

Social Enterprise e-bulletin

Issue 39 NOVEMBER 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.

Contact your local Social Enterprise Advisors for support:

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Social enterprise developments and opportunities

IV West Sussex Social Enterprise Innovation Award

The West Sussex Social Enterprise Steering Group, with support from West Sussex County Council, is running an award to promote and support innovative ideas amongst potential, emerging and established social enterprises and entrepreneurs in West Sussex. There is an award of £5,000 for the winner along with a runner up prize of £2,000. For guidelines and an entry form visit: www.wssen.org.uk

Official Launch - West Sussex Sustainable Business Network

Sixty delegates from local businesses, organisations and authorities met at County Hall, Chichester on 17th November for the official launch of the West Sussex Sustainable Business Network. Amongst the presentations were case study speakers whose organisations have benefited from implementing sustainable business practices. These included Pyecombe Golf Club, near Hassocks, who will be installing a ground source renewable energy heat pump next year, ITW Construction Products Ltd, Crawley, who have adopted the ISO14001 Environmental Management System and Roundstone Nurseries, near Chichester who, by recycling waste products, have been able to save the equivalent of £26,000 a year. During the event, 25 organisations joined the network as founder members. They can be found on the new Network Members Directory. Visit the Sustainable Business Network: www.westsussexsbp.org.uk

New £1 million rural community transport enterprise programme

Three year programme launched to support rural community transport organisations in England develop their enterprise orientation to become more sustainable. It will offer grant, loan and development support packages to eight rural community transport organisations. This will be backed up by a range of training, development and networking support provided by CTA (Community Transport Association). For more information visit: www.ctauk.org

Charity tax issues to be addressed by Revenue and Customs

HM Revenue and Customs has met with the Charity Finance Director's Group and a group of finance directors from leading charities to discuss current taxation issues faced by charities. Issues covered include sponsorship restrictions, raising the exemption limit for low-level trading and VAT on shared services. Visit: www.cfdg.org.uk/cfdg/press_release_021109.asp

Government committee aims to free sector to create jobs

Third Sector reports that a new government sub-committee aims to help create 25,000 jobs in the voluntary sector by 2011, by removing barriers to winning central government contracts. Ministers are due to hold the first meeting of the Cabinet Committee on the Third Sector on 1st December. Visit: www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/965193

Social Enterprise Advisors

SEASON is developing a network for social enterprise advisors in the South East. If you are an individual who is practising as a social enterprise advisor or are undertaking formal training then you can become a member of SEASON. There is an introductory offer of free membership for the first year which entitles you to: play a part in shaping social enterprise activity in the region, access to discounted training and opportunities to meet one another and undertake further professional development. For more information contact: Jo White, SEASON, c/o Co-operative Futures, City Works, Alfred Street, Gloucester GL1 4DF or email: Jo.white@co-operativefutures.coop

Social enterprise and waste management

Defra (Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs) has published results from the first of three research projects relating to social enterprise and waste management. To read the executive summary of "Benefits of third sector organisations in waste management" visit: www.randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=WR0506_8336_EXE.pdf

Future Job Funds

The Social Enterprise Coalition is interested to know more about the plans of social enterprises to create jobs. What is said will help inform their policy position. The Coalition is keen to learn more about experiences of the Government's Future Jobs Fund. To complete the survey visit: www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=dn_2fy6ZKkTQRJxEnFJC8xjA_3d_3d

Strategy to involve and support minority ethnic social enterprises

The Social Enterprise Coalition has produced 'A Strategy for the Social Enterprise movement to improve the engagement and support for Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) social enterprises'. Download the pdf from: www.socialenterprise.org.uk/data/files/bame_strategy.pdf

Events and training opportunities

How to demonstrate outcomes Thursday 10th December, London

Course covers the essential information you need to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework to measure and demonstrate your effectiveness. The benefits of reporting on outcomes will be addressed, with practical tips on how to overcome barriers. Prices vary according to organisation size (£99-£383). For more information phone the Charities

Evaluation Service: 020 7713 5722 or email: training@ces-vol.org.uk

Community Shares

Wednesday 9th December, Billingshurst

Seminar to raise awareness about the use of community share model for development and sustainability of social enterprise with practical examples and an opportunity to hear about experiences and tips and getting them established. For more information or to download the booking form, visit: www.wssen.org.uk

Companies Act 2006

Monday 25th January, Brighton

An update session on the recent legislative changes to the various legal structures that social enterprises can adopt. For more information or to download the booking form, visit:

www.wssen.org.uk

Business Support and Resources

Sharing resources on volunteer management

A new website where those who work in the field of volunteer management can add useful resources and others will be able to access them, thus avoiding re-inventing the wheel. Visit:

www.oursharedresources.com

Charity Commission's risk management toolkit

The Charity Commission has launched a practical online toolkit, "Protecting charities from harm", 'which aims to give trustees the tools they need to manage risks and protect their charity from harm and abuse'. The first chapter, on the UK's counter terrorism legislation and how it affects charity work, is available from: www.charitycommission.gov.uk/news/prtoolkit.asp

Breakthrough

The social investment programme Breakthrough provides funding and management support to help established social enterprises scale up and maximize their social impact. This new dedicated micro-site includes case studies on the seven investments made so far plus reports and news from the fund. Visit: www.breakthroughfund.org.uk

ICT Security Guide

Aimed at voluntary sector staff with responsibility for managing and securing ICT systems, the new Computanews ICT Security Guide looks at assessing the risks and policies needed, how computer security is affected by people and the environment in which it is used and how to secure those all-important assets. Visit: www.lasa.org.uk/publications/computanews-guides/

New model constitution for charities with income under £5,000

A simplified 700 word model constitution has been produced for small charities which have an annual income under £5,000 (England and Wales). It is not meant for charities that own a building, employ people or intend to register with the Charity Commission. Officially published by the Charity Commission. Visit: www.charitycommission.gov.uk/registration/smallcharity.asp

Understanding legal issues in public sector contracting

A guide to commissioning and procurement law for third sector organisations has been jointly published by National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action). It aims to help voluntary groups understand the legal and practical issues of public sector contracting. The guide can be downloaded from: www.navca.org.uk/localvs/lcp/news/maze.htm

Trustee recruitment service for charities

Trustees Unlimited offers charities a professional and cost-effective service to recruit people from across the private, public and voluntary sectors. All candidates are selected from a large database of high-calibre candidates who will be interviewed and reference checked to ensure they offer the right combination of skills, experience and diversity for your organisation. For more information phone: 0845 371 0899 or visit: www.trustees-unlimited.co.uk/ncvo

Dial M for Merger

The Charity Commission has published new guidance on collaborations and mergers. For further information visit: www.charitycommission.gov.uk/news/prcollmer.asp

Sources of funding

BT Community Connections Funding

Award scheme enabling community and charitable organisations to get online. Groups can apply for a laptop and a year's free broadband connection. Award packages will be given to groups who can demonstrate how an award will benefit their work and community. Deadline for postal applications: 5th January 2010, online: 7th January 2010. Visit: www.btcommunityconnections.com

Grants to voluntary organisations – Crawley

Local community groups and voluntary organisations are invited to apply for an annual financial grant for 2010/11 from Crawley Adults and Childrens Directorate. The service or activity must fall within the scope of the Department and be consistent with their objectives. Grants are available for up to £5,000. Deadline for applications is 15th January 2010. To apply contact Bekithemba Mhlanga on 01293 895171 or email: bekithemba.mhlanga@westsussex.gov.uk

Hardship Fund

The Arts Council England's Hardship Fund is now open for applications. The fund offers grants of between £50,000 and £250,000 to third sector organisations in England that are suffering financial hardship and finding it difficult to deliver front line services to meet the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in society. To apply organisations must have a turnover of £200,000 a year or more. The Fund is administered by the Community Development Foundation. For more information phone: 0113 246 1561 or email: hardshipfund@cdf.org.uk

Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme

Loan guarantee scheme available to small and medium sized enterprises that have viable business plans but cannot get conventional loans due to either a lack of security or the problems caused by the recent economic downturn. Scheme guarantees loans for the following purposes: new loans to finance the development of a business, refinancing existing loans to keep them in place when they might otherwise be withdrawn, and to move long-term debt from an existing overdraft into a term loan to release capital. Aimed at businesses with an annual turnover of up to £25m. For information phone Business Link on: 0845 600 9006 or visit: www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/enterprise/enterprisesmes/info-business-owners/access-to-finance/efg/page37607.html

Publications

Quick access to practical information

Directory of Social Change has a new series of publications, Speed Read Downloads, "for those who are short on time and need to get the right information quickly". Initial titles are on media relations and team building. Price £7.99. Visit: www.dsc.org.uk/Publications/Seriesoffers/SpeedReadDownloads

Charitable Status

Guide to setting up and running a charity, covering new legal and practical developments. It looks at the responsibilities and liabilities of trustees, fundraising, trading, social enterprises and fee charging, tax and VAT issues, the distinction between charitable and political campaigning and regulations. Price: £14.95. Visit: www.trustfunding.org.uk



To go on the mailing list

If you wish to be added to the emailing list or provide copy 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.

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