

Social Enterprise e-bulletin

Issue 23 July 2008

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<http://www.wssen.org.uk>

This bulletin is brought to you by the West Sussex Social Enterprise Steering Group with support from West Sussex County Council. The Steering Group includes organisations interested in social enterprise: Business Link; Action in Rural Sussex; ICIS; Voluntary Organisations Liaison Group; Brighton University; Councils for Voluntary Service in the county and West Sussex County Council.

If you know of information, services or events that would be helpful to emerging or existing social enterprises in West Sussex, or organisations considering developing a social business activity, please let ICIS know (details on page 4) and we will promote them to the sector.

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Social enterprise developments and opportunities

Six Hallmarks of an Effective Charity

The Charity Commission has revised 'The Hallmarks of an Effective Charity' guidance (CC10) "to clarify the key areas of governance that will provide a governance framework based on good practice for all charities" and to reflect the increasing importance of financial prudence and accountability. For details visit:

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/cc10asp>

Sector Satisfaction with Local Authorities

A pilot survey for the Office of the Third Sector found that only 22 per cent rated the support given by local authorities as 'positive' or 'very positive', reports Charity Finance. A larger survey will be conducted to measure for the government how local authorities perform against the national indicator 7 – "creating an environment for a thriving third sector". For details visit: <http://www.charityfinance.co.uk/home/content.php?id=2088>

Microsoft Developing Accounting Software for UK Charities

Third Sector reports that Microsoft is to develop a version of its Office Accounting Pro program for charities in the UK. The Head of Citizenship at Microsoft UK says they are "going to research added features that will offer charities more functionality... looking at having something ready by the end of the calendar year". The current version is available via Charity Technology Exchange for a £6 admin fee.

Charities Failing on Diversity

Many charities are failing to deliver on their commitments to diversity and equality, according to research by community investment foundation Olmec. A report says that intentions and rhetoric regarding equality and diversity are generally strong, but delivery – in terms of employment practice and service delivery – is often hampered by limited knowledge and support and crude performance measurement and monitoring systems. For details visit: <http://www.digbig.com/4xaxw>

Capacity Building Programme for Social Enterprise

£6 million pounds will be distributed over the next three years, by Capacity Builders, working with social enterprise networks and other local partners, such as Regional Development Agencies, in each English region to identify the best ways to meet local needs. It will be spent on areas such as mentoring schemes, accredited advisors and developing emerging markets. For details visit:

[http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/detail/Capacitybuilders announce 6 million new investment to improve business support services for social enterprises /99/153.aspx](http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/detail/Capacitybuilders%20announce%206%20million%20new%20investment%20to%20improve%20business%20support%20services%20for%20social%20enterprises%20/99/153.aspx)

Updated Quality Assurance Model

The third edition of Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations (PQASSO) has been produced, published by Charities Evaluation Services. Changes include more emphasis on the importance of planning and marketing of services, better support for working in partnership and greater focus on environmental and sustainability issues. For details visit: <http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=339>

New Guidance on Trustee Payments

The Charity Commission has published updated guidance for the payment of trustees who provide their charities with goods and services. The new guidance covers what is and is not a reasonable expense, when trustees can and cannot be paid for goods and services and how to manage any conflict of interest that may arise. For details visit: <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/news/trusteepay.asp>

Initiative to make Grant-making Trusts more Effective

Charities are being invited to take action if they feel that grant-making trusts are not distributing their money effectively. The Boost Initiative wants to hear about Trusts that are in difficulties so it can work with the Charity Commission to help them use their assets more effectively. The Foundation hopes the scheme will unlock millions for local charities. For details visit: <http://www.boostinitiative.org.uk>

Financial Reporting by Smaller Charities

Under the Charities Act 1993 all charities must publish annual accounts, but charities with incomes up to £100,000 are allowed to use the Receipts and Payments (R&P) basis, rather than having to produce accounts complying with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). The Association of Charity Independent Examiners report looks at the effectiveness of the R&P regime as compared to the SORP regime in the context of charities of this size, arguing that the proposal from the Charity Commission to increase the R&P upper threshold from £100,000 income to £250,000 should be put on hold, as the lack of confidence in the R&P regime could lead to charities in this band losing out on funding. For details visit: <http://www.shu.ac.uk/cvsr>

Justice Ministry's Sector Strategy Published

The strategy sets out how it will engage with the third sector to deliver better public services and improve policy through effective partnerships. The strategy is built around four heads: Enabling voice and campaigning, Strengthening communities, Transforming public policies and Encouraging social enterprise. To download visit: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/third-sector-strategy.htm>

**Events and
training
opportunities**

Developing and Increasing Support and Sponsorship 20th August, London

Explore ways of developing long term relationships with companies, distinguish between different types of giving, plan a strategy for approaching companies and identify how companies and charities can be mutually beneficial. For details visit: <http://www.dsc.org.uk/fundraisingprogramme>

Effective Fundraising I

21st-22nd August, London

Helping you identify where the money is and how to go about securing it, developing a donor base, how to appeal for money and designing publicity materials to raise funds. For details visit: <http://www.dsc.org.uk/fundraisingprogramme>

"So You Want to Run a Retail Outlet"

16th September, Billingshurst Village Hall

Afternoon workshop exploring the reality of establishing a retail business both in terms of personal qualities required and the elements needed to create a successful business. To register for the workshop contact Rowena Tyler at Action in Rural Sussex on 01798 344612 or email: Rowena.Tyler@ruralsussex.org.uk

Business support and resources

Business Development Clinics

Business Link is offering people who have been trading for more than two years an opportunity to attend a complimentary Business Development Clinic, providing information and support to help your business grow in the most profitable way. The Business Link adviser will listen thoroughly before producing an independent, constructive and practical performance plan. To book phone: 0845 600 9006 or email: info@businesslinksussex.co.uk

The Enterprising Healthcare Guide

Social Enterprise London has launched a commissioning toolkit for social enterprises and Primary Care Trusts, providing practical information and advice about procurement processes for social enterprises and commissioning from the third sector for Primary Care Trust commissioners. For a pdf version of the guide visit: <http://www.sel.org.uk/docs/Toolkit%20pdf.pdf>

Legal help for Charity Tribunal cases

A specialist panel of lawyers is being set up within the Bar Pro Bono Unit to ensure that every appellant to the Charity Tribunal has the chance of legal representation. With charity law being quite specialised, there is a need to expand and formalise arrangements with specialist lawyers. For details visit: <http://www.barprobono.org.uk>

Trainers and Consultants Direct

TCD is a free website resource aimed at the third sector, for those who are looking for a trainer, consultant, temporary/project manager or non-managerial supervisor to assist in your organisation. You can search for people and/or organisations by region and by over 50 specialist topic areas. To search visit: <http://www.trainersandconsultantsdirect.org.uk>

New Guidance on CRB Checks for Volunteers

The Cabinet Office has published guidance to help organisations that use volunteers to be clear about when they do and don't need to carry out Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks on volunteers. For details visit: <http://www.digbig.com/4xbbc>

Creating Online Surveys

Survey Monkey software can be used to create and manage online surveys; the basic account, allowing up to 100 responses per survey is free. Survey Monkey are now claiming that it is the only online survey application which has received certification in the US Section 508 standard, covering access by users with disabilities. For details visit: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/HelpCenter/Answer.aspx?HelpID=247>

Balancing Financial Risks

Triodos Bank and auditors Sayer Vincent have published a downloadable guide to financial risk management for charity trustees. Download the guide at:

http://www.triodos.co.uk/uk/business_banking/business_finance/210236/234790/686835

Social Objectives in Public Purchasing

'Buy and make a difference – How to address social issues in public procurement' is a pamphlet issued by the Office of Government Commerce for public sector bodies. It explains how "social objectives" can be pursued alongside cost issues. Download at:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Social_Issues_in_Public_Procurement.pdf

Wikipedia with a Social Enterprising Focus

Wikipedia have launched an online directory for social enterprise. Organisations are invited to add definitions and contribute to the future language and terminology of the sector. Visit the site at: <http://www.wikipreneurship.eu>

Sources of funding

Community Relations Projects

A £750,000 fund has been launched for community projects that work to improve relations between different ethnic and religious groups. The Barrow Cadbury Trust Fund will typically provide voluntary and community projects with grants worth £30,000 over a

two year period. For details visit: <http://www.digbig.com/4xaym>

Futurebuilders Tender Fund

Futurebuilders England has launched an interest-free loan fund for third sector organisations struggling to meet the cost of tendering for public sector contracts. The £1 million Tender fund is intended to help third sector providers win contracts where prohibitive tendering costs would otherwise make it difficult for them to bid. For details visit: <http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk>

Southern Water Trust Fund

Applications are invited from organisations within the Trust's area for funding of projects. Funding is available for one year up to a maximum of £30,000. For details visit: <http://www.swtf.org.uk>

Publications

Social Enterprise: What is it and why it matters

Written by Dr Martin Price this book is designed to demystify social enterprise and provide a clear explanation of what it is, as well as what it is not, both for those who are aware of the third sector and the general reader. Price £9.99. Available from: <http://www.amazon.co.uk>

To go on the mailing list

If you would like to be added to the emailing list, to provide copy or suggest a topic for a future Bulletin, contact Gemma at ICIS on 01903 859928, email: admin@icis-info4life.org.uk



As a West Sussex information provider ICIS links with social enterprise, funding and training and other support for groups and services. ICIS is a social enterprise and works with statutory, voluntary and independent organisations and facilitates access to information supporting independence, health and wellbeing for all in the county. 35 Worthing Road, East Preston, West Sussex BN16 1BQ. Phone: 01903 859929. Fax: 01903 777601. Email: admin@icis-info4life.org.uk Website: www.icis-info4life.org.uk