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ISSUE NO. 50

Aug/Sept 2004

Welcome

Welcome to the 50th Issue of the North West Network Newsletter.

Newsletter Review

As reported in previous issues NWN has recently carried out a full review of this newsletter. We have now had an opportunity to analyse the result and bring forward changes. For results of the review please see full article on page 3.

Trustee Recruitment

North West Network previously reported that two new members had been recruited to its Board of Trustees, unfortunately one new member has taken another job out of the area and can not honour this commitment. We have therefore decided to open the recruitment process again. We are looking for Chief Officers or equivalent from organisations in the North West whose membership to NWN is up to date. If you are interested in receiving an application pack and further information, please contact Jane Stanistreet on T: 0161 236 6493.

GMLSC Bidding Round

Please be advised that Greater Manchester Learning & Skills Council have announced a call for applications to be submitted. Please find full details and further information on page 14.

SAM - Volunteer Management

North West Network secured funding from GONW Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Early Spend Fund to develop a self assessment manual (SAM) to aid its capacity building programme for volunteer involving organisations. The project is reaching the final stages with the first copy of SAM Volunteer Management set to roll off the press at the end of September. Please see article on page 28.

Staff Profile

Angeliki Stogia, Assistant European Officer has agreed to write her profile for this regular newsletter feature.

Hello, I'm Angeliki Stogia (to make it easier, call me Angela) and I am one of the recent additions to the European Team.

I come from Arta, a town situated in the North West part of Greece. I came to the UK nine years ago to pursue a BSc degree in European Studies and Languages at Manchester Metropolitan University. I then moved to Aberdeen which was the only

University in the UK offering the MLitt in Applied European Studies where my interest lies.

In the last year of my studies I began to seriously consider what career to pursue and where. My ambition was to start a career in European Affairs and I was looking for the opportunity both in Greece or the UK. Working in various positions after I left University, I realised that I wanted a career that would combine my interest in European Affairs, especially researching contemporary European issues, with my desire to work with people. It just so happened that while I was at Manchester City library on the job of targeting potential employees I came across North West Network's newsletter. That was when it all started! I joined North West Network in February 2004 as a volunteer in an attempt to get a feel for how it is to work for the Voluntary and Community sector. On 24 May 2004, I formally joined the European Team as an Assistant European Officer.

The experience of working as a volunteer at North West Network was very beneficial. I was exposed to the every day workload Ruth and James had to deal with. I feel lucky to have had the chance to work with both Ruth, before she was seconded to Government Office and also James who will shortly be moving to another role. As Assistant European Officer, my role is to provide support, guidance and advice on European funding to Voluntary and Community sector organisations across the region. Supporting and guiding Voluntary and Community organisations is a very specific job: you have to listen and understand the issues organisations have, be up to date with current European funding developments and be well organised in order to search and find the right answer for every given timeframe. I feel comfortable in my new role and what I like best about it is the massive opportunity to learn something new every day while helping different organisations. I am confident that John Hacking (another new member who will be joining the European Team shortly) and myself will be taking the European Team to its next phase, facing new challenges and taking on new tasks.

Coming from a city near the sea, I grew to be a lover of water and since I don't have the chance to practice fancy water sports every day I settle with popping down to the Aquatics every time I can. Other personal interests are books (on almost anything), music and working out at the gym which I have somewhat neglected lately as it interferes with my other three interests: going out, food and wine.

I look forward to working with you all!

Angeliki

North West Network Newsletter Update

Background

The North West Network Newsletter has been providing information to the North West voluntary sector for over ten years and has always been widely respected within the region. As part of our commitment to review and improvement, an internal and external evaluation of the Newsletter was undertaken during March and April 2004. The purpose of the evaluation exercise was to ensure that the Newsletter still addresses the requirements and expectations of the membership and other service users and provide the opportunity to highlight and feedback recommendations for future improvements. The methodology adopted for the evaluation comprised of a questionnaire which was distributed to all member organisations and those non members registered to receive the Newsletter. In addition, interviews were held with North West Network staff members.

Response

Many thanks to all those organisations that completed and returned the questionnaire, the response received was overwhelming and your input as ever, is greatly appreciated. If you did not have the opportunity to send back your thoughts then, why not get in touch now, it's never too late and we value your opinion at any time. Either call, fax or e-mail at info@nwnetwork.org.uk

Conclusions

- ❖ 94% of respondents stated that the Newsletter achieves the aim of being a valuable information resource for the voluntary sector in the North West region
- ❖ Overall, presentation scored 3 (good) and content scored 2.5 (very good - good)
- ❖ 80% of respondents described the content of the Newsletter as providing sufficient detail, 16% stated too much information, 4% other
- ❖ 95% of respondents stated that Newsletter articles do not contain spelling mistakes or inaccuracies
- ❖ 95% of respondents stated that the Newsletter is up to date

- ❖ 56% of respondents described the presentation of the Newsletter as professional, 31% stated tired/outdated, 13% other
- ❖ 40% of respondents stated that the personality of the Newsletter is fresh, 30% stated boring, 30% other
- ❖ 45% of respondents stated that the Newsletter is easy to understand, 43% stated complex but clear, 8% stated too technical, 4% other
- ❖ When asked which elements of the Newsletter respondents would like to see changed, column layout: 25%, heading/title style: 25%, black/white format: 24%, font type: 16%, font size: 10%

What additional information would you find useful in the Newsletter?

The following comments were received,

- ❖ Explanation of commonly used phrases/words
- ❖ More information on non European funding
- ❖ How North West Network can help
- ❖ Information on lobbying for improvements to the actual process
- ❖ Hints and tips on applying
- ❖ Match funding examples
- ❖ More information on how NWN represents the interests of the sector
- ❖ More LSC/Co-financing information

How could we improve the North West Network Newsletter?

The following comments were received,

- ❖ Regular e-mail Newsletter
- ❖ Inclusion of a glossary
- ❖ Make it easier to read - too wordy
- ❖ More visual - photographs, diagrams, charts
- ❖ Use more case studies, examples of good practice, advice articles
- ❖ Contribution from readers
- ❖ Include a short definition of each objective/priority in every edition
- ❖ Electronic version e-mailed to members
- ❖ Occasional humorous article
- ❖ Amend layout of Newsletter
- ❖ Less bulky, shorter, condensed version

- ❖ Change text
- ❖ Bullet point summaries
- ❖ Use £ as well as Euro values
- ❖ Look and style needs updating, needs to be more eye catching
- ❖ Improve presentation
- ❖ Less jargon, more plain English
- ❖ Articles to include the name of author, reader can then contact to get help
- ❖ More information on how issues affect the voluntary sector
- ❖ Already excellent
- ❖ Interviews with partners
- ❖ More headings/subheadings to assist scan reading

Other Comments

The following comments were received,

- ❖ Please focus upon European funding, this is not easily found elsewhere and you do it well
- ❖ Keep going
- ❖ Generally, I find the Newsletter very interesting and informative
- ❖ A contents page or index would be useful
- ❖ Publication should be comprehensive to help organisations with no resources
- ❖ More information about North West Network - role/policies, details of who compiles Newsletter etc
- ❖ Generally very good magazine but very much a professional or technical tool
- ❖ Editorial control to deal with bad bits
- ❖ Thanks for doing it
- ❖ It's a great resource - thank you
- ❖ Keep up the good work
- ❖ It's very useful and informative - thank you

E-Mail Bulletin Service

For some time now, North West Network has been providing an E-mail Bulletin Service for those organisations that have registered an e-mail address with us. An e-mail is forwarded on a monthly basis and provides an overview of the latest news and additions to the North West Network website. In addition, depending on distribution dates, a further e-mail is forwarded to inform organisations that the North West Network Newsletter has been posted on the website. The Newsletter evaluation has highlighted that many organisations are not aware of this service and are not receiving bulletins. If this applies to your organisation and you would like to receive e-mail bulletins, please get in touch and let us know. Either telephone us -

0161 236 6493 or send a quick e-mail to info@nwnetwork.org.uk Please note, only one e-mail address can be registered for any organisation, so it may be worthwhile checking to ensure that the most appropriate address has been registered with us.

Further Development

The evaluation exercise has produced some extremely structured feedback. From this, a series of recommendations have been drafted which will improve both presentation and usability. In order to progress these recommendations, a small working group comprising representatives from each North West Network Team has been formed. The group is charged with the responsibility of managing the actual process of delivering a new format Newsletter and with editorial control as well as providing content advice, implementing deadlines for production and distribution and for monitoring and evaluation. At this stage of development, we hope to introduce a new look Newsletter by the end of the year, so as usual, watch this space and we'll keep you updated!

Links between the Objective 2 and 3 Programmes

What is Objective 2?

The Objective 2 programme provides support for areas facing structural difficulties and targets areas undergoing socio-economic change in the industrial and service sectors, declining rural areas, urban areas in difficulty and depressed areas dependent upon fisheries. The aim of Objective 2 is to increase employment and business competitiveness, as well as reducing social exclusion and developing sustainable communities.

Objective 2 is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and will support activity in specific parts of Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Cumbria and Lancashire. There are three complimentary priorities, each with a set of measures that detail the type of action that can be supported under each of them. Priority 1 is focused upon Business and Ideas, Priority 2 on People and Communities and Priority 3 on Strategic Regional Investment.

....and Objective 3?

The Objective 3 programme provides financial support through the European Social Fund (ESF) for training, workforce development and vocational activities for both employed and unemployed people. Objective 3 seeks to promote lifelong learning, equal opportunities and social inclusion. It supports projects taking place throughout Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Cumbria and Lancashire.

There are five complimentary policy fields, each with a set of measures detailing actions that can be supported. The policy fields are as follows;

Policy Field 1: Development of Active Labour Market Policies

Policy Field 2: Promotion of Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion

Policy Field 3: Promotion of Lifelong Learning Activity

Policy Field 4: Promotion of Adaptability and Entrepreneurship Activity

Policy Field 5: Promotion of Participation of Women in the Labour Market

In the North West no Objective 2 funds are allocated to ESF activities, this marks a key difference to previous programmes and to other regions. The separation of funding in the two programmes was devised to provide greater coherence and concentration in ESF provision. However, by doing so it poses the challenge of ensuring that activities funded by the two programmes compliment each other.

So how do the two programmes link?

Links between the two programmes are clearly revealed through the ESF and ERDF specific policy fields.

ESF Policy Field 1 - Active Labour Market Policies are concerned with preventing long-term unemployment and re-integrating the long term unemployed back into the labour market. In doing so they increase the economic activity in the region and thereby increase regional competitiveness, one of the key aims of the Objective 2 programme. The Objective 2 programme aims to create new employment and many of the beneficiaries of the ESF Active Labour Market policy field will be able to take up these opportunities.

ESF Policy Field 2 - Equal Opportunities and Social Exclusion seeks to remove the barriers to employment for the most disadvantaged. Tackling social exclusion is also the focus of Priority 2 of the Objective 2 programme which supports activities such as capacity building, community enterprise development, environmental improvements, and the development of local learning centres.

ESF Policy Field 3 - Lifelong Learning is concerned with raising the awareness of the benefits of training and learning, thereby increasing participation in this area by all groups, especially those who do not usually take an active role. As a result it aims to improve the skills of the workforce and so deliver a positive impact upon the competitiveness of the region. The Objective 2 programme's focus on higher paid and higher skilled jobs is likely to increase the proportions of people actively involved in lifelong learning.

ESF Policy Field 4 - Adaptability and Entrepreneurship is closely aligned with the Objective 2 competitiveness agenda and is primarily focused on the development of employee's skills (especially those that are out-dated or out-moded), increasing personal enterprise and increasing awareness of the benefits of a more skilled workforce in businesses. Together the Objective 2 and 3 programmes aim to provide a more skilled and more motivated workforce. The emphasis of the Objective 2 programme on creating new enterprises also overlaps with the entrepreneurial support available through ESF, although the Objective 2 programme is able to provide a more intensive and holistic support package, including, for example, incubator units and seed capital.

ESF Policy Field 5 - Women in the Labour Market increasing the participation of women in the labour market is an objective of both the Objective 2 and Objective 3 programmes. Through Objective 2 it is pursued through the cross cutting themes across all the priorities. This is to ensure that significant benefits are secured for

women. This will be complimentary and also additional to, the benefits secured through the fifth policy field under Objective 3.

Cross Cutting Themes

The 3 Cross Cutting Themes; Equal Opportunities, Sustainable Development and Information Communication Technologies run across both the Objective 2 and Objective 3 programmes and provide further linkage between the two programmes. All project activity under both these programmes must adhere to and take account of the Cross Cutting Themes.

But how does this work at project level?

In 2002 Government Office North West (GONW) held two rounds (rounds 4 and 5) specifically for ESF projects that could demonstrate inextricable links with Objective 2 projects. As a result of this, 6 voluntary sector ESF projects with direct links to ERDF projects were funded in the region. To illustrate the benefits of this 3 examples of the ESF funded activity that has direct links to ERDF activity are described below.

Salford Unemployed Community Resource Centre (UCRC) – Training Programme

Salford UCRC was successful in securing funding under round 4 from the beginning of January 2002 to the end of December 2003 under Policy Field 3, Measure 1. The project targeted those most disadvantaged or at risk of poverty and provided training in welfare or employment rights. The ESF project linked to two projects funded through Objective 2 Priority 2, Measure 2: Jobshop Plus and CREST. Jobshop Plus and CREST played a key role in the recruitment of beneficiaries and provided support for community development initiatives. All the beneficiaries of this project were from Objective 2 areas in Salford.

The aim of Jobshop Plus is to reduce social exclusion and disadvantage in Salford by delivering a range of advice, guidance and employability services; widening access for participants; targeting service provision through innovative community-based initiatives; involving local employers in the design and delivery of employability and recruitment programmes; linking local people to local jobs and bringing together different regeneration funding programmes effectively. The ESF project directly linked to Jobshop Plus by recruiting participants through their centres to go on to IT training, welfare rights and employment courses.

CREST aims to tackle social exclusion via the provision of learning opportunities such as training, basic skills, education, volunteering opportunities, crèche facilities/registered childcare, internet access, jobs on line and welfare rights. The ESF project linked directly to CREST by using CREST as a vehicle to recruit its beneficiaries. CREST in particular focuses on providing beneficiaries with the

opportunity to access training around welfare rights, which is done through working in partnership with the ESF project.

Both Jobshop Plus and CREST were members of the Salford UCRC Project Advisory Group, further strengthening linkages between the projects.

Burnley Telematics - Danehouse ICT Learning Centre

The Danehouse ICT Learning Centre project was approved for ESF funding under round 5. The aim of the project was to deliver basic skills and IT training to the residents of Danehouse in Burnley, improving their access and integration into the labour market. The project was submitted under Policy Field 3, Measure 1. The project directly linked to an Objective 2 ERDF project also run by Burnley Telematics under Priority 2 Measure 3 in that the ESF training element was delivered in the ICT learning Centre (providing funding for equipment and premises), which was funded through ERDF.

Jigsaw Partnerships - Side by Side

The Jigsaw Partnerships project Side by Side was approved for funding under round 5 under Policy Field 3, Measure 1. The project enabled learning and working to take place simultaneously within community businesses, enabling young unemployed disabled non-learners at disadvantage within the labour market to develop lifelong learning and employability skills within supportive, inclusive workforces before moving on to employment. The project was based in the Objective 2 area of Hyndburn, Lancashire and directly linked to a larger ERDF project under the Priority 2 People and Accrington and Church Together Action Plan Partnership. The project used ERDF funds to establish a suitable premises with machinery, and through ESF it was able to provide the necessary training and support for disadvantaged people in the area. The project was dependent on both ESF and ERDF to proceed, without either of these, the project would not have taken place.

Who is responsible for overseeing linkages?

The European Programmes Executive at Government Office North West (GONW) has overall responsibility for the European Structural Funds Programmes. Part of that responsibility is to ensure that there are clear linkages between the Objective 2 and 3 programmes. However, on a sub-regional level, the roles of Co-Financing Organisations and Action Plan Partnerships is also of great importance in ensuring that the linkages between the two programmes are addressed at a more local level. This is especially valid now that co-financing is the prime mechanism for the delivery of Objective 3 across the region. Shay O'Rourke has overall managerial responsibility for the ESF and ERDF Priority 2 (People and Communities) Team at GONW, with dedicated officers working on ERDF Priority 2 and on ESF. A

database of all projects funded under ESF and ERDF in the region is kept by GONW.

In addition to this Paul Burroughs has been recently appointed at Government Office North West to oversee the strategic development and delivery of the two programmes in the Greater Manchester area. It is his responsibility to meet with the Co-Financing organisations and the Action Plan Partnerships to ensure that there is complementarity between activities being funded, to identify any gaps in provision and to identify any potential areas for cross working.

What can you do?

It is also in the interests of your organisation to link to ESF and ERDF projects in the area you are working, to share best practice and even to share the burden of submitting applications! If you do have an ESF or an ERDF project in mind then you need to research other local activity taking place, explore avenues for joint working and ensure that there are links between your proposed activity and the two programmes. Overall it is important that the Objective 2 and 3 programmes operate in synergy in order to ensure maximum benefit to the region and for those that live and work in it. In simple terms, ERDF can provide the investment in the economic infrastructure and job creation whereas ESF provides the investment in the skills and employability of people in the region. Working in partnership and linking the programmes will result in a better skilled more competitive region.

Co-Financing Regional Round Up

Cumbria LSC

Cumbria Learning and Skills Council's deadline for applications for their fourth invitation to tender for the 2004/2006 period was the 11 of June. The results for the fourth round have not been announced yet. Currently there are no invitation to tender rounds open, but future rounds will be announced in September 2004.

Cheshire and Warrington LSC

Cheshire and Warrington LSC has published the results of the latest (third) round of invitations to tender (ITTs) for development funding. The results are available on the LSC's development funding webpage at www.lscdf.co.uk/ITTs.html

In addition, Cheshire and Warrington LSC have launched their latest round of invitations to tender for development funding which is now available on the LSC's development funding website.

Briefly, for the latest round the LSC accepts ITTs under,

ESF - Priority 2 Measure 2, Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion. They wish to commission innovative projects that will re-engage in learning those young people at key stage 4 who are excluded or most at risk of exclusion from learning, prior to school leaving age. Funding available is £200,000 and projects under this round should start no earlier than 1 September 2004 and finish no later than 30 September 2006.

LID - The Council wishes to commission innovative projects that will offer beneficiaries intensive support, additional to that which they could normally expect, combined with opportunities to participate in an individualised curriculum offer. Projects should build the capacity of key organisations to offer pupils individualised learning. Funding available is £70,000 and the project start and finish dates are from 1 September 2004 to 31 July 2005.

The deadline for the receipt of applications under this round is 12 pm, October 1 2004.

The LSC will be holding briefing sessions for potential applicants on September 14 2004. Should you wish to attend then please get in touch with:

Cheshire and Warrington LSC
Development Funding Team
Dalton House, Dalton Way

Middlewich, Cheshire
CW10 0HU
Tel: 0845 019 4163 / Fax: 01606 320082
E-mail: Yvonne.gallacher@lsc.gov.uk

For more information about the Invitations to Tender visit:
www.lscdf.co.uk/ITTs.html

Lancashire LSC

Lancashire Learning and Skills Council launched their second round of invitations to tender on the 1 June 2004. The deadline for applications was 12 noon on Monday 12 July 2004. North West Network delivered a training event on the application process for voluntary and community groups who were interested in applying. The event took place on June 28. LSC Lancashire is currently on the appraisal and review process which is to be completed by 8 October 2004. According to Lancashire LSC's timetable, applicants will be notified of the outcome on the 22 October 2004. The contracting discussions should commence on the 25 October 2004. LSC's project deliverers briefing sessions will be held on the 16 and 18 of November 2004, and the deadline for the return of approved supplier documentation is the 26 November 2004. The earliest possible start date for projects funded under this round is the 1 January 2005.

Greater Manchester LSC

The results for the Greater Manchester LSC second co-financing prospectus have now been announced. To summarise the results, a total of 217 stage one tenders were received across all sectors in response to the prospectus, requesting a total of £38m, against available funds of nearly £8m. The value of tenders received by the voluntary sector at that stage was £7,955,469 and the value of voluntary sector tenders which proceeded to stage two was £3,276,563. The results of the second stage application form can be found at the LSC's website at www.lsc.gov.uk/grmanchester/Documents/SubjectListing/FundingLearning/ESF_Co_financing_2004_06_Second_Prospectus.htm

Greater Merseyside LSC

There are currently no Objective 3 invitations to tender open at Greater Merseyside LSC. General information on Greater Merseyside LSC is available on their website; www.lsc.gov.uk/merseyside/Documents/default.htm

Job Centre Plus (JC+)

No invitations to tender are currently open at Job Centre Plus. However, it is expected that there will be a call in the autumn.

Greater Manchester LSC

Greater Manchester LSC has published the draft of their European Social Fund Co-Financing Plan for 2004-2006. This document is open for consultation. The document is available on the LSC's website

www.lsc.gov.uk/grmanchester/Corporate/default.htm

This Third Prospectus has been launched earlier than anticipated in order that the LSC can respond to recently identified needs for funding to deliver certain key activities in the sub-region. This Prospectus is limited to three specific Programmes that have been designed to meet these needs. A more comprehensive Fourth Prospectus will be launched in 2005 to allocate the remaining LSC's ESF funding.

The format of the Prospectus has changed very little from that of the Second which was launched in March this year and for which the appraisal and approval process has only recently concluded. The appraisal and approval processes have been amended to include some new criteria for Equal Opportunities as required by new ESF appraisal guidance.

If you have any comments on the draft, then please address them by September 10th 2004 to Rosie Gregson at:

Learning and Skills Council Greater Manchester
Floor 9
Arndale House
Arndale Centre
Manchester
M4 3AQ

The final Prospectus will be placed on the LSC's website and formally launched on 20 September 2004. Applicants are invited to submit Stage One Tenders by the deadline of 18 October 2004. The LSC is holding a Briefing Event on Wednesday 22 September 2004 for those who wish to submit Tenders in response to the Third Prospectus. This event will provide potential applicants with information regarding the application process and how appraisals will be conducted, together with further guidance on the individual Programmes contained within the prospectus.

North West Network in conjunction with Greater Manchester Learning and Skills Council will be running a seminar on the tendering process for ESF Co-financed funds from Greater Manchester Learning and Skills Council. This seminar is aimed exclusively at voluntary and community organisations with a fair understanding of European Social Fund rules and regulations and have a project idea they would like

to submit for tender under co-financing. The seminar will look at what is required in the application form, how the applications are assessed and what constitutes a good application. This seminar will take place in Manchester on the afternoon of Thursday 23 September 2004 at 1.30pm. A booking form is enclosed with this Newsletter, interested organisations should fill in the form and send it back to North West Network by Friday 17 September.



Greater Manchester Global Grants

The Greater Manchester Global Grants scheme has been in operation since July 1st 2001, with the first phase of the programme finishing on July 31st 2002. The second phase ran from August 1st 2002 to December 31st 2003 with the current third phase running from January 1st to December 31st 2004. Future phases will cover the calendar years of 2005 and 2006.

Management

The Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) Policy Unit has agreed to act as co-ordinator of the Greater Manchester Global Grants (GMGG) programme.

In this capacity the AGMA Policy Unit submits a GM county-wide application to Government Office for the North West with each of the 10 member districts supplying matching funding for their allocation of Global Grants funding. This allocation has been calculated against a formula of 50% population size and 50% levels of deprivation. This is to ensure that the allocation reflects the size of population and is also targeted at areas of need as identified for the Global Grants programme.

Delivery

Each AGMA district has adopted different approaches to the administration of Global Grants, some have given the task of delivery over to a community or voluntary organisation felt to be better placed to reach the target groups for Global Grants, others to Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships which have the appropriate matching funding readily available, and some have retained the function "in house". In each instance the contract for delivery remains with the Local Authority and they retain financial accountability for the project.

Activity

Information from the districts suggests that activity under the scheme has been relatively consistent across the Greater Manchester area, although the size of grants allocated within each district varies considerably. For instance in Stockport the smallest grant awarded was £215 for a scheme which benefited over 40 people,

up to the largest available grant of £6,000 to provide childcare facilities in one of the most deprived areas of the district.

In Tameside grants awarded have ranged from £250 for a scheme which has assisted a community group in improving capacity to apply for funding to £5,564 to support 20 beneficiaries of a peer support advice and training project.

In Manchester City, which receives the greatest level of funding a wide variety of projects have been funded by Voluntary Action Manchester which operates the project on behalf of the Council.

In Bury the *GMGG* project has contributed to five business start-ups for disadvantaged people with grants averaging £2,500.

In Salford during the 2002-2003 phase of the project over 3,000 people benefited from grants ranging from £2,000 to the maximum of £6,000 including the Lower Kersal Community and Activities Centre and the Broughton Men's Health Club.

In general terms it appears that the size of the grant has little impact on the number of beneficiaries, that is that a small grant (of below £1,000) can benefit as many people as the full grant of £6,000. This is not to suggest that the larger grants have less of an impact, as each scheme will obviously have different aims and will benefit people in different ways.

If you are a small community or voluntary group based in Greater Manchester and are interested in applying for a *Global Grant*, please contact Paul Evans for general information or the contact listed below for you area.

Greater Manchester Global Grants Contacts

General Enquiries - Paul Evans, AGMA Policy Unit, 01942 705 723

Bolton - Sean McGrath 01204 331 339

Bury - Finton Jennings 0161 253 5588

Manchester - Sue Hennessey, VAM 0161 236 5225

Oldham - Karen Cooney 0161 911 5166

Rochdale - Kath Jackson 01706 864 886

Salford - TBC / Paul Evans AGMA, 01942 705 723

Stockport - Julie Allcock 0161 474 3752

Tameside - Derek Francis 0161 342 2788

Trafford - Paul Callaghan 0161 912 4582

Wigan - Roger March, Douglas Valley Community 01942 517803

This article was produced by Paul Evans, AGMA.

Organisational Outcomes - Is your organisation interested in free training on understanding and using an outcomes focus?

A sense of purpose is fundamental to voluntary and community organisations so it is vital to be clear about what difference your organisation aims to make and to know whether those aims are actually being achieved. Such information is vital for:

- Managers who are making decisions
- Trustees who are guiding your organisation
- Your staff and volunteers who need the motivation of knowing that their efforts actually make a difference
- Funders and grant donors who want to know that their grants and funds are having a positive effect
- Service users who may have a choice of providers of a particular service

An organisation's outcomes are the effects it has, or the change that it brings about. Learning about your outcomes allows your organisation to assess these effects, and to compare them with your aims and purposes. Measures of outcomes are measures of effectiveness rather than measures of size, efficiency or productivity.

Focusing on outcomes will allow your organisation to concentrate on its aims and to make changes that will help you to better achieve those aims. It is all too easy to lose sight of the purpose of the work that we do amid the demands of our everyday work. An outcomes focus helps us to place our vision and purposes at the very heart of our every day work.

The National Outcomes Dissemination Programme (NODP) launched by the Charities Evaluation Services (CES) and funded by the Community Fund aims to enable the voluntary and community sectors to develop their understanding of the concept of outcomes and to increase skills and confidence in applying an outcomes focus in practice.

James Hadleigh, here at North West Network has been chosen to become an Outcomes Champion and is half way through an intensive training course being run by CES. Upon completion of the training, NWN will be required to provide FREE OF CHARGE a number of two-day Outcomes Training courses to representatives of 10 voluntary and community organisations, plus follow-up support to participating organisations. Each organisation that receives this Outcomes Training will be encouraged to send 2 or 3 staff representatives on two one-day courses (about 3-4 weeks apart).

Briefly the training will cover the following:

- Outcomes: what they are and what they are not
- How to identify relevant outcomes for your work
- The benefits of having an outcomes focus
- Simple ways to monitor outcomes
- How to use outcomes information in decision making and planning
- Methods for gathering outcomes information
- Reporting outcomes
- Using outcomes information well
- Next steps in implementing an outcomes approach

In addition, participants will be given a take away task (after the first day's training) about implementing an outcomes focus within their own organisation. Participants will receive materials and support to help them with their task.

This exciting initiative should prove to be very valuable to voluntary and community organisations, especially in relation to understanding the value of the work/services that you deliver as well as to potential funders who, more and more, require an outcomes focus approach to project delivery.

North West Network anticipate running training courses between October 2004 and February 2005. If you are interested in receiving this free training then please contact Jane Stanistreet at North West Network on 0161 236 6493.

We look forward to hearing from you.

New Framework for the European Cohesion Policy The Future of Structural Funds

Background

The European Cohesion Policy's aim is to minimize the economic and social disparities between the EU member states and their regions. Cohesion Policy is currently an important topic because of the need to adapt to an enlarged European Union of 25 members. The European Structural Funds (including ESF and ERDF) are a key element of the Cohesion Policy and they are designed to stabilize the economic and social disparities between the different areas of the EU. The discussion of the Structural Funds after 2006 is therefore central to the Cohesion Policy debate.

On the 14th of July the European Commission adopted the legislative framework for the reform of Cohesion Policy for the period 2007-2013. The new framework proposes a more targeted and simplified approach for the implementation of the next period of European, national and regional programmes. The package of regulations includes a general regulation which stipulates a common set of rules for all the programmes, together with specific regulations for ERDF, ESF and the Cohesion Fund. The new framework, presented on July 15th of this year aims at a more strategic, less bureaucratic, and better focused approach in view of the Union's economic and social challenges following enlargement. This legislative framework package consists of the following:

General regulation - The new general regulation defines common principles, rules and standards for the implementation of ERDF, ESF and the Cohesion Fund. Based on the principle of shared management between the Commission and its member states and their regions, this regulation calls for common standards for financial management, control and evaluation. The reformed delivery system will provide for a simpler, proportional and more decentralised management of Structural Funds and instruments.

ERDF - Funding priorities under ERDF would include research, innovation, environmental issues and risk prevention, while infrastructure retains an important role, especially in the least developed regions.

ESF - ESF's actions are in line with the guidelines and recommendations under the European Employment Strategy (EES).

Cohesion Fund - The 10 new member states as well as Greece and Portugal will benefit from the Cohesion Fund. In the future, the Cohesion Fund will no longer be

based on a project approach, but instead form part of multi-annual programmes in the fields of transport and the environment.

As already set out in the Third Cohesion Report, strategy and resources will be organised around **three new priorities** for the next generation of cohesion programmes. These will include:

Convergence - This priority concerns member states and regions whose per capita GDP is less than 75% of the Community average. The key objective is to promote growth-enhancing conditions and factors leading to real convergence. Strategies will plan for the development of long-term competitiveness and employment. Today's data suggests that around 78% or EUR 264 billion will be concentrated on this objective.

Regional competitiveness and employment - Outside the least developed member states and regions, the Commission proposes a two-fold approach: Firstly, regional development programmes will be developed which will help regions to anticipate and promote economic change by strengthening their competitiveness and attractiveness. Secondly, interventions will aim to create more and better jobs by adapting the workforce to economic change. Around 17% or EUR 57.9 billion are suggested for this objective.

European territorial co-operation - Supporting the co-operation of regions at cross-border, transnational and interregional level to further develop the harmonious and balanced integration of the Union's territory is at the core of the third objective. Around 4% or EUR 13.2 billion will be made available for this priority.

Delivery of the programmes

Much effort in the new proposals has gone into redesigning the delivery system of the new programmes. Innovative elements include:

- The opening up for the first time of an annual dialogue with the member states meeting in the Council and with the Parliament. This hopefully will ensure that over the programme period, the interventions supported by Cohesion Policy actually respond to European priorities.
- Recognition of the problems of those areas with natural handicaps (geographical etc.), which will benefit from higher financial rates from the Community funds.
- Greater decentralization and delegating more responsibility to the member states and their regions, while still maintaining financial rigour. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, more reliance will be placed

on the financial control systems of the member states where they are the major financial contributor to development programmes.

- Interventions under the Cohesion Fund in the member states concerned will be run alongside those of ERDF. The Cohesion Fund will be subject to the same disciplines, including the decommitment "N+2" rule.
- As far as possible, the cohesion programmes will be financed from a single fund. Meanwhile, rural development and fisheries restructuring will be re-organised and simplified with support coming again from a single fund.

The European Commission has put the proposals on the table at this time in order to create the conditions for final decisions by the Council and the European Parliament in 2005. In this way, the member states and regions will have adequate time for the preparation of new programmes for implementation from the beginning of 2007.

Whilst final decisions have not yet been made on the restructuring of the new Cohesion Policy and the Structural Funds, it would seem that the restrictions of previous programmes have, to some extent been acknowledged. If, as intimated, the new structures lead to a more strategic, less bureaucratic and better focused approach, then we can only hope that this will be the case. It's now a case of wait and see!

For more information please refer to the following web address:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/debate/forum_en.htm

Equal Opportunities Mainstreaming

Objective 3 provides financial support for training, workforce development and vocational training for unemployed and employed people and seeks to promote lifelong learning, equal opportunities and social inclusion. In line with all Structural Funds interventions, the Objective 3 Programme contains a number of Horizontal or Cross-Cutting Themes and one of them is equal opportunities. The initial introduction of Horizontal Themes by the Commission has meant an inevitable weighting towards gender issues. Equal opportunities mainstreaming now involves promoting equal opportunities for all excluded groups. These could include minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, lone parents, older and younger people. The rationale for mainstreaming equal opportunities is simple: policies, programmes and services should respond and aim to meet the needs of all groups in society.

Since action needs to be taken to identify and address any barriers that prevent people who face disadvantage from benefiting from ESF, mainstreaming also involves the identification and integration of equal opportunities into all aspects of the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of ESF programmes and projects. It involves identifying lessons learned and promoting good practice in equal opportunities through appropriate dissemination strategies. It also requires that those involved in the process of managing and implementing the programme or those directly engaged in delivery activity (i.e. Co-Financing Organisations, their providers and all organisations bidding directly to Government Office) know how to apply equality considerations and frameworks to their projects, organisations and the process itself. The full mainstreaming Plan for the North West which describes in detail the actions by which its objectives will be achieved is available on the Government Office website, www.eurofundingnw.org.uk

As an effort to ensure that the Objective 3 Programme incorporates equal opportunity issues into all aspects of programme management and project delivery, the equal opportunities Gateway Questionnaire has now been incorporated into the latest version of the ESF Interactive Application Form - Section 2, Question 2.2. The form can be downloaded from www.esf.gov.uk

These gateway questions are now core criteria of the application process which means compliance with Equal Opportunities matters in **all** stages of the selection process. On completing the Equal Opportunities Gateway Questionnaire, you need to be aware that there are three separate questionnaires depending on the project activity i.e. targeting individuals, businesses, research, unemployed people, etc. **For a project application to reach the appraisal stage, positive responses to all questions are required and the core criteria, which represent the minimum expected standard, need to be covered in all responses. In order to pass the**

Equal Opportunities Gateway, a project must be awarded full scoring points for the section.

Equal opportunities need to underpin every activity of the ESF programme, including your own project, your organisation and indeed any partner organisations involved in project delivery. When submitting the new ESF application form you will now need to include information about:

- How equal opportunities issues have been taken into account in the design and preparation of the project - including inclusion and participation of beneficiary groups in these activities
- How equal opportunities issues will inform implementation and monitoring of the project
- Your own equal opportunities awareness statement, policy, implementation plan and monitoring procedures
- Your partner organisation's equal opportunities awareness statement, policy and procedures
- Overall compliance with equal opportunities legislation acts

Guidance on the Gateway Criteria is to be made available at both national and regional levels and GONW will provide further information and updates as details become available on their website at www.eurofundingnw.org.uk Alternatively, call us at North West Network for more information.

The European Parliamentary Elections

This June, the European Parliament (EP) held its sixth direct elections. The European Parliament represents the peoples and the States brought together in the European Community and is an important part of the EU decision-making process. Its origins go back to the 1950's, but it is only since 1979 that MEPs have been directly elected by the citizens of the EU. The June 2004 elections were very important as those elected representatives now have a say over the contemporary issues of European integration, (especially pertinent now since enlargement took place earlier this year). Moreover, the increasing influence of the EP to the EU's decision making process and the role the EP plays in the constitutional debate in Europe is as important as ever as it is the only democratically elected institution across the EU. Consequently, this made the June 2004 elections the most important European Parliament elections ever.

About 450 million European citizens across 25 countries are now involved in the process of European integration through their 732 representatives in the European Parliament. The Parliament's members come from the main political parties that operate in the EU member states to form Europe-wide political groups. Naturally, voting for the European elections determines the political bias of the Parliament. Here in the UK we use the list system of proportional representation (except for Northern Ireland which uses the single transferable vote system). In accordance with the principles of proportional representation, the distribution of seats is based on the proportion of the total votes cast for the individual lists. Distribution of seats only considers lists which have received at least five percent of the valid votes cast (this is called the five percent restrictive clause). By voting, the citizens of the European Union through their chosen representatives can influence the decision on legislation made at the European level through the European Parliament.

What are the powers of the European Parliament?

The European Parliament has three main roles:

1. It shares with the Council the power to legislate. The Parliament decides, along with ministers from the member states, on the majority of the EU's legislation. The most common procedure for adopting EU legislation is the 'co-decision' procedure which places the European Parliament and Council on an equal footing and the laws passed are joint acts of the Council and Parliament. On a range of other proposals the Parliament must be consulted, and its approval is required for certain important political or institutional decisions. The European Parliament's areas of competence include for

example the environment, consumer safety, the internal market and agreements with other countries. The Parliament also provides the impetus for new legislation by examining the Commission's annual work programme, considering what new laws would be appropriate and asking the Commission to put forward proposals.

2. It exercises democratic supervision over all EU institutions, and in particular the Commission. It does this in several ways. For example, the Parliament interviews all the prospective new members of the Commission and the President of the Commission. It has the power to approve or reject the nomination for Commissioners, and it has the right to censure the Commission as a whole. More generally, the Parliament supervises and controls the Commission by examining reports sent to it and asking written and oral questions. The Parliament also exercises democratic supervision by examining petitions from citizens and setting up temporary committees of enquiry.

3. It shares with the Council authority over the EU budget. The European Union's budget is decided jointly by the Parliament and the Council. The Parliament debates it in two successive readings, and at the end of the budgetary procedure, it adopts or rejects the budget in its entirety.

European Elections 2004: what was the turnout?

The elections saw a low turnout across Europe with the average falling to 45.5% compared to 49.8% in 1999 and 56.8% in 1994. In the UK, European elections typically have a low turnout. In 1999, turnout was the lowest in Europe at 24.02%. In an attempt to combat this, the government held experiments in postal ballots in four of Britain's 12 constituencies. The North West was one of these areas. Promisingly, the turnout in the region this year increased to 41.46%.

| UK Elections 2004 | | UK Elections 1999 | |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Parties | Votes | Parties | Votes |
| Total Votes | 2,135,620 | Total Votes | 1,017,194 |
| Electorate | 5,151,488 | Electorate | 5,420,321 |
| Regional Turnout | 41.46% | Regional Turnout | 19.4% |
| UK Turnout | 37.6% | UK Turnout | 24.02% |

Among the countries with the highest turnout for the 2004 elections were Belgium (92%), closely followed by Luxembourg (90%), Malta (82.4%), Italy (73.5%) and

Cyprus (71.2%). In the new member states, on aggregate, only slightly over a quarter of the electorate took part. Among the new member state countries with the lowest turnouts were Slovakia (20%), Poland (21.2%), Estonia (26.9%), the Czech Republic (27.9%) and Slovenia (28.2%).

What are the Results?

Overall, the June 2004 elections have not brought much change to the balance of power between the major parties in the European Parliament. The European People's Party (EPP) Europe's Conservative group remains the largest political group in the Parliament, followed by the Party of European Socialists (PES). A new party was formed at the European Parliament, the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, in other words the Liberal Democrats remain the third power, well in front of the Greens, the Eurosceptics and other minority groups.

Like many other established European states, the UK is losing seats in the European Parliament to provide space for the new accession country's representatives after May's European Enlargement. The total UK MEPs number has been decreased to 78 instead of 87, and the region is now represented by nine MEPs instead of ten. The North West constituency has just over five million voters, stretches from Crewe to Carlisle, and is represented by the following nine MEPs.

| Position | Name | Party |
|----------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Gary TITLEY | Labour |
| 2. | Den DOVER | Conservative |
| 3. | Chris DAVIES | Liberal Democrat |
| 4. | Arlene McCARTHY | Labour |
| 5. | John WHITTAKER | UKIP |
| 6. | David SUMBERG | Conservative |
| 7. | Terry WYNN | Labour |
| 8. | Sir Robert ATKINS | Conservative |
| 9. | Sajjad Haider KARIM | Liberal Democrat |

For more information visit:

www.elections2004.eu.int

www.europarl.org.uk/guide/results2004/northwest.html

http://europa.eu.int/institutions/parliament/index_en.htm

North West Network SAM Volunteer Management

North West Network secured funding from Government Office North West (GONW) Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Early Spend Fund to develop a self assessment manual (SAM) to aid its capacity building programme for volunteer involving organisations. The project is reaching the final stages with the first copy of SAM Volunteer Management set to roll off the press at the end of September.

North West Network Volunteer Management would like to give a big thank you to the following members of the Consultation Group: Siddika Ahmed: 1North West, Karen Ashley: Routes to Employment, Barbara Bleeker: Trafford Council for Voluntary Service, Cathy Jackson: North West Volunteering Forum, Shona Murphy: Chorlton Workshop, Dorothy Shears: Hyndburn & Ribble Valley CVS and Volunteer Bureaux, Sue Vickers: Volunteer Centre Tameside and Elaine Wood: Calico Housing Ltd. The Groups' guidance and contribution to the development of SAM Volunteer Management has been outstanding.

Here is one Consultation Group member's experience of SAM:

It was a damp, dismal day earlier this year when I received an interesting e-mail from North West Network. The e-mail - inviting organisations to become involved in a self assessment manual (SAM) consultation group had been circulated to organisations around the North West. I represent an organisation called Calico Housing. We are a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) managing approximately 5000 properties in Burnley. Being an RSL means that as well as the more obvious estate management, we also work in partnership with other agencies to investigate future housing needs, develop housing investment, support neighbourhood management (and the community involvement/development issues therein) and be involved in and inform strategic developments locally and at regional level. Calico works with many local residents, community groups and voluntary organisations through our more formal Tenants and Residents Associations, the Local Strategic Partnership and other local community networks.

To further develop and enhance our work within the community I felt that involvement with the SAM group offered a valuable opportunity to learn from (and share with) other organisations involved in the recruitment and support of volunteers within their organisations.

In the pioneering spirit of partnership working, and to meet and work with organisations from across the North West, I volunteered my help to the group. Fortunately my help was readily accepted, and the first of the monthly meetings commenced. Unfortunately I had to miss the first meeting (it was a close run thing

but my trip to the Canaries took precedence) but I understand there was much lively discussion and debate from my SAM group colleagues - who between them managed to set some initial standards for the SAM. These draft ideas formed the basis of the SAM document and the way it would work. It was decided - quite early in the proceedings that SAM would take the form of four separate questionnaire based booklets, each one providing assessment on different aspects of volunteers' support and development (recruitment, support, planning and monitoring and evaluation). Dan and Carol presented and discussed each section with the group following which we were all invited to test run the section on either ourselves or A.N Other willing volunteer. Each of us completed an assessment questionnaire on each section.

I have really enjoyed working through the SAM - it has helped me to think about how we support volunteers within my organisation, and has indicated some areas that could be improved for future volunteer projects. The sections have been designed in such a way that they could be used for wider purposes such as employee appraisals, staff development, and staff induction. SAM could also be used as a precursor to a volunteer project to ensure that organisations are ready to appropriately support volunteers. My SAM group colleagues have come from mainly voluntary sector organisations - and it has been interesting listening to some of their different perspectives on similar issues.

If you would like further information about Calico and/or the regeneration activities that we are involved in please feel free to contact me on 01282 686496.

Elaine Wood
Regeneration Worker



Subject to future funding, NWN will be delivering a capacity building service to volunteer involving organisations within the North West during 2005. If you would like more information on how your organisation can benefit from North West Network's capacity building support in the future, please contact:

Carol Savage or Dan Farley
E-mail: carol@nwnetwork.org.uk
Or dan@nwnetwork.org.uk
Tel: 0161 236 6493

1 North West

Written by Maneer Afsar.

The holidays are over and so is summer it seems- don't know about you but I am not sure where it went. One minute I am celebrating the extended daylight and the next contemplating October, followed shortly by Christmas- scary doesn't begin to explain it. I suppose what does explain it is the buzz of activity around the office. We have been subsumed in organising regional and local events.

One of the themes we are currently involved in is the Home Office consultation Strength in Diversity- Towards a Community Cohesion and Race Equality Strategy. The closing date for this consultation is 17th September and we are currently working in partnership with local voluntary organisations to deliver community focus groups. This consultation event is to try and engage with as many people as possible and at 1 North West we wanted to ensure there is wider consultation than the 'usual suspects'. This is the reason we have submitted a bid to the Home Office to hold focus groups through local community organisations inviting the views of young people, women and rural communities' perspective on race equality and community cohesion who have been working in communities. Local community organisations are often key to the implementation of these policies as it is they who work at the heart of communities for whom these policies are written. It therefore makes sense that local community organisations ought to be involved in the formation as well as the delivery of policies. These events are designed to place community organisations and communities at the centre of this consultation process. We have enlisted the help of Peacemaker in Oldham to consider young people's views on community cohesion and race equality and Preston Muslim Forum to do the same for a women only focus group. I have to admit though we are struggling with the rural communities dimension so if you are a rural community organisation with an interest in black and minority communities please get in touch!! Though by the time you get this it might be a little late for this particular deadline but its always good to have contacts.

The other major event is the conference Building New Lives in the North West, a refugee community development conference organised in partnership with Refugee Action North West. Since 2000 the dispersal of asylum seekers has brought unprecedented new challenges for public and voluntary sector providers. This conference is to explore how people have developed into self sufficient communities and how organisations on the first rung of this development can hope to learn the lessons from people who have been successful. We have been very lucky to get some distinguished speakers, not least of all Sylvia Sham, Director of Wai Yin

profiled in *The Guardian* 25th August 2004 as one of the organisations shortlisted for the prestigious Pearl Award. We have also been successful in getting Des Browne MP Minister of State for Immigration to present the closing remarks.

If you are interested in any of the events or 1 North West we have enclosed leaflets for you to read and feel free to contact us.. The contact details are,

Maneer Afsar- Project Director
Siddika Ahmed- Network Development Manager

Room 2715, City Tower
Piccadilly Plaza
Manchester
M1 4BD

0161 236 6493

Other European Funding

Please Note: Financial allocations for the following funding programmes are displayed in Euro. For information, at the time of publication the exchange rate was as follows: £1: 1.43 Euro (Travelex September 2004).

Culture

Call for Culture 2000: Deadlines 15 & 29 October 2004

The 2005 call for Culture 2000 is out - at last! Culture 2000 is the European Union's funding programme aimed specifically at arts and culture. Originally adopted in February 2000 and established for a period of five years, it has now been announced that the programme will be extended for another two years and run until 2006. You can access the official criteria and the application form from the EC's official website below. Workshops and surgeries for Culture 2000 applicants are currently being planned for September. Further information on these events will be available soon.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/index_en.html

New Culture 2007 Programme Published

The European Commission has published proposals for the transnational cultural co-operation programme, which will replace Culture 2000 from 2007. Culture 2007 will support European organisations and activities aimed at developing cultural co-operation between Member States. Find out more at,

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2004/com2004_0469en01.pdf

Enlargement

Grants for Awareness Raising: Deadline 30 September 2004

The European Commission is providing grants to local and regional authorities, public sector bodies and civil society organisations for national and transnational projects aimed at raising the public's awareness and understanding of EU enlargement. Grants of up to Euro 50,000 are available for information and awareness raising initiatives addressing one or more of the following themes,

- Explaining the enlargement process
- Addressing public doubts or fears concerning EU enlargement (such as its effect on jobs, crime, illegal immigration, national identity, etc)
- Human rights, especially children's, and the protection of minority groups such as the Roma
- Economic and financial implications
- Implications of enlargement for the European social model, transport and energy sectors, research, consumer protection, or competition and public services
- Implications of enlargement on public safety and security
- Implications for environmental protection
- Cultural identity and sport, including European, national, regional and local identity
- The role of the enlarged EU in the international arena

Projects should try to familiarise the public with the Member States that joined the EU on 1 May, with the candidate countries and with the EU's relationship with its new neighbours. Projects should last no more than twelve months and finish by 31 May 2006. They should encourage tolerance and understanding, explain citizens' rights and help the public understand how enlargement affects them. Activities can take place in one Member State, if proposed by civil society organisations (eg. local government associations, non-governmental organisations, think tanks, women's organisations), public bodies, or by regional or local authorities. Projects can also be transnational or transregional, covering at least two Member States, again provided they are proposed by civil society organisations, public sector bodies or local and regional authorities. In order to maximise a project's impact, the European Commission is keen for projects to comprise a number of partner organisations. Organisations applying for grants should be non-profit making and be based in an EU country. Although the funding is aimed at the public in general, schemes should target one or more of the following groups,

- Women
- Regions, towns and local authorities in the EU
- Sportsmen and women
- Consumers
- Retired and elderly people
- Minorities, including the Roma
- Trade unions
- Employers' organisations
- Young people
- Disadvantaged people
- People in rural areas

- Businesses, particularly small and medium sized enterprises

Funding will cover up to 50% of costs for projects submitted by public sector organisations, including local and regional authorities, and up to 80% for those submitted by civil society organisations. Grants will range from Euro 100,000 to Euro 500,000, from a total budget of Euro 14 million. The closing date for applications is 30 September. Further information is available from,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/communication/index.htm#call_civil_society_eu25_2004

E-mail: ELARG-CPEU25@cec.eu.int

Environment

LIFE Call: Deadline 1 October 2004

The European Commission has issued guidelines for organisations looking to apply for funding under the LIFE Environment Programme. Application forms and guidance notes are available online at the website provided. Applications should be submitted to DEFRA at the following address by 1 October 2004 .

Robbie Craig
DEFRA
European Environment Department
Zone 5/H15
Ashdown House
123 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6DE
E-mail: life.env@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Tel: 020 7082 8562
Fax: 020 7082 8559
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/funding/index.htm>

Next LIFE Guidance Published

The European Commission has published guidance for the next series of LIFE-Environment demonstration projects. LIFE funds schemes aimed at conserving natural habitats of European interest, implementing EU environmental policy and/or promoting sustainable development in countries outside the EU. Find out more at,

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/home.htm>

Sustainable Practice

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has created a website aimed at helping those involved in Structural Fund projects to share best practice on complying with sustainable development considerations. Under the 1999 Regulations, projects funded by EU Structural Funds must take into consideration environmental and sustainable development factors. Applications for funding are judged against specific environmental sustainable development criteria and environmental integration is further supported by sustainable development managers who provide practical help to applicants. The website can be accessed at, www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_urbanpolicy/documents/sectionhomepage/odpm_urbanpolicy_page.hcsp

Promoting Non-Governmental Organisations Primarily Active in the Field of Environmental Protection: Deadline 1 October 2004

Financial assistance under this call for proposals may be provided for NGOs, which are involved in contributing to the development and implementation of Community environmental policy and legislation in different regions of Europe. The Programme will also contribute to the strengthening of small regional or local associations working to apply the 'acquis communautaire' in relation to the environment and sustainable development in their local area. Support from this Programme will target the priority areas from the Sixth Environment Action Programme,

- Limiting climate change
- Nature and bio-diversity - protecting a unique resource
- Health and environment
- Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and waste

Proposals must be submitted (postmarked) by 1 October 2004 at the latest to the following address,

Secretariat / ENV.A.3
European Commission
Office: BU-5 6/140
B-1049 Brussels

For further information, please visit the following website,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/funding/ngo/call_en.htm

Media

Next Generation of EU Programmes for the Audiovisual Sector

The European Commission adopted ambitious proposals on 14 July for the next generation of EU Programmes for the audiovisual sector. The aim is to have the new Programme approved by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament before the end of 2005. The Programme will run from 2007 to 2013. Media 2007 will follow on from the current Media Plus and Media Training Programmes with a proposed budget of Euro 1.055 billion. The principal aims will be,

- Preserving and promoting Europe's cultural diversity and cinematic/audiovisual heritage, ensuring public access to this heritage and encouraging dialogue between cultures
- Increasing the circulation of European films and other audiovisual productions, both inside and outside the EU
- Strengthening the commercial performance of the European audiovisual sector in an open and competitive market context

Find out more at the following website,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education_culture/newprog/com2_en.pdf

Research & Development

Women into Science: Deadline 15 October 2004

Applications are now invited for research projects designed to improve the participation of women in science, this call is funded by the 'Science and Society' sub-programme of the EU Framework Programme for Research and Development. Find out more at,

www.cordis.lu/science-society/programme.htm

Research Funding: Deadlines 7 October 2004, 8 February & 7 September 2005

New funding is available for research projects under the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Development. The European Commission is calling for proposals for projects that fall under the 'Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area' Programme. A total of Euro 152 million is available for integrated projects and networks of excellence, with a deadline of 7 October; Euro

59 million is available for targeted projects, co-ordination activities and specific support actions, with a deadline of 8 February 2005; and a further Euro 5 million is available for specific support actions, with a deadline of 7 September 2005. Applications can be made online at the following website.

<http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/subprop.cfm>

Research Calls - Transport, Energy and Aeronautics: Deadline 8 December 2004

Funding is available for research into public transport, road safety and renewable energy under the latest call for proposals from the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP6). The European Commission has issued two calls in the areas of sustainable energy systems, sustainable transport and aeronautics and space. The first call includes projects in the following areas,

Sustainable Surface Transport

- High quality public transport - the CIVITAS II Programme
- Innovative measures in urban transport CIVITAS II
- Intermodal freight transport technology, systems and strategies, and management
- Best practice in logistics
- The influence of alcohol, drugs and medicines on road safety
- Road safety enforcement
- Effectiveness of road safety campaigns
- Multimodal real time information for people on the move
- User reaction and efficient differentiations of charges and tolls
- Improving infrastructure and cost allocation methods
- The dissemination and promotion of transport research results

Sustainable Energy Systems

- Innovative combinations of biomass, waste and fossil fuel
- Innovative use of waste and biomass to improve energy recovery and renewable electricity production
- Innovative wind farms
- Innovative industrial scale photo-voltaic manufacturing
- Geothermal energy
- Ocean/marine energy technology
- Biofuel cities
- Hydrogen for transport

- Renewable heating and cooling technology
- The production and distribution of liquid and gaseous biofuels
- Eco-buildings
- Polygeneration
- Energy demand management and renewable energy supply in high performance communities
- Alternative motor fuels

Aeronautics and Space

- Air traffic management
- Support for the single European sky
- Airport efficiency

This call is expected to result in no more than 50 projects, funded from a total budget of Euro 252 million. Most require at least three partners from three different EU Member States or accession countries. Further information is available from the FP6 Information Desk at,

www.cordis.lu/fp6/aerospace.htm

www.cordis.lu/sustdev

E-mail: TREN-FP6@cec.eu.int

The second call covers the same three areas above but invites applications for projects involving the development and integration of hydrogen and fuel cells for transport, aeronautics and energy systems. Again, projects must comprise at least three different partners from three different countries. Further information is available from,

www.cordis.lu/fp6

Applications for both calls must be submitted to the Commission by 8 December 2004.

Social

Anti-Violence Funding: Deadline 28 February 2005

The European Commission is inviting applications from transnational projects aimed at stopping violence against women and children for funding from the new Daphne II Programme. Adopted in April, the second phase of the Daphne Anti-Violence

Programme funds the exchange of good practice, networks, training, victim support and treatment programmes involving two or more EU countries. A budget of Euro 50 million has been allocated for the five year Programme. Under the new Programme, there will be two different calls for proposals each year: one for specific projects, as in the previous Daphne Programme, and one for projects which disseminate and use existing results. Applications should come from public or non-profit private sector organisations or institutions, including local authorities, universities and research centres, working to prevent and stop violence against women, children and young people or to support victims and change behaviour. Organisations must be based in the EU, the European Free Trade Area or the three candidate countries. Projects must involve organisations from at least two countries and should last between twelve and twenty four months. Although the deadline for applications for 2004 specific projects and for dissemination projects closed in July, for every year between 2005 and 2008, the deadline for applications has been set at 28 February, for projects starting between July and September of the same year. Further information can be found on the Commission's Justice and Home Affairs website at,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/daphne/funding_daphne_en.htm

Sport

Funding for Sports Projects: Deadline 1 October 2004

The Youth Sport Trust (YST), in partnership with the Department for Education and Skills, is keen to encourage more small scale, school based projects under the remainder of the 2004 European Year of Education through Sport funding period. A small grants programme is now available for new projects of up to £1000, open to specialist sports colleges or for work in a school sport partnership. Find out more at,

www.eyes2004.org/splash.htm

Youth

New Youth Programme Published

The European Commission has published proposals for creating the Youth in Action Programme for the period 2007-13. Find out more at,

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2004/com2004_0471en01.pdf

Conslutations

IoF Consults on Volunteer Fundraising: Deadline 30 September 2004

The Institute of Fundraising (IoF) has launched a new Draft Code of Practice on Volunteer Fundraising. The Code, which has been put out for consultation until September, aims to set out best practice in managing volunteer activity and includes a section on the specific issues that arise when celebrities engage in volunteer fundraising activity. Find out more at,

www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk

Contributors Wanted for Major Donors Code: Deadline 30 September 2004

The Institute of Fundraising (IoF) is calling for individuals to join a working party that will develop the new Code of Fundraising Practice for high value donors. Best Practice for Major Donor Fundraising is to cover all aspects of fundraising including issues such as data protection, prospect research, law and diversity, as well as methods of engaging major donors. Further information on the Code and application forms are available via the IoF website.

www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk

Your Chance to Contribute to the ICT Strategy for the North West

The North West Development Agency (NWDA) has recently carried out a major survey of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) usage and access right across the region. This work has drawn out a number of key issues and potential actions. These now need to be refined into a final ICT strategy for the North West. They would very much welcome your input into this strategy development. The NWDA is hosting a number of events to present an overview of findings and proposals across the region and you are invited to attend. Places can be booked through the website below. Alternatively, complete the online consultation questionnaire.

www.enwc.org.uk

Lottery Consultation Launched: Deadline 30 September 2004

The Big Lottery Fund is now consulting extensively with the public on its future programmes through its website. Access the discussion board and share your thoughts with people across the UK. All comments will be taken on board and

regular replies will be issued by the Big Lottery Fund. The web consultation is part of a drive by the fund to fulfil Government pledges to give the public a say in where lottery money goes.

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/consultation/

Charity Commission Launch SORP Consultation: Deadline 1 October 2004

The Charity Commission has published its proposals for revising the SORP. The last revision took place in October 2000. Since then a number of recommendations have been made, both by the sector and by the Government in its report *Private Action, Public Benefit*. It is widely believed that charities need to be more consistent and provide more details in their reporting than at present. The proposals set out in the draft published for consultation, aim to reflect this. Find out more at,

www.charitycommission.gov.uk/enhancingcharities/consorp2005intro.asp

Research & Development: Deadline 15 October 2004

The European Commission is inviting comments on the future direction of European research policy. The consultation ends on 15 October and the results will be used when preparing the seventh framework programme. Find out more at,

<http://europa.eu.int/yourvoice/forms/dispatch.jsp?form=330&lang=EN>

European Sustainable Development Strategy: Deadline 31 October 2004

The European Commission has issued a consultation paper on its sustainable development strategy. The consultation, which closes on 31 October, urges respondents to consider the future for EU sustainable development policy in the context of the Lisbon Agenda, which aims to make the EU the world's most dynamic and competitive economy by 2010. The aim of this consultation is to gather your views on the European Union Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS), its past achievements, and where the EU should take it from here. The consultation describes the EU SDS as adopted in 2001 and asks a number of questions on its scope, content and achievements. Find out more at,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/sustainable/pages/consult_en.htm

Draft New EU Rural Development Regulation: Deadline 12 November 2004

This consultation seeks your views on the European Commission proposal for the new Rural Development Regulation from 2007 to 2013, which would succeed the current Rural Development Regulation, which covers 2000-2006. Find out more at,

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/eu-rdr/index.htm

GuideStar Calls for Views on its Website Search Facility

GuideStar UK has launched a public consultation into its search facility, calling for people to test and then comment on its performance. The GuideStar UK website aims to help promote and support the work of the voluntary and community sector by providing an extensive source of information about charitable organisation's activities and accounts, free of charge to the public. To ensure that its potential users can access the details they require, the charity has invited them to give their views on the search engine. Opinions can be given via an online questionnaire, which will be followed up with consultation meetings later in the year. The website will then be officially launched to the public in April 2005. The questionnaire can be found at,

www.guidestar.org.uk

Non European Funding

Special Grants Programme: Deadline 1 October 2004

The Special Grants Programme (SGP) supports innovative work by voluntary and community sector organisations in England by exploring diverse ways of involving people in improving the quality of life in towns and cities. The SGP provides support to carry out innovative work of national and/or regional application that is relevant to the Government's priorities around improving the quality of life in urban environments. Grant applications are now being sought for 2005/06. Applicants can apply for development or strategic funding,

- Development funding can be for up to three years to deliver a specific programme of work which will include support for the organisation itself. This should include an initial year of structured support as part of a longer work programme
- Strategic (or core) funding is for five years initially, renewable subject to a review after three years. It is aimed at fostering a long-term relationship with organisations whose core work can add value in the department's delivery of urban policy objectives

Applicants should bear in mind that in any one year a proportion of the budgeted £2.25m will be allocated to currently funded organisations. Therefore it is expected that around 20 new programmes of work will be funded in 2005/06. For organisations applying for their first year of funding in 2005/06, preference will be given to strategic applications meeting the eligibility criteria and it is expected that competition for development funding will be particularly intense.

Restrictions

Projects outside of England are not eligible. Projects that are eligible for funding from Neighbourhood Renewal Programmes are not eligible for SGP. Applicants may not apply for both development and strategic funding in any one year. Total public funding for development funding, including any SGP grant, must not exceed 50% of total work programme costs in any year. Other funding must come from the applicant organisation's own resources or from non-public resources, such as the private sector, the National Lottery, European funds, trusts, subscriptions, donations, fees, etc. Funding for strategic work programmes are not subject to these limits, but it is expected that the SGP grant element would represent only a small proportion of the applicant organisation's income. The cash value of contributions in kind should not exceed 50% of total work programme costs in any year (from either public or non public sources).

For all enquiries please contact,

Shireen Madon
Liveability and Sustainable Communities Division
Urban Communities
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Zone 4/G5 Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU
Tel: 020 7944 2666
E-mail: shireen.madon@odpm.gsi.gov.uk

www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=4746&l=4

The Beacon Prize 2004: Deadline 1 October 2004

The Beacon Fellowship has launched its search for this year's winner for the Beacon Prize. Beacon is inviting the general public to nominate a person they feel has made a significant contribution to charity. Their contribution could have been made through resources, time or specialist skills. The winner will receive £20,000 to donate to the charity of their choice. The Beacon Prize aims to celebrate and raise the profile of giving in the UK by giving recognition to those who make an outstanding contribution to charity. Launched in 2003, the Beacon Prize has helped to show that the UK is a nation of givers and philanthropists. Nomination forms need to be received by 1 October 2004 and can be obtained by visiting the following website,

www.beaconfellowship.org.uk/

Alternatively please contact,

E-mail: <mailto:enquiries@beaconfellowship.org.uk>
Telephone: 020 7849 6550

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service: Deadline 30 September 2004

This new Award, which is similar to The Queen's Awards for Enterprise, recognises the vital role played by the hundreds of thousands of voluntary groups in the

community. Its announcement in 2002 marked the occasion of The Queen's Golden Jubilee. The Award recognises the vital role played by the 'unsung heroes' of the voluntary and community world and emphasises the importance of continuing recognition of their work. The Award covers groups operating in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. The number of Awards made each year will be determined by the number and quality of nominations received. Awards are made to groups rather than to individuals. You can nominate a group (two or more persons) for the Award if,

- It is providing a high quality service to benefit individuals or groups in the community
- It is operating and providing a service in the United Kingdom
- It has been operating for a minimum of 3 years (exceptions may be made for short-term projects)
- It is made up entirely of volunteers (including trustees), or it includes some paid staff, but they must be in the minority of those involved

Find out how to nominate and get further information at,

www.goldenjubileeaward.gov.uk

CAF Grantmaking Programme

The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) Grant Programme reflects both the mission and activities of CAF with an objective to support the development of small to medium sized charitable organisations by improving finances, governance and management. £1.2 million is available from CAF Trustees and CAF donors for this year's grant programme. Applications will be considered from any UK organisation which is set up exclusively for charitable purposes and has an annual income not exceeding £1.5 million. You can only receive one grant from CAF during this period. Funding is not guaranteed. If you apply for funding and are unsuccessful, you can re-apply with an amended application or for another initiative. All applications must be submitted on an official application form. Find out more at,

www.cafonline.org/charity/default.cfm

Biffaward Small Grants Scheme: Open Deadline

The Biffaward Small Grants Scheme has been established to enable groups to quickly access lower levels of funding in order to improve the quality of life in their

community. The aim is to make it easier for small groups to access funding in their communities. Projects which have the primary aim of improving an amenity located within 10 miles of a Biffa operation and which will have the end benefit of fostering vibrant communities by improving the environmental, economic or social circumstances of a community will be considered. These may include,

- Wildlife and habitat conservation and creation (e.g. pond construction, wildflower planting or woodland management)
- Improving opportunities for informal education and lifelong learning (e.g. purchasing equipment for a community led internet cafe or a community facility)
- Access to sport, culture or recreation (e.g. purchase of play equipment or sport equipment, village green improvements, disabled access to a community facility)

The Small Grants Scheme is open to any not-for-profit community led organisation with its own bank account. Groups can apply for between £250-£5,000 although the total cost of your project must be no more than £10,000. Biffaward operates a rolling programme of grant giving. Therefore, applications can be submitted at any time and will be considered at the most appropriate six weekly panel meeting. Applicants are advised that there will usually be a minimum two to three month period before they are notified of the outcome of their application.

If you wish to discuss your project in detail please contact the Biffaward Grants Team on 0870 036 1000 or via e-mail on grant@rswt.org

For further information and to access an application form, please visit the following website,

www.biffaward.org/projects/smallgrants.php

Futurebuilders: Deadline 31 October 2004

Futurebuilders is a new £125 million government investment fund, backed by the Home Office, but being run by people from the voluntary sector, which aims to increase the role that the voluntary and community sector plays in the delivery of public services. Futurebuilders is now open for applications. The first funding application window will run until the 31 October 2004. Applicants must be constituted bodies which are either charities, voluntary organisations, social enterprises, industrial and provident societies or community interest companies (i.e. not individuals) and therefore must,

- Be clearly constituted for public community benefit (i.e. if they are self-help groups, co-operatives or mutuals there must be a wider public or community benefit beyond the immediate benefit to the members)
- Not be able to dispose of their assets for private gain
- Have some non-executive (unpaid) members on their board/ management committee (i.e. unpaid for their role on the committee but still could be employees)
- Be independent of government

For further information and to access an application form please go to,

www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk

National Grid Transco Funding

The National Grid Transco Foundation supports projects for community regeneration, improvement of local environments, education and employment on national or regional levels. Proposals must be innovative and target socially excluded groups and be able to show added value of business involvement. Projects will not be funded for more than three years. Applications should be made in writing to,

Dr Mary Harris
 Head of National Grid Transco Foundation
 130 Jermyn Street
 London
 SW1Y 4UR
www.ngtgroup.com/foundation/index.html

Tesco Charity Trust 2004

Tesco helps charities to provide practical support for children, older people and people with disabilities. The majority of local appeals are handled through the Tesco Charity Trust Community Award Scheme. This scheme distributes £400,000 each year to charities in communities where Tesco has stores. The Trust also adds to all approved fundraising carried out by Tesco staff for charities or the community. Log on to,

www.tesco.com/everyLittleHelps

The Balance Foundation

The Balance Foundation is a new charitable initiative aiming to release unclaimed assets from within the UK financial system and to make grants to the charitable sector. It will play two distinct roles within this initiative: work with current holders of unclaimed assets, advisors, authorities and industry bodies in order to secure the release of the unclaimed assets; and act as an independent charitable foundation through which the income from unclaimed assets will be paid to charities. The Balance Foundation is an independent private sector initiative. It will work with financial institutions to participate in this initiative. The application process has not yet been agreed, but details will be posted on their website as soon as they have been confirmed.

The Balance Charitable Foundation for Unclaimed Assets

5 Chancery Lane

Clifford's Inn

London

EC4A 1BU

Tel: 020 7 410 7039

Fax: 020 7410 0332

Email: info@balancefoundation.org.uk

www.balancefoundation.org.uk

Granada Action

Granada Action is part of Granada TV's social action programming which gives free airtime to up to 50 charitable and voluntary organisations in the North West each year. Every week one organisation will receive 5 broadcasts where they can advertise their services or ask for volunteers (but not ask for funds or fundraisers). If you think your organisation might qualify, please download the application pack from the website - www.itv.com

Neighbourhood Management Achievement Awards 2004: Deadline 21 September 2004

The Neighbourhood Management Achievement Awards 2004 recognise the achievement, dedication and hard work of individuals and groups in delivering the

benefits of Neighbourhood Management to communities across the country. All nominations should use evidence and examples to demonstrate how,

- A contribution has been made to the successful implementation of neighbourhood management
- Success has been achieved by building effective partnerships with agencies and the community
- The work impacts positively on the lives of residents in the neighbourhood

Find out more at,

www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/formatteddoc.asp?id=729

Training and Events

North West Regional Development Agency Annual Conference & AGM 24 September 2004, Location: MICC, Manchester

This conference will outline some key achievements that have been made by the Agency and partners and will highlight future priorities. It will provide an opportunity to hear Chief Executive Steven Broomhead and Chairman Bryan Gray spell out their future plans for the region, and for you to pose questions to members of the NWDA Board. Sporting legend Sir Bobby Charlton will also give a keynote speech on achieving peak performance based on his national and international playing experience, and his time as a director of Manchester United.

Methods of Registration:

By phone on 07980 816996

By fax on 0870 7523001

Online at www.nwda.co.uk/agm04

E-mail registrations@nwda-agm.co.uk

www.nwda-cms.et/DocumentsUploads/AGM2004.pdf

13th European Workshop on Voluntary Action / £200

Dubrovnik / Croatia

1-5 October 2004

This conference, organised by Volonteurope, a network of European voluntary agencies, will combine a series of seminars, key skills workshops, networking opportunities, visits to local projects and sightseeing. The event is aimed at volunteers, volunteer organisers and trainers, researchers, sponsors of volunteers, public officials responsible for volunteering and community development and policy makers interested in social inclusion. Seminar topics will include rebuilding communities, corporate social responsibility, volunteer management, innovation and the environment and culture. The Mayor of Dubrovnik will be hosting a guided tour of the city.

Please contact:

Sandra Turner

CSV European Office

237 Pentonville Road

London

N1 9NJ

Tel: 020 7643 1327

Fax: 020 7278 1020

E-mail: sturner@csv.org.uk
www.csv.org.uk/volonteurope

Free IT Training for VCOs

Toucan Europe are offering free Internet and E-mail training to employees of VCOs in the North West. The PET (Promoting Employment and Training) project already works with 8 organisations in the area, and now has the capacity to offer basic IT training to other organisations leading to NVQ accreditation. If you are interested in free IT training for your organisation, e-mail Steven Berlyne steven.berlyne@vsnw.org.uk or telephone him on 0161 273 5122.

Close to EU: Europe in the North West / Free 13 January 2005

Part of a series of Local Government International Bureau regional road shows. It aims to explain how the European Union works and what it means for the North West region and its local authorities. The event is being held by the LGIB in association with Cheshire County Council. Key figures from the region will discuss issues of relevance to the area, with case studies of schemes that have introduced a European dimension. The North West roadshow will take place at County Hall Chester, Cheshire on 13 January from 9.45am to 2pm. To request a booking form for this free event please contact Pat Speller at the LGIB.

E-mail: pat.speller@lgib.gov.uk
Tel: 020 7664 3120
Fax: 020 7664 3128

Media Trust Events

Book by calling 020 7874 7610, e-mail: info@mediatrust.org.uk www.mediatrust.org
Events are arranged in date order. There are two different prices for 2004 events. The lower price is for the voluntary sector, the higher price is for the public and private sector. All prices exclude VAT.

Networking - £75/£90

15 September / Manchester

An up-to-date network of contacts to call on can be invaluable for not only communications, fundraising or PR staff, but anyone working in a not-for-profit organisation. More than just 'working the room,' knowing how to network can bring long-term results for your organisation. This workshop will discuss the importance

of networking, how to manage and maintain a network, and how to make your network work for you.

Crisis Management PR - £75 / £90

13 October / Manchester

Not-for-profits are increasingly being singled out for criticism amid the growing focus on accountability and legitimacy and handling a crisis poorly can wreck your organisation's reputation and destroy your staff's morale. This seminar will focus on how to brief your organisation, reacting to negative coverage and evaluating the success of your response.

Attracting and Keeping Celebrity Support - £75 / £90

24 November / Manchester

Celebrities can open the door to huge publicity for your charity or not-for-profit organisation, but how do you get one of these glamorous and busy beings to endorse your charity? And once they have, how do you get the most out of them and ensure that their high profile raises yours?

Communications Strategy on a Low Budget

8 December / Manchester

£75 / £90

Everyone knows that a coherent communications strategy can contribute to the success of an organisation. But apart from the usual PR techniques, what low-budget alternatives exist for charities and not-for-profits? This seminar will outline the options available, and explain how you can make them work for your organisation.

NCVO

Approaching Quality: Making the Right Choice for Your Organisation

15 October 2004 / NCVO

If your organisation is thinking of using a quality system, you want to get your choice right. Investing in any system is a big decision. The world of quality is getting ever more complex, and the topic can seem bewildering. This event will provide you with the knowledge to make an informed decision about a way forward. The day will be informed by the latest research into the adoption and use of quality systems in the voluntary sector. Jointly organised by NCVO and Charities Evaluation Services

For more information contact: The Performance Improvement Team at NCVO on 020 7520 2540 or e-mail qstg@ncvo-vol.org.uk.

**A Masterclass for Chairs and Chief Executives with Lady Winifred Tumim CBE
28 October 2004 / NCVO**

NCVO are repeating this highly successful masterclass for Chairs and Chief Executives. The session will reflect on the role of the Chair and Chief Executive. How can a healthy partnership be built? What are the blocks to building trust and confidence? How can effectiveness in this twin relationship be achieved? This masterclass offers an opportunity for Chief Executives and Chairs to explore a range of approaches to strengthen the governance of their organisations. Confidentiality is key in discussions of this nature. Participants will be able to share issues of concern to them and their organisations

For more information contact: trustee.admin@ncvo-vol.org.uk or call 020 7520 2423/2514.

Harvest Trust Holidays for Children

Do you know 12 Children in real need of a break?

Harvest Trust is a charity which provides free seaside holidays for groups of disadvantaged children. The holidays are for groups of 12 children between the ages of 8 and 12, and are based at the Trust's own holiday centre in West Wales. All of the week-long holidays take place between April and September, and are organised in partnership with schools, community groups and child care organisations. The Trust provides all accommodation, transport and admissions free of charge. Your organisation need only buy food and provide three adult workers to accompany the children.

Application forms are available NOW for the 2005 holiday season. For more information and a brochure and application form please telephone: 01559 371190 or visit the website at www.harvesttrust.com

Closing date for applications is 31 January, 2005.

Harvest Trust

Penboyr, Llandysul, Carmarthenshire, SA44 5JE

E-mail: office@harvesttrust.com

Summit 2005: Delivering Sustainable Communities

31 January - 2 February 2005

The Summit is being held in Manchester from 31 January to 2 February 2005 at the GMEX/MICC and Bridgewater Hall. The Summit follows on from the Urban Summit of 2002 and provides an opportunity to take stock and bring together the key people who are delivering the Sustainable Communities Plan to discuss achievements and what's still to be done. The Summit will be the largest of its kind in the UK. 2,000 delegates are expected from the UK, Europe and the wider world to take part. The event will include study visits in and around Manchester, keynote speeches, workshops, masterclasses, fringe events and a major exhibition. The Deputy Prime Minister will also be hosting the Sustainable Communities Awards at the GMEX during the Summit. Registration opened on 9 August. Anyone interested in attending or exhibiting can register their interest now following the registration links below or, for further information and enquiries, please contact the Summit Team: sustainablecommunities.summit@odpm.gsi.gov.uk A limited number of discounted tickets will be made available, on an application basis, for delegates from community and voluntary groups, black and minority ethnic groups, faith groups, students and senior citizens.

If you would like to be considered for one of these, please e-mail, summit@rslive.co.uk or fax 01564 797621.
www.socialexclusion.gov.uk/page.asp?id=451

Publications

Life after SRB

The Urban Forum has published *Out of the SRB into the Pot* looking at the implications for the voluntary and community sector of the decision to end SRB but to give Regional Development Agencies greater flexibility in using funds allocated to them via the amalgamation of 11 separate funding streams.

The report can be obtained by e-mailing info@urbanforum.org.uk or telephoning 020 7253 4816.

Sector Must Plug Skills Gap to Remain Effective

Skills development should be the top priority of those working in the voluntary sector, according to the Voluntary Sector National Training Organisation (VSNTO). The message forms part of a new strategy published by VSNTO, 'Improving our skills - a strategy for the voluntary and community sector'. Large skills gaps have been identified, particularly in the fields of management and leadership, and it is recommended that staff, volunteers and trustees work towards improving these areas if organisations are to remain effective. Commissioned by the Active Communities Unit (ACU) and used within ChangeUp, the ACU's framework for the voluntary and community sector's infrastructure, the strategy includes various recommendations, to enhance workforce development and sharing of good practices. For a free copy visit www.voluntarysectorskills.org.uk Or call 0800 2 798 798.

Tools for Tomorrow - A Practical Guide to Strategic Planning for Voluntary Organisations

Aimed at directors, managers and those responsible for forward planning within voluntary organisations, this publication gives an overview of different planning models. Packed with practical ideas to make planning come to life, this toolkit will get you thinking about how the environment in which you are working might impact on future plans.

Published by NCVO and the Centre for Charity Effectiveness

ISBN 0 7199 1638 0

Price £35.00 (£28.00 NCVO members)

www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/asp/search/ncvo/main.aspx?siteID=1&sID=6

Noticeboard

North West Network Address

Following the acquisition of Sunley Tower by Bruntwood Estates, Sunley Tower is now known as City Tower. Please address all correspondence to us at the following address:

North West Network
Room 2715
Piccadilly Plaza
City Tower
Manchester
M1 4BD

Tel: 0161 236 6493

Fax: 0161 228 6137

Board Members Recruitment

North West Network is currently looking to recruit new members to its Board of Trustees. This position would ideally be suited to a *Chief Officer* or *Senior Manager* within an organisation whose full membership to North West Network is up to date.

If you would like any more information, please contact Jane Stanistreet on 0161 236 6493.

Britishcharities.com

Britishcharities.com is a new educational charities portal. The portal covers all A-Z that Charities come under, there is an online registration for charities which gives 24/7 access to your details. The portal also has a section on charity shops, charity magazines, charity suppliers, charity funding board and charity news. Registration is free.

Please Contact:

Media Profile Services
42 Graham Road
Newtown
Southampton
Hampshire
SO14 0AW

Tel/fax: +44 (0) 23 80227949 or click on www.britishcharities.com for more information.

Positive Action Awards 2004

The first ever Positive Action Awards will be taking place in the North West on 14 October to reward and recognise those who are making a difference to the lives of disabled people and/or carers in the region. The awards have been organised by Warrington Disability Partnership and are principally sponsored by the North West Development Agency.

The New Look Social Exclusion Unit Website is Now Available

The Social Exclusion Unit has been working with stakeholders and web developers over several months to develop a new user-friendly site. You'll find the new site, at www.socialexclusion.gov.uk. It has been designed to give a better service to web users - particularly those working in government and at the front-line to tackle social exclusion. The Unit aims to reduce social exclusion and tackle disadvantage, as well as to reach out to those in hard to reach groups. The new site will enable people to order the Unit's latest reports and request their quarterly Inclusion Newsletter, as well as providing an e-mail update service.

Share Your Story of Civil Renewal

The Home Office's Civil Renewal Unit is setting up an Active Citizenship Centre as a focal point for case studies and research into effective community engagement. Case studies of local people engaging with their communities and working with public bodies to influence decisions are being sought. Details to Riaz Rahman at riaz.rahman3@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk