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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 60

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Developments and opportunities

Update on registration of excepted charities

Updated guidance from the Charity Commission sets out the latest position on excepted charities, which include scout and guide groups, armed forces charitable funds and charities connected with some Christian churches. The exception from registration for such charities with annual incomes of less than £100,000 has been extended until 2012. Read the news item at www.charteredsecretary.net/news.php?id=4427

Advice line for rural community enterprises

Alongside the first of the programmes in the Village SOS series on BBC1 (10th August), an advice line has been launched as an avenue to expert support and guidance for rural community enterprises. The Plunkett Foundation, Locality, Action with Communities in Rural England and Co-operatives UK are working together on this. Read the news item at: <http://www.uk.coop/press-release/co-operatives-uk-joins-village-sos-campaign-help-revive-rural-communities>. Village SOS details can be found at: <http://www.villagesos.org.uk/get-involved/get-started/advice-line>

2011 Compact Awards

These Awards highlight and reward outstanding examples of partnership work between voluntary and community organisations and the statutory sector. The Awards provide an opportunity to recognise commitment to Compact principles and achievement as a result of implementing Compact-working. Deadline for applications is **5th October**. For more details visit: <http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/awards>

2012 GlaxoSmithKline IMPACT Awards

These Awards reward the excellent work of charities to improve people's health. The Awards are open to charities that are at least three years old, working in a health-related field in the UK, with an income of between £10,000 and £1.5 million. Closing date for applications is **23rd September**. For more details visit www.kingsfund.org.uk/gskimpactawards



Events and training opportunities

WSSSEN Workshop series 2011-2012

As part of WSSSEN's commitment to support community, voluntary organisations and social enterprises in West Sussex, we would like to invite YOU to take part in our forthcoming FREE workshops programme, aimed at helping your organisation to get started and to operate successfully as a social business. To find out more visit: www.wssen.org.uk

Community Shop in Sussex event 22nd September

Run by the Plunkett Foundation in partnership with Action in Rural Sussex, this event will focus on the importance of stocking local food. It aims to show community shops how to increase sales, widen their customer base and help their community access good quality local produce. There will be an opportunity to meet producers in person, sample their produce and explore ways of working together. The day will also include training sessions from experts, including advice on layout, merchandising, sourcing local produce and customer service. This is the first networking event in South East England and will bring together all those involved in community retailing and local food across Sussex, Kent, Hampshire and Surrey. For more details or to purchase a ticket (cost from £30-£60) contact Olivia Gardner on 01993 814386, email olivia.gardner@plunkett.co.uk. For more details visit:

www.plunkett.co.uk/whatwedo/rcs/publications/communityshopssupport.cfm

Managing People – HR and Employment Law solutions for the Voluntary Sector Wednesday 5th October, DSC Charity Centre, Euston, London

An event for senior managers and anyone who deals with HR and management issues to find out all the key aspects and changes to employment law, equality rights, managing change and much more. For more details and to book visit www.dsc.org.uk/hr

Charity Writing and Publications Training Day Thursday 20th October, DSC Charity Centre, Euston, London

Training event for those working in the charity sector through writing, publications, design, photography, media, marketing and more. The event aims to make your writing powerful and effective; write fundraising applications that get results; Create attention-grabbing press releases; Write compelling e-newsletters; Create Google friendly web pages; Write striking Twitter and Facebook posts; and produce charity annual reports. For more details visit www.dsc.org.uk/cwp

Voluntary and Community Action – The Heart of the Big Society? Wednesday 2nd November, 10am-4pm University of Sussex, Brighton

Conference exploring the relationship of the voluntary and community sector with the statutory and private sectors, within the context of civil society. It aims to provide an understanding for these sectors of the dynamics and implications for the organisational practice of working together. For more details contact CCE on 01273 678300, email: cce@sussex.ac.uk or download an enrolment form from www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/enrolmentform

Localism – NAVCA annual conference 22nd November, Hotel Russell, London

An opportunity to hear what key figures in central and local government, as well as the voluntary sector think of Localism. There will be an opportunity to share ideas to support and strengthen local voluntary action. Download the programme and booking form from: <http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102230246316-1054/Conference+2011.pdf>

New government helpline for business

Careline Services has been appointed by the government to provide the new Business Link helpline, which will be operational before the Business Link Regional Services close on 25th November. It will include a language line (translation service) and textphone. The Business Link website (<http://www.businesslink.gov.uk>) is intended to be the main source of advice. Read more at: <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=420421&NewsAreaID=2>

Insolvency helpline for the sector

The Charity Finance Directors' Group insolvency helpline is being opened up to the sector, in partnership with NCVO. The helpline is provided by professional services firms PwC and MacIntyre Hudson. Read more at <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/free-insolvency-help-line> or <http://www.cfdg.org.uk/resources/insolvency-helpline.aspx>

Web design for managers

'A Cooperative Approach to Web Design' sets out a series of clear steps and principles to follow when creating a website. The guide is suitable for managers of the process rather than the website implementer. <http://www.techsoup.org/learningcenter/webbuilding/page12959.cfm>. (Taken from Nonprofit Management 101).

Open University course materials for sector managers

CharityWise is a collection of online Open University material (at no charge) at <http://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/CharityWise/> for people responsible for leading and managing small charities and voluntary and community organisations. There are ten Openlearn Units available at <http://labspace.open.ac.uk/mod/resource/view.php?id=449912>

Beyond the radar

A web space has been set up to continue exploring ideas around how 'below the radar' community groups (small, informal or otherwise little recognised organisations) can maximise their impact. This follows the Beyond the Radar event in July held by Barrow Cadbury Trust and Third Sector Research Centre; event videos and presentations are also available at: <http://btr11.civiccrowd.com/>

Big Society Capital gets on its way

The long-awaited Big Society Bank is to be known as Big Society Capital. Two expert boards have been established and the first monies from dormant bank accounts have been received and passed on to an investment body. Read more at: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/big-society-bank-launched>

Survey report on state of social enterprise

The newly re-named Social Enterprise UK (previously the Social Enterprise Coalition) has published research on the state of social enterprise based on a survey earlier this year. It found that well over half of social enterprises grew last year, compared with around a quarter of conventional SMEs (small and medium enterprises). The report 'Fightback Britain' can be downloaded via <http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/pages/publications.html>

Government online petitions system goes live

The government's new e-petition website is now live. Any petition on the site which attracts 100,000 signatures would be considered for debate in Parliament. Read the news item at: <http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/public-petitions-website-goes-live/> or go direct to <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/index.html>

Communities to benefit from legal and financial advice

Co-operatives UK has launched a suite of free resources for community enterprises offering advice on finance, legal structures and governance, online governance audit and online select-

a-structure. The resources, available online and as hard copies, can be accessed at: <http://www.uk.coop/simplyseries>

NatWest launches £3m initiative to support projects with a social return

NatWest bank has launched CommunityForce – an initiative to help local charities, organisations and groups to raise publicity, attract volunteers and receive funding. There is a chance to win an award of £6,000; applications are open until **4th September** and an online public vote will decide on award winners. By applying for the awards, charities and projects will become part of a local online network, giving greater visibility and an opportunity to attract volunteers. For more details visit: <http://communityforce.natwest.com/>

Community Toolkit

A free information resource for people who want to get involved in organising smaller, straightforward community activities. The resource provides guidance on how to set up and plan your community group's or individual activities; and get a free personalised Community Toolkit Pack to help get your activity started. Visit: www.communitytoolkit.co.uk

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



Sources of funding

Future help for sector to prepare for enterprise

The UK government has announced a £10m 'Investment and Contract Readiness Fund' to help charities and social enterprises develop the skills and infrastructure to win more capital investment and public service contracts over 3 years from April 2012. Read the news item at: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/%C2%A310million-kick-start-big-society-public-services

The Social Enterprise Loan Fund

Registered charity providing loans ranging from £3,000 to £250,000 to social enterprises and charities helping clients to generate job opportunities as well as training places. To find out if there are funds available for your region, visit: www.tself.org.uk/help.html



Publications

False Economy

False Economy has reported local charities face £100m cuts from local government. NAVCA's view is that local charities are in crisis, although the 'False Economy' report understates the problem. The total cuts in statutory funding of all kinds could be as high as £1.2bn this year. More details, plus a downloadable spreadsheet of False Economy's research, broken down by area, is available from: <http://falseeconomy.org.uk/blog/exclusive-more-than-2000-charities-and-community-groups-face-cuts>

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 and 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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