

## Monthly Update Providing Key Information about the Third Sector

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### NEWS FOR SUPPORT AGENCIES

#### **NAVCA Conference and AGM** (*NAVCA members only*)

NAVCA's biggest event of the year for local infrastructure organisations takes place from 15-17 September in Blackpool. This year's theme is 'Working with local government to empower local communities'. Full details are now available on their website at: <http://www.navca.org.uk/events/annualconference.htm>

#### **Recruitment** (*NAVCA Members Only*)

NAVCA has announced a new recruitment partnership with Lee & Nightingale Advertising to help members save money on recruitment costs. The partnership will give NAVCA members access to high quality, cost-effective recruitment advertising and will complement their existing Goodmoves online recruitment service. <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/handinhand.htm>

#### **Big Lottery Fund**

Following its Big Thinking consultation, the Big Lottery Fund has announced its plans to 2015:

- Funding dedicated to the third sector up from 60-70% to 80%
- £43m for recession support
- £45m moved into popular existing schemes, including an extra £20m for Reaching Communities and £5m for Awards for All.

More details can be found at: <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/bigthinking>

#### **Funding for volunteer manager support**

Details have been released of the grants programme being managed by Capacitybuilders to provide support to people who manage volunteers. There are three strands - a training bursary fund, grants for around 25 local volunteering development organisations, and national strategic support.

<http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk> or <http://preview.tinyurl.com/lvyvnn>.

### **Charity Commission News**

[www.charitycommission.gov.uk/tcc/newslist.asp](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/tcc/newslist.asp) for latest newsletter from charity commission which includes information on obligation of all employers to provide a workplace pension from October 2012. Also includes **The Economic Downturn: 15 questions trustees need to ask** – a guide to surviving the recession including a checklist of 15 key questions charities should ask themselves to help boards maximize their sustainability in the recession.

### **Apprenticeships**

Work-based learning programme designed around the needs of your organisation. There are over 190 Apprenticeships to choose from in over 80 sectors, many very relevant to the Voluntary and Community Sector, including Community Development, Youth Work, Social Care, Advice & Guidance, Administration, Finance, Management, Customer Service and IT. Apprenticeships can develop your workforce and bring in new skills in order to help you make your organisation more robust and successful.  
[www.Apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.Apprenticeships.org.uk).

### **Future Jobs Fund**

On the 2 June, the Office of the Third Sector hosted an information and advice seminar for third sector organisations that are interested in bidding to the £1bn Future Jobs Fund. You can access all the presentations, contact information for the expert advisors and information about the third sector attendees via <http://bit.ly/2jRLBu> or <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector>

### **Improving Support**

Improving Support brings together practical resources and information for all those providing support to third sector organisations. Funded by Capacitybuilders, this website provides a gateway to the widest range of tools, information and support, creating an easily accessible community for the exchange of resources, ideas, advice and learning. An Improving Support magazine and regular e-bulletins also help you to stay informed and share learning on a range of issues relevant to your work as a support provider.  
<http://www.improvingsupport.org.uk/about>

### **Merger resources**

The NAVCA website has a new page on merger resources.  
<http://www.navca.org.uk/mergers>

### **Changes in workforce issues support**

What was the UK Workforce Hub, providing help and resources for the voluntary sector on employment, work skills and HR issues, will be known as Workforce Development, under the NCVO banner, with resources continuing to be available at <http://www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk>. However, from September a new NCVO web site will take over HR/employment resources, and learning and skills will go

to the new Skills - Third Sector body. News item at <http://preview.tinyurl.com/mofevs>.

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## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

### Working better together

The Audit Commission has published a national study, 'Working better together? Managing local strategic partnerships', which reviews arrangements for LSPs' performance, resource management, and governance. The study shows that most LSPs need to improve their partnership working in order to deliver on their Sustainable Community Strategies and Local Area Agreements.

- 'Working better together? Managing local strategic partnerships' <http://www.auditcommission.gov.uk/nationalstudies/localgov/Pages/workinbettertogether.aspx>
- 'Statutory guidance for local strategic partnerships' <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/communityempowermentbrief.htm>
- 'Principles of Representation' <http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/infobank/ilp>

### LSP Reminder from NAVCA

NAVCA urges you in your dealings with LSPs to bear in mind the following statement from 'Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities: Statutory guidance for local strategic partnerships': "It is essential that representatives from the local third sector and private business sector are represented as part of the formal membership of the LSP and relevant sub-groups" (p18). The statutory guidance must be "conscientiously followed". (see <http://bit.ly/17EABS> or <http://www.communities.gov.uk>) To ignore or flout statutory guidance opens the door to a challenge under Public Law. The guidance is quite clear that any decisions made by LSPs need to be ratified by the individual agencies, organisations and individuals affected (p21). <http://bit.ly/1aDCZg> or <http://www.communities.gov.uk>

### Conservative commitment to LSPs

Bob Neill MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government, confirmed that a future Conservative government would retain and strengthen LSPs in his keynote address at the annual Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) conference on 11 June. <http://www.policyreview.tv/video/247/1044>. See also <http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/infobank/ilpunews/denhamstall.htm>

### The impact of the recession on Compact implementation

The Commission for the Compact has published a discussion paper looking at the potential impact of the recession on the relationship between government and the third sector. <http://www.thecompact.org.uk>

### **Ideal empowering authority framework**

IDeA has published a benchmark for an authority that does an ideal job of empowering the communities they work with. <http://bit.ly/mSpem> or <http://www.idea.gov.uk>

### **Making the most of Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)**

The Office of the Third Sector has published a short briefing on the key elements of the CAA and its relevance to the third sector. <http://bit.ly/k0w3Z> or <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsectorunews/prinrep.htm>

### **Small Change, Big Difference**

The Local Government Association's (LGA) first Small Change, Big Difference climate change week takes place next month, 13-17 July. The week will put the spotlight on Councils' efforts to help their residents reduce their carbon footprint. NAVCA members, environmental groups, faith communities and others may want to work with their Councils to engage local residents about climate change issues. <http://www.lga.gov.uk/smallchangebigdifference>

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## **LEGAL MATTERS**

### **HMRC and Local Authority Mileage Rates 2009/10**

The current rates can be found at: <http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/scales>

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

#### **Employment:**

- Draft regulations for the increase in maximum weekly pay for the purposes of calculating statutory redundancy pay from **1 October 2009** have been published. The increase will also apply to unfair dismissal awards and other employment compensation - but the amounts will not go up in February 2010 as they ordinarily would do. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#weeklypay](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#weeklypay)
- Consultation on fit notes which will replace sick notes, probably from spring 2010. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#fit-note](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#fit-note) or go direct to <http://tinyurl.com/qdhwz>
- TUPE news: guidance on employee information that the transferor (the transferring employer) has to provide; and a case that is important for any organisation that has taken on - or might take on - employees who were covered under a collective agreement between their previous employer and a trade union. [www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#tupe](http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#tupe)

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## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### **Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation**

The Government has published guidance for local safeguarding children board partners, practitioners and other professionals working with children and young people. <http://bit.ly/rNhy> or <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk>

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## PUBLICATIONS

### **How population change could impact on voluntary sector**

The sixth in a series of Future Focus pocket guides from NCVO on major trends provides an overview of how the UK population is changing and how this will affect the voluntary and community sector. It can be downloaded or ordered via - <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/publications/publication.asp?id=14056>

### **Tools for you**

With the economic crisis creating an increasingly challenging funding environment for third sector organisations, being able to prove and improve the value of your organisation's work is more important than ever. nef launched *tools for you*, a resource that is designed to help development workers and frontline organisations navigate the world of social impact and quality measurement. The *tools for you* booklet provides detailed summaries of more than 20 approaches and there is an accompanying *tool decider* and *comparison chart* to enable you to quickly weigh up the benefits of different approaches and choose the tool that best suits your needs. To request a hard copy, available free from nef plus £4 handling and postage, email [info@neweconomics.org](mailto:info@neweconomics.org). You can also download the [booklet and chart here](#).

### **Income Spectrum Toolkit**

New expanded version, for analysis of organisation's types of income and possible need for more diverse approach from NCVO. Download 'Income Exploration Tool: Identifying and assessing the right income streams for you' from <http://preview.tinyurl.com/muqfbq> or <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk>

### **What place for mergers between charities?**

New Philanthropy Capital. <http://www.philanthropycapital.org/research>

### **Community Development Foundation Resource Directory**

A selection of practical resources produced by community groups, including toolkits, books and DVDs. The resources all demonstrate some of the outcomes of successful faith, community and voluntary sector projects. <http://bit.ly/HgnIZ> or <http://www.cdf.org.uk>

### **Help for line managers in tackling stress at work**

Updated practical help for HR and line managers to tackle the issue of stress at work has been produced by CIPD working with the Health and Safety Executive and Investors in People. This includes a competency framework enabling line managers to work on the skills required to reduce and prevent stress. Find the guidance etc. at <http://www.cipd.co.uk/subjects/health/stress/Instrswrk.htm>.

### **Even more important to demonstrate effectiveness**

Recession Support, the newish web site from ACEVO, has added a page giving an overview of tools to assess, and demonstrate, effectiveness. <http://preview.tinyurl.com/r6plds>.

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## **FUNDING**

### **Funding Central**

NCVO has launched Funding Central, a free website for the whole third sector which gives access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities, plus tools and resources supporting organisations to develop sustainable income strategies appropriate to their needs. <http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk>

### **ACF survey of trusts and foundations**

A survey of UK-based trusts and foundations carried out by the Association of Charitable Foundations has found that they are weathering the recession better than many other sectors, with nearly 75% predicting steady or rising income levels over the longer term and two-thirds planning to maintain or increase their level of grant-making. <http://bit.ly/Buavx> or <http://www.acf.org.uk>

### **Modernisation Fund**

Frontline organisations with an annual turnover of between £150,000 and £750,000 are invited to apply online for a £1,000 bursary from the Government's Modernisation Fund Grants Programme which is being delivered by Capacitybuilders. The bursaries available under Phase One of the programme will allow organisations to buy at least two days of advice and support to explore how they can become more resilient and work more closely with others, including through collaboration or merger. Closing date for bursary applications is 17 July. <http://www.modernisationfund.org.uk>

### **Comic Relief**

Funding under Cycle One of Comic Relief's 2009-12 Grant Strategy is now available, via the UK Grants scheme. The scheme offers individual grants of £25-40k to cover running or capital costs for organisations or projects that work in mental health, domestic and sexual abuse, refugee and asylum seeking, women, sport, and young people. The deadline is 24 July. <http://www.comicrelief.com>

### **Preventing and Reducing Offending by Women**

The Ministry of Justice has introduced a new £15.6m funding programme to prevent and reduce offending by women. Applications will be welcome from third sector organisations so that they can work with the courts, police, probation service and other statutory agencies to provide support and services to vulnerable women. [womenspolicyteam@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:womenspolicyteam@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Funds for social enterprise in health and social care**

The government-backed Social Enterprise Investment Fund, which provides loans and grants to social enterprises which improve the quality of health and social care for local communities, has re-opened for applications under the new management of Futurebuilders England. Department of Health news item at [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Recentstories/DH\\_100661](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Recentstories/DH_100661), or see <http://www.dh.gov.uk/seif>.

### **Sport**

The European Commission has issued a call for proposals for preparatory actions in the field of sport. The call focuses on four actions: promoting health-enhancing physical activity; promoting education and training in sport; promoting European fundamental values by encouraging sport for persons with disabilities; promoting gender equality in sport. Closing date 31 August. [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education\\_culture/calls/docs/sport09.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/calls/docs/sport09.pdf)

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## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Access Free IT Advice**

The HIC ICT Development Project offers FREE strategic advice and support on ICT to 20 organisations per year in Hertfordshire, and has helped 4 so far this year. Applications are welcome anytime for the remaining 16 places. Phone 01462 689404 or email Richard Ross-Langley at [ICT@herts-ic.org.uk](mailto:ICT@herts-ic.org.uk) for more details.

### **ICT Answers in a box**

The ICT Champions website, <http://www.ictchampions.org.uk> has been launched and is linked with the 'ICT answers in a box' which contains 50 of the most frequently asked questions and answers relating to ICT. Visit the website to find out about the ICT Champions, order a set of cards, submit your own questions or add to the answers.

### **Advice service for charity property**

NCVO and the Charity Finance Directors' Group and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors have jointly launched a Charity Property Help service.

It will provide registered charities and voluntary organisations a one hour consultation with an RICS member firm at no cost, which could cover such matters as property maintenance, environmental issues, lease, renewals and tenancies, planning issues. Details at <http://www.charitypropertyhelp.com>.

### **Vetting and Barring Scheme Update May 2009**

Independent Safeguarding Authority. <http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/default.aspx?page=363>

### **Graduate talent pool**

Voluntary sector employers are being encouraged to offer placements to graduates from September 2009, as part of the government's Graduate Talent Pool initiative. <http://www.dius.gov.uk/graduatetalentpool>

### **NHS LifeCheck**

NHS LifeCheck is an online health service that helps people assess and manage their own health. NHS Early Years LifeCheck, NHS Teen LifeCheck and NHS Mid-life LifeCheck can all be accessed via <http://www.nhs.uk/lifecheck>.

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** *Contact Sue McClinton, Herts CVS Information Co-ordination Project. Email: [sue@cvsstalbans.org.uk](mailto:sue@cvsstalbans.org.uk)*

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