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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 58

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## Developments and opportunities

### **Co-operative Loan Fund responds to demand for lending**

The Co-operative Loan Fund has grown following increased contributions from two of its member societies as well as early repayment of large loans from two credit unions. However, there is a rising demand for loans by co-operatives finding it hard to access finance on acceptable bank terms. The Co-operative Loan Fund still has funds available and welcomes applications for loans of between £5,000-£75,000 from new and existing co-operatives. To apply for a loan visit:

[www.co-operative.coop/corporate/ethicsinaction/communities/fundsandfoundations/](http://www.co-operative.coop/corporate/ethicsinaction/communities/fundsandfoundations/)

### **Small Charity Week 2011**

Small Charity Week has started a campaign to get everyone behind the small charity sector. The **I Love Small Charities Pledge** is an opportunity for anyone to sign up to find out more about small charities and how they can help the sector thrive. They want people to pledge to do something to help a small charity between now and Small Charity Week 2012. People can donate their time or talents or donate funds. Once you sign up to the pledge you will receive regular emails showcasing small charities and offering advice on how a volunteer or donor can make an impact on an organisation. Visit: [www.smallcharityweek.com/pledge](http://www.smallcharityweek.com/pledge)

### **Village CORE Programme**

A dedicated support programme for communities looking to set up and run a community-owned rural shop. It provides advisory support as well as a £40,000 funding package comprised of a £20,000 grant matched with a £20,000 loan, which is also matched by equivalent community contributions. The Village CORE Programme is a partnership between the Plunkett Foundation, Co-operative & Community Finance and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and is supported by the LankellyChase Foundation. Read more at: [www.plunkett.co.uk/whatwedo/core/Core.cfm](http://www.plunkett.co.uk/whatwedo/core/Core.cfm)

### **Public Services (Social Enterprise and Social Value) Bill update**

Signs are that the Bill will shortly proceed to Committee stage. There has been discussion and negotiations with various departments about the Bill, and it hopes to go to the Lords at the

start of the autumn session. There is also talk of updating the Treasury's Green Book to include social value. The PM said in a recent speech that social value is a main driver for the government. Follow the Bill's progress: <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/publicservicessocialenterpriseandsocialvalue.html>

### **Response to draft Best Value guidance for councils**

The government's consultation on draft statutory guidance around 'best value' requirements for local authorities on how they should work with voluntary and community groups when facing difficult funding decisions has closed. Read more at: [www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/bestvalueconsult](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/bestvalueconsult)

### **Views and comments on government policies**

The full text of the Archbishop of Canterbury's recent guest editorial for the New Statesman is critical of the government's policies on localism and Big Society. NCVO has launched a joint report with the King's Fund looking at the implications the government's new health legislation has for the sector. Read the report at: <http://www.newstatesman.com/uk-politics/2011/06/long-term-government-democracy>

### **Broadband connection for community access**

The BT Community Connections scheme, providing 12 month's worth of a BT Business Total Broadband Advance internet connection is open to groups which help their community access the internet and improve people's ICT skills; a BT business landline is required. Deadline for applications is **15<sup>th</sup> September**. Visit: <http://voluntarynews.org.uk/news/2011/06/broadband-connection-for-community-access>

### **New National Social Enterprise Directory**

This directory aims to make it easier for social enterprises to trade with businesses that exist to make a difference to communities and the environment. The website has been developed by SEWM CIC to give social enterprises a route to market where they can promote their products and services. Directory members get access to a fully-editable visual profile to promote their goods and services, special offers, and strengthen their online presence. Visit: [www.buySe.co.uk](http://www.buySe.co.uk)

### **Government funds for volunteering database and sector support**

The government has published its 'Giving White Paper', setting out plans to boost the giving of both time and money. This includes £30m for a Local Infrastructure Fund to be administered by the Big Lottery Fund "to improve support for frontline civil society organisations to modernise and improve the relevance of their services". There will also be a £10m Social Action Fund "to support the most promising ideas for growing giving in priority areas and boost levels of engagement over the next two years". The volunteering database Do-It gets further support to expand its reach. Read more at [www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/9147](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/9147)



## **Events and training opportunities**

### **Getting the Balance Right: Public Health System Reform Summit Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July, the King's Fund, London**

Under the reform proposals, responsibility for local public health leadership will be returned from the NHS to local government. This event will explore how the third sector can contribute to successful public health reform, and will look at putting the right levers and incentives in place; the role of health and wellbeing boards in successful reform; the challenge for professionals and the role for the wider community and the third sector; engaging and linking GPs with the needs of the local population. For more details visit: [www.kingsfund.org.uk/events/public\\_health\\_system.html](http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/events/public_health_system.html)

## Trustee Fair

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September, Euston, London

'The future of your charity is in your hands'. Anyone can be an effective trustee during the good times. It is when times are tough that your knowledge, experience and boardroom skills can be tested. This event is for new and existing trustees to learn new skills and reinforce existing expertise and knowledge. Organised by the Directory of Social Change. For more details visit [www.trusteefair.org.uk](http://www.trusteefair.org.uk)



## Business support and resources

### **Risk Management for Small Charities and New Trustees**

The Charity Commission has produced a web section on risk designed for small charities. Aimed at smaller or newer charities and new trustees, the three-page section covers ten questions for avoiding problems, simplified risk management, and signposting for further information, plus help on topics from charity law to health and safety. Read more at: [www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr\\_risk\\_info.aspx](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_risk_info.aspx)

### **Are you a member of the Cooperative Hive?**

The Hive is a website designed specifically to bring together anybody interested in or involved with the co-operative sector, from social enterprises such as community-owned shops and community food projects to support organisations and advisers. It allows members to post blogs, news, join groups, contribute to debates and network with others to share information and best practice. Signing up to the website is free. Visit: <https://www.hive.coop/>

### **Appreciating Assets - Guide highlighting community assets**

This new guide details ways of using an asset-based approach to community development. The document has been published by the Carnegie UK Trust and the International Association for Community Development (IACD). It aims to help develop a practical framework for asset-based approaches, help users reflect on the policy environment, and explore what is meant by "assets" and how to appreciate them. Download the report at: [www.rsonline.org.uk/Community/Guide-highlights-community-assets.html](http://www.rsonline.org.uk/Community/Guide-highlights-community-assets.html)

### **Big Society Bank – glossary of terms**

There has been a lot of debate around the Big Society Bank involving many new phrases. Alastair Ballantyne of Portland Place Capital has put together a glossary of terms to help NAVCA members' involvement in the database. Download a copy from: <http://www.navca.org.uk/stratwork/bigociety>

### **Update model governing document from Charity Commission**

The model government documents provided by the Charity Commission have been updated. The trustee benefit provisions have been reviewed and harmonised, including closely-connected persons, and are consistent with their Charitable Incorporated Organisation models. Read more at: [www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/Updates/mgd\\_update.aspx](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/Updates/mgd_update.aspx)

### **Community planning for low carbon living**

The Centre for Sustainable Energy has produced a suite of resources, including films, a resource pack and a website, to support communities and groups 'planning for low carbon living', mainly around energy use. Read the PlanLoCal document at: [www.planlocal.org.uk](http://www.planlocal.org.uk)

### **Knowledge Network for Youth Volunteering**

A new open network to enable researchers, practitioners and policy-makers to collaborate on projects which strengthen the evidence base for volunteering has been set up by youth volunteering charity v. The Volunteering Knowledge Network focuses on youth volunteering and connected areas such as social action and employability preparation. Download a summary

of the report from: <http://vinspired.com/about-us/publications>, or find out more about the Network at: <http://vinspired.com/about-us/volunteering-knowledge-network>.

### **"A Beginners Guide to ..." Factsheets**

The se<sup>2</sup> partnership has produced a series of factsheets aimed at demystifying some of the hot topics that came out of recent surveys, consultations and focus groups. There are currently six factsheets: social franchising and replication; delivering public services; procurement and tendering; social impact measurement; diversifying income sources; and building consortia in the social enterprise sector. Read more at: [www.se2partnership.co.uk/social-enterprise.asp](http://www.se2partnership.co.uk/social-enterprise.asp)

For further support contact your local Social Enterprise Advisor  
Barbara Beaton, Action in rural Sussex (AirS)  
Phone: 01424 893698 Email: [beatonbjb@aol.com](mailto:beatonbjb@aol.com)



## Sources of funding

### **Leadership & Management Advisory Service offering a new service to help businesses grow**

Owner managers and senior leaders of businesses and social enterprises with plans and potential to achieve high growth have an opportunity to develop their leadership and management skills. An impartial and experienced advisor will help you identify your personal development needs at your place of work or other convenient venue and can help fund solutions through coaching or mentoring, workshops, peer learning, action learning, bespoke or qualification-based training. Up to £1,000 grant funding is available to help pay for the training solution. For more information visit: [www.skillssoutheast.co.uk](http://www.skillssoutheast.co.uk)

### **Big Lottery Fund opens £30m Improving Financial Confidence Fund**

This fund is for projects aimed at helping families and individuals avoid financial difficulty. The programme will offer grants of between £500,000 and £1m for projects lasting between 3-5 years, which will be delivered by partnerships led by voluntary sector organisations. The aim of the programme is to give people more confidence and skills in accessing and using financial services such as bank accounts and affordable loans. Deadline for applications is **16<sup>th</sup> September**. Read more at: [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)



## Publications

### **Guidance on designing and running community buildings**

This booklet summarising the learning from Big Lottery Fund's Community Building projects documents challenges faced by community projects and ways they can be minimised or overcome. It aims to share learning to help others avoid common problems. Read more at: [http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/pub\\_designing\\_running\\_community\\_building.pdf](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/pub_designing_running_community_building.pdf)

If you wish to be added to the emailing list please contact: [info@wssen.org.uk](mailto: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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