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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 65

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Developments and opportunities

Social Enterprise: businesses making a difference 23rd February, Billingshurst Village Hall

WSSSEN's annual event features guest speakers: Lionel Barnard (WSCC Deputy Leader) and John Peel (Chairman of Cost to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership). The day will also include a selection of one hour workshops to choose from: getting work from public sector contracts, developing your marketing, new approaches to financing for social enterprises, hints and tips on taxation. This is a free event with limited places allocated on a first come first served basis, so book early to avoid disappointment. Booking forms should be emailed to: esg@westsussex.gov.uk For the booking form and programme visit: www.wssen.org.uk

Charities and social enterprises to benefit from new credit union powers

For the first time, credit unions will be able to offer services directly to charities, social enterprises and community groups, allowing credit unions to compete more effectively with banks and other lenders to provide fair and affordable financial services. The new powers, which came into force on 8th January, are the result of legal changes that will give credit unions more flexibility to choose who can access their services. For the first time, charities, social enterprises or community groups will be able to join a credit union and benefit from its services. New partnerships will also allow all of an organisation's staff, members and service users to join one credit union, no matter where they live or work. For more information visit: www.socialenterpriselive.com/section/news/money/20120103/charities-and-social-enterprises-benefit-new-credit-union-powers

Social Value Bill - Update

The House of Commons held the report stage and third reading of the Public Services (Social Value) Bill on Friday 25th November. The Private Members' Bill will now be sent to the House of Lords for consideration. New Clause 1 which relates to a National Social Enterprise Strategy

was read a first time and was by leave, withdrawn. The Bill received its third reading without a division. The Bill will now be considered by the House of Lords. The report stage gives MPs an opportunity, on the floor of the House, to consider further amendments (proposals for change) to a Bill which has been examined in committee. There is no set time period between the end of committee stage and the start of the report stage. At the report stage all MPs may speak and vote; for lengthy or complex Bills the debates may be spread over several days. All MPs can suggest amendments to the Bill or new clauses (parts) they think should be added. Watch and read the proceedings on report stage and third reading and the views expressed by MPs on Parliament TV and in Commons Hansard. For more information visit:

www.parliament.uk/business/news/2011/november/public-services-social-value-bill-remaining-stages/

More on the cost sharing VAT exemption

A short article from Bates Wells and Braithwaite solicitors explains concerns about the government's proposed implementation of the VAT exemption for shared services. HM Revenue and Customs believes that the cost-sharing group must be a separate body capable of being VAT registered and not simply a group of charities working together without charging each other VAT. Read more at: www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/11116/

Sector can apply for Youth Contract scheme

The Employment Minister has indicated that voluntary organisations are eligible to apply for subsidies to employ young people as part of the government's Youth Contract. The year-long scheme will give employers subsidies worth £2,275 per person to take on 18-24 year olds for six months. The Department for Work and Pensions had been unable to say whether voluntary organisations would be included in the scheme when it was launched. Read the article at: www.thirdsector.co.uk/Management/article/1108053/

Advice line and support for mutual model of public service delivery

An advice line for anyone interested in the mutual model of public service delivery has been launched by the government, along with a website at <http://mutuals.cabinetoffice.gov.uk>. Both Co-operatives UK and Social Enterprise UK are providing input and there is a £10 million Mutual Support Programme. Read more at: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/backing-mutuals-enhance-public-services

NAVCA welcomes proposed changes to EU procurement legislation

NAVCA has welcomed new proposals from the European Commission for revised public procurement directives. The proposals follow last year's consultation by the European Commission. NAVCA believes these proposals will make it easier for local charities and voluntary organisations to deliver public services. www.navca.org.uk/news/view-article/navca-welcomes-proposed-changes-to-eu-procurement-rules

Cuts update

More information about local public sector cuts is becoming available as local budgets are being agreed. Help to make the case nationally for local voluntary action by informing NAVCA of local cuts and how the cuts will affect local communities. NAVCA also want good news so they can show that drastic cuts need not be inevitable. Email information to cuts@navca.org.uk. More information is available on the cuts page of their website: www.navca.org.uk/localvs/cuts

set2lead: free tips and resources coming soon

set2lead is a programme of support for chief officers and senior management teams from local support and development organisations. It is a new style of programme that combines executive coaching, mentoring and face-to-face training. set2lead focuses on: commercial/enterprise skills; influencing skills; skills for collaboration; strategic planning skills; communication and managerial skills. More information is available at: www.navca.org.uk/setevents-1

Coastal West Sussex Peer to Peer Learning Network, Feb 2010-Jun 2011

Known as The Profitnet Programme, this was developed and designed by the University of Brighton as a business development and learning programme. It brings together senior business leaders to share expertise and best practice, and learn from each other through monthly facilitated meetings. The Coastal Profitnet Group consisted of 13 businesses, of which five were West Sussex social enterprises, and it was the first time that a Profitnet group had been formed of an almost equal number of private profit-making businesses and social enterprises. The end of the programme online survey showed some impressive outcomes and impacts, including a 3.5% increase in turnover, as well as increases in full and part time workforces. If you would like to know about future Profitnet programmes, contact the Profitnet team at Brighton University, Exion 27, Crowhurst Road, Brighton BN1 8AF, email profitnet@brighton.ac.uk, or visit www.brighton.ac.uk/profitnet



Events and training opportunities

Getting down to business with Social Enterprise

Find out about social enterprise, 2nd February

Starting up a social enterprise, 9th February

Planning ahead, 1st March

Financing your social enterprise, 21st March

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** 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 view the full programme visit: www.wssen.org.uk To book email harry.forster@ruralsussex.org.uk or call 01273 473422.

Funding the Future 2012

Central Hall, Westminster

Wednesday 14th March, 10am-4pm

Hear top-level speakers from government, statutory funders, Lottery distributors and grant-making trusts on how to fund your work in 2012/13. Covers: health and social care; community development; children and young people; international development; Big Society capital. Attendance fee is £135 to include a networking reception. Download the conference brochure and book places at www.fundingthefuture.co.uk or email anne@actionplanning.co.uk



Business support and resources

Commons Committee gives its views on the Big Society agenda

The House of Commons Public Administration Select Committee has published its report on The Big Society, with an extended headline of "Big Society doesn't do enough to help 'the little society': Without a coherent implementation plan, there is confusion over message, whilst smaller charities face barriers in contracting and commissioning policies." Read more at: www.civilsociety.co.uk/governance/news/content/11159/

Mobile version for Charity Commission website

The Charity Commission has launched a mobile version of its website making it easy, for example, for people to check charity details on their phone before making a donation. Read the press release at: www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_mobile_website.aspx

Small charities struggle with legal issues

Research for the Legal Services Consumer Panel has found that small charities have little understanding of the legal issues they face, and funding cuts and greater pressure on their services could see charities facing a wider variety of legal implications. Read the Civil Society Media news item at: www.civilsociety.co.uk/governance/news/content/11134/

Voluntary youth services: how a social enterprise approach can help

Youth social enterprise Livity aims to harness companies' marketing budgets for social good, running marketing campaigns with young people and offering them placements and training to carry out work. Read more at: www.socialenterpriselive.com/section/the-business/management/20120111/toughing-it-out-voluntary-youth-services-how-social-enterpr

Jargonbuster - helping charities speak the same language

Jargonbusters is a new website from CES and the Jargonbuster group dedicated to providing clear and simple definitions of the key terms usually used to describe what organisations are doing and the difference their work is making. Visit: www.jargonbusters.org.uk/

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



Sources of funding

Big Society fund shares out £3.1m from dormant bank accounts

A UK-based 'social stock exchange' is one of four projects to share £3.1m from dormant bank accounts. The Big Society Investment Fund was set up by the Big Lottery Fund under the Dormant Accounts Act to make early investments prior to the establishment of Big Society Capital (previously known as the Big Society Bank). The Big Society Investment Fund will consider more proposals at its Investment Committee in February, where it hopes to make further investments. It is envisaged that this will be the final meeting of the Investment Committee as Big Society Capital is on target to be fully operational by the end of the first quarter of 2012. Visit:

www.socialenterpriselive.com/section/social-investment/money/20111228/uk-%E2%80%98social-stock-exchange%E2%80%99-takes-next-step-big-society-fund



Publications

A first historical voluntary sector take on 2011

Written by sector researchers Colin Rochester and Meta Zimmeck for the Voluntary Action History Society blog, their round-up of what 2011 meant for the voluntary sector is worth reading fully. As they say, 2011 may well mark a major turning point in the history of the voluntary sector. www.vaahs.org.uk/2012/01/rochester-zimmeck-review-2011/

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.

Phone: 01903 859928 | Email: admin@icis-info4life.org.uk | Website: www.icis-info4life.org.uk

