

Social Enterprise e-bulletin

Issue 41 January 2010

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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. **Closing date for entries – 29th January 2010.** For guidelines and an entry form visit: www.wssen.org.uk

Self-Directed Support Event a Success

Around 100 delegates came together on the 20th January to hear about and discuss developments in the area of self-directed support. Presentations from the day are now available to view at www.wssen.org.uk. Don't forget the follow up event on the 2nd March at Lodge Hill, providing more in depth support on the main themes and topics from the workshop sessions on the 20th. Further information and booking details will be available shortly on the WSSSEN website.

Free UTILISE Utility Management Workshops Update

The first of our free UTILISE Utility Management Workshops is now full, however, we still have spaces remaining at our next workshops in Horsham (11th February) and in Mid Sussex (Wakehurst Place, 13th May). The workshops are open to any organisation with premises located within West Sussex and give an understanding of savings, both financial and environmental that can be made through efficient management of utilities. The workshops also introduce environmental legislation, Environmental Management Systems, and the business case for acting as a sustainable organisation. For more information and to book a place on a workshop please contact Robert Bousie on 01243 777308 or email: robert.bousie@westsussex.gov.uk

New rules to aid social enterprise investment for Community Interest Companies

New measures are being introduced in April that are intended to make it easier for community interest companies (CICs) to attract investors. The CIC Regulator is lifting the cap on share dividend payments that CICs can make to investors to 20%. It is also raising the cap on loan interest to 10% of the loan's value. The dividend cap was previously five percentage points above the Bank of England base rate and the interest cap was four percentage points above this rate. For details visit: www.cicregulator.gov.uk/consultationresponse.shtml

International Year of Co-operatives

The United Nations has agreed to make 2012 the International Year of Co-operatives, and 'recognised the co-operative business model as a major factor of the economic and social development of people in both the developed and developing world'. For details visit: www.cooperatives-uk.coop/live/dynamic/News2ShowArticle.asp?article_id=DCF912BD-3BE5-4FE5-AAFA-927C459FB70A

Rich pickings for social entrepreneurs in Queen's New Year Honours

Social enterprise ambassador and CEO of *Big Issue Invest*, Nigel Kershaw, is one of at least eight people involved in social enterprise awarded in the New Year Honours List 2010. Mr Kershaw was given an OBE for his services to social enterprise. He said "I feel honoured and proud. I think this award shows that the core philosophy of The Big Issue and Big Issue Invest of finding a business solution to social problems is gaining recognition as a new way of doing business." Visit:

www.socialenterpriselive.com/section/news/rich-pickings-social-entrepreneurs-queens-new-year-honours

Academy for social entrepreneurs

Located in Derbyshire, the Genesis Academy aims to support people who want to develop their entrepreneurial and business skills either in social enterprise, community enterprise or in business. The Academy delivers short, part time and full time learning programmes, combining enterprise management and leadership with practical experiential learning opportunities within an established business setting. For more details visit: www.genesisacademy.org.uk

New Model Constitution for small charities

A simplified 700-word model constitution has been produced for small charities with an income under £5,000. It is not suitable for charities that own a building, employ people or intend to register with the Charity Commission. Read more at: www.charitycommission.gov.uk/registration/smallcharity.asp

Appropriate use of grants in self-care support

The Department of Health published a paper 'PCT Grant Making Powers to Commission Long Term Conditions Self Care Support from Third Sector Organisations', to highlight the role that grants can play in developing and supporting low level community activity. Visit:

www.thecompact.org.uk/information/100016/140486/department_of_health_publishes_guidance_paper/

Failure of public benefit test may not have tax costs

Charities that fail to meet the public benefit test when assessed by the Charity Commission will not be penalised by HM Revenue and Customs as long as they deal with the issue. For more details visit www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/5843/

**Events and
training
opportunities**

Take a Lead in your Community - Leadership Training 26th January-4th May, Community Base, Brighton

This is a free course for people needing skills to champion local projects or serve on the management structures of local public, voluntary and community organisations. It is open to anyone planning to take an

active leading role in their community, or from a community or voluntary organisation in the Brighton and Hove area, to be a strong voice in influencing decisions that might make changes in their community. For more information contact Rona Parsons, Take Part Development Worker, Working Together Project. Tel: 01273 234773, email: rona@workingtogetherproject.org.uk. www.workingtogetherproject.org.uk

Funding the Future 2010

10th February, 10am-4pm, London

Conference enabling third sector leaders to hear and debate policy with key decision-makers in statutory, lottery and trust funders. It is suitable for chief executives, senior fundraising staff and trustees or third sector organisations, administrators of grant-making trusts and local authority and CVSs staff who need to have a broad appreciation of current funding policy. For more details and to book a place visit: www.actionplanning.co.uk/fundingthefuture2010

The Good Society – a time for action, NCVO annual conference

23rd February, London

Opportunity to meet new contacts to strengthen your organisation, hear from high-profile speakers, be involved in the debate, get personalised advice and direct support from experts, learn from practical workshops, network with voluntary sector colleagues, and be inspired to move your organisation forward. The conference is suitable for anyone involved with the voluntary and community sector. For more details phone Matt on 020 7520 3160 or visit: www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/annualconference2010

Social Accounting

16th March, 11am-3.30pm, Action in rural Sussex, Lewes

Organised by SEASON. Attendees will share knowledge and learn more about measuring the social impact of a social enterprise and how this fits in with your role as a social enterprise adviser. The workshop will include feedback and experience from work on the Better project. Better is a cross-county initiative in Sussex in which partners have been supporting six social enterprises to embed social impact measurement within their organisation, as well as working with procurers and commissioners to increase their understanding of its value. Cost: SEASON members £5; non-members £100. For details contact Jo White, Co-operative Futures, Tel: 0845 456 2506 or email jo.white@co-operativefutures.coop. www.co-operativefutures.coop

OnBoard Specialised Training Sessions

24 February, Shared frameworks of Board communications and governance

17 March, Essential guide for Board transformation

Practical sessions aimed at raising awareness of the latest governance developments, equipping Boards to deal with concerns and challenges and strengthening the platform to govern effectively. The range of sessions will help ensure sustainability in governance practices. For more information about the sessions referred to above and the others being run, visit: www.bwbllp.com/Seminars/Booking.aspx?SeminarID=199

Business Support and Resources

New Trustee and Governance Information Centre

NCVO has launched its Trustee and Governance Information Centre, with material ranging from the role of trustees to changing governing documents and the responsibilities of a board/management committee. Visit: www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/advice-support/trustee-governance

Future trends in campaigning

NCVO's 'What will campaigning be like in 5 years time?' outlines what they consider are the most important drivers that will impact on campaigning – growth of consumer activism; more fluid activism; growth of new technologies; 'professionalisation' of campaigning; increase in competition and coalitions; and marginalisation of dissent. Download publication from: www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/products-services/publications/future-focus-7

Smarta

Independent, entrepreneur-led support backed by some of the UK's top entrepreneurs including Dragons Den stars Theo Paphitis and Deborah Meade. Visitors to the website can join the Smarta network to access support and advice, showcase their business and make new contacts. Visit: www.smarta.com

For More Than Profit

Website offering tools and resources for social entrepreneurs. The site provides hints and tips for social entrepreneurs who want to become more effective at what they do. It offers free downloadable e-books on Business Planning and Social Impact Measurement. Visit: www.formorethanprofit.com

Social Impact Tracker website

Social Impact Tracker (formerly eMonitoring) is a secure database system that will provide organisations with the ability to capture and report on their social impact. Organisations can record quantitative and qualitative data on their participants, groups and activities; perform their own self-evaluation or measure the distance travelled of their clients through an integrated soft monitoring tool. For more details visit: www.socialimpacttracker.org

Sources of funding

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. The scheme is provided by the Department for Business,

Innovation and Skills (BIS) as part of a package of measures from the government to help ease the impact of the economic downturn. Visit:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/gsdDetail?r.lc=en&type=GSD&searchQueryId=1021&searchTerm=enterprise+finance+guarantee&page=1&itemId=1081834978&searchId=3&refpage=4

£33 million in Grassroots Grant

The government has announced that over £33m will be given in grants to over 13,000 charities and voluntary organisations in the first full year of the Grassroots Scheme. The £130 million scheme is aimed at helping small voluntary and community organisations provide help to vulnerable people in their communities. Grants can be used on a range of activities from healthy food parcels for deprived communities to social activities for carers. The programme, administered by local Community Development Foundations, will run until March 2011. Small and local community groups with annual incomes below £30,000 can apply for grants of between £250 and £5,000. Visit: www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/grassroots-grants

Publications

Fundraising for a Community Project

Provides advice about what needs to be considered before completing an application for funding, where to get support and advice, how to calculate realistic costs and collect baseline data. Price: £10.99. Visit:

www.dsc.org.uk/publications



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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