

Social Enterprise e-bulletin

Issue 33 May 2009

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

This bulletin is brought to you by the West Sussex Social Enterprise Steering Group and is sponsored by 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

The Better Project

We are looking for leading champions in social enterprises across Sussex to participate in a new and exciting **social impact assessment project**: The Better Project. Working with experts at the top of the field, a social impact assessment tool will be embedded within the social enterprises selected as pilots. This tool will measure and quantify multiple outcomes, clearly identify monetary and added value and in doing so will demonstrate

social impact in an accountable way. The project is delivered in partnership by the social enterprise networks at Brighton (More than profit), East Sussex (ESSEN) and West Sussex (WSSSEN). For further info and to register your interest visit: www.wssen.org.uk

£1.3bn Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme

Following the recent Social Enterprise Summit, Business Secretary Lord Mandelson has announced changes to this scheme to help businesses and social enterprises in disadvantaged areas. This will provide extra support to Community Development Finance Institutions by allowing them to access bank loans. For details visit: www.cdfa.org.uk/cmframe.php?prmid-5302

Success fees on offer to brokers for investment advice

Brokers who help social enterprises to attract investment will be offered success fees through a £90,000 Social Enterprise Access to Investment programme. The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) and the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) have jointly funded this year-long programme. www.nesta.org.uk/social-enterprises-offered-missing-link-to-access-investment-streams/

Community Interest Companies (CICs)

The CIC was introduced by the Companies Act 2004 as a new legal form for social enterprises who want to use the company form while ensuring assets are used for the benefit of the community. This consultation seeks views on the CIC Regulations 2005 which deal with the caps on dividend payments and performance-related interest paid. **Closing date: 19th June.** Visit: www.cicregulator.gov.uk/consultationintro.shtm

New website to match donors with social enterprises

UnLtdWorld is launching an online application enabling the public to learn and support social enterprises. This will allow users to locate projects that interest them and offer them time, skills or donations. Users will also be able to enter details of the types of project they want to set up and explain what skills or finance they have to offer, visit: www.unltd.org.uk/

National Survey of Third Sector Organisations results

The full results of this survey have been published, based on nearly 50,000 charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations. It provides the base line for the key performance target (National Indicator 7) to improve the way local authorities work with the third sector. The full analysis can be viewed at: www.nstso.com/analysis/

Gift Aid reclaim time limit to be reduced

From April 2010, the limit for making Gift Aid tax reclaims is to change from six years to four years. This does not impact on the two year limit for the current transitional relief arrangements. For more information visit: www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/gift_aid/basics.htm

Innovative Campaigning Action Research Programme

Liam Byrne, Minister for the Cabinet Office, has announced the first government action research programme to strengthen the ability of charities and other third sector organisations to campaign for change. The new scheme will be run by Capacitybuilders, who will engage third sector stakeholders in shaping this programme. Visit: www.digbig.com/4ypmw

Small grants for creative use of vacant shops

Hazel Blears, Communities Secretary, and Andy Burnham, Culture Secretary, will announce a £3m plan to make small grants of up to £1,000 available to people who find a creative re-use for vacant shops. Planning rules will be relaxed to allow changes of use which go against local guidelines. Temporary lease agreements will enable owners who want to retain a vacant property in the long term, make it available for community use during the recession. Councils will be urged to take control of empty properties until the recession ends. Read the report at: www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/apr/14/government-high-street-shops-grants

Charities and social enterprises benefit from green energy

Social enterprises and charities can potentially save money and the environment by using green energy. Grants and funding is available to cover the installation of renewable energy such as solar panels. For details visit: www.britisheco.com

Events and training opportunities

Promoting Innovation: Sourcing, encouraging and developing innovation in the third sector

1st June, London

An opportunity to exchange ideas with local authorities and infrastructure organisations who have encouraged third sector innovation; talk to infrastructure organisations who have harnessed innovative ideas from the frontline with a variety of methods; discuss with speakers on how to support innovation; explore how to develop innovative third sector services; and network with voluntary and public sector colleagues. To book contact Jerrold on 020 7520 3162, or email Jerrold.Cheam@ncvo-vol.org.uk

Thriving in Tough Times: securing a diverse and sustainable income base

17th June, London

Make the most of opportunities to help communities you support, with creative ideas and practical tools on how to secure a diverse and sustainable income base. 1-2-1- surgeries, networking and a chance to pitch your enterprise ideas to the Sustainable Funding Project Dragon's Den. www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/events/latest/?id=12698

Third Sector Commissioning: overcoming barriers and realising potential

22nd June, London

Conference bringing together speakers and key stakeholders to share advice and practical guidance on the effective commissioning of the third sector to deliver public services. Launched in February, the £42.5 million Recession Action Plan demonstrates the government's commitment to fully realising the potential of the third sector as a partner in public service delivery. This event will give local authorities, PCTs, charities and voluntary organisations the opportunity to gain latest innovative strategy and best practice for improving commissioning and procurement. For more details or to book contact David Moffat: david.moffat2@capita.co.uk

Maintaining capacity and promoting capability

25th June, Westminster, London

Conference giving delegates an opportunity to discuss and be informed on the government's plans for supporting the third sector, and the commitments made in the recent publication 'Real Help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises', an action plan for the Third Sector. For more details or to book email: jonathan.fuller@westminster-briefing.com or visit www.westminster-briefing.com/?p=724

Business Support and Resources

Social Return on Investment

A new guide, backed by the Cabinet Office, will help organisations demonstrate their social, economic and environmental impact to purchasing bodies, service users and others. Available from: www.sroi-uk.org/component/option.com_docman/Itemid,38/

Assessing Organisational Strengths and Weaknesses

A new online self-assessment tool, produced by the Centre for Charity Effectiveness at Cass Business School, can be accessed at: www.knowhownonprofit.org/tools-for-success/self_assessment. It aims to help determine your organisation's strength and weaknesses in eight key areas, including governance, finance and people.

www.knowhownonprofit.org

New website helping people across the sector develop and share expertise and experience. The site includes information, discussions and case studies. Sections include information on: running an organisation, management and skill development of staff and volunteers, different ways of bringing in money to your non-profit organisation, raising awareness about what you do, leadership and working together.

Free resources to help your network survive and thrive

National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) is offering infrastructure agencies boxes of their 'Achieve More' series. These guides provide introductions to key topics including strategy, outcomes, marketing and managing change. Order online at: www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/achievemore

Introduction to Social Impact Measurement: a practical approach

This e-book, published by The Tool Factory, aims to encourage more organisations to start measuring their social impact. It can be downloaded as a pdf [1.02mb]. You may need to give some contact information as part of the download process. Visit: www.thetoolfactory.com/simebook.htm

'How To Guides' from Workforce Hub

New guides on: Survive the Recession – alternatives to redundancy; 360 degree feedback; and HR software in voluntary and community organisations – a short report, can be downloaded from: www.ukworkforcehub.org/component/content/article/518

Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) - Venturesome

Venturesome, an initiative of CAF, is a social investment fund which helps charities and other social purpose organisations to think through their funding needs, providing tailored capital investment where appropriate and/or signposting to others. For more details phone 020 7832 3026, email: venturesome@cafonline.org

Sources of funding

Safer Homes

Fund launched by the Government in association with Community Alliance organisations bassac, Development Trusts Association and Community Matters. Offering grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 to key frontline community organisations to develop safety programmes and support new, locally-run social enterprises, particularly in areas of high crime. Visit: <http://www.bassac.org.uk/news/2009-04/new-fund-for-safer-communities>. Application details available at: www.comm-alliance.org

Projects wanted to break down community age barriers

Generations Together will fund 12 intergenerational community projects that bring younger and older people together. Bids invited from local authorities, involving third sector organisations, and at least half of the funding must be deployed within the third sector. Visit: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/090417_generations.aspx

Aspire £25m Investment Fund

Investment fund for women-led businesses, to be jointly funded by the government and private sector to encourage female entrepreneurship. Responsibility for the initiative is held by Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), funding will be accessed via the Business Link. Entrepreneurs and businesses will work with advisors to develop ideas and ensure the venture is 'investment ready'. Further information on how to obtain grants locally is available from BERR at: www.berr.gov.uk/BERR and Business Link: www.businesslink.gov.uk

Real Help for Communities: Modernisation Fund

Established to help third sector organisations be more resilient to the impact of the economic downturn. Focused on helping organisations providing services to those worst hit by the recession. Mix of grant and loan funding delivered by Capacitybuilders and Futurebuilders. Social enterprises interested in applying can find details at: www.modernisationfund.org.uk

Publications

Charitable Status, by Julian Blake – Price: £14.95

Guide to setting up and running a charity, covering new legal and practical developments following the 2006 Charities Act. Looks at the responsibilities and liabilities of trustees, fundraising, trading, social enterprise and fee-charging, tax and VAT issues, the distinction between charitable and political campaigning, and regulations. Available from: www.trustfunding.org.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. Email: admin@icis-info4life.org.uk Website: www.icis-info4life.org.uk