

IN THIS ISSUE: Public Liability Insurance, Vacancy on Redcar & Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board, Legal Considerations, Coalition Government Consultations, Regional Growth Fund

inter-ACTION

RCVDA
Leading
the Way

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RCVDA

DORMANSTOWN COMMUNITY GALA DAY

The mayor and mayoress Ray and Marjorie Goddard accompanied by the Gala Princess and Gala Page in an open topped car.



SHINE FESTIVAL 2010



SHINE Pictures courtesy of Discovery Photography

Tuned In @ SHINE was a creative arts festival planned by a team of young people which took place on Sunday 18th July 2010 at Zetland Park, Redcar. The aim of the festival was to provide young people from Redcar and Cleveland with an opportunity to showcase their talent. Performances included dance, youth theatre, giant puppet sculptures, singing, drumming, bands and MC-ing.

See Page 6 for full report on these two events.



Zurich offers 'cheaper' public liability insurance to small community groups

By Ruth Stokes, Third Sector Online, 28 July 2010

Financial services provider Zurich has launched a scheme offering public liability insurance to small voluntary organisations and community groups for less than £10 a month or £75 a year. Zurich said the policy would enable groups to purchase comprehensive public liability cover for a range of activities covering claims and losses of up to £10m. The offer was developed in collaboration with NAVCA and is delivered by Tennyson Insurance.

A spokesman for NAVCA said: "As far as we understand, this is the first time such insurance has been available to community groups for less than £100 a year." Kevin Curley, chief executive of NAVCA, said in a statement: "This is a brilliant new scheme that will meet an urgent need in the communities sector."

A spokeswoman for Zurich said that voluntary and community projects often failed to get off the ground because of the cost and complications of buying protection, which can sometimes involve going through the local council.

website: www.zurich.co.uk/home/forpublicsector/Charities/charities.htm Telephone: 0845 600 3184

Keeping our children safe

If you are a resident of the Borough of Redcar & Cleveland, and interested in the welfare of children and young people, then Redcar & Cleveland Safeguarding Children Board would like to hear from you.

The Board is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and is looking to become strengthened by appointing a lay member who can provide a strong community voice. It is also anticipated that this will enable the Board and its member agencies to have wider public scrutiny.

Accidents, crime, bullying and deliberate abuse and neglect of children is all part of the Board's work as well as bringing together key local agencies such as the Council, Police, Health, Schools and others who work with children or have a statutory duty for their welfare.

The Board holds these agencies to account regarding how they work, individually and collectively, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Successful candidates will be asked to attend Board meetings which are usually every other month on a Friday morning, but they may also be asked to attend other meetings and events. The minimum time commitment is six half days a year and expenses will be paid.

Applicants will be subject to an interview and enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check and should not be employed by any of the agencies represented on the Board.

If you are interested please send a letter explaining why you would be suitable to:

Yvonne Priestley, LSCB Business Manager, West Locality Base, Daisy Lane, Overfields, Middlesbrough TS7 9JF.

Letters should be received by 30th September 2010.

Work, Wealth, Worth Event



25K was the venue for the recent Voluntary Sector Forum Event "Work, Wealth and Worth." The aim of the event was to bring representatives from the VCS together to discuss the implications of the change of government on the sector. Presentations were given regarding the value the VCS brings to the economy and some of the government changes which have been announced since May. The Rt Hon Tom Blenkinsop MP and Rt Hon Ian Swales MP also gave their view of the challenges and opportunities facing the VCS. There followed a Question and Answer session to a panel consisting of the MP's. Prof Brian Footitt (Chair of the LSP), Cllr Ian Jeffrey (Chair of the Children's Trust) Simon Dale (Director of Area Management). The event was chaired by Jane Reast (ROC). For a copy of the report from the event please email jill@rcvda.org.uk.



Legal considerations

Are charity trustees fit and proper persons?

Following the introduction of HMRC's new "Fit and Proper Persons Test" for managers (not just trustees) of charities in the April 2010 budget, which could see the loss of a charity's tax reliefs if a charity appoints someone who is not a "fit and proper person" to hold office with any sort of financial responsibility, there has been something of a public falling out about rules and the regulation of charities generally.

The Charity Commission is the official regulator of charities in England and Wales (in Scotland it is OSCR), and has clear rules and guidance on tackling fraud within charities. However, in an open letter to a firm of solicitors who had challenged the new test, HMRC said that "the charity regulators' checks are clearly not sufficient for effective tax administration." HMRC has produced guidance on the application of the rules which can currently be found at: www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/guidance-notes/chapter2/fp-persons-test.htm.

The guidance was revised in early July to try to deal with some of the concerns raised and a very short consultation ensued (the draft was sent out by HMRC on Friday 2nd July and responses were required by Monday 5th July.) It is suggested that if HMRC considers that a charity has someone on the board of trustees or management team who is not a "fit and proper person," the charity may be given the opportunity to remedy the position before losing its tax exemptions and there is to be a presumption that managers are fit and proper persons. It has also reduced the number of people caught in the definition of "managers" to those who might exercise any financial control. If your charity either employs or has trustees who have had criminal convictions you should take advice to make sure your tax exemptions are protected.

Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies

March 18th 2010 saw the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies and Credit Unions Act 2010 receive Royal Assent. This Act is another stage in the Heath-Robinson modernisation of the legal framework surrounding Industrial and Provident Societies (IPS), not least, by the name of the two specific legal forms permitted under those Acts, co-operatives and community benefit societies, replacing the name industrial and provident societies.

Very importantly, the new Act states that the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 will apply to IPSs, making a significant change advocated over 20 years ago. This will provide a mechanism by which directors can be banned from taking up such positions when they have previously breached the duties involved in being a director. A further provision of the new Act gives the Treasury the power to apply to Societies aspects of the Companies Act, with modifications, in respect of company names, investigations, dissolutions, and restoration to the register.

In relation to credit unions, the Treasury now has the power to make provisions for credit unions which correspond to any provisions applying to building societies. Changes are expected soon in the limits on the amount of shares a person can invest in a Society, The Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies and Credit Unions Act 2010 can be viewed at www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2010/ukpga_20100007_en_1.

The danger of unincorporated charitable status

With the new legal status of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation having slipped back once more to 2011, those charities which are unincorporated should look once again at the dangers of remaining with that status. Third Sector has highlighted this year how the administrators of the YMCA employee pension fund are taking the Chair of a local YMCA to court over a disputed £18,200 liability. Whilst it is the Chair against whom action is being taken, there is no reason why it could not be taken against all the trustees, or even all the members of the unincorporated association.

Source: Wrigleys Solicitors, Social Economy, Issue no 100, June – August 2010



Government asks charities and social enterprises for ideas on reducing the deficit

The Cabinet Office is asking the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors for innovative ideas on how to reduce the deficit. In an open letter to the sectors, Francis Maude, minister for the cabinet office and Nick Hurd, minister for civil society said the deficit reduction plans could 'not just be about cuts' and asked for innovative ideas on how things could be done more efficiently. Ideas can be posted on the Cabinet Office website or e-mailed directly to sectorchallenge@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk.

The letter also stressed that all local and central government departments would be encouraged to take account of the Compact as savings and efficiencies were made and said that the Cabinet Office's strategic partners have been asked to gather information on the impact of cuts.

Both, NCVO and Acevo, strategic partners of the OCS have websites dedicated to gathering information on cuts to the voluntary sector. Source: Civil Society

Charity Commission opens consultation on online plans

The Charity Commission is seeking views on its plans to place all its services online by 2012, a move which is part of the Commission's efficiency savings measures.

It has opened a consultation on its equality impact assessment of its online plans, which found there to be no negative impacts in terms of gender, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation or on carers.

However, the assessment did find that there were possible issues with regards to English not being a first language, or communication difficulties relating to disability or age. It also identified issues around access to the internet.

The consultation asks for views on its assessment and whether it has missed any other impact or factors.

Andrew Hind, chief executive of the Charity Commission said:

"A move to online services will have numerous benefits for charities and their advisers, the Commission, and the environment, but we want to make sure charities have their say about the potential impact of this.

"We're already asking charity advisers to communicate with us electronically, and extending this to all our customers will save us and charities valuable time and money. Of course we will always honour our responsibilities towards customers with disabilities and other very specific needs. However if we can adopt more online working, it will help us cope with what is likely to be a much more constrained budget."

The Commission's Equality Impact Assessment and the consultation document are available on the Commission www.charitycommission.gov.uk . It will accept responses up to 29th October.

Source: Civil Society

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Andrea is a carer for her partner who is suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Her partner is receiving wonderful care from the Armed Forces support agencies and is currently at Hollybush Combat Stress Centre in Scotland.

On the other hand she feels isolated, alone and unable to deal with her partner's issues. "I know that when Martin gets upset and angry his anger is not aimed at me and I just listen but I feel I have nowhere to turn for help. Wounds are not always visible" explained Andrea.

Andrea would love to know if there is anyone else in the area who cares for a loved one who is suffering PTSD, (not necessarily military related) and is interested in setting up a support group to meet weekly just to talk through their experiences.

For more information please contact Trish at RCVDA 01642 440571 or email enquiries@rcvda.org.uk



BIS Announces Further Details Of Regional Growth Fund

The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) has given further details of arrangements for the Regional Growth Fund.

Announced on 29 June by **Deputy Prime Minister** Nick Clegg, the £1 billion Regional Growth Fund is intended to support the areas and communities most at risk of being affected by public spending cuts.

The fund is currently scheduled to operate from 2011 to 2013 and will help the area's most dependent on public sector employment as the country makes the transition to private sector-led growth and prosperity, including the dismantling of the regional development agencies and establishment of local enterprise partnerships. Both private bodies and public-private partnerships will be able to bid for RGF funding for projects that offer significant potential for sustainable economic growth, can create new private sector employment, and will bring in private investment.

On 23 July, the **Deputy Prime Minister** announced that Lord Heseltine would chair the approval panel for the Regional Growth Fund, with Sir Ian Wrigglesworth confirmed as Deputy Chair.

A consultation for the fund was also launched at the announcement, seeking views on how the fund should be designed to best meet the needs of areas and communities across England.

Launching the consultation, the **Deputy Prime Minister** said:

“The Regional Growth Fund is an innovative new mechanism to unleash the talent and drive that will help get the country back on its feet.

“Now is the moment to rebalance our economy so it is sustainable and fair. Instead of following a broken model of unbalanced growth that put the financial sector first, we must help growing companies and entrepreneurs thrive, bringing jobs and prosperity to their communities. And as we take action to reduce public spending and bring down our towering deficit, supporting places that have become overly reliant on public sector employment must be a priority.

“We're asking people to help us design this fund so we can be sure the investment will make a real difference. I am delighted that Michael Heseltine and Ian Wrigglesworth will be Chair and Deputy Chair of the Approval Panel. They have experience and authority to drive this forward and both are, like this Government, utterly committed to ensuring the parts of the country with the greatest need share in the prosperity of the future.”

Consultation on this fund closes on the 6th September 2010. Details of the consultation and how to contribute are available on the BIS website at www.bis.gov.uk/Consultations/regional-growth-fund-consultation?cat=open

Source: J4B newsletter



Developing the Big Society

The Big Society Programme is available from the Cabinet Office website: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk. It is perhaps a litmus test paper against which future support for voluntary and community, co-operative and social enterprise activity can be judged in the coming years. At its heart is trying to get more people involved with society. Some structural change will need to be considered to get this to work. Whilst there is a proposal for a national citizen service initially for 16 year olds, there is an argument that there should be a duty on all employers, as there is with jury service, for a certain number of day's activity for volunteering to be permitted on a paid basis. With community enterprise involving Industrial and Provident Societies, the Government needs to change the Government Department responsible for community benefit societies to release the dead hand of HM Treasury. If there is to be a transfer of state functions to communities, the Government needs to tackle what happens to pension scheme rights of Government employees. There are some interesting ideas in the Big Society but some enablement is required.

Source: Reproduced from SocialEconomy Issue No 100

Ask the expert.



Q. We want to introduce part-time working for a number of staff as we do not have enough work to keep everyone on a full time basis. The aim is to try and give as many hours work to our staff as possible but for the short term our workers need to understand that there may not be enough hours for all staff. Everyone has been on a 39 hour contract, so what do I need to do to reduce hours. Will I need to re-issue contracts or can I just go ahead and cut hours?

A. Unfortunately, you cannot just change your employees' contracts irrespective of the terms, writes Russell Smith, consultant at Peninsula. The only way in which you can enforce a change would be if you have a clause in your employees' contracts allowing you to do so. However, it is unlikely that you will have a clause allowing such a fundamental change.

You are facing a potential redundancy situation, as the need for work of a particular kind has diminished. You need to review your contracts and see if they give you the option to lay off employees or place them on short term working. If you have this clause then you can activate it but if not then you can only make changes by agreement.

It is important to explore alternative options rather than reducing the hours of your workforce and if you still want to make this change, you need to discuss the proposed changes. Explain to them what problems have led you to consider this option and discuss the different ways in which you can bring it about and let them know the proposed change is intended to be temporary. Some people may be willing to reduce their hours and agree a change to their contracts; however others may not be able to do that due to financial commitments. If your employees do agree to the changes, then arrange a date on which they will come into effect and confirm this in writing.

Many employees will see the reduction of their hours as a poor alternative to redundancy so it is important to outline why this can be a beneficial option for all involved.

For further information contact Russell Smith on 07976 922314 or via e-mail, Russell.Smith@peninsula-uk.com.



Disability groups call for government cooperation on social care

Source: Sophie Hudson, Third Sector Online, August 2010

The government must work with the voluntary sector to improve social care and save money in the wake of the financial crisis, according to a report by the Voluntary Organisations Disability Group.

The report, *Gain Without Pain*, argues that, given a growing population and shrinking funds, a new approach to services is needed.

The VODG, an umbrella group of more than 40 voluntary disability organisations, uses case studies from 10 charities to illustrate ways in which voluntary organisations can offer cost-efficient and flexible health and care services.

One of the studies covers the disability charity Papworth Trust, which worked with live-in NHS patients with learning disabilities. The charity helped a number of these patients move from NHS accommodation to their own homes.

Papworth estimates that this saved the NHS up to £385 a week for each person.

Bill Mumford, chairman of the VODG, said: "The cuts in public spending make it all the more necessary to find new ways of working, and we need the public sector to work with us, not against us." David Cameron says building the big society is his great passion. My passion is showing how the voluntary sector can be central to this vision and that, in spite of the financial crisis, disability charities can provide imaginative, cost-effective services that do what service users ask of them."

The report can be downloaded from:

www.vodg.org.uk/uploads/Gain_without_Pain_Final_printedversion.pdf



Tuned It @ SHINE 2010 Dormanstown Community Gala



Pictures courtesy of Discovery Photography

Over 4000 people of all ages attended the event and took part in the range of free workshops including circus skills, DJ-ing, arts & crafts and Punch & Judy shows. The event was buzzing with activity and had a positive atmosphere as young people supported each other's performances and talents. Arts development staff mentored and supported a team of young volunteers aged between 14 and 19 who met weekly for the months leading up to the event to plan all aspects of the day including budgets, marketing, booking artists, timetabling, setting up and tidying the site at the end of the event.

The last two hours of the event was for teenagers only where we invited 13 to 19 year olds to enjoy the SHINE after show party. A line up of young local bands entertained over 300 excited young people as they enjoyed the variety of live music. There was also a music tent with DJ and MC performances throughout the evening.

Tuned In @ SHINE was a great example of how creative, talented and cultured the young people living in Redcar and Cleveland are.

*Jo Hodgson and Donna Harding,
RCBC Arts Development*



A variety of images from the Dormanstown Community Gala which took place on Sunday 1st August 2010 courtesy of The Ladies of Steel

The recent recession has seen the demise of two local annual events. The Steel Gala, which has been a regular event on the summer calendar for over 25 years, and the Corus Sports & Social Centre 'family gala day', which was supported by Corus, were both cancelled.

The Ladies of Steel, however, came up with the idea of the Dormanstown Community Gala to lift the spirits of the local community and create a fun, entertaining social event which promoted health, education and highlighted the services available to the community.

A sub-group was formed and funding was secured from a number of organisations including, Tees Valley Community Foundation, GDF Suez, Sabic, Huntsman, Sembcorp, Ensis and Corus.

Activities on the day included fairground rides Punch and Judy, a climbing wall, a tug of war competition as well as exhibitions and food stalls. A Gala Princess and Page accompanied the Mayor and Mayoress in an open topped car on the parade.

The day was a great success and the organizers are grateful to all those who supported this day to make it such a success.

The Ladies of Steel

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Affordable, High quality office space (Central Redcar)

The Junction has available a good quality, recently refurbished office space at their base at 19 Station Road, Redcar TS10 1AN. There is space for 3 people, and the office benefits from excellent natural lighting and is decorated to a high quality and fully carpeted. It can include, if required, office equipment, access to ground floor meeting room, kitchen and other communal areas. The office benefits from the security of the building and a central location. The Junction would welcome interest from like minded organisations who are interested in developing and improving partnership working.

Meeting room and Hot desk

The Junction has a meeting room for hire which can accommodate 8-10 people. The rate is £12:00 per hour with a discounted rate of £8.75 per hour for charities, social enterprises and community based organisations. Access to ICT and presentation equipment is available on request.

Do you need access to a Desk, pc, telephone etc for a short period of time? Then The Junction may be able to help - please contact them as they would love to talk with you.

Training for groups-lifeskills?

Also available is a fully equipped kitchen, including food preparation, laundry facilities and even a Shower room. This is an excellent resource for working with small groups to support Life skills learning and personal development.

For further information regarding any of the above please contact: 01642 756000 or email info@thejunctionredcar.com

The information in the Interaction is published in good faith but RCVDA accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracy in the items.

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