, housing, jobs, crime, education, and our environment. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/080731a.htm>

Adapting to climate change

More information on the Government's 'Adapting to Climate Change' programme, including the summary 'Adapting to Climate Change in England: a framework for action', is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/adapt>

PUBLICATIONS

The Hallmarks of an Effective Charity

Revised Charity Commission publication CC10.

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/cc10.asp>

Investing in Change

Capacitybuilders' latest publication reports on its achievements for the period 2007/08 and introduces the key themes of its new Corporate Plan for the next three years.

http://capacitybuilders.org.uk/detail/Investing_in_Change/146/154.aspx

New from Community Development Foundation

- 'Faith Communities Pulling Together'
- 'Faith Groups and Government'

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

Rethinking Crime and Punishment: The Manifesto

This Esmée Fairbairn Foundation report details the lessons learnt from seven years and £4m of funding for 'alternatives to prison' projects.

http://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/grants_reports.html#rcp-manifesto

Uncover the full value of your organisation

True Colours is a guide for third sector leaders and managers to help you appreciate the broader value of your organisation and enable you to communicate it to others. It explains how you can use true stories about your organisation's success to improve your potential to make a difference. Published by the Performance Hub. £12.00 (£8.40 NCVO Members) For more visit www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/truecolours.

New from Joseph Rowntree Foundation

- 'Immigration and social cohesion in the UK'
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2249.asp>
- 'Transforming disadvantaged places: effective strategies for places and people' <http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/2255.asp>
- 'Financial inclusion in the UK: Review of policy and practice'
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/details.asp?pubID=969>

Updated VAT Guide

A Practical Guide to VAT for Charities, by Kate Sayer

3rd edition, 2008, £24.95. www.dsc.org.uk/publications

People and Skills: free workforce development resource

The Workforce Hub has published a handy new booklet - *People and Skills: Workforce development in the third sector*. The publication provides an overview of all of the resources available, and can be downloaded or ordered in hard copy for free on the [NCVO website](http://www.ncvo.org.uk).

Votes and Voices

NCVO has published a collection of essays bringing together a wide range of views and perspectives on local democracy and examining how participative

democracy can help to strengthen representative democracy and accountability. <http://digbig.com/4xgdp> or <http://digbig.com/4xhkx> or <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk>

Engaging Citizens: Current issues and findings

This report marks the end of the NCVO/ESRC seminar series. It highlights the key messages, findings and recommendations and summarises key issues for policy, practice and research across the series. <http://digbig.com/4xgtq> or <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/publications>

High Quality Care for All - NHS Next Stage Review Final Report

NCVO has produced a briefing on the NHS next stage review, see <http://digbig.com/4xgts> or <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk>.

Contracts of employment

Revised factsheet from CIPD.

<http://www.cipd.co.uk/subjects/emplaw/tacofemp/contracts.htm>.

Reaching out - community engagement and health

IDeA/NICE publication exploring the importance of engaging communities in health promotion and health services, and the health benefits that this can bring. <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=8681030>

TRAINING/EVENTS

Tendering as a consortium

Tendering as a consortium can provide a route to contracting for the delivery of services. Consortium-type arrangements are difficult to manage effectively so it is important that potential consortium leaders and member organisations understand: The systems and procedures which purchasers expect to be in place; How to minimise risk; How to assure purchasers that the contract will be delivered as specified. Learn more at the NAVCA workshops being held on 5 November in Manchester and 18 November in London.

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

Secrets of successful tendering

NAVCA is holding two one-day events for people who complete tender documents. Real success in tendering lies in having a clear understanding of exactly what procurement officers want to see in your tender document - attend this one-day training to find out more. 15 October, Manchester and 12 November, London. <http://www.navca.org.uk/events/secrets.htm>

FUNDING

Grassroots Grants

The Community Development Foundation has announced the local funders across England who have been selected to give out grants to grassroots third sector organisations as part of the Government's £130m Grassroots Grants programme. Local funders will distribute grants of up to £5,000 to small community and voluntary groups in both urban and rural settings across England - with the potential to reach out to new projects and communities that have not previously received funding. Contact your local funder for further information. <http://digbig.com/4xftr> or <http://www.cdf.org.uk>

Community Spaces

Community Spaces is a £50m open grants programme that is managed by Groundwork UK as an Award Partner to the Big Lottery Fund. The programme helps community groups create or improve green and open spaces so that the quality of life in neighbourhoods across England is enhanced. Closing date is 9 January for applications for large grants (£50,000 - £100,000), and 30 January for flagship grants. (£100,001 - £450,000). <http://www.community-spaces.org.uk>

Third Sector Investor

The Department of Health has announced details of the Third Sector Investor programme, which will replace the Section 64 General Scheme of Grants from 2009/10. <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Financeandplanning/Section64grants>

Venturesome

There may be times when a charity has plans to develop, or needs bridging finance. Its requirements may be too risky for a bank loan or outside the criteria of a grantmaker. Venturesome offers 'mezzanine' finance - loans and investment support that fill the gap between grants and bank loans - to charities and other social enterprises. <http://www.cafonline.org/venturesome>

Community Leadership Fund

This Communities and Local Government grant fund will support work to build the capacity of individuals, organisations and communities to take the lead on tackling violent extremist influences. Closing date for the current round is 30 September. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/preventingextremism/communityleadershipfund>

Faiths in Action Fund

Faiths in Action is a £4m grants programme open to faith, interfaith, and third sector organisations in England. Faiths in Action aims to bring communities together, promoting positive relationships and collaborative social action between

people of different religions and beliefs. <http://digbig.com/4xgtx> or <http://www.cdf.org.uk>

OTHER NEWS

Tax allowance changes

A change in the basic Personal (Tax) Allowance: the basic allowance is increasing from £5,435 to £6,035 but the limit for applying the basic rate is reducing from £36,000 to £34,800. The new tax codes and rate bands must be used from the first payday on or after 7 September. <http://digbig.com/4xgte> or <http://nds.coi.gov.uk>

Small businesses urged to start volunteer schemes

With just 14% of small businesses currently taking advantage of employer-supported volunteering schemes, Volunteering England has launched a campaign asking small and medium-sized businesses to give more help to charities. <http://digbig.com/4xgdn> or <http://www.volunteering.org.uk>

Legal Advice for Charities

LawWorks and Interchange both provide legal advice to small charities, voluntary and community organizations. LawWorks say advice is free and Interchange state it is affordable. See www.lawworks.org.uk and www.interchange.org.uk

Free resources for smaller organisations

New NCVO web page specifically designed for smaller organisations contains information and advice on practical issues including funding and finance, employment, ICT, health and safety, legal issues and governance. You can find all you need to make your organisation more efficient and effective in one place. For more visit www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/smallorganisations.

Young People and Money

Young People and Money has been developed by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in partnership with Citizens Advice and Fairbridge youth charity. The programme aims to empower young people by improving their financial awareness and capability, and is aimed particularly at those not in education, employment or training. <http://www.youngpeopleandmoney.co.uk>

REACH

REACH is a new programme for young black men and boys, supporting and inspiring them to raise their aspirations, attainment and achievement. <http://campaigns.direct.gov.uk/reach>

The Pensions Trust

Over 4,000 charitable, social, educational, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations trust The Pension's Trust to look after their employees' pensions.

They are a one-stop-shop, and have been providing a reliable and comprehensive pensions service for more than 60 years. For more visit www.thepensionstrust.org.uk

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