

York Voluntary Voice

The Newsletter of
York Council for
Voluntary Service

November 09



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It's our birthday!

Many thanks to the Lord Mayor and all the CVS members who made the launch of our 70th anniversary celebrations at the Lord Mayor's Breakfast on 20th October such a successful occasion. 50 representatives from local organisations enjoyed breakfast at the Mansion House and heard speeches from the Lord Mayor, Colin Stroud (CVS Chief Executive), and local organisations York Against Cancer, Brunswick Organic Nursery, and Friends of St Nicholas Fields.

The festivities continue on 4th November at our 70th Annual General Meeting, when we hope as many people as possible will join us at Priory Street Centre for an entertaining review of the past 70 years, plus a presentation about our current and future work. We are delighted that Kevin Curley, Chief Executive of our national body the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action, will be joining us to make the keynote speech. There will be a contribution from Andrew Waller, Leader of City of York Council and Chair of Without Walls, York's Local Strategic Partnership.

Refreshments will be served from 4.30, with the formal business of the AGM commencing at 5.15. The business includes the election of Trustees. If your organisation would like to nominate someone to our Board of Trustees please contact Colin Stroud before 4th November.

We hope you will stay to share a celebratory drink with us after the meeting at 7.30.

All are very welcome (members and non-members) but it will help us with the catering arrangements if you can let us know you are coming – 01904 621133 yorkcvs@yorkcvs.org.uk.

Compact Conference 26th November

The York Compact Conference will take place on the morning of Thursday 26th November, at Priory Street Centre. This annual event provides an opportunity for partners from all sectors to learn about progress in implementing the York Compact, which governs the relationship between the voluntary and statutory organisations in the city.

Last year's Compact Conference included consultation on what would be necessary to create an 'environment for a thriving third sector' in York. This is one of the agreed targets in York's Local Area Agreement. Those present concluded that key ingredients would be better communication between the sectors, improved understanding of each others' roles, and more opportunities for organisations to work together and support each other. The Local Strategic Partnership has provided funding to enable York CVS to develop new work to help achieve this – called the 'Better Together for York' project. This year's Compact Conference will contribute to the development of these plans – please come along and let us know what you think. There will also be an update on the review of the national Compact, and an opportunity to network over lunch.

All welcome – further details on enclosed booking form or ring York CVS on 01904 621133.

Introducing Kadie Armstrong – Communications Worker



I've only just moved to York (from Edinburgh, via Istanbul and Ripon!), so working at York CVS as their new Communications Worker is proving a great way to get to know the city and what's going on.

I'm passionate about people having a say in the policies

that affect them and their communities so I'm looking forward to getting stuck into my work here. My role is part of the 'Better Together for York' project which aims to improve communication within the voluntary and community sector, and engagement with statutory sector partners. It sounds daunting, but the plans are coming together! And if you want to inform those plans - in the spirit of the project - just get in touch.

North Yorkshire and York Gypsy & Traveller Wider Forum

Monday 9th November, 2.00 – 4.30 pm
Priory Street Centre, York YO1 6ET

The first Gypsy and Traveller Wider Forum is meeting to take forward the following issues:

Joint working

Tackling inequality in access to services

Raising awareness and tackling prejudice and discrimination

The meeting will include a presentation about the results of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2008 and information from Lewis Stokes, North Yorkshire Gypsy and Traveller Officer; and workshops to discuss future joint working.

It is aimed at those who work with, or have responsibility for working with, Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople. This will include representatives from the City of York and North Yorkshire County Council, District Councils, National Parks Authorities, Police, Fire and Rescue Service, NHS York & North Yorkshire, voluntary and charitable, including Traveller and Showpeople's organisations and others.

To confirm your attendance or for more information, contact:

North Yorkshire Supporting People, Adult & Community Services, North Yorkshire County Council, Room 207 North Block, County Hall, Racecourse Lane, Northallerton DL7 8DD.

Tel 0845 034 9498 or e-mail

supporting.people@northyorks.gov.uk

Stronger Connections for Better Health in Yorkshire and the Humber

The Regional Forum is co-ordinating a new health focused project in Yorkshire and the Humber. The project is called Stronger Connections for Better Health and is part of a national project*. This short briefing provides an overview of the project and how you can be involved.

This project seeks to:

- develop mechanisms that will link third sector organisations in the region with the Department of Health and the Strategic Health Authority.
- build the capacity and capability of the third sector to engage with the health and social care agenda.
- act as a critical friend to health decision makers in the region, and nationally, by providing co-ordinated responses to consultations and programmes.
- develop a regional health forum to bring together third sector organisations with an interest in health by facilitating communication and collaboration.

As part of a national partnership, which is formally recognised as a Strategic Partner to the Department of Health, this project represents a real opportunity for third sector organisations in the region to influence the Department of Health. Nationally we will be involved in advising the Department about key issues in the health and social care field, contributing towards health and well being and reducing health inequalities and disseminating information from the Department.

Initial priorities for the national project will in-

clude:

- improving the third sector's understanding of commissioning processes
- developing the role for the sector in the personalisation agenda
- increasing understanding of health inequalities across the sector
- raising awareness of how emergencies such as the pandemic flu outbreak may affect the sector
- equality issues – including work to improve assessment of how policies affect minority groups
- improving the way the sector works regionally and nationally around health.

Key activities in Yorkshire and the Humber 2009-2010:

- Mapping voluntary and community sector (VCS) health and social care networks in Yorkshire and the Humber

The Forum is currently undertaking a small mapping exercise to identify networks and forums of VCS organisations that play a role in health and social care in the region. If you are involved with a network please do contact me so that we can include your network in this piece of work.

- VCS Health and Social Care Forum
- Over the next six months the Regional Forum will be developing a health network for VCS organisations in the region. We hope that this will bring together health and well-being organisations to ensure that the sector has a representative voice, influencing, taking part in, and leading policy and practical developments in health and regional and national levels.

The following types of organisations might wish to be involved in the Forum:

- regional and national third sector organisations, based in Y&H, that play a role in the health and social care agenda
- local and sub regional vcs health and social care networks
- individual third sector organisations with an interest in influencing decision making around health and in sharing practice with other organisations.

HealthNetYH, an electronic discussion group for third sector organisations in the region, has also been established.

The first meeting of the regional health forum will take place in November 2009. If you would like to be involved in this forum please contact Ruth Beattie at the Regional Forum on 0113 394 2300 or by email at ruth.beattie@regionalforum.org.uk

*Stronger Connections for Better Health is a national project managed by Regional Voices, the national network formed from the regional voluntary and community networks in all nine English regions. The strategic aim of each regional network is to support, develop and advocate for the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in their region, to increase its effectiveness, influence and sustainability. This project is funded by the Department of Health

Cancer Care Centre

The Cancer Care Centre at York Hospital offers support and information for patients with cancer, their Families and Carers. Information available includes access to local Support Groups, Travel Insurance and Forthcoming Events. It offers specialised services on a referral basis such as Psycho-Oncology, Complementary Therapy and Benefits Advice. To find out more call in and see, the centre is open Monday to Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm or telephone 01904 721166.

York & N. Yorkshire Voluntary Arts Partnership Update

Following on from last year's successful pilot project, the York and North Yorkshire Voluntary Arts Partnership is waiting to hear if Arts Council funding has been awarded to enable it to roll out a further two years of activities and events.

In the meantime, its website is a valuable source of information for any arts group, with lots of information about help, support and funding available as well as details of what's on in the voluntary arts world.

www.celebratenorthyorkshire.org or contact: Robin Battersby 01969 625142

NYFVO AGM & Conference: Working Better Together

Friday 27 November 2009 York

The Forum's 2009 conference 'Working Better Together' will be held on Friday 27 November in York. This year the conference aims to provide a chance for us as a sector to discuss the range of challenges and opportunities we face over the coming years - particularly for those who provide services and support which are likely to be impacted upon because of the recession and with the cuts with public sector funding. We are keen to explore the concept of leadership within the sector and the role which the Forum, along with members of the Consortium and other partners, can play to strengthen the voice of the diverse range of third sector organisations in the sub-region.

Key note speakers include Isobel Mills (Deputy Regional Director, Government Officer Y&H); Gary Fielding (Assistant Chief Executive, NYCC), Jayne Brown OBE (Chief Executive, NHS NYY), Roger Ranson (Head of Economic Development, City of York Council), and Colin Stroud (Chief Executive, York CVS). Workshops include: commissioning, good governance, social enterprise networking, and leadership and voice.

Mark the date in your diary; the programme, full conference information and booking forms will be circulated mid October - to register your interest please email the Forum at: nyfvo@nyfvo.org.uk

The Forum's Annual Meeting will be held prior to the conference. Nominations are currently being sought for the Forum's Board of Trustees (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and 12 elected members). The elections will take place at the Annual Meeting, together with approval of the annual accounts and report. The conference will follow the annual meeting. Nomination forms and booking forms for the conference will be circulated to members mid October, or contact the Forum on 01347 825710 for email nyfvo@nyfvo.org.uk or further information.

'The Health of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Yorkshire and the Humber'

This new report from the Regional Forum provides results from two surveys carried out in 2008 and 2009 that looked at levels, types and trends of funding within the region. There is also a short section on the impact of the recession on voluntary and community organisations and a summary of the challenges and opportunities facing the sector as a result of the changing nature of funding over the past few years.

The report concludes with some specific calls for action that will support the sector deal with these changes; some taken from the voluntary and community service Manifesto for Yorkshire and the Humber. The report can also be downloaded from their website: <http://www.regionalforum.org.uk>

Survey results of Religions and Belief Groups in the city 2008

In the light of the changing diversity of the population of the city, York Interfaith and Churches Together in York were jointly asked to develop a survey to explore the current work, perceptions, and concerns of the main religions and belief groups present in the city.

- The survey offers the following ways forward:
- Create better awareness of the religions and belief groups in the city. Stress that differences add richness to the culture of York.
 - Produce better information about where to find the gatherings bringing together religions and belief groups.
 - Religions and belief groups with local meetings should be told of issues affecting them which are agenda items of the City of York Council.
 - Address the lack of knowledge about the world religions displayed by most of York's population.
 - Hold events bringing together those with different religions and beliefs. Such events should develop understanding,

respect and trust of one another.

- City of York Council should encourage individuals from the religions and belief groups to take part in the 'Without Walls' programme, planning for the city's future. This is relevant to more than culture and social inclusion.
- Religions and belief groups with local centres and places of worship should encourage their members to take part in City of York ward/neighbourhood meetings.

For a full copy of the survey report, which was sponsored by the City of York Council Social Inclusion Group, go to:

www.yorkinterfaith.org/interfaith_report_2008.doc

Criminal Records Bureau, Vetting and Barring and Safeguarding

NAVCA have created a new page listing resources and sources of further information on Criminal Records Bureau, Vetting and Barring and Safeguarding issues.

www.navca.org.uk/localvs/crb

The first phase of the introduction of the Vetting and Barring Scheme was introduced on 12 October. This has brought changes for employers and employees and in the way CRB applications are processed. These changes are outlined at: <http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/crb/changes12oct.htm>

ISA information service

NYFVO has introduced a new element to its Disclosure Service - ISA Information e-list. The purpose of this service is to keep local voluntary organisations and community groups of all sizes up to date with guidance and developments as the Vetting and Barring Scheme is rolled out. You do not have to register for the Disclosure Service to receive this information; fees start at £5 (organisations with volunteers only) for a 12 month subscription.

Contact Jeanette or Claire at the Forum on 01347 825710 for more details or to subscribe, you can email your request to disclosure.service@nyfvo.org.uk. Organisations

registered with the Forum's Disclosure Service will be kept up to date as the scheme is implemented.

Information sharing

The Government has published guidance and supporting materials on information sharing, which have been updated to apply to those working with adults as well as with children and young people. <http://bit.ly/ecminfosharing> or <http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk>

First aid at work

New first aid training legislation came into force on 1 October, including revised guidance for employers and revised guidance for first aid training organisations. www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/training-guidance.htm

York CVs is offering Emergency First Aid at Work training on 3rd December and 5th March – see our training programme at www.yorkcvs.org.uk/training.pdf

VitalLinks

VitalLinks is a new national network of befriending schemes for older people.

www.counselandcare.org.uk/networks/vitallinks

Making Every Adult Matter

Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) is a coalition of four national charities – Clinks, DrugScope, Homeless Link and Mind – formed to influence policy and services for adults with multiple needs and exclusions. Together the charities represent over 1600 frontline organisations working in the criminal justice, drug and drug treatment, homelessness and mental health sectors. www.meam.org.uk

EHRC Disability Committee

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has published information on its Disability Committee, explaining its purpose, who is on the Committee, and background information about the individuals involved. <http://bit.ly/ehrcdiscom> or www.equalityhumanrights.com

Environmental reporting

New guidance to measure and tackle green-

house gas emissions for businesses and organisations has been published by Defra and DECC. www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/reporting

National Minimum wage

From October 2009 the rates of the National Minimum wage will be:

Adult rate (workers aged 22 and over) will increase to £5.80 (up from £5.77)

18-21 year olds rate will be increased to £4.83 (up from £4.77 an hour)

16-17 year olds rate will be increased to £3.57 (up from £3.53)

New single helpline to protect vulnerable workers

Vulnerable workers will be able to seek advice about their workplace rights and report abuses of those rights through a new helpline. The new Pay and Work Rights helpline is part of a wider campaign to raise awareness of workplace rights enforced by Government. It provides a unified point of contact for both employers and workers. It has been developed in cooperation with employers, trade unions and the different enforcement agencies across Government.

The helpline number is 0800 917 2368.

The textphone number is 0800 121 4042.

London 2012 Inspire programme

Opportunity to link your project to London 2012!

Non-commercial organisations now have the opportunity to apply to be part of the Inspire programme, which is part of the London 2012 Olympics campaign. This isn't a funding programme, but a way to link your project to the Olympics, to use the 2012 brand and to access marketing and communications support. For eligibility criteria visit:

www.london2012.com/get-involved/inspire-programme

For information about the way Yorkshire and the Humber is gearing up for 2012 go to

www.yorkshire-gold.com

Community Interest Companies Association

Organisations which have used the Community Interest Company model to establish themselves are invited to join the CIC Association. www.cicassociation.org.uk

The Equality Bill - An update

'The Equality Bill' updates the Regional Forum's Policy Briefing 'The Single Equality Bill' published in March 2009. This update gives details on:

the progress of the Bill through Parliament
the content of the Bill

some key Issues and Concerns

It can be downloaded at:

<http://www.regionalforum.org.uk/publications_resources/knowledgebase/500/540/306.pdf>

Consultations

Updating National Occupational Standards for trustees

Skills - Third Sector has launched a consultation on the National Occupational Standards for Trustees as part of the Standards monitoring process. The consultation will check that the standards are still 'fit for purpose' and reflect good practice in Trusteeship across the UK. <http://bit.ly/nostrust> or www.skills-thirdsector.org.uk

Response to the consultation on a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation

A joint response to the consultation on plans for a new type of incorporated charity structure was recently published by The Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office and the Charity Commission.

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) will be the first incorporated legal structure designed specifically with the needs of charities in mind. It will be an entirely new type of charity structure that will provide charity trustees with protections and responsibilities similar to those given to directors of limited companies. This new legal form will become available during 2010.

To view the full response visit: <<http://tinyurl.com/n3zdly>>

Consultation on the Consolidation of Charity Law

The draft Consolidation Bill brings together provisions of the main legislation on charities in England and Wales into a single piece of draft legislation. It would not introduce new policy. The aim of the draft Bill is to make the legislation simpler, better structured, and more accessible to the lay person.

The development of the draft Charities Consolidation Bill arises from a commitment given during the passage of the Charities Act 2006, that the Office of the Third Sector would seek consolidation of charity law subject to support from the Law Commission.

Views are invited on the revisions that have been made to the structure of the existing legislation and to modernise the drafting of that legislation, as well as on the draft Bill and draft order more generally. Views are also sought on four specific questions in the consultation document.

Copies of the consultation documents can be downloaded from: <http://tinyurl.com/o2xjby>
The consultation closes 4th December 2009.

National Quality Board

The National Quality Board is a new independent board that has been set up to provide strategic oversight on leadership and quality across the NHS, and its links with social care. The Department of Health is inviting comments on its initial proposals, set out in 'Priorities for Quality Improvement: Stakeholder Engagement Document', at www.dh.gov.uk/nqb

Funding Training Programme – fully booked

Please note that the current Funding Training Programme is now fully booked and we cannot accept any further bookings for the November courses. This very popular 6-session course will next be offered on Wednesday evenings from 6th Jan – 10th February 2010. Please book early to avoid disappointment!

Getting ready to tender for Contracts - places still available:

30th November 10am – 3pm

Increasingly, voluntary and community organisations are being encouraged to tender for contracts to provide public services. This course looks at the issues organisations should consider before tendering, what commissioners will expect from you, and what you need to have in place before tendering. It will provide you with a template to help your organisation become 'tender-ready'.

www.yorkcvs.org.uk/training.pdf

First Steps to Sustainability workshop

This workshop is aimed at voluntary and community groups, to enable them to plan for sustainability by looking at what they want to do in the short and long term and how this can be funded. It will encourage organisations which might presently rely on limited funding streams such as grants to consider new funding opportunities – for example, contracts and income generation – and look at the pros and cons of each.

The session will cover:

Funding trends

Funding sources – pros and cons

Planning for sustainability, and

Support and information

The workshop is delivered by Fit4Funding and run by Charity Bank in the North as part of Charity Bank's Investment Readiness programme. Taking place at Priory Street Centre from 10am – 1pm on Wednesday 25 November, it is free to voluntary and community organisations. To book your place please contact Jeanette at NYFVO on 01347 825710.

Funding Central

Funding Central is a new website funded by NCVO and the Office of the Third Sector. The site provides free access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities, plus tools and resources to support organisations in developing sustainable income strategies.

Funding Central caters to the needs of inexpe-

rienced and seasoned fundraisers alike. Its guided search enables those new to fundraising to identify the funding and finance opportunities most appropriate to them and the beneficiaries they support. Alternatively, the advanced search allows more experienced fundraisers to shortlist the best-suited options for their organisation and others from the thousands on offer. www.fundingcentral.org.uk

Funding Central - dating agency launched

Funding Central now enables you to search for potential organisations to collaborate with. All you need to do is create a public profile outlining what you do plus your experience and expertise that others can benefit from.

In the Find a Partner area, you can seek organisations that are looking to work together on a project or who are looking to put in joint bids for funding opportunities. Your profile allows you to identify potential partners and contact them directly to discuss opportunities. These organisations will also be able to view your profile information and approach you to explore possibilities.

Community Grants North Yorkshire

Community Grants were established for voluntary and community sector organisations that provide learning and activities to move adults (18+) from hard to reach communities, or facing disadvantages, closer to employment. With a new, easy application process and grants of up to £12,000 on offer, this provides a great opportunity for innovative pilot projects around basic skills and soft skills. Constituted organisations with a turnover of less than £300,000 and less than 9 FTE staff can apply at www.nylc.org.uk. For more information contact Alice Brown at abrown@nylc.org.uk or telephone 01423 799100.

UnLtd Sport Relief

UnLtd Sport Relief Awards provide opportunities for young people to bring communities together, to help promote understanding and solve problems through sport, arts and recrea-

tional activities. The UK-wide funding programme is for 11 – 21 year olds who are prepared to go the extra mile and use their passion for sport and arts to bring respect and understanding to their communities by setting up their own projects. There are three categories of award:

- Try It – up to £1,000 for 11-21 year olds to try out an idea
- Shape It – up to £5,000 for 11 – 21 year olds to develop their idea
- Do It – up to £10,000 for 18 – 21 year olds to grow their project

To apply, download the application form from: www.unltd.org.uk, fill it in and send it in to the local office (address on website). To contact the local office direct, telephone 01274 750630.

Tesco Charity Trust

One-off donations of between £1,000 and £4,000 are available for local charities that support children and their education and welfare, elderly people, and adults and children with disabilities.

For children's education and welfare grants, applications should be made between 1st December and 31st January for a decision date at the end of April, or between 1st May and 30th June for a decision date at the end of September.

For elderly people or adults and children with disabilities grants, applications should be made between 1st February and 31st March for a decision date at the end of June, or between 1st August and 30th September for a decision date at the end of December.

Application information and forms are at: www.tescopl.com/tescocharitytrust.

If you require any support whilst completing your application form please contact the helpline or visit the website to download a copy of the guidelines or to view the application form.

The Norman Collinson Charitable Trust

The Norman Collinson Charitable Trust gives

grants to charities and charitable causes. The Trust generally aims to assist youth, the disabled, the aged and infirm, and local community organisations in York and district (confined to a 20-mile radius) where need is demonstrated.

Grants rarely exceed £5,000, and are more usually in the range of £200 to £2,000. Trustees meet once a month to consider applications. Details of what to include in an application, as well as further information about the Trust, can be found at

www.normancollinsoncharitabletrust.org.uk.

Applications should then be made in writing to the Clerk: Dianne Hepworth, Norman Collinson Charitable Trust, 30 Main Street, Wetwang, Driffield, East Yorkshire YO25 9XJ

The Trust can be contacted by telephone on 01377 236262, with enquiries, but not applications, also welcome by e-mail at

info@normancollinsoncharitabletrust.org.uk.

The Paristamen Foundation

The Paristamen Foundation is a small Yorkshire-based grant-making charitable trust seeking to help achieve:

- the furtherance of education
- the advancement of the Christian Faith and Christian Missionary activity
- relief of poverty, and
- other charitable purposes not inconsistent with the above

The Trust's objects cover most areas of charitable activity, and it welcomes applications from national charities and local organisations in the Yorkshire region. The Foundation only makes grants to organisations (not to individuals) and does not fund building projects of any kind.

There is no application form to complete. Instead, a short letter explaining what your organisation does and how the grant might help should be sent to:

Mrs Sharon Morgan (Trustee), 36 Acomb Wood Drive, York YO24 2XN

Please also enclose a copy your latest Annual Report and Accounts (full version). The Trust's main interest is in your organisation

rather than details of a specific project. If you are a new organisation with no accounts as yet, send a copy of your constitution or other governing document.

Trustees' meetings are normally held towards the end of June, October and February, with notification of decisions made around the middle of the following month (July, November, March). Any queries can be made by telephone on 01904 788885 or by e-mail to admin@paristamen.org.uk. Applications themselves are not accepted via e-mail – they must be sent by post. For further information, visit www.paristamen.org.uk.

The Secret Millionaire Fund

The Big Lottery Fund has joined forces with Channel 4 to launch the £1m Secret Millionaire Fund. Grants ranging from £300 to £10,000 are available to local community groups, schools, parish councils and health bodies that work to improve the lives of disadvantaged people.

You can apply to nominate a community project that you think would benefit from funding; or offer your idea for a project that will benefit the community (subject to eligibility).

To successfully apply to the Secret Millionaire Fund, the same eligibility criteria as for the Big Lottery Fund Awards for All programme applies. Therefore, you must be a voluntary or community organisation, school, parish or town council, or a health body; and have a UK based bank account or building society account in the name of your organisation that requires at least two people to sign cheques or make a withdrawal. In addition, the project you are applying for must achieve one of these four outcomes:

- People having better chances in life, with better access to training and development to improve their life skills
- Stronger communities with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems
- Improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to enjoy

- Healthier and more active people and communities

Successful applicants to The Secret Millionaire Fund may then be selected for filming by Channel 4 and appear on the website or on the TV programme itself.

Nominations should be made online before the deadline – 21st December 2009. For further information and links to the Secret Millionaire and Awards for All websites, please visit

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_secret_millionaire_fund.htm .

Communitybuilders

The £70m Communitybuilders Fund is now open. The fund is designed to provide "a mix of loans, grants and mentoring support to a range of community anchor-type organisations across England". The fund will be split into three investment packages:

- the development package, which will provide bespoke business support and leadership grants of £2,000;
- the feasibility package, which will provide further support of up to five days and up to £20,000 for development of a growth plan, or grants of up to £75,000 and 30 days support for larger projects; and
- the investment packages, which will consist primarily of loans between £50,000 and £2m offered at 5 per cent for an initial three-year period of a ten-year loan term. They will be tailored for investees who wish to "develop, grow and expand their role in the community".

For more information on the scheme and eligibility criteria visit: <http://www.communitybuildersfund.org.uk/>

Unlimited

Unlimited, the UK's largest arts and disability programme, has been launched by London 2012 as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. For information on the support available for disabled artists and arts groups see <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/unlimited/>

People's Postcode Trust

Charities can apply for grants of between £500 and £10,000 to support three-month projects from the People's Postcode Trust. The funding is available for charities and community groups working on human rights issues and environmental projects, as well as projects that prevent poverty and encourage community development and public participation in sport.

www.postcodetrust.org.uk/england.php

BT Community Connections

If you are a community or charitable organisation that is looking to extend your work through use of the internet and ICT but don't have the means, apply for an award today!

BT Community Connections is an award scheme which enables community and charitable groups to get online and make use of information and communication technology (ICT). Almost any organisation, working in any field of community benefit, who can demonstrate how an award will benefit their work and the local community can apply for a laptop and a year's free broadband connection. The scheme supports a diverse range of community and charitable groups – in the past community projects, silver-surfers, conservation organisations, family support groups, sports teams and youth groups have all been supported.

To find out more, log on to:

www.btcommunityconnections.com where you can:

- Complete an online application form or print a postal application form
- View case studies of previous winners and read the judges' top tips to help you complete your application

If you don't have access to the internet call 0845 257 6792.

2010 – York’s Year of Volunteering!

As part of the Volunteering City strategy, 2010 has been named York’s Year of Volunteering. Plans are being developed to bring together an exciting range of events and activities that will contribute to getting thousands more people volunteering regularly. Any volunteering organisation can get involved and benefit from this initiative – to find out more contact the Volunteer Centre or come along to the next **Volunteering Network meeting on Wednesday 2nd December, 1 – 4pm at the Priory Street Centre.**

The last meeting of the Network, on 5th October, included:

- Locality-based volunteering – creating accessible volunteering opportunities in local communities, with input from CYC Neighbourhood Unit about the role of Ward Committees, and news about Community Learning Festivals (including volunteering) planned for early 2010
- York’s bid for £1million Community Service pilot funding to involve the city’s 14 – 16 year olds in volunteering activities. This is a multi-agency partnership project, led by City of York Council, which if successful will provide substantial funding for organisations able to help provide volunteering opportunities for young people. A decision from Government is expected later in the autumn.
- Launch of the Volunteer Managers’ Handbook – written by Charlie Sanders following wide consultation with local volunteer managers, this comprehensive guidance helps both new and experienced managers to develop their volunteering programmes in line with the best practice of the ‘Investors in Volunteers’ standard. Funded by City of York Council through the Local Area Agreement Delivery Fund, the Handbook will be available to download from the York CVS website, on disk, or as a (quite substantial!) hard copy.
- Strategic partnerships and volunteering – discussion exploring how volunteering

organisations can influence local policy and planning of services.

Progress on the Volunteering City strategy

Below is a summary of the key objectives of the strategy, and the work that is being developed through the Volunteering Network and Volunteer Centre to achieve these outcomes:

People who want to volunteer will find it easier to find the right volunteering placement for them:

- **Local organisations are working together to co-ordinate marketing of volunteering, so more people know what opportunities there are and how to get involved.** A Marketing Group has been set up, which is planning the Year of Volunteering, identifying volunteering ‘ambassadors’, and designing a shared ‘brand’ that can be used by all volunteering organisations during the Year.
- **Advisers in many different organisations in the city will be supported to help people get into volunteering.** We have consulted advisers and will develop volunteering resources that can be used with a variety of clients to help them find the right volunteering opportunity.
- **Different organisations are working together to find ways of making volunteering accessible to people who need extra support to take part.** The Supported Volunteering Working Group, which includes 16 different organisations, is consulting with people with additional support needs over the next few weeks. A proposal for how the additional support could be provided in the city will be finalised in the New Year, with a view to seeking funding to implement this during 2010.
- **New volunteering opportunities will be developed that are available at different times of day, and in local neighbourhoods, so more people can fit voluntary activities into their lives more easily.** Initially, two local areas will be targeted in the Spring of 2010 along-

side the Community Learning Festivals project led by the Learning Partnership. The Neighbourhood Unit has collated information about local needs in each Ward and this will be made available to organisations wanting to develop local volunteering opportunities. We hope to carry out further research during 2010 into levels of volunteering in different areas of the city and develop initiatives targeted on areas where take-up is low.

- **There will be ‘taster’ volunteering opportunities (a couple of hours or a day) so people can give it a try before they decide.** These will be developed as part of the ‘Year of Volunteering’ and the Community Learning Festivals.

People who volunteer will have well-managed placements, which consider the needs of the individual volunteer:

- **A new guidance handbook has been produced for people who manage volunteers in York.** This is available in hard copy from the Volunteer Centre, and will be available on disk and to download from www.yorkcvs.org.uk from November. It is free to all volunteer-using organisations in the city.
- **Volunteer management training courses are being offered throughout the year.** These are linked to the guidance and other aspects of the strategy. For details see www.yorkcvs.org.uk/training.pdf or contact the Volunteer Centre.
- **Volunteer managers can meet and learn from each other at quarterly Volunteering Network meetings.** These are also the main consultative forum for the Volunteering City strategy, providing feedback and advice on the plans as they develop. Meetings are open to anyone involved in volunteer management, or with an interest in volunteering, from all sectors. The next meeting is 2nd December 2009.
- **We are working with the Learning Partnership and Higher York, to make sure that there are suitable training**

opportunities for volunteers and ways of building on experience gained through volunteering. We hope to see some new initiatives piloted during 2010.

Organisations and strategic partners that want to use volunteers to deliver some of their objectives will find it easier to do this:

- **‘Volunteering City’ is integrated with the Without Walls planning framework, reporting through the Inclusive York Forum.** We facilitated a workshop on volunteering at the Without Walls annual conference in September, looking at how volunteering can contribute to achieving other objectives in the city. Some specific actions relating to how volunteering can support people into employment or self-employment were agreed.
- **We will use the Volunteering Network meetings to explore how volunteering initiatives can support, and be supported by, the WOW thematic partnership boards.** Network meetings include themed discussions on particular topics, and we will link these to the interests of different thematic partnerships through the Year.

If you are interested in any aspect of the Volunteering City strategy or would like to get involved, contact Natasha Almond or Liz Hamilton at the Volunteer Centre: volunteer@yorkcvs.org.uk, 01904 621133.

KnowHow NonProfit

KnowHow NonProfit is a Cass Centre for Charity Effectiveness website funded by the Big Lottery Fund. The site aims to support and help frontline organisations in their everyday work. Users can ask questions and support others by sharing their experiences. The site also features podcasts, news, events and even a charity soap opera. www.knowhownonprofit.org

New from the Charity Commission

‘Helping charities through the economic down-

turn' - Useful guidance on factors you should consider if you think your organization may be at risk. www.charitycommission.gov.uk/enhancingcharities/economic.asp

'Incorporating an existing charity as a company - Questions and answers'

If you've been wondering whether your unincorporated charity should consider becoming a charitable company, or if you've had concerns about individual liability of trustees, this comprehensive but accessible guidance explains both the factors a committee may want to take into account in deciding whether to incorporate, and the practical steps involved should you decide to do so. <http://bit.ly/ccincorp> or www.charitycommission.gov.uk.

(Please note – most charities will need to take professional advice about their individual circumstances before proceeding with incorporation.)

Link Up Link In

A new website and handbook, supporting joint-working among frontline professionals who work with at risk groups, from the Social Exclusion Task Force.

www.hmg.gov.uk/linkuplinkin.aspx

Social enterprises and the law

Bates Wells and Braithwaite solicitors contributed to The Guardian's series of pieces giving legal advice to the sector with a Q and A on setting up a social enterprise.

<http://bit.ly/socentlaw> or www.guardian.co.uk

Altogether now?

The role and limits of civil society associations in connecting a diverse society

A summary of a NCVO/Carnegie UK seminar series. www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/socialcapital

Parenting and wellbeing: knitting families together

The Young Foundation. <http://bit.ly/parentwellbeing> or www.youngfoundation.org

Working alone

Health and safety guidance on the risks of lone working

Health and Safety Executive. www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg73.pdf

LawWorks Projects

LawWorks is a small independent charity which matches volunteer lawyers with opportunities to use their skills for the public good (pro bono). The **Choices Project** is designed to match unemployed lawyers with pro bono activities. It has had a phenomenal response from lawyers, with around 450 members joining since the project was launched in July 2009. The solicitor members are now looking for opportunities to partake in pro bono work.

If you have an opportunity for the volunteer solicitors, contact LawWorks with a description of the work to be done, the location, and the hours / days that are required.

LawWorks also offers another free legal advice scheme staffed by qualified lawyers.

Initial Electronic Advice is an automated, web-based system, which allows not for profit organisations and advice agencies to submit a short legal query and have this answered by a lawyer via email, completely free of charge.

www.lawworksiea.org.uk.

For more information contact: Lorna Heselton, Choices and ALLIES Project Officer

Tel: 020 7929 5601 www.lawworks.org.uk

REACH guidance information for BME VCOs

REACH has published guidance on how to build partnership working that takes account of the particular needs of small and Black and minority ethnic organisations.

The guidance comes off the back of the **'Increasing the capacity of the Third Sector' REACH report** which recommends that voluntary and community organisations working to support Black boys and young Black men should form consortia supported by the Government - sharing resources, expertise and good practice and being in a better position to bid for funding by doing so jointly.

REACH: information for BME voluntary and community organisations

If you are a small or new organisation, this guide aims to tell you about the different ways of working with other organisations, where you can go for advice, and how you can improve the way you work:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/racecohesionfaith/raceandethnicity/reach/capacitythirdsector/>

Personalisation Commission

ACEVO has assembled a Personalisation Commission to consider the impact of the public services agenda on the third sector. The Office of the Third Sector is an advisory member of the Commission.

The Commission is now seeking input and contributions from the sector to inform its work. To support this, it has constructed a short online survey. The survey covers issues ranging from vision and leadership, to pricing, marketing strategies, technology and performance measurement, and applies right across the service spectrum – not just health and social care.

To complete the survey and provide feedback, please click on the appropriate link below:

Front line organisations: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=SmEy3BExf6KOackCERyXbQ_3d_3d
Infrastructure organisations
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=FNwEmbx25aAnPXSx0v41OA_3d_3d

State of the Voluntary Sector

NCVO has recently published 'The State and the Voluntary Sector ... Recent trends in government funding and public service delivery'. One of the key trends identified is clear shift from grants to contracts from local authorities and the fall in grant income (in 2007 Local Authority grants fell from £1.6 billion to £1.3 billion - a fall of 20%.) 77p in every £1 of local authority funding to the sector comes in contracts as opposed to grants, and a disproportionately high amount of that contract funding is concentrated in large and medium sized charities. <http://bit.ly/stateofvolsec> or www.ncvo-vol.org.uk

Reserves policies made simple

This Sayer Vincent guidance, which was used by NAVCA when producing its own reserves policy, is now available via a link from the NAVCA website. www.navca.org.uk/localvs/governance

Thirdsector.co.uk Good Practice

Third Sector's new-look website includes a better way for users to find tips, expert advice and case studies. A new section called Good Practice allows you to do a targeted search of the archive to find articles from the At Work section of the magazine.

Users are offered the latest practical articles in the site's five main categories of Fundraising, Finance, Governance, Communications and Management, and a further choices in each category, such as Case Study or Practical Charity Finance. These bring up a string of relevant articles, ordered by date.

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/resources/GoodPractice/>

Refugee Council Information Service Online

Information Service Online is an on-line resource containing comprehensive and regularly updated information on the asylum process, support and entitlement.

It is available by subscription only and is aimed at anyone working with refugees or those looking to gain knowledge about the sector.

Easy to use, authoritative and up-to-date, it contains comprehensive information on the entire asylum process from beginning to end, with over 240 online 'easy to search' pages of:

- Policy information;
- Best practice;
- Illustrative case studies;
- Links to useful services, resources and organizations
- Direct link to Refugee Council multilingual website

To subscribe go to www.rcis.org.uk

York CVS training programme

Our current training programme and booking form can be downloaded from www.yorkcvs.org.uk/training.pdf. Courses coming up in the next few weeks include:

Running Effective Meetings

06/11/09 - 1:30 - 4:00pm

Meetings can be an enjoyable and creative meeting of minds – or they can be boring, adversarial, or feel like a waste of time. This course will help you to plan effective meetings to achieve your objectives. It will also explore what can sometimes go wrong within a group, and strategies for addressing these issues.

Aimed at Chairs of committees, and anyone else whose role involves planning or facilitating meetings, the session will cover:

- Planning a good meeting
- Enabling everyone to contribute
- Chairing/facilitation skills
- Dealing with difficult people or issues
- Following up afterwards.

Effective Minute Taking

06/11/09, Priory Street Centre, 10 – 12.30
NYFVO – www.nyfvo.org.uk, 01347 825710

This course has been arranged so that you can attend both 'Effective Minute Taking' and 'Running Effective Meetings' at Priory Street on the same day.

Understanding & Using Integrated Working Methods for Vulnerable Children

11/11/09 - 10 am - 12:30 pm

Everyone working with children and young people has a shared responsibility to work effectively with colleagues across sectors and the wider workforce in order to improve outcomes for children by focusing on early intervention and prevention.

This training includes an overview of Integrated Working and the tools and processes available for use (Information Sharing, YorOk Child Index, Common Assessment Framework and Lead Practitioner). The course takes a voluntary sector perspective on Integrated Working, what it means and the practicalities involved.

Health & Safety and Risk Assessment for Voluntary Sector Workers

24/11/09 - 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

The course provides delegates with an essential understanding of health and safety at work in the voluntary sector. At the end of this one-day course delegates will be able to explain the value of accident reduction; describe the principals of risk assessment; outline accident prevention measures; apply key health and safety requirements to their roles; understand the roles and responsibilities of the organisation and the individual workers; help implement good practice for health, safety and welfare at work.

Emergency First Aid at Work (HSE Approved)

03/12/09 - 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

This course is ideal for smaller workplaces that present few health and safety risks covering basic first aid and the relevant regulations. Course content: Insight into Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations, Managing an incident, Priorities of First Aid, Resuscitation, Blood loss, Treatment of an unconscious casualty, Treatment of shock, General discussion on common workplace injuries. Assessment & certificate.

Increasing Voluntary Sector Influence –

09/12/09 - 10:00 - 12:30 pm

This course will give you the background and understanding to represent the voice of the voluntary and community sector at multi agency meetings, whether to give feedback on gaps in services or to develop plans and services in partnership with colleagues across the sectors. It will help anyone interested in voluntary sector representation, now or in the future, to feel confident about their role and ability to make a difference:

The session aims to help you to:-

- Understand a representative's role better
- Actively participate in strategic partnerships
- Support the development of the sector's views
- Communicate views of the sector to the partnership
- Feedback to the other voluntary and community groups

Know how you're doing – an introduction to monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance

14/12/09 10:00 – 4:00pm

How do you know if you're doing a good job? Whether you're running a small community group, or are responsible for delivering projects in a larger organisation, it is important to be able to assess whether you're achieving what you set out to do – and funders are increasingly expecting this. This course will explain the principles of monitoring, evaluation, and an 'outcomes' based approach to planning your work, and show how these are linked to your organisation's aims. It will also introduce the concept of quality assurance and how you can use this to strengthen your organisation's performance.

An Introduction to Disclosure and the Vetting & Barring Scheme (VBS)

Tuesday 8 December 2009, 10am to 12noon, NYFVO's office nr Easingwold
£10 per person

This course aims to provide an introduction to the Criminal Records Bureau's Disclosure service and the new Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) from the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). Content will include:

- The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act; the obligations of the CRB's Code of Practice and the legislation around eligibility of checks
- Levels of Disclosure check
- How to use Disclosure information when making decisions and the importance of good recruitment practices
- Portability of checks
- Changes to the law following the launch of the VBS
- Introduction to ISA-registration, VBS and regulated and controlled activity.

For more information or to book your place please contact Jeanette at the Forum on 01347 825710, email jeanette.lilley@nyfvo.org.uk

Regional Safeguarding event

24th November 2009, St George's, Leeds Community Matters, in partnership with Chil-

dren England, is hosting three regional events designed to help organisations understand the vetting and barring process. It will be covering the role of the Independent Safeguarding Authority, CRB checks, and laws and regulations governing working with vulnerable groups. The workshops will also cover identifying when a safeguarding issue may arise, how and when to make the appropriate referrals, and what the ensuing process will be like. If there's anything else about safeguarding that you'd like to see covered, please email your ideas to Mohamed Hammoudan at: mohamed.hammoudan@communitymatters.org.uk or call 020 7837 7887

Viva the VCS: celebrating the CYPF VCS

26th January 2010, Leeds

Celebrating the work of the Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) voluntary and community sector (VCS) in Yorkshire and the Humber. A partnership event involving regional VCS Engage, Children England, VYON, GOYH and CWDC.

- To showcase best practice from the CYPF VCS- positive, fun and participative
- To provide opportunities for regional networking for key people from the CYPF voluntary and statutory sectors
- To offer opportunities for debate and sharing on key challenges

For more information visit:

<http://www.vcsengage-yorkshire.net/content/viva-vcs-celebrating-cypf-vcs>>

Every Child Matters conference

Manchester – 19th November

Increasingly commissioners of services for children and young people are moving towards adopting an outcomes-based approach when planning and allocating resources. Developing an outcomes-based approach involves changes in the culture, vision and work of all organisations providing services for children and young people, including those provided by the third sector.

This low cost event will bring together key

agencies including NEF(New Economics Foundation) ,the DCSF(Dept for Children Schools and Families) commissioning support programme and CES(Charities Evaluation Services), to discuss the key issues and challenges for third sector organisations in moving to adopt an outcomes- based approach.

Through a mixture of presentations and workshop the event will enable third sector organizations to explore the use of outcomes to measure the impact of services for children and young people.

Telephone: 0114 278 6636

Email: events@navca.org.uk

Web: <http://www.navca.org.uk>

Solution-focussed training

Leeds/Bradford

Low cost training events for staff and managers looking to develop their skills in working with services users. All events include certification for Continuing Professional Development purposes. Further details are available at the link below.

1. One day introduction to solution focused thinking course 12th October 2009
2. Two days *introductory course* on the solution focused approach
14th and 15th October 2009
3. Two days *advanced course* on the solution focused approach
2nd and 3rd December 2009
4. Two day introduction to the solution focused approach for small teams - *Bring a "Party to a Party"*

21st and 22nd December 2009

<http://www.usefulconversations.co.uk/index.php?s=events>

greg@usefulconversations.co.uk

www.usefulconversations.com

York Groupwork

A 15-day foundation training course in therapeutic Groupwork, held in central York on fortnightly Fridays and two Saturdays between 15th January and 10th July 2010. Accredited by the Institute of Group Analysis (London).

Are you curious about how groups work? Do you work with groups in a social work, health, education, business or voluntary setting? Do

you want to learn more about yourself and to develop your skills in therapeutic groups and work teams?

Everything you always wanted to know about groups.... but were afraid to ask!

A one-day introductory event on working therapeutically in groups.

St Bede's centre, Blossom Street, Friday 13th November.

This interactive workshop, suitable for anyone interested in 'groups that help' will give participants an opportunity to discover more about therapeutic group work.

For further details and application forms for both the above courses go to www.yorkgroupwork.com, or call 01904 633996.

- Weds 4th Nov **York CVS 70th Anniversary AGM**
- Thurs 5th Nov **Voluntary sector Forum for Learning Disability**, 1.30 – 3.30, Priory Street Centre. Details Sue Bradley @ York CVS
- Thurs 5th Nov **National Offernder Management Service VCS Open Forum** – details peter.e.allen@noms.gsi.gov.uk
- Fri 6th Nov **Minute Taking**
NYFVO Training, Priory Street Centre, morning – details 01347 825710
- Fri 6th Nov **Running Effective meetings**
– York CVS training, 1.30 – 4pm. Details York CVS.
- Mon 9th Nov **VO-19CE Forum** meeting for organisations working with children, young people and families. 9.30am –12 noon, Priory Street Centre. Details: craig.waugh@yorkcvs.org.uk
- Mon 9th Nov **North Yorkshire and York Gypsy & Traveller Wider Forum**
2.00 – 4.30 pm Priory Street Centre, York YO1 6ET
Tel 0845 034 9498 or e-mail: supporting.people@northyorks.gov.uk
- Weds 11th Nov **Understanding and Using Integrated Working for Vulnerable Children** – 10 – 12.30, York CVS training.
- 16th Nov **International Day for Tolerance** www.un.org/Depts/dhl/tolerance
- 16-20 Nov **Anti-bullying week** The focus of the week is cyber-bullying.
www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- Tues 17th Nov **Voluntary Sector Forum for Mental Health**
12 – 2pm, Priory Street Centre. Details Sue Bradley 01904 621133
- Tues 24th Nov **Health and Safety and Risk Assessment** – 9.30 – 4.30 – YCVS training.
- Weds 25th Nov **First Steps to Sustainability** – NYFVO training 01347 825710
- Weds 25 Nov **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**
www.un.org/Depts/dhl/violence
- Thurs 26th Nov **York Compact Conference** –morning including lunch, Priory Street Centre. Details from York CVS.
- Friday 27 Nov **NYFVO AGM & Conference: Working Better Together**
Priory Street Centre York

York Council for Voluntary Service, 15 Priory Street, York YO1 6ET

Phone: 01904 621133 Fax: 01904 630361 Email: yorkcvs@yorkcvs.org.uk Web: www.yorkcvs.org.uk

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