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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; Brighton University; Councils for Voluntary Service in the county and West Sussex County Council.

Social Enterprise e-bulletin

Issue 57

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Developments and opportunities

New network for leaders across civil society

A new network has been set up for civil society leaders to engage on the practical challenges in building civil society and encourage greater collaboration and innovation among charities. Read more at www.thirdsector.co.uk/news/Article/1066497/ and <http://civilsocietyforum.net/site>

National Business Awards

The National business Awards, in partnership with Orange, is an opportunity for companies, whether public or private, to raise their profile and prove their excellence, acknowledge their team's efforts, and join a network of exceptional organisations. Deadline for entries is **15th June**. For more details and to enter visit www.nationalbusinessawards.co.uk

CAF Charity Trends

Charity Aids Foundation (CAF) has launched a new website, Charity Trends, providing users with access to data on 162,363 charities. Featuring research publications, charts and search tools, the content was collected by using the data registered charities provide in their Annual Returns to the Charity Commission. This data has been filtered into 17 criteria. For more details visit: www.charitytrends.org

Big Society Bank to start with up to £300m

The Big Society Bank will be independent of central government and will have freedom to decide its own investment strategy, according to a new government social investment strategy. The bank will act only as a wholesaler, meaning it will not make direct investments to organisations and will not give grants. The bank will be self-sufficient, will have the power to raise more capital on its own and will cover its operating costs through investments. For more information visit: www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/DailyBulletin/1054672/Big-Society-Bank-will-start-300m/AD5B2B7943B9944D66912EED1A902/?DCMP=EMC-CONDailyBulletin

West Sussex County Council Big Society Questionnaire

WSCC is looking to local people and communities to air their views on Big Society and what it means to them. The results of the survey will be presented to the Leader of the Council and

elected members in July and feedback will be available on the WSCC website in August. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete. Visit:

www.bmgresearch.co.uk/westsussex/KMS/elab.aspx?noip=1&CampaignId=131

Gift Aid

Following the Chancellor's Budget, Gift Aid reforms include a pledge for administration to be much easier by 2013 with the introduction of an online system. Gift Aid benefit limits has been increased from £500 to £2,500, subject to the existing 5% limit. For more information on the Budget report visit: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_documents.htm



Events and training opportunities

Free FCDL & NAVCA Creating Changes courses

These free courses use Community Development to support community groups, voluntary organisations and networks in local areas. For dates and venues visit: www.fcdl.org

Third Sector's Digital Communication & Social Media Convention 13th-14th June, Central London

Two day event from Third Sector covering all aspects of innovation, developments, leading practice and strategy in digital communications and social media. There will be 50 speakers and 40 presentation choices and how-to workshops. For more information visit: www.thirdsectorsocialmedia.com

Small Charity Week, 20th – 24th June 2011

The Charity week will culminate in a Celebration Day, a day celebrating the work and impact of small charities on communities across the country. In London, the FSI is organising an afternoon festival on the Thames River walkway that will celebrate the wonderful work of the small charity sector. Charity staff, volunteers, trustees, beneficiaries and supporters are invited to come along to help mark the close of Small Charity Week 2011. FSI would like to know how everyone would like to celebrate the day - you may get the opportunity to showcase your charity at the event. Email your suggestions to: events@thefsi.org
For more information visit: www.smallcharityweek.com/celebration-day

Charity Fair

27th-28th June, Hotel Russell, Central London

Up-to-date training in over 100 compact workshop sessions covering every aspect of the voluntary sector. Entry to Charityfair is free. You can access high quality training for as little as £25 per session and £50 for masterclasses, depending on how many sessions you book. Workshops last one hour and provide the core information needed to develop skills in key subject areas. Visit: www.charityfair.org.uk



Business support and resources

Why should we bother with Social Media?

The Hidden Britain South East, May newsletter focuses on some of the latest ideas around USEFUL social media and associated technologies. More specifically, how tourism groups, community partnerships and small businesses can use it to promote themselves. Visit: www.us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=dea057edd7ce74a689fd97f4e&id=4ee54c3091

JustTextGiving

JustGiving and Vodafone have launched a service to allow fundraisers and charities to receive donations by text message without incurring set-up or network charges. Visit: www.justgiving.com/justtextgiving

Doing a Training Needs analysis

Available from the People, HR and Employment section of the NCVO website is a guide to carrying out training needs analysis (TNA). A TNA would review the learning and development needs of staff, volunteers and trustees. The guide suggests that the TNA should be carried out at organisational, departmental and individual level. Download the TNA at www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/tna

Taster e-learning management courses

GLOBE is an e-learning academy delivering a range of online management courses for new, aspiring and experienced managers working in the third sector. Created by PNE Development, a selection of free taster courses are available from: www.elearning.pne-development.org/ecs

Trade union launches campaign and website on sector cuts

Unite has started a campaign "Unite for our Society" in response to the impact of cuts on the voluntary sector workforce. The campaign includes training via conference calls 'where workers can get advice from a panel of experts on issues ranging from redundancies and the legal right to challenge council cuts to voluntary organisation funding'. Read more at: www.uniteforoursociety.org

Would Charitable Incorporate Organisation status be right for your organisation?

Sandy Adirondack's Legal Update gives some thoughts about the Charitable Incorporate Organisation legal model (CIO), to help weigh up whether this is an option worth considering when it eventually comes in. For more details visit: www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#cio-yes-or-no

Social Enterprise 'Skill up' courses

As part of WSSSEN's commitment to support community, voluntary organisations and social enterprises in West Sussex, they held three free courses that aimed to help organisations perform more efficiently in the current financial climate. Read more at: www.wssen.org.uk/page/events/50/

Co-operatives UK publishes guide to turning public services into mutuals

Co-operatives UK, the umbrella body for the cooperative sector, has published a free guide to help public sector workers convert their services into independent mutuals. It outlines the main issues that public sector spin-outs will face. The guide highlights the importance of effective business planning and financial projections, the need to make sure that the organisation has buy-in from staff and stakeholders and the necessity of start-up funding. It also examines the technical difficulties involved in staff transfer, procurement law and registering as a separate body. Visit: www.uk.coop/district

For further support contact:

Barbara Beaton, Action in rural Sussex (AirS)

Phone: 01424 893698 Email: barbara.beaton@ruralsussex.org.uk

Sources of Funding

Trusthouse Charitable Foundation

Grants programme supporting projects which address issues in rural communities and/or areas of urban deprivation. The Foundation is interested in helping established projects working in the fields of community support; arts, education and heritage; disability and health care. Visit: www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk

Equitable Charitable Trust

This education charity supports projects for children and young people with disabilities or who are from disadvantaged backgrounds. Applications can be submitted at any time. For more details visit: www.equitablecharitabletrust.org.uk

The Brenda Ford Fund

This fund supports community and voluntary groups working to support women suffering from, or at risk of, domestic abuse in Sussex. Deadline for applications is **15th July**. For more details contact Mary Carruthers at Sussex Giving on 01273 409440, Email: mary.carruthers@sussexgiving.org.uk

Growth and Innovation Fund

Secretary of State for Industry, Vince Cable, has launched this £50m a year fund to help businesses develop skills needed to increase growth. The Fund will help businesses overcome barriers to growth by offering new training to boost innovation and productivity, enable industries to set new professional standards, or support new or extended National Skills Academies. Three types of projects are suitable for applications: 'Best Market Solutions', 'National Skills Academies' and 'Joint Investment Programme'. For more information visit www.ukces.org.uk/news/growth-and-innovation-fund-press-notice



Publications

Critiques of big society and public service privatisation

Two new briefings from the National Coalition for Independent Action are available to download. 'Voluntary action under threat: what privatisation means for charities and community groups' and 'Big market: how the 'big society' and localism damage independent voluntary action'. Download the pdfs from: www.independentaction.net/2011/05/06/8514/

Updated guide to insurance for charities

The Charities Commission has produced a revised version of its guide which gives an overview of the different types of insurance available, clarifies legal obligations and the options trustees have when identifying and managing risks. Read the guide at: www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Publications/cc49.aspx

Ineligible Applications: the wasted work of the voluntary sector

The Directory of Social Care (DSC) has published research indicating that over one-third of applications to UK charitable grant-makers are ineligible. Read more at: <http://bit.ly/dcswapp> and: <http://bit.ly/dscggiv>

Helping social enterprises branch out

The Social Enterprise Coalition has published a 'how to' guide on social franchising aimed at social enterprises that want to replicate their business model. It outlines 10 steps to the process. Visit: www.socialenterprise.org.uk/pages/social-franchising.html

If you wish to be added to the emailing list please contact: info@wssen.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 working with all sectors; facilitating access to information support the independence, health and wellbeing of all in the county.



If you know of 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 and we will promote them to the sector.

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