

Social Enterprise e-bulletin

Issue 43 March 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

Tripling social enterprise by 2020

The Social Enterprise Coalition has launched a manifesto which "lays out a number of ways in which the next government can help social enterprise achieve its aim to significantly increase both its contribution to GDP and its impact on the lives of individuals and communities across the UK." Read the SEC's Election Campaign pages at: www.socialenterprise.org.uk/pages/campaigns.html

Community Enterprise Strategic Framework

Barbara Follett, Communities Minister, announced at the recent Funding the Future conference, the government's commitments to supporting the community enterprise sector through improving business support, tackling the barriers to accessing finance, enabling social enterprises to work effectively with government and fostering a culture of social enterprise. Visit: www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1463783

Understanding the reality of the local third sector

Two 'works in progress' reports from the Northern Rock Foundation's Third Sector Trends Study have been published. 'What makes a Third Sector Organisation tick!' is based on the study of 50 third sector organisations in North East England and Cumbria; 'Beyond flat-earth maps of the third sector' attempts to assess the scale and distribution of small, informal, local and community groups which outnumber the visible formal charities. Summaries and full reports can be downloaded from www.nr-foundation.org.uk/news/news_Feb10.html

Investment fund focuses on social investments

£10m fund aiming to make commercial returns from social investments has been announced by Aros Capital Partners, a boutique investment management company. The Altru Fund aims to get

8% return for investors. The fund plans to make both debt and equity investments in 8-10 companies with average investments of between £750,000 and £1 million. The minimum investment in the fund is £70,000 and Aros Capital Partners is targeting private individuals, charities and pension funds as possible investors. Visit: www.socialenterpriselive.com/section/news/money/20100304/investment-fund-focuses-social-investments

Events and training opportunities

Online course to develop as a strategic manager

A pilot online collaborative learning programme 'Personal development as a strategic manager' is being launched by the Cass Centre for Charity Effectiveness. The course starts on 12th April, lasts eight weeks, and is part of the KnowHow NonProfit study zone. Read more at:

www.cass.city.ac.uk/cce/resources/feb_10/development.htm

19th Annual Charity Law Conference 20th May, Charity Centre, Euston, London

Conference organised by Directory of Social Change and Bates Wells and Braithwaite Solicitors looking at the latest legal updates and key information on Charity Law that all charities should know. For details visit: www.dsc.org.uk/cl

Striving to Thrive 30th June, Royal Holloway College, Egham

Funding exhibition organised by Surrey Community Action for anyone involved in fundraising or operational/financial management strategies from voluntary sector organisations. The main theme is alternative ways to maximise financial resources whilst reducing dependency on traditional grant streams. For details phone: 01483 458282, ext. 216, email: anneb@surreyca.org.uk or visit: www.surreyca.org.uk

Business Support and Resources

Evaluating internal support services

ACEVO has launched a 'Capacity Manager' online tool, building on the experience of its Full Cost Recovery model. The aim is to evaluate whether your internal support services are working effectively, going beyond a simple health check approach, exploring questions such as whether a policy is being followed, how effective it is, how regularly it is updated, and how widely it is understood and used. There is also benchmarking against other organisations. Access the tool at: www.capacitymanager.org.uk

Online network for community shops

The Plunkett Foundation has launched its online Community Shops Network enabling people involved in setting up and running community-owned shops to communicate with each other, share ideas and experiences. Visit: www.plunkett.uk.net

Evaluating social enterprise pathfinder in health and social care

'Leading the way through social enterprise: the Social Enterprise Pathfinder Programme evaluation' is a study for the Department of Health to help those currently involved in setting up a social enterprise to deliver health and social care services. Visit: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_113535

Listen to discussion on HMRC changes

HM Revenue and Customs has a new 'Super Podcast' discussing forthcoming changes to VAT, PAYE and Corporation Tax filing and payments. Employers or VAT-registered organisations can listen to the 13 minute 12mb podcast at: www.hmrc.gov.uk/podcasts

Legal update for campaigning organisations and others

The spring Charity and Social Enterprise update from Bates Wells and Braithwaite has articles on the Vetting and Barring scheme, intellectual property, obtaining information from local authorities and more. Download at:

www.bateswells.co.uk/Updates/Detail.aspx?UpdateID=274&Location=2&ID=1.

NCB Support Programme

The National Children's Bureau has launched a support programme aimed at helping to develop the work of third sector organisations working with children and young people. The programme will provide a range of support services directly to the sector, keeping the sector informed on matters of policy and practice, and building capacity to enable it to deliver effective services for children and young people. Visit: www.ncb.org.uk/vss

New social enterprise blog directory launched

Social Enterprise Live has launched a new blog directory, a one-stop shop for news and views about social enterprise. Social Enterprise magazine editor Tim West said "Our aim is to provide the best news, views and analysis of the social business world all in one place." Read the directory at: www.socialenterpriselive.com

Enterprise UK launches 'Enterprise Manifesto'

Enterprise UK have launched this manifesto running from March to April 2010 as a collaborative space for entrepreneurs to submit, comment on and rate proposals to help support and promote entrepreneurship in the UK. For information visit: www.enterpriseuk.org/enterprisemanifesto

i-genius

A world community of social entrepreneurs seeking to inspire a new generation of social innovators, social business and social enterprise. i-genius helps people promote what they are doing, enabling them to connect with others. It seeks to stimulate fresh thinking and bright ideas, and inspire a new generation to become 'social entrepreneurs'. To find out more visit: www.i-genius.org/home

Working with public sector to protect funding

'How to safeguard Sector stability – using your Compact' is a briefing published by Compact Voice for voluntary groups concerned at the possible effect of changes to funding from local councils. It suggests a number of steps to take to achieve best local outcomes. Download the document at: www.voluntarynews.org.uk/news/2010/03/working-with-public-sector-protect-funding

Sources of funding

New strand of Reaching Communities

The Big Lottery Fund has announced a new funding programme that will allow voluntary organisations to apply for grants of up to £40,000 a year until 2015. The fund is designed to support charities that want shorter-term, smaller-scale grants than those available through the existing

Reaching Communities scheme. Read more at: <http://bit.ly/reachcommbig> or www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Ecominds

Grant programme helping people with experience of mental distress get involved in local environmental projects that improve mental and physical health. Closing date for Small Grants is 12 noon on **Friday 30th April**. The amount of funding currently available is limited and prospective applicants are encouraged to consider carefully before applying. Read more at: www.charityemail.org.uk/t.aspx?l=2076533&i=642395445

HCT Group sets up innovative 'social loan'

The HCT Group, a community transport social enterprise, has arranged a £3m 'social loan' deal with involves lenders sharing in some of the risk faced by the company. HCT, originally called Hackney Community Transport after the working-class London borough where it is based, lists "social justice" as one of its prime objectives. The social loan will allow HCT, which operates bus routes in east London and the City and school buses in Yorkshire, to expand its fleet of 250 vehicles and staff of 500. Visit: www.growthbusiness.co.uk/news/fundraising-deals/1200333/hct-group-seals-benchmark-loan-deal.shtml

Older People's Programme

Grant programme from Comic Relief, which helps to support older people to bring positive changes to their communities and enable them to contribute their time, energy and skills to people who need it most. They will support applications from organisations, including self-help and community groups, voluntary organisations, community interest companies and social enterprises who target their work at older people aged 65 years and over. Comic Relief are keen that funding reaches older people from Black and minority ethnic communities, LGBT people and older men. For details phone: 020 7820 5555, email: ukgrants@comicrelief.com or visit: www.comicrelief.com/apply_for_a_grant/uk/olderpeople

People's Postcode Trust

Trust funding opportunities to small organisations, community groups and charities through grants of between £500-£10,000. Projects must either prevent poverty, promote, maintain, improve and advance health, advance citizenship or community development, advance public participation in sport, promote, improve and advance human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation, or promote and advance environmental protection or improvement. For more information visit: www.postcodetrust.org.uk

COMMA - The Community Aggregates Fund

Action in rural Sussex is working with Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) to deliver this fund to benefit communities affected by quarrying. Community organisations, charities or parish/town councils, where the proposed project is within 10km of an aggregates extraction site, either in current use or disused, and where it will produce a community benefit, can apply for funding. Grants of between £3,000 and £20,000 to support community projects and amenities are available. AirS and ACRE are delivering this grant on behalf of Defra, funded by the aggregates levy on quarries. Application downloaded from: www.ruralsussex.org.uk Deadline for completed applications **14th May**. The project must be completed by 31st March 2011. For information contact Action in rural Sussex Helpline: 0845 873 61 65, or email: COMMA@ruralsussex.org.uk

Publications

The Compact and procurement law: A guide to frequently asked questions

Looks specifically at procurement law and how it relates to the Compact. Published by the Commission for the Compact. Visit:

www.thecompact.org.uk/files/139878/FileName/compactandprocurementlaw_webversion.pdf



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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