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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 61

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### Developments and opportunities

#### **Financial and risk systems review project for charities**

In partnership with the Charity Commission, members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) will review individual charities' financial systems to identify risks and hopefully stop other organisations falling victim to them. In an initial project, charities would receive a review of their systems of financial management and controls at no charge, conducted by an ICAEW member with relevant sector experience. The results of the reviews would be collated anonymously and analysed by the reviewers to help the Commission and the sector gain a better understanding of the risks facing charities. The ICAEW's Charity and Voluntary Sector Group is seeking 25 charities to start it off. Read the news release at: [www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr\\_review\\_project.aspx](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_review_project.aspx)

#### **Charity news service resumes**

Community Newswire, the service that helps charities get their stories in national and local media, has officially restarted after receiving funding for the next three years from the Big Lottery Fund. Run by the Media Trust, journalists select stories from press releases and photos that have been submitted, edit them and circulate to newsrooms across the UK. The Newswire feed and information on the service are at: [www.mediatrust.org/newswire/](http://www.mediatrust.org/newswire/); a news item on the re-launch can be read at: [www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/MostRead/1090958/](http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/MostRead/1090958/)

#### **Can social enterprise succeed in health care**

From The Kings Fund, "Social enterprise in health care: Promoting organisational autonomy and staff engagement" explores the organisational and leadership changes that will be needed to support the development of social enterprises. So far, they say, reality lags behind the rhetoric of creating the 'largest social enterprise sector in the world'. Download the document from: [www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/social\\_enterprise\\_in.html](http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/social_enterprise_in.html)

## Modernising Commissioning

Many charities would have been encouraged by the Green Paper, 'Modernising Commissioning', which recognised the barriers to the Sector becoming more involved in the delivery of public services. Following that there is a very strong rhetoric from the Government in its White Paper 'Open Public Services', that they want to open up the delivery of public services to a range of providers. However, many charities and social enterprises may consider that the White Paper does not go far enough to enable a level playing field for large and small charities and social enterprises to compete with the private sector in the commissioning of services. Download a full pdf from: [www.hempsons.co.uk/news/news-briefs/third-sector-news-brief/](http://www.hempsons.co.uk/news/news-briefs/third-sector-news-brief/)

## Business Link changing

This service is changing to focus on supporting businesses over the web and by phone. This means that the face-to-face advisory service will close, the 'Starting a Business Workshops' will finish at the end of October, and the online newsletters will continue until November. In future, you will be able to access Business Link support at [www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk) or the new national helpline – 0845 600 9006. The Business Support Finder on the website allows you to search for potential sources of help with running or developing your business. There is also a new web portal – [www.mentorsme.co.uk](http://www.mentorsme.co.uk) – to help people starting and growing a business to access mentoring help, covering a range of issues from finance to marketing and HR. Business Coaching for Growth will be launched in January to help businesses address barriers to growth and grow more rapidly. Find out more at: [www.bis.gov.uk](http://www.bis.gov.uk)

## Gift Aid and payroll giving for school charities

Some readers may be involved with school charities and may wish to know that HM Revenue and Customs has recently published a Gift Aid and Payroll Giving guide for School Charities: [www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/gift\\_aid/rules/school-charities.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/gift_aid/rules/school-charities.htm)

## Social Vision - search is on for photographs that capture the social enterprise spirit

Competition run by Triodos Bank ([www.triodos.co.uk](http://www.triodos.co.uk)) in partnership with Social Enterprise UK ([www.socialenterprise.org.uk](http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk)), Social Enterprise Live ([www.socialenterpriselive.com](http://www.socialenterpriselive.com)) and regional social enterprise networks. Winning photographers will be awarded a £500 cash prize by Triodos Bank, and the winning social enterprises will also receive a £500 cash prize, plus a year's free membership to Social Enterprise UK, a one year membership to Social Enterprise Live and two tickets to Social Enterprise UK's annual event in 2012. The competition runs until 31<sup>st</sup> October. Entries can be made via [www.triodos.co.uk](http://www.triodos.co.uk)

## Office for Civil Society spending to fall by 61% in three years

Cabinet Office accounts show the Office for Civil Society's expenditure is expected to fall from £192m in the current financial year to £74m in 2014/15. The accounts show that departmental spending at the OCS peaked at £227m in 2009/10. It fell to £192m in 2010/11 and will remain at that figure in 2011/12. Spending is forecast to fall to £146m in 2012/13, £82m in 2013/14 and £74m in 2014/15.



## Events and training opportunities

### Getting Down to Business Programme

As part of WSSSEN and West Sussex County Council's commitment to support community, voluntary organisations and social enterprises in West Sussex, we would like to invite you take part in our forthcoming FREE workshops programme aimed at helping your organisation get started and operate successfully as a social business. Topics: Find out about social enterprise - 13<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012; Starting up a social enterprise – putting your ideas into action - 20<sup>th</sup> October and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012; Planning ahead - preparing a business plan and business case for your social enterprise - 2<sup>nd</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012; and Financing your

social enterprise - 17<sup>th</sup> November and 21st March 2012. To book a place email: [dawn.brock@ruralsussex.org.uk](mailto:dawn.brock@ruralsussex.org.uk) or phone 01273 407313.

### **Good Deals Conference**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November, Barbican Centre, London**

The Good Deals bursary scheme is offering five free and five half-price places to social entrepreneurs and organisations with an annual income of less than £100,000. To apply email: [good-deals@matterandco.com](mailto:good-deals@matterandco.com) by 14<sup>th</sup> October with a brief overview of your organisation, a description of the investment you are looking for and why you think you deserve a bursary ticket. For more details visit [www.good-dealsuk.com](http://www.good-dealsuk.com)

### **Introduction to Fundraising and Bid Writing, Bognor Regis**

University of Chichester accredited course from Voluntary and Community Action Chichester District, for existing and aspiring fundraisers who wish to develop the skills required to make successful bids. The aims of the course are to: develop an understanding of the project-planning process; acquire an understanding of communicating the organisation's work; develop strategies for making an effective 'ask'; and acquire skills in presenting ideas. Workshop dates are: 10<sup>th</sup> October, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 5<sup>th</sup> December, and 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Cost is £500 per person. For more details or to book a place contact Julie Budge, Voluntary and Community Action Chichester District on 01243 782393 or email: [julie.budge@vcacd.org.uk](mailto:julie.budge@vcacd.org.uk)



## **Business support and resources**

### **Free Insolvency Helpline**

NCVO, in partnership with the Charity Finance Directors Group (CFDG) and insolvency experts MacIntyre Hudson and PriceWaterhouseCoopers, are working together to open up CFDG's Insolvency Helpline to provide support and benefit to the wider sector. With the right advice, organisations considering insolvency could have a number of options other than closure available. If your organisation has mounting debts, less cashflow, rising income gaps or worries that you cannot keep doing more with less, then contact Ian Oakley-Smith at PriceWaterhouseCoopers on 0207 212 6023 or Peter Gotham at MacIntyre Hudson on 0207 014 8851.

### **Sector groups 'deserve a fair deal'**

New statutory guidance on the Best Value Duty sets out some reasonable expectations of the way local authorities should work with voluntary and community groups and small businesses when facing difficult funding decisions. Read the "Best Value Statutory Guidance" at [www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/bestvaluestatguidance](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/bestvaluestatguidance)

### **The consequences of localism**

In a thought piece for the Centre for Charity Effectiveness, Hilary Barnard offers his personal view of the consequences of the government's Localism policies and legislation in England for third sector organisations. Aimed mainly at senior staff and board members, he advocates engagement to retain the best of national frameworks and standards whilst enabling sector initiatives to meet local need. Download the document from: [www.cass.city.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/103880/Whose\\_localism2.pdf](http://www.cass.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/103880/Whose_localism2.pdf) (pdf, 85KB) and give your views at [www.knowhownonprofit.org/the-cafe/the-cafe/230083255](http://www.knowhownonprofit.org/the-cafe/the-cafe/230083255)

**For further support contact your local Social Enterprise Advisor**

**Barbara Beaton, Action in rural Sussex (AirS)**

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## Sources of funding

### Fundraising Fair

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November, Euston, London**

Organised by the Directory of Social Change (DSC) this is an opportunity to improve your skills and boost your fundraising success with topical workshops throughout the day. A chance to network, exchange ideas, share best practice, and learn new approaches to inform your future fundraising strategy. For more information or to book a place phone 08450 77 77 07, email: [training@dsc.org.uk](mailto:training@dsc.org.uk) or visit [www.fundraising.org.uk](http://www.fundraising.org.uk)

### Government funding round-up

The Community Action Against Crime: Innovation Fund encourages creative new approaches to tackling crime, encouraging voluntary and community groups to work with their community safety partnership to tackle local crime problems. Apply by 1<sup>st</sup> December to: [www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/crime-innovation-fund](http://www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/crime-innovation-fund)

Voluntary Sector Investment Programme: innovation Excellence and Strategic Development Fund aims to support the voluntary sector in developing innovation across health and social care in England. The four themes are: Personalisation and choice of care and support; Delivering better health and care outcomes; Improving public health; and Improving long-term care and support. Read more at [www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleases/DH\\_128727](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleases/DH_128727). Applications by 21<sup>st</sup> October.

### £10m Big Society kick-start

Nick Hurd, Minister for Civil Society, has confirmed a £10million Investment and Contract Readiness Fund is being made available to charities and social enterprises to help them develop the skills and infrastructure to win more capital investment and public service contracts. Read more at: [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/open-letter\\_0.pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/open-letter_0.pdf)



## Publications

### Assessing contribution to change

The ACT Alliance, a global coalition of churches and related organisations working on long-term development and humanitarian assistance, has published a "Guide to Assessing Our Contribution to Change". The guide aims to help organisations critically reflect on their capabilities for evaluating outcomes and assessing impact in their work, and to provide an overview of tools available. Download the pdf from <http://nonprofitnews.org/2011/08/22/a-guide-to-assessing-our-contribution-to-change>

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 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.

Phone: 01903 859928 | Email: [admin@icis-info4life.org.uk](mailto:admin@icis-info4life.org.uk) | Website: [www.icis-info4life.org.uk](http://www.icis-info4life.org.uk)