

**IN THIS ISSUE: Online fundraising, Secret Millionaire, Participatory Budgeting, Community Focus, Charity Tribunal, Vetting and Barring Scheme, Police Public Meeting**

# inter-ACTION

RCVDA  
**Leading  
the Way**

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RCVDA



## Your landscape - have your say

Do you recognise the above images (*courtesy of Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council website*). Within Redcar and Cleveland we have a range of stunning scenery and to help to retain this Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council is publishing a new Landscape Character document.

Councillor Mary Lanigan, the Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Planning, said: "Redcar & Cleveland is a great place to live, work and visit and we want to keep it that way. The countryside is important to us, and especially the areas on our doorstep where we can walk, cycle, drive or just enjoy the scenery.

Residents are invited to make comments on the new Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which is available on the Council's website at [www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](http://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk), at Council offices and in libraries.

The consultation starts on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September and runs until Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> October.



## Charity Tribunal abolished in existing form

Source: Third Sector Online, 2 September 2009

The Charity Tribunal has been abolished in its current form and amalgamated into a new two-tier tribunal structure as part of wider reforms to the service. As from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 appeals against final decisions of the Charity Commission will be heard in the General Regulatory Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal. Onward appeal will be to the Upper Tribunal and then to the Court of Appeal. Appeals to the High Court will no longer be allowed.

Charity Tribunal President Alison McKenna and the rest of the members of the Charity Tribunal will be transferred into the new structure under ongoing streamlining of the tribunals service. Ms McKenna will be able to sit in both the Upper Tribunal and the General Regulatory Chamber, while the other five legal and seven lay members will sit only in the General Regulatory Chamber.

Kevin Sadler, chief executive of the Tribunals Service, said: "The changes are all designed to improve the tribunal process, making it more user-focused, consistent, streamlined and efficient across the board."

## It's Your Police Service : SO HAVE YOUR SAY

**Public Meeting**  
**Thursday 17th September 2009**  
**at Ryehills School, Redcar Lane, Redcar**  
**TIME: 6:00pm - 8:00pm**

As part of their consultation activities the Cleveland Police Authority will shortly be holding a public meeting in which Chief Constable Sean Price and Chairman of Cleveland Police Authority, Councillor Dave McLuckie would like to hear what you think about the police service in your area - and what should be the policing priorities in the year ahead.

This is your chance to help shape a vital public service and the way it responds to you, your family and your community - so why not come along.

**PHONE:** 01642 301446

**E-MAIL:** [authorityconsultation@cleveland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:authorityconsultation@cleveland.pnn.police.uk)

**INTERNET:** [www.cleveland.police.uk](http://www.cleveland.police.uk)



Chief Constable Sean Price (left) and Chairman of Cleveland Police Authority, Councillor Dave McLuckie

## Do You Need Volunteers?

Are you a charity or community organisation? Could you use a team of volunteers for a one-off / day's project?

North East Cares is part of a national campaign co-ordinated by Business in the Community, called Cares. Funded by business, its aim is to increase the quantity and impact of employee volunteering throughout the North East.

They can help provide you with volunteers for Team Challenges in the community:

- One to two weekday projects for teams of employees (average number 10)
- Environmental projects, clearing, landscaping and planting.
- Painting and decorating community areas.
- Or any other challenge a team of volunteers can complete in a day!

Could they help your group?

Please contact Claire Taylor on 0191 294 6033 or email [claire.taylor@bitc.org.uk](mailto:claire.taylor@bitc.org.uk) for more information on volunteer support.



## Vetting and Barring Scheme

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 was passed as a result of the Richard Inquiry arising from the Soham murders in 2002, when the schoolgirls Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells were murdered by Ian Huntley (a school caretaker).

The Inquiry questioned the way employers recruit people to work with vulnerable groups, and particularly the way background checks are carried out. Recommendation 19 of the Inquiry Report highlighted the need for a single agency to vet all individuals who want to work or volunteer with children or vulnerable adults and to bar unsuitable people from doing so. The Act defines the scope of the Vetting and Barring Scheme due to be introduced in October 2009. It provides that certain activities in relation to children and vulnerable adults are regulated. There are two categories Regulated activities and Controlled activities. A definition of both of these can be found on the Independent Safeguarding Authority website at [www.isa.gov.uk](http://www.isa.gov.uk). Although the scheme is being introduced from October this year there will be a phased introduction as follows:

### From October 2009

- Increased safeguards will be introduced, such as a wider definition of “Regulated activities”, further enhancing protection of children and vulnerable adults.
- The three current barring lists (POCA, POVA and List 99) will be replaced by the creation of two new barred lists administered by the ISA rather than several government departments. Checks of these new lists can be made as part of an Enhanced CRB check.
- Employers, social services and professional regulators have a duty to refer to the ISA any information about individuals who may pose a risk ensuring potential threats to vulnerable groups can be identified and dealt with.
- There will be criminal penalties for barred individuals who seek or undertake work with vulnerable groups and for employers who knowingly take them on.
- The eligibility criteria for Enhanced CRB checks will be extended to include anyone working in a regulated position.

### From July 2010

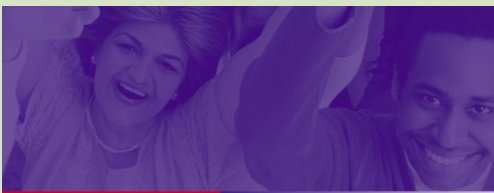
- From July 2010 those who are new to the workforce, those who are changing roles to take on regulated activity and those changing jobs whilst working in regulated activity may apply for ISA registration. Those who currently work with vulnerable groups but are staying in their current role will not have to become registered until later in the five year phasing period.
- From July 2010, individuals can apply for ISA-registration and a CRB check (including an ISA check) on one new application form.
- When a person becomes ISA-registered they will be continuously monitored and their status reassessed against any new information which may come to light.

### From November 2010

- So as not to disrupt normal recruitment over the traditionally busy summer period, the legal requirement for employees to register with the VBS and employers to check their status will come into force in November 2010.

### From 2011

- Existing employees and volunteers with no CRB check must apply for ISA registration.
- Existing employees and volunteers with CRB checks will also need to apply for ISA registration, starting with staff whose CRB checks are the oldest.



## inter- ACTION

### Are you a new management committee member? Why not sign up for RCVDA's Good Governance Champion training programme?

We are holding 4 training sessions especially designed for people new to the role of committee member. The sessions will encourage you to look at what you hope to achieve in your group and some of the things you need to think about to help achieve them, including understanding why different views and personalities can help make a successful committee.

The programme aims to also help you make your meetings more constructive and de-mystify agendas and minutes, along with how to manage situations when personalities and views clash.

Sessions will be held on Wednesdays 16 September, 30 September, 21 October and 4 November from 9.30 to 12.45 at RCVDA's offices in Redcar Education Development Centre.

To book a place please contact Ann or Karen on 01642 440571

### Ask the expert



**Q. We are really concerned about Swine Flu and we want to minimise the impact it will have on our organisation. We are especially concerned about absenteeism and the impact on the organisation. What precautions can we put in place to protect our organisation against such an outbreak?**

A. Many organisations face the same worries and so contingency plans should now be implemented. Firstly, you should look at the essential tasks of your business and ensure that knowledge is shared, so that other employees are able to perform key tasks, should someone be off sick. Any employees who are infected should obviously stay at home and seek medical advice and those in the workplace who believe they may be infected should be advised to seek medical advice immediately.

To minimise the impact on your organisation, you should assess the possibility of implementing flexible working practices. Firstly, assess what tasks employees are able to perform at home and if you have any concerns about the infection spreading within your organisation, encourage those who are able to work from home to do so. Also, if an employee has a dependent that may be infected, consider allowing them to work flexible hours so that they are able to offer care and still turn up for work.

Express to your staff the importance of personal hygiene during a time where bad hygiene practices could open your business up to Swine Flu. Stock your workplace with anti-bacterial hand gel and tissues as these are proven to be particularly effective in staving off the effects of the infection.

There will of course be the small minority that will use the panic of the infection as an excuse to take a few days off. It is therefore important that you assess your procedures in regards to sickness and where you believe the sickness to be fraudulent, investigate the incident and act accordingly. Conduct back to work interviews for anyone that has taken days off sick and elucidate the impact that their sickness has had on the business. This should discourage anyone that has taken fraudulent sick days from re-offending.

The best thing to do as an employer is to make contingency plans and act now to avoid being surprised by the infection at a later date.

For more information contact Russell Smith on 07976 922314 or via e-mail, [Russell.Smith@peninsula-uk.com](mailto:Russell.Smith@peninsula-uk.com)

### Community Focus

Following our feature in May's edition we have received the following article – don't forget if you want to have your organisation featured send an article to [katsoroc@rcvda.org.uk](mailto:katsoroc@rcvda.org.uk)

Whale Hill Community Association is based in the community centre at the heart of the Whale Hill estate just outside of Eston. It has been here since 1983 and was built to serve the needs of a community of approximately 1500 residents. The Association offers social, leisure and development opportunities which cover such diverse activities as:

- Slimming World
- Surestart Mother and Toddler sessions
- Bingo Club
- Disco
- Youth Club
- Dance Classes

Alongside this the centre houses an up to date computer suite for training and educational purposes, conference and meeting facilities with state of the art presentation equipment and a catering service. The Association also offers a bespoke Job Search service which includes CV and job applications, internet job search, referral to work based training and on going support for the unemployed.

The Association is currently facilitating a Sailing Project for 12 young people classed as NEET and a project to upgrade the roundabout of Whale Hill.

For more information contact the centre on 01642 468890



## What is Participatory Budgeting?

Participatory budgeting directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending and priorities for a defined public budget.

Participatory budgeting allows the citizens of an area (neighbourhood, regeneration or local authority area) to participate in the allocation of part of the local Council's or other statutory agency's (health services, police) available financial resources. Participatory budgeting aims to increase transparency, accountability, understanding and social inclusion in local government affairs. Participatory budgeting applies to a varying amount of the local Council's budget and the actual process is developed to suit local circumstances.

In practice, participatory budgeting provides citizens with information that enables them to be engaged in prioritising the needs of their neighbourhoods, propose and debate new services and projects and set budgets in a democratic and transparent way. As the process becomes embedded it involves citizens being engaged in an annual budgetary cycle of setting priorities and budgets and monitoring the delivery of projects and services

### Benefits to Local Government

- increases legitimacy by increasing dialogue, enabling better communication.
- Improves budget targeting through citizen participation in allocating public resources.
- builds consensus. PB can build consensus within and across neighbourhoods on the budget plan.
- can promote good governance
- supports the 'duty to involve'.
- encourages community cohesion.
- help to develop the role of ward councillors.
- increases transparency and respect.

### Benefits to citizens include:

- provides citizens with access to local government information such as the amount of taxes collected, budgetary expenditure and budget forecasts.
- increases the voice of citizens in local decision making.
- provides an opportunity to deepen citizenship and democracy.
- allows citizens to engage in the development and renewal of their neighbourhoods.
- increases understanding of the different people in their neighbourhood
- allows greater influence and say over services delivered in local areas
- increases social cohesion in communities

### Benefits to community & voluntary sector:

- provides greater access to public budgets and how they are spent in local areas
- Increases legitimacy for local projects through community grant-giving PB projects
- Increases social cohesion within communities
- Gets people more involved in their communities and connected to those people already involved
- Creates a more mature dialogue between public sector, community & voluntary sector and citizens

For more information on Participatory Budgeting see their website at [www.participatorybudgeting.org.uk](http://www.participatorybudgeting.org.uk)

Source: Participatory Budget Unit



## North East Voluntary and Community Sector Awards 2009

The search is on again to shine the light on the sector's stars, its nomination time for the North East Voluntary and Community Sector Awards 2009. The awards are organised by VONNE to celebrate the great work being done by volunteers and charities across the region.

So get your thinking caps on and tell them about the great work being done in the region. Maybe you know an unsung hero working in the sector? Anyone can make a nomination, including for themselves or their own project. This year's winners will be presented with their awards at a glittering ceremony with 3 course evening meal in November. The categories for this year are:

- Most exciting project
- Most inspiring campaign
- Volunteer of the year
- Outstanding organisation
- Outstanding leadership
- Young leader (under 26)

To make a nomination or to find out more visit [www.vonne.org.uk/awards](http://www.vonne.org.uk/awards), closing date is **September 18<sup>th</sup> 2009**.

## New not-for-profit online fundraising engine from Virgin Money raises more for charities

Virgin Money Giving, a new not-for-profit online fund-raising service has opened its doors for charities, ahead of its full launch to fundraisers.

From 25 August charities will be able to publish their own pages on the site by visiting [virginmoneygiving.com](http://virginmoneygiving.com) and registering. Once registered, charities will be able to customise their pages in their own brand colours, promote them to supporters, send out email alerts and manage their fundraising events.

As a not-for-profit business, Virgin Money Giving will only look to cover its costs, through a 2% transaction fee on donations and a one-off £100 set-up fee for charities. No charge will be made on administering Gift Aid. As a result Virgin Money Giving will cut the cost to charities of raising money online by up to 60%.

Website: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving/>

A similar site is Just Giving who have been established since 1999 and are the leading online platform for charity giving, helping over 8,000 member charities raise more than £450 million.

1. They process donations and reclaim Gift Aid for member charities, and charge a small fee for their service. It works like this:
2. When you donate £10 on their site, they send 100% to the charity by the end of the week.
3. They reclaim Gift Aid from the government, which takes about a month, adding £2.82 to your donation.
4. It's only when they receive the Gift Aid that they charge a 5% fee, along with credit/debit card/PayPal charges, and send the rest to the charity. If you are not a UK taxpayer and they can't reclaim Gift Aid, their fee comes out of your donation.

Website: <http://www.justgiving.com/>

## The Secret Millionaire Fund

The Big Lottery Fund and The Secret Millionaire have teamed up to give viewers of the programme a chance to act on the charitable inspiration fuelled by the show. Lottery funding worth £1 million has been lined up for people to apply for, or nominate projects to apply for grants of between £300 and £10,000 from the Secret Millionaire Fund.

### Nominate a community project

You can propose a community project or organisation you think would benefit from BIG funding. BIG will then contact the organisation to see if it is eligible to apply for this small grants scheme and send out the relevant information.

### Apply directly

If you have an idea for a project that can bring real improvements to the lives of communities, and can pass a simple eligibility test you can apply to Secret Millionaire Fund. In both cases Lottery grants are awarded following an application and assessment process which takes up to 6 weeks

If your application to The Secret Millionaire Fund is successful Channel 4 might choose you for filming that will appear on the Secret Millionaire website and possibly in future editions of The Secret Millionaire.

For more information see

<http://secretmillionaire.channel4.com>



## One Groups Tale

Our group started five years ago as a project of two existing community organisations. Seeing a need in the community for a drop-in session for young people it was decided to run a six week pilot project – just to test the water. The pilot was so successful we decided that we couldn't stop. It was decided to run one weekly session for young people age 8 – 18 and the seed of our group was sown.

About four months into the project there was the opportunity to access some funding and as both of the host organisations had previously applied for funding the decision was taken to set up an independent organisation. We wrote and adopted a constitution – opened a bank account and applied for funding – we were successful and accessed £7,000 from the Local Network Fund. Over the next four years we accessed small pots of money to take young people on participatory activities and ran a once a week drop in session. During this time we had a variety of people involved and as with all groups some moved on some stayed the course. We were very keen on involving young people in all areas including on the management committee – long before the government and funders started including this in their criteria.

Over the last year we have gone through a number of setbacks not least of which was losing our permanent base which left us a bit like wandering nomads. I will admit that there have been several times when we have discussed calling it a day – but every time we discussed it we looked around us and recognised that the thing that kept us going was the young people who accessed the project – many of whom have been with us since that first pilot project – some of whom are now on our management committee. We recognised that although we could keep going as we were we didn't have the capacity to expand – we are all volunteers and have other lives as well.

Then finally BIG lottery released their Young Peoples Fund – something the sector had been waiting for for over a year. We decided we would give it a go – what did we have to lose after all. We had flirted with Charitable status and Company Limited By Guarantee but it all seemed to much hassle (and secretly several of us thought it is easier to close a group that isn't registered). We wrote the initial first stage application and sent it off. We then got an email inviting us to complete a full application, this nearly didn't happen (life got in the way), but we did manage to make the deadline. Then there was a long wait and during this time we were convinced that was that. Then a phone call invited us to take part in a phone interview which we were told would take up to an hour. Three of us gathered around a single phone on speaker surrounded by nibbles to keep up our energy and tried to convince a disembodied voice that we were worth investing in. Again we waited and convinced ourselves that we had done our best but we weren't the 1 in 90 that we had been told at the beginning of the interview. Then the phone call came – we had been successful but couldn't tell anyone for three weeks.

What a range of emotions flood you when you get the news, elation that at last we could do justice to the young people of our community, fear, could we actually do this we realised we would be employing and supporting staff, signing grant offers and of course that led to panic - we had put off doing the legal stuff (don't we all) and now we needed to put it in place to make sure our organisation was fit to do the job. We had to also open a new separate bank account which again prompted us to do that other thing we had been putting off – changing the signatories on our existing bank account.

So we met and within a week we were a company limited by guarantee – of course as with all things the thought of it is more daunting than actually doing it and we were fortunate that we had already agreed the new Memorandum and Articles of Association just hadn't got around to filling in the other forms . We and currently working towards getting training for our young people in interviewing job candidates and writing job descriptions. The other thing we also have to address is getting office space for our new staff – something we never envisaged we would ever have to do five years ago. However what an exciting time we have ahead - onwards and upwards!!

*If you want to tell your story send it in to [karenmc@rcvda.org.uk](mailto:karenmc@rcvda.org.uk)*



[www.rcvda.org.uk](http://www.rcvda.org.uk)

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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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LIVE ABOVE