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**ISSUE NO. 53**

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## Welcome

Welcome to Issue 53 of the North West Network Newsletter.

Within this issue you will find the latest information relating to the Objective 2 Programme, also included is a round up of the Objective 3 Programme with specific information relating to all the LSCs' recent and current bidding rounds.

Ruth Osborn who was seconded to Government Office for the North West has submitted an article hoping to share with you information relating to her new role, thoughts and experiences. This article can be found on Page 10.

James Hadleigh, Director of Development has recently completed a transnational project which aims to develop the Third Sector in Poland. This project was extremely successful and beneficial and the article makes for an interesting read on Page 12.

The Volunteer Management Team has produced an update article on the SAM Volunteer Management. Other articles within their section includes 'Top Tips for Volunteer Managers' which were submitted by members, along with articles covering volunteers week and the 2005 volunteer awards. There is also an overview of the voluntary sector national occupational standards and information relating to the ChangeUp consortia in the North West.

As usual you will also find within this Newsletter issue relating to other European Funding, non European Funding, and the latest partnership search requests. Also included are the publications, training and events and the noticeboard sections.

Please do contact us at North West Network with your views, and if any of you have any information that you would like to submit to the Newsletter please e-mail [info@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:info@nwnetwork.org.uk)

### **North West Network Office Move**

Please note that from 11 July 2005 North West Network will no longer be located within City Tower. Our new offices are situated on Bloom Street which is adjacent to Chorlton Street Bus Station. We have enjoyed many happy years in City/Sunley Tower and we very much look forward to welcoming you to our new offices.

**Please see the enclosed flyer for our new contact information.**

## **Objective 2 (ERDF) Programme Performance**

The Objective 2 Advisory Group, at its meeting in Blackpool in March of this year, heard encouraging news about the performance of the Objective 2 Programme for the period 2000 – 2006.

The voluntary and community sector was represented at the meeting by John Hacking the Senior European Officer for North West Network.

The total spend for the Programme so far is £270m which is £40m over the n+2 2004 target of £230m. For those of you who like this sort of thing, n+2 is the principle by which the spend required of a programme under the Berlin Profile is calculated. N is the commitment year and +2 is the year by the end of which funds committed in N have to be spent or returned. It sounds very complicated but essentially what this means is that the Programme is spending on time and to budget.

It was also reported at the meeting that the Programme's resources are almost fully allocated to the Action Plans. This means that the money is being spent and the region should be benefiting as a result. This success is due at least in part, to the good work which continues to be delivered by voluntary and community sector organisations and individuals involved in all aspects of the Programme.

The Objective 2 Advisory Group meets quarterly and is responsible for the management of the Objective 2 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) element of the Structural Funds Programme in the North West.

If any members or readers wish to know more about the Objective 2 Advisory Group and what it does then please contact John Hacking, Senior European Officer, at North West Network on 0161 236 6493 or E-mail him at [john@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:john@nwnetwork.org.uk)

## **Objective 3 Regional Round Up**

### **LSC Greater Manchester**

LSC Greater Manchester has published their fourth Co-financing Prospectus for their 2004-2006 ESF Co-financing Programme. LSC Greater Manchester operates a two stage application to tender process and the deadline for first stage applications to be submitted under this round is 12.00 noon, 27 June 2005. The total amount available across all available measures is £6,667,771 ESF.

The tender specifications that are the focus of LSC Greater Manchester's fourth tendering round are detailed below:

#### **1.1a Adult information advice and guidance service**

This measure is for potential projects that will provide a coherent, accessible and impartial adult information advice and guidance service for individuals who are returning to the labour market following a period of absence in order to prevent them from moving into long-term unemployment.

#### **1.2a Entry to vocational learning for disadvantaged groups**

This measure is for projects that will improve the employability of individuals through targeted intervention to enhance their participation in vocational and other key skills training.

#### **2.1a Entry to basic skills support**

Under this measure, the LSC is looking for projects that will improve the skills levels of employed individuals through targeted intervention. This will then enhance their participation in appropriate training provision, taking a 'Move on' approach in line with the Skills for Life Strategy.

#### **2.1b Vocational skills in regeneration areas**

This measure is for projects that will provide vocational and key skills training to enable disadvantaged groups to take advantage of the employment opportunities that arise as a result of regeneration initiatives in their local area.

#### **2.2a Supporting basic skills in the community**

Under 2.2a, the LSC seeks projects that will enhance the capacity of community and voluntary sector organisations to provide basic/key skills support to identified communities/individuals.

### **3.2a Lifelong learning in the workplace**

Projects that will improve the employability of individuals who are in work through the provision of training and development opportunities that are responsive to the changing needs of employers will be welcomed under 3.2a.

### **4.1a Skills for the older workforce**

This measure is looking for projects that will support older people to gain the skills and qualifications required to enable them to gain or retain sustainable employment.

### **4.2a Leadership and management programme**

Projects that will provide leadership and management training to employees within SMEs so enhancing their employability and career prospects and supporting business development will be welcomed under this measure.

### **4.2b Workforce skills development**

Under 4.2b, the LSC is looking for projects that will aim to improve the skills and employability of individuals who are in work through the provision of training and development opportunities that are responsive to the changing needs of employers.

### **5.1a Non-traditional vocational support for men and women**

And finally, under this measure the LSC wishes to support projects that will provide training to improve the employability of men and women in those sectors/occupations that are not traditionally favoured by that gender.

The above are only a snapshot of activities that LSC Greater Manchester wishes to support. For more information it is recommended that you visit their website [www.lscgm.info/](http://www.lscgm.info/) Alternatively contact one of the European Team here at North West Network.

## **LSC Greater Merseyside**

LSC Greater Merseyside has published their April 2005 Objective 3 European Social Fund prospectus for Discretionary Funds. This latest round of open and competitive tendering seeks to procure providers of learning to deliver against three specifications:

- Skillworks Halton
- Skills Escalator Halton
- Local Borough Responses for 16-19 year olds in Halton

The deadline for submission of completed proposals is 4.00 pm, 14 June 2005.

For more information visit their website at:

[www.lsc.gov.uk/merseyside/Documents/ITT+2005.htm](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/merseyside/Documents/ITT+2005.htm)

## **LSC Cumbria**

LSC Cumbria recently held their fifth bidding round for their Funding Gateway Prospectus for Discretionary Funds 2004-2006. The results of this bidding round have not yet become available. In the meantime, having secured funding through the European Social Fund in addition to funding through the Local Intervention and Development Fund, LSC Cumbria has called a further limited bidding round.

For this limited round there is only one call for projects. This is to up-skill those working within the field of nuclear decommissioning technology as a priority and also to provide training for a small number of unemployed people to improve their chances of employment in this sector.

Applications under this round must be received by 4.30 pm, 10 June 2005. Applications can be submitted via e-mail by the above date on the condition that a signed original is received by 13 June 2005.

For more information visit their website at:

[www.lsc.gov.uk/Cumbria](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/Cumbria)

Then click on **documents** then **subject listing**. A list then appears on the left of the page. Choose **funding learning** and then select **funding gateway round 6**.

## **LSC for Cheshire and Warrington**

On 25 May 2005, the LSC for Cheshire and Warrington issued an invitation to tender under Policy Field 3 Measure 1. This invitation to tender formally requests organisations to become engaged in employer-led activity that will meet the Skills for Life needs of employees. It calls for projects that will develop a coherent strategy to engage and motivate employers to address Skills for Life needs of employees within the Cheshire and Warrington area, to raise the literacy and numeracy skill levels of employees and to enable employees to gain qualifications in literacy and/or numeracy.

Funding will be available from 1 September 2005 to 30 September 2006. The deadline for tenders to be submitted under this call is 12.00 noon, 8 July 2005.

For more information visit their website at:

[www.lscdf.co.uk/ITTs.html](http://www.lscdf.co.uk/ITTs.html)

### **LSC Lancashire**

LSC Lancashire recently held their third tendering round for their 2004-2006 Co-financing Prospectus. The results of this bidding round are not yet available. The results of the bidding round are expected in June and will be reported in the next edition of the North West Network Newsletter.

### **Jobcentre Plus**

Jobcentre Plus is at the early stages of their second Co-financing tendering round. They are inviting tenders against the following ESF Measures:

#### **Measure 1.1**

To provide advice and guidance to enable people to develop active and continuous job search strategies and to prevent them from moving into long-term unemployment.

#### **Measure 1.2**

To improve the employability of the unemployed, returners and young people of working age through targeted intervention in order to enhance vocational and other key skills and to remove external barriers to labour market entry.

#### **Measure 2.2**

To provide help to improve the employability of, and remove barriers to, labour market entry for those groups disadvantaged in the labour market, and to develop local responses to assist individuals with multiple disadvantages in the labour market that face the risk of social exclusion.

#### **Measure 4.3**

To encourage entrepreneurship of individuals and the competitive needs of businesses, particularly SMEs.

The deadlines for this second round are 12.00 noon, 9 June 2005 for the Cheshire and Warrington, Cumbria and Lancashire sub-regions and 16 June for Greater Manchester and regional projects.

For more information please visit their website at:

[www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk)

Click on **partners home** (on right hand side of page) then **European Social Fund** (in orange box). Select **North West** from list of regions.

## **Regional ESF Sector Co-Financing Plan**

Published in February 2005, the north west Learning and Skills Councils have produced a Regional ESF Sector Co-Financing Plan 2005/08. This Plan will cover the whole of the North West (with the exception of the Greater Merseyside Objective 1 area).

The Plan's ten regional learning and skills priorities are:

- Tackling low skills and basic skills gaps to improve employability
- Providing entry routes for job seekers and the economically inactive to target employment areas
- Addressing the demographic challenge
- Ensuring the skills and employability needs of disadvantaged groups are addressed
- Providing the skills to meet sectoral challenges
- Tackling cross-sectoral leadership and management skills
- Developing enterprise skills
- Supporting and ensuring access to key employment growth hotspots

The underpinning priorities of the Plan include:

- Providing high quality, responsive support to meet the needs of both employers and individuals
- Stimulating the demand for further investment in skills

The first invitations to tender (ITT's) for this Plan have been published on the LSC for Cheshire and Warrington website. These ITTs will be looking for activity which must take place in at least three of the sub-regions in the North West. Briefing sessions across the region will be held between 10 – 20 June 2005 on these ITT's and the application process. The four invitations to tender, together with indicative amounts available and the closing dates are listed.

<b>Tender Specification Reference</b>	<b>Indicative Value</b>	<b>Issue Date</b>	<b>Closing Time/Date</b>
NWLSC (0508 4.1a)	£175,000	9 May 2005	5.00 pm 5 July 2005
NWLSC (0508 4.1b)	£240,000	9 May 2005	5.00 pm 5 July 2005
NWLSC (0508 4.1c)	£80,000	9 May 2005	5.00 pm 5 July 2005
NWLSC (0508 4.1d)	£180,000	9 May 2005	5.00 pm 5 July 2005

Further information will soon become available on the LSC for Cheshire and Warrington website:

[www.lsc.gov.uk/cheshireandwarrington](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/cheshireandwarrington)

Click on **documents** (on menu at bottom of the page) then on **key initiatives**. Then select **North West Learning and Skills Councils Regional ESF Sector Co-Financing Plan 2005/08**.

If you require further information on any of the Invitations to Tender, or have any Objective 3 enquiries please contact a member of the European Team at North West Network.

## Post 2006 Structural Funds

At the time of reporting, the position with regard to the future of the Structural Funds beyond the end of the current 2000-2006 programme is still unclear. However there is some indication from various European Commission documents as to what the broad shape of the new Structural Funds Programmes will look like.

At North West Network we will be watching developments closely and will keep you informed through this Newsletter, the website and through our e-mail bulletin. We would also like to hear from you about what you think is going to happen post 2006 and what you would like to happen. We also would like to know how your organisation is responding to the changes which will inevitably occur when the current programmes end. Please send any comments or views to [john@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:john@nwnetwork.org.uk)

The current proposal for the framework for the Cohesion Policy for 2007-13 proposes three new objectives for the new Structural Funds,

- **Convergence** - Similar to the previous Objective 1
- **Regional Competitiveness and Employment**  
- Combination of Objective 2 and Objective 3
- **Territorial Co-operation** – a combination of the previous Community Initiatives e.g Urban, Equal etc

The current timetable attached to these developments is,

- **End 2005** - Decision by Council and European Parliament
- **Early 2006** - Council adopts strategic guidelines
- **2006** - Preparation of programmes for 2007-2013
- **January 2007** - Implementation

## **An Introduction to my Role Within the European Programmes Executive, Government Office North West (GONW)**

By Ruth Osborn, North West Network Secondee

I've been at GONW for ten months now – how time flies! It's been quite a learning curve to say the least but a challenging, interesting and on the whole an enjoyable one at that. The people in the European Programmes Executive (EPE) are a good bunch to work with and I've settled into my work well.

I joined EPE as an Account Manager on the Objective 2, Priority 2 Team and was responsible for managing Action Plans across Lancashire, Cheshire and Cumbria. As you may be aware we have recently undergone a restructuring and my role has changed slightly. I am now part of the newly formed Lancashire Team, responsible for the management of Action Plans in Priorities 1, 2 and 3 across East Lancashire and I will soon be managing the Urban II Programme in Burnley.

For those of you who are not aware of the changes to EPE, during March this year we restructured along geographic lines. Previously the Teams within EPE were grouped along thematic lines. There was a small team for each of the Objective 2 priorities (Priority 1, Priority 2 and Priority 3). Objective 3 was managed by the ESF Team and the Community Initiatives Team looked after Urban II and Leader +. All Teams were supported by the Administration Team and the Management Information Team.

We now have three geographically focused teams covering Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire and Cumbria. Each of the Teams has responsibility for Objective 2 and Objective 3 in their given geographic area. The Greater Manchester Team also manages the large sub-regional projects and the Lancashire Team is responsible for the Community Initiatives Programmes (Urban II and Leader +). The Teams are complimented by the Performance and Management Support Team encompassing administration, management information and audit compliance/Article 4 checks.

The restructuring has been a result of two things. Firstly a move to a geographic focus has allowed for a streamlining of service delivery to partners and a greater focus on a smaller area. Secondly the move is in line with other Government Office departments which are mainly organised along geographic lines. The restructuring has also allowed for better alignment of activities across Government Office departments.

During my time here I have been able to get involved with some of the wider work of Government Office. Keeping to my voluntary sector roots I've been involved with the GONW and VCS Working Group made up of representatives from various Government departments and from VSNW and 1NW along with others. I have also been involved in an area based working initiative looking at East Lancashire – it's been a good opportunity to broaden my knowledge of regeneration issues, to meet colleagues in other departments and to widen my knowledge of the work of GONW.

Another significant piece of work I have been involved in is the European Commission Audit of the Objective 2 Greater Manchester Lancashire and Cheshire 97-99 Programme. There was a lot of preparation involved in this audit both within GONW and from the projects and it really has made all of us aware of the importance of keeping evidence, documenting decisions and having a clear audit trail – especially as in a lot of cases the people involved in the projects had moved on a long time ago! It was also reassuring to find that the presentations James and I used in relation to monitoring and evaluation covered a lot of the issues raised!

In addition to all this I have been awarded a bursary under the GONW Regeneration Skills Programme to study for a Postgraduate Certificate in Public Service Management. So far I have completed Module 1 on Building Partnerships and I am part way through Module 2 – The Strategic Management of Change. There are people involved in European Funding from all sectors in the region. We have covered topics such as partnership working, engaging stakeholders, equality and diversity, project management and performance management to name but a few. There are five days of classes for each of the four modules and then a 3,500 assignment at the end of it so all in all I'm keeping pretty busy down on the 13<sup>th</sup> Floor of City Tower!

## **Third Sector Development in Poland**

### **James Hadleigh Reports**

Almost sixty years after the end of the Second World War we found ourselves on the outskirts of Lublin in eastern Poland. Standing in sleet and rain in the middle of Madjanek concentration camp, ours was the sobering view of long lines of formerly electrified double barbed wire fences with guard towers which overlooked the gas chambers and the crematorium. Not too much imagination was needed to comprehend the horror of what was happening here sixty years ago.

But what were we doing there? Our visit to Lublin was the culmination of a six month project funded by the British and Commonwealth Foreign Office to assist the development of the voluntary and community sector (or Third Sector as it is known) in Poland, Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. Lublin, some thirty odd miles from the Ukrainian border, was host to our conference which aimed to highlight best practice, to promote partnerships and to share ideas and experiences between the eastern European Third Sector and it's UK counterparts with regard to developmental issues around European Structural Funds. The two-day event included discussion forums and panel workshops on Social Enterprise models, monitoring and evaluation of Structural Funds, and project management of Structural Funds from a Third Sector perspective. The conference was attended by over 140 organisations from across Eastern Europe.

The project was a joint venture between North West Network, Merseyside Network for Europe and SPLOT (a national network that provides information and support to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) across Poland). The aim of our project was to enhance the capacity of the Third Sector in Poland. This in turn would contribute towards the development of civil society in a re-united Europe by ensuring that the Polish Third Sector could participate effectively in their newly acquired EU Objective 1 processes and programmes.

Aside from the conference in Lublin, we also hosted a conference in Liverpool in February to promote partnerships between UK and Polish organisations. This was attended by our partners from Poland who, through the project, have developed a new website facility to encourage partnership development between UK organisations and our counterparts in Eastern Europe. The new website [www.english.ngo.pl](http://www.english.ngo.pl) includes a new facility for organisations in both the UK and Eastern Europe to submit their own contact

details and areas of expertise which will then act as a partner search portal for those interested in developing transnational partnerships. Please do pay the site a visit.

Many important lessons have been learned from this project, not least that it is vitally important to understand different working cultures of your transnational partners. Moreover, detailed planning and consultation (including allocation of duties, roles and responsibilities with partners) is also vitally important if you want your project to be a success.

As a result of this successful partnership project we firmly believe that the capacity of Third Sector organisations in Eastern Europe are now much better placed, informed and resourced to contribute towards their (and their people's) development in a new Europe – one which has moved on immeasurably from those dark days sixty years ago.



## **SAM Volunteer Management Update**

We have successfully passed our coaching exam and have now received a Certificate in Coaching from the Coaching Centre based in London!

The Team are piloting SAM Volunteer Management with two organisations. In one of the organisations we are working with a project team, each member of the team are working through the manuals during one to one coaching sessions.

Piloting SAM Volunteer Management is allowing us to trial and learn how to combine coaching techniques and SAM Volunteer Management.

This practical experience will ensure that we develop the right training programme for consultation group members which will give them an opportunity to practice skills and gain knowledge to assist in the delivery of SAM Volunteer Management within their own organisation or with organisations they work with.

To preview SAM Volunteer Management information please click on our website [www.nwnetwork.org.uk](http://www.nwnetwork.org.uk), then volunteer development, volunteer development project and our project.

We have a number of organisations on our database who have shown an interest and we will keep them informed of further developments. If you would like to be included on our list or just want to get more information please contact Dan or Carol on 0161 236 6493 or E-Mail [dan@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:dan@nwnetwork.org.uk) or [carol@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:carol@nwnetwork.org.uk)

## **Top Tips for Volunteer Managers**

In a recent North West Network (NWN) e-mail bulletin we asked for volunteer managers to share useful tips which help them in their role for this addition of the Newsletter.

We would like to thank Colin Greenhalgh from Groundwork Wigan & Chorley who has sent this useful tip on recruitment.

"Recruitment is vital, ensure you match up what your organisation needs with what the volunteer is offering. If the two don't match then you are doing your volunteer no favours by trying to be too flexible. If you do take on a volunteer, set out your expectations in a written agreement with a set timescale for both review and exit of the relationship".

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

We would like this to be a regular feature as we feel it would be an informal way for volunteer managers to share their experience to help others less experienced. If you would like to include your top tips on managing volunteers in future NWN Newsletters please send them to: [dan@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:dan@nwnetwork.org.uk) or [carol@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:carol@nwnetwork.org.uk)

## **Volunteers' Week**

Did you celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> year of Volunteers' Week? Volunteers' Week is a national annual event that takes place between 1 – 7 June to celebrate, thank, recruit or involve volunteers. The Week, now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year, raises the profile of volunteering and the work of the UK's 22 million volunteers.

Below is an example of an event held by The Women's Centre:

"We are holding an evening of entertainment and a barbeque for all our volunteers at the Manager's house. Volunteers from both the Accrington and Blackburn Centres, a total of about 50, are invited to the Centre Manager's house. The staff and executive committee prepare all the food, serve it and clear away as a thank you to our volunteers for all the hard work they put in throughout the year. Entertainment includes a quiz."

From Julie Gosnell at The Women's Centre, if you require any more details please contact Julie on [julieg@womenscentre.org](mailto:julieg@womenscentre.org)

If you would like to get involved next year please visit Volunteers' Week website, [www.volunteersweek.org.uk](http://www.volunteersweek.org.uk)

## **Year of the Volunteer**

Volunteering England and Community Service Volunteers (CSV) are the two main organisations working with the Home Office to deliver the Year of the Volunteer 2005. The Year's main aims are to:

- Increase the number of volunteers, particularly individuals from marginalised groups and young people
- Open up more volunteering opportunities in the public and voluntary sector
- Raise the profile of the work volunteers are doing nationwide
- Thank volunteers everywhere for their time and commitment

(Source: [www.yearofthevolunteer.org](http://www.yearofthevolunteer.org))

Each month has a different volunteering theme. The theme for June is Recognition which fits nicely with Volunteers Week 1 – 7 June.

### **CSV - Year of the Volunteer 2005 – Europe Month (November)**

A wide range of volunteering themes are being highlighted throughout the Year of the Volunteer 2005 and the theme for the month of November is Europe, which is where you come in!

- Does your organisation/project receive any European funding?
- Does your organisation/project involve volunteers in any capacity?
- Are you organising any events this year?

If the answer to any of the questions above is yes, then please visit the Year of the Volunteer Website:

[www.yearofthevolunteer.org/html/events.asp](http://www.yearofthevolunteer.org/html/events.asp)

and register your event under the theme 'Europe' – specifying that your project/organisation receives European funding.

This is a great opportunity to gain publicity for your organisation/project and to help us promote the importance of European funding to the voluntary and community sector.

If you would like any further information about Europe month, please contact Sarah Breese, either by E-Mail: [sbreese@csv.org.uk](mailto:sbreese@csv.org.uk) or Tel: 020 7643 1329.

Events happening throughout the Year can be registered, not just those happening in the month of November. Any events registered as part of Year of the Volunteer are able to access help with publicity and are also eligible to use Year of the Volunteer merchandise:

- You can promote volunteering opportunities and events via the CSV action desks based at local BBC radio stations. Please contact [ssutton@csv.org.uk](mailto:ssutton@csv.org.uk) if you are interested in linking in with the action desks
- Both free merchandise packs and purchased merchandise are now available to order via [www.csv.org.uk](http://www.csv.org.uk). Please note that to be eligible for a free pack you must be a stand alone charity (i.e not a branch of a national charity) with a turnover of under £500,000

If you are planning an event for Year of the Volunteer, or any event you would like to publicise throughout the year, please contact us at NWN so that we can include articles in future E-Mail Bulletins, Newsletters and our website [www.nwnetwork.org.uk](http://www.nwnetwork.org.uk). Please send all the relevant details to: [dan@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:dan@nwnetwork.org.uk) or [carol@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:carol@nwnetwork.org.uk)

## **YV05 Awards**

### **Nominate an Outstanding Volunteer!**

The Year of the Volunteer is a year-long celebration of the amazing work of volunteers. A joint campaign between CSV, Volunteering England and the Home Office, the Year aims to give more people the opportunity to try volunteering, learn new skills and contribute to their communities.

The Year of the Volunteer Awards has been created to acknowledge and celebrate the amazing contribution of volunteers in England. Volunteers can be nominated in one of five Award categories: Innovation, Commitment, Impact, Inspiration and Partnership. 2,005 commemorative medals have been struck by the Royal Mint and will be awarded to the 401 most deserving volunteers in each of the five categories.

Regional Volunteer Awards ceremonies will take place in October and November 2005 leading to a national Awards Ceremony, supported by Ministers and celebrities in January 2006.

### **How to get a Nomination Form**

If you are interested in putting a volunteer(s) forward for these Awards, nomination forms can be downloaded from CSV's website [www.csv.org.uk/YV05](http://www.csv.org.uk/YV05)

An online form is available from the Year of the Volunteer website [www.yearofthevolunteer.org](http://www.yearofthevolunteer.org)

Paper copies of the nomination form are available from 020 7812 0034.

The deadline for nominations is 18 July 2005, although it is advisable to get your form in as early as possible.



## **Using the Voluntary Sector National Occupational Standards**

By Angeline Hamilton, Communications Officer VSNTO

National Occupational Standards (NOS) define good practice in the way people work, based on the functions of their job and can be regarded as quality standards for people.

There are two published sets of National Occupational Standards specifically aimed at voluntary sector occupations – those for Fundraising and Managing Volunteers. They specify the standards of work that either a Fundraiser or a Volunteer Manager should meet in order to be doing their job well and therefore how to meet the national standard.

Published by the Voluntary Sector National Training Organisation (VSNTO) in 2004, they are a vital resource demonstrating the value of these occupations within the voluntary and community sector and are a useful tool for a number of work based activities; including constructing a job description, writing an appraisal and identifying staff training needs, to name but a few.

These standards are available to download for free from the VSNTO website or to buy, many copies have been downloaded and bought but how are they being used? Here is just one example of how an organisation has successfully applied the Managing Volunteers National Occupational Standards to their accredited training course.

### **Volunteer Development Scotland**

Volunteer Development Scotland is a national organisation that works to develop and support volunteering and volunteers in Scotland. Part of the training programme which they offer is the course, Managing Volunteers in an Organisational Setting, accredited by the University of Dundee and part of the University's BA in Professional Development.

This module is for individuals who manage, organise, co-ordinate, or lead the work of volunteers and the qualification is based on the development of a portfolio of evidence against the relevant units in the National Occupational Standards for Managing Volunteers. This course enables students to develop their knowledge and understanding of relevant theories in volunteering, management learning and self-development.

Ann Kirkwood, the Senior Training Officer at Volunteer Development Scotland explains why this course is based on the National Occupational Standards.

“It confirms our training as high standard, meeting the highest current expectations in the field of volunteering management, and helps establish a focus for each of the courses.”

Volunteer Development Scotland also use the standards in their Volunteer Managers Start-up Programme, which is broken down into five short courses, each referring to a specific unit within the Managing Volunteers National Occupational Standards.

[www.vds.org.uk/training/startUp.htm](http://www.vds.org.uk/training/startUp.htm)

“We refer to the specific standards relevant to each of the short courses we offer on our national training programme, these are listed in the training packs.”

Volunteer Development’s experience of using the National Occupational Standards has been a positive one and Ann goes on to give some advice. She says that they are very accessible and easy to follow and for those thinking about using them, “start by familiarising yourself with the publication and find the time to talk to other organisations already using them.”

On a final note Ann points out that by basing their training on the standards that, “this helps raise standards within the sector and the profession of volunteering management in general.”

By using the standards as a basis for their training Volunteer Development Scotland ensure that their training is current, relevant and will help those participating to meet a nationally recognised standard!

### **Need to get started?**

VSNTOs are currently talking to organisations that have begun to use and apply the National Occupational Standards in their workplace. This information is being collated and will be available on the website as a pool of case studies demonstrating how the standards have been applied and used, along with the details of who to contact if you need further information and advice.

For further information on National Occupational Standards visit [www.voluntarysectorskills.org.uk](http://www.voluntarysectorskills.org.uk) or contact Karen Hale-Robertson,

Standards Development Officer, 020 7520 2415 or karen.hale-robertson@ncvo-vol.org.uk

If you are already using the standards and would be interested in becoming a case study please contact [angeline.hamilton@ncvo-vol.org.uk](mailto:angeline.hamilton@ncvo-vol.org.uk) or call 020 7520 2496.

## **FREE Investing in Volunteers Information Meeting**

The meeting is for small, medium and large volunteering organisations to find out more about the new Investing in Volunteers award. This will take place on 30 June 2005, 11.00 am to 3.00 pm (lunch included) at The Queens Hotel, City Square, Leeds LS1 1PL. To book a place, please RSVP in writing by 17 June 2005 to [Sonet.geyer@volunteeringengland.org](mailto:Sonet.geyer@volunteeringengland.org), Tel: 0207 520 8982.

(Source: [www.volunteering.org.uk/missions.php?id=363](http://www.volunteering.org.uk/missions.php?id=363))

## **Volunteering Impact Assessment Toolkit:**

### **North West Regional Workshop**

The workshops aim to equip organisations with the skills and confidence to use the Volunteering Impact Assessment Toolkit to conduct a thorough assessment of the impact of their volunteering. This will take place on 14 June, at the Institute for Volunteering Research, The Old Grammar School, Bolton. For further details and a booking form, E-Mail: [instvolres@aol.com](mailto:instvolres@aol.com)

(Source: [www.volunteering.org.uk/missions.php?id=363](http://www.volunteering.org.uk/missions.php?id=363))

## **ChangeUp Consortia in the North West - Updates**

### **ChangeUp in Greater Manchester**

Update 23 May 2005, Alex Whinnom

ChangeUp is the programme funded by the Home Office Active Communities Unit with the aim of developing a 'capacity building and infrastructure framework for the voluntary and community sector (VCS)'. Delivery in each sub-region is via a voluntary sector led consortium, and there are also six national 'hubs' based on the key ChangeUp themes. Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) is the lead body for the Greater Manchester Consortium.

Three years' funding has been announced and funding for 2005 – 6 is now available. In GM the Action Plan has been approved and £1.4m has been allocated for implementation.

On 4 May the Consortium met for the third time and formally launched the Action Plan. This comprises eight main strands of work prioritised for Year One,

1. The development of local consortia and exploration of ways of working more effectively in partnership
2. The development of a sub-regional network of specialist services
3. Mapping and needs analysis, and trial of a casework approach to support provision
4. Joint work on developing more accessibility for BME groups
5. Developing the ICT resources of infrastructure and trialling a circuit riders model for technical support
6. Improvements to premises used by frontline clients to access infrastructure support
7. Joint work with the national hubs on each of the five ChangeUp themes
8. Provision of new services to frontline VCS and/or research into feasibility or appropriateness of ideas for improving services

The implementation of all this is staggered through the year. The first project briefs have been approved by the Consortium and work is beginning. These are – S1 development of local consortia and plans; S5a an initial audit of ICT capacity; S6a an initial audit of the local and sub-regional (buildings-based) hubs. The Consortium has also discussed how to work more strategically with funders. At the next Consortium meeting (15 June ) we plan to launch the mapping and needs analysis and the sub-regional specialist network. We will

also be looking at how to approach the BME access work, and how to approach the governance theme in ChangeUp.

Please note that ChangeUp funding is specifically for infrastructure development, and that the Consortium will commission work according to the agreed Action Plan – i.e. this is not a grant fund to which voluntary and community organisations can apply. However it is of course expected that the end result - a better infrastructure – will benefit the whole sector.

For more information on any aspect of ChangeUp please see [www.gmchangeup.net](http://www.gmchangeup.net) or contact your local CVS or any of the infrastructure organisations listed at [www.bluegoose.org.uk](http://www.bluegoose.org.uk)

### **Lancashire Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) Consortium**

The Lancashire Investment Plan was submitted and approved in June this year and work began immediately on various activities. The mapping report, initiated through the Rural Investment Plan, was well received by Consortium members, who voted to continue with this work to broaden its scope and value. A website has now been established and although it needs graphic designing, already has some useful information for members and other interested people and organisations. You can check it out at [www.vcfs.org.uk](http://www.vcfs.org.uk) The establishment of Working Groups is also underway, with the original Writing Group volunteering to carry on as an interim steering group until nominations are called for. There is also an ICT Group that will be meeting shortly to develop an ICT Strategy, to look at the best use of resources. For further details on membership of the Consortium, contact Marion Bolton, [marionb@communityfutures.org.uk](mailto:marionb@communityfutures.org.uk)

### **ChangeUp in Merseyside**

For information on the Merseyside Consortium, please go to [www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk](http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk)

### **ChangeUp in Cheshire and Cumbria**

Consortia updates from Cheshire and Cumbria will hopefully be in the next North West Network Newsletter.

## **Community Channel Rolls Out Interactive TV Volunteering Application**

adapted from an e-mail regarding ITVT Issue 6.04 | May 26, 2005

The Community Channel, a UK digital television channel which features programming that showcases charities, volunteerism, and community activities has launched a service that allows Sky viewers to find opportunities to volunteer for good causes.

Viewers should press the red button and enter their postcode to search for volunteering opportunities in their area. They also have the option of specifying the category of volunteering opportunity they are interested in from a drop-down menu. The service then provides them with a list of opportunities, drawing on an existing database that has been assembled by [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk), a service managed by the charity, YouthNet.

It also allows viewers to enter their personal information via the remote (using SMS keypad protocol) so that they can be contacted by the charities and other organisations whose volunteering opportunities interest them.

The Community Channel is the official TV channel for the UK's Year of the Volunteer, and will be showing programmes on volunteering during Volunteers Week (June 1-7).

For more information about the Community Channel, its interactive services and programming etc. go to [www.communitychannel.co.uk](http://www.communitychannel.co.uk)

## **KnowledgeNorthWest**

The region's higher education students make up a large pool of able and eager volunteers. Many who study in the North West, including those who come from other parts of the UK and the world, consider it important to give something back to the local community. As well as a desire to get involved, they bring with them a wealth of talent, skills, and in some cases, previous training, in a range of disciplines.

All of the region's higher education institutions (HEIs) recognise the significant role played by student volunteering, and most have dedicated resources to encourage and foster its development. In many of the North West's HEIs, volunteering plays a key role in student union activity.

HEFCE, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, allocated over £2m to North West HEIs for volunteering opportunities through its Active Community Fund (HEACF). North West individuals and activities have won HEACF awards and are featured in case studies of good practice.

The North West Universities Association (NWUA) oversees collaboration by the region's HEIs in volunteering activity and KnowledgeNorthWest, NWUA's flagship project to improve links between businesses and HEIs in the community, provides an easy gateway to sourcing both student volunteers and professional help on projects. KnowledgeNorthWest's simple enquiry service, which casts a net over all fifteen HEIs in the North West, has already allowed not-for-profit organisations to seek help with projects in regeneration, environmentally friendly travel solutions, and community creative arts.

If you'd like more information on how higher education can help, or want to submit an enquiry to KnowledgeNorthWest, please ring freephone 0800 298 7198 or visit the website at [www.knowledgenorthwest.com](http://www.knowledgenorthwest.com)

## **Other European Funding**

### **NEW EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROGRAMMES 2007-2013**

As part of the new generation of Community Action Programmes for the period 2007-2013, the European Commission has adopted a package of detailed proposals, fleshing out the Union's priorities on a range of areas such as research, citizenship, freedom, health, etc.

#### **Citizens for Europe**

This programme, with a budget of Euro 207 million for the whole period, will encourage co-operation between citizens and their organisations from different countries in order to meet, to act together and to develop their own ideas in a European environment which goes beyond a national vision and which respects their diversity.

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education\\_culture/activecitizenship/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education_culture/activecitizenship/index_en.htm)

#### **Competitiveness for Growth and Employment**

The European Commission proposes to complement the programmes proposed last year, including the life long learning programme and the new regime for cohesion, with a new Seventh Research Framework Programme with a budget of Euro 67.8 billion and a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). The proposed budget for the CIP is Euro 3.7 billion.

#### **Pan-European Immigration System**

Proposals to help Member States tackle immigration and asylum related problems were announced by the European Commission in April. Part of the 2007-2013 financial framework, the Euro 5.9 billion package establishes a new framework programme for solidarity and the management of migration flows, which incorporates several new funds, as well as continuing the European Refugee Fund. The programme places strong emphasis on European level action to respond to the challenges posed by immigration and asylum. It will help Member States improve their border controls, integrate new migrants, provide better reception conditions for asylum seekers and help unsuccessful applicants and illegal immigrants return to their country of origin. These activities will be supported from the following funds,

- The European Refugee Fund, covering the period 2008-13 and worth Euro 1.11 billion. The Fund helps countries receive asylum seekers and arrange for their repatriation when they agree to return home and Ministers have already agreed its continuation
- A new External Borders Fund for 2007-13. Some Euro 2.15 billion has been assigned for activities that strengthen border control infrastructure, including purchasing new equipment, creating systems to share information, training staff and setting up exchange programmes
- A European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals, for 2007-13, to help legal immigrants integrate into their host country. Its budget of Euro 1.77 billion would help national and local government integrate newcomers and encourage their participation in society, with civic orientation courses, intercultural training and handbooks
- A European Return Fund for 2007-13, worth Euro 759.9 million, which would help national governments repatriate illegal immigrants and failed asylum seekers. The Fund would be used to build links between consular and immigration authorities, reduce the time returnees spend in custody, promote reintegration in their home country and speed up decisions on appeals against expulsion

A further Euro 285 billion has been earmarked for the running of the new European External Borders Agency and over Euro 900 million to set up and run new information systems such as the Schengen Information System II. The UK and Ireland will not contribute to the funds, as they have not signed up to the Schengen Border Cooperation Agreement. Together with the related programmes on fundamental rights and security the new initiatives demonstrate the importance placed by the Commission on freedom, security and justice. This area has seen a budget increase of more than 200% on the present financial programming period.

### **Freedom, Security and Justice**

A new funding package to support the EU area of freedom, security and justice has been proposed by the European Commission. The Framework Programme for Fundamental Rights and Justice is part of the 2007-13 financial framework and one of three programmes in the justice and home affairs field. The Programme is based on the European Union's (EU) support for fundamental rights, particularly the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights which now forms part of the

constitutional Treaty and its responsibility for ensuring democracy and human rights. It will also promote and develop schemes to prevent and fight crime across national borders, especially organised crime, terrorism, people trafficking, child pornography, drug and arms trafficking, corruption and fraud. Four Funds will support the new Programme,

- A fund to fight violence and drugs, incorporating the Daphne Anti-Violence Programme with a drug prevention and information programme to implement the EU drugs action plans. This has a budget of Euro 135.4 million for 2007-13
- A fundamental rights and citizenship programme, which will promote respect for the EU Charter and fight racism, xenophobia and anti-semitism. The scheme, which has a budget of Euro 93.8 million, will be open to candidate countries and those in the Western Balkans
- A criminal justice programme, worth Euro 196.2 million, which will promote mutual recognition of judicial decisions, work to avoid conflicting judgements across Member States and support the rights of defendants and legal aid for victims. Projects which encourage Member States to exchange information about their criminal justice systems and the implementation of an EU computerised system to exchange information on criminal records will also be supported
- A civil justice programme, in which Euro 106.5 million would be used over the 2007-13 period to support similar activities to the criminal justice programme but in the civil area

The fundamental rights and justice programme has a total budget of Euro 531.9 million. In addition, the European Commission is proposing allocating funding to related agencies and information systems, including Euro 164.9 million for the planned Fundamental Rights Agency, Euro 110.6 million for the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and Euro 64.4 million for the new, UK based, European Police College.

### **Economic Restructuring Support**

The European Commission is proposing to give over Euro 18 billion to help regions and workers affected by restructuring. It sees this type of support as a way of keeping the EU afloat in the global economy. By providing a growth adjustment fund of around Euro 1 billion annually during the period 2007-13, the Commission aims to provide support to areas affected by economic restructuring. It also calls on Member States to keep a reserve for the consequences of

unplanned structural change. The money will be provided for initiatives to increase the adaptability of workers and businesses to change, prevent unemployment and promote partnerships and pacts at national, regional and local levels. This contingency fund would comprise up to 10% of the future budget for the new convergence Objective and 3% of the competitiveness Objective under the new cohesion regime (around Euro 2.6 billion and Euro 1.7 billion respectively). In the worst affected regions, the funds will go towards promoting growth, job creation and responding to the challenges of structural adjustment, including economic diversification.

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/news/2005/apr/restructuring\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/news/2005/apr/restructuring_en.html)

### **A New Generation of EU Programmes for Education and Training, Culture, Youth and the Audiovisual Sector in 2007-2013**

The European Commission adopted ambitious proposals last July for the next generation of EU Programmes in education, training, culture, youth and the audiovisual sector. The aim is to have the new programmes approved by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament before the end of 2005. They will run from 2007 to 2013. The four programmes proposed are,

**An Integrated Action Programme in Lifelong Learning:** Focusing on school education (Comenius), higher education (Erasmus), vocational training (Leonardo da Vinci) and adult education (Grundtvig), completed by transversal measures and a new programme (Jean Monnet) focusing on European integration. The proposed budget is Euro 13.62 billion and the aims of the programme are,

- Comenius: To involve at least 5% of EU school pupils in joint educational activities
- Erasmus: To provide EU study abroad opportunities for a total of three million university students by 2011
- Leonardo da Vinci: To increase training placements in enterprises and training centres in another EU country to 150,000 in 2013
- Grundtvig: To help 25,000 adult education students benefit from studying abroad in 2013

**Youth in Action:** Aims to develop a sense of personal responsibility, initiative, concern for others, citizenship and active involvement at local, national and European levels among young people. The programme will also help to improve support systems for youth activities. The proposed budget is Euro 915 million.

**Culture 2007:** Taking over from the current Culture 2000 Programme and extending it, with a proposed budget of Euro 408 million, through three objectives considered to offer strong European added value,

- Transnational mobility for everyone working in the cultural sector in the EU
- The transnational circulation of works of art and cultural/artistic products
- Dialogue intercultural

**Media 2007:** Following on from the current Media Plus and Media Training Programmes with a proposed budget of Euro 1.055 billion, with the principal aims of,

- 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

## **CURRENT CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS**

In addition to mainstream Structural Fund Programmes, the European Commission presents many more funding opportunities for the voluntary and community sector. Calls for tenders, proposals and expressions of interest are announced thematically through each department or Directorates-General and are updated frequently. 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: Euro 1.479, 3 June 2005.

## QUICK REFERENCE: DEADLINES

<b>THEME</b>	<b>PROGRAMME</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Equal Opportunities	Disability Awareness	11 July 2005
Media	Media Plus Programme	15 July 2005
Social Inclusion	Funds to Support Roma People	25 July 2005
Social Inclusion	European Networks	29 July 2005
Enterprise	Mainstreaming Corporate Social Responsibility Among SMEs	29 July 2005
Research & Development	Sustainable Transport Research	1 September 2005
Research & Development	Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area	7 September 2005
Research & Development	Communication Network Development Scheme	8 September 2005
Research & Development	International Co-operation	13 September 2005
Employment	European Employment Strategy	15 September 2005
Information Society	Information Society Programme	21 September 2005

## CONSUMER PROTECTION

### Consumer Policy

Several calls for proposals are expected to be issued in June as part of the European Commission's annual work programme for consumer policy. A budget of Euro 20.2 million has been set aside for delivering the EU Consumer Policy Strategy in 2005, which includes funding for consumer information and education, support for EU level consumer organisations and for the protection of consumer health and safety in the areas of services and non-food

products. Further details can be found on the European Commission Consumer Affairs DG website at,

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/consumers/tenders/information/grants/projects\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/consumers/tenders/information/grants/projects_en.htm)

## **CULTURE**

### **Twinning Grants**

The European Commission has unveiled its plans for the 2006 Twinning Programme at a recent meeting with local government representatives in Brussels. It is planning two separate calls for proposals for 2006, covering exchanges and conferences respectively. The Exchange Programme will be in four phases, with deadlines in November 2005 and February, April and June 2006. The definition will be broadened to cover meetings that combine learning about the European Union with practical activities at the local level. The lower and upper limits for funding will remain at Euro 2,000 and Euro 20,000. Applications will be evaluated on the European content, the active participation of citizens and the relevance of the activities to target groups. For conferences, there will be two phases, with the minimum and maximum amounts of grant rising to Euro 10,000 and Euro 60,000. The criteria will allow for a mixture of training, promotion and information activities and 60% of the total cost of the event will now be eligible for funding. In addition to the twenty five EU Member States, Romania will also be eligible for funding under the new scheme and it is hoped that Bulgaria will follow suit. In a separate development, the Commission's Twinning Office has revamped its website. Instead of sending applicants individual letters, a list of successful projects will now be published on the site. The new website will also include more information on the Golden Stars awards and details of any changes to the grants. A new DVD giving examples of successful twinning projects and other publications can be ordered free of charge.

[http://europe.eu.int/comm/towntwinning/index\\_en.html](http://europe.eu.int/comm/towntwinning/index_en.html)

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **Employment Strategy: Deadline 15 September 2005**

The European Commission is inviting applications from projects which create a better understanding of the European Employment Strategy and disseminate information about its operation. Projects

should help improve national understanding of the Strategy's relevance, improve working relationships between national authorities and other stakeholders and encourage the transfer of experience and good practice between Member States. Two types of activities will be supported by a Commission grant,

- Short term follow up and information activities, involving a limited number of events and focusing on information about the Strategy and the dissemination of good practice examples to a large group of stakeholders
- Longer term transnational networks set up to encourage closer co-operation between groups of partners, for example through study visits, meetings and joint strategies

Applications should be submitted by public authorities or agencies responsible for labour market policy located in an EU Member State, applicant or European Free Trade Area (EFTA) country. Projects should involve a good mix of countries and different types of organisation. The deadline for completed applications is 15 September 2005. Further information and guidelines are available online at,

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/calls/2005/vp\\_2005\\_011/tender\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/calls/2005/vp_2005_011/tender_en.htm)

## **ENTERPRISE**

### **SME Corporate Social Responsibility: Deadline 29 July 2005**

The European Commission's Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry has issued its annual call for projects which mainstream corporate social responsibility amongst small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Proposals should come from organisations including business and trade associations, SME and regional development agencies and public authorities at national, regional or local level. Projects should relate to the recommendations of the European Multistakeholder Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility, particularly those concerning SMEs. Grants of up to Euro 300,000 will be awarded to successful projects, representing no more than 75% of eligible costs. Applications must be sent to the European Commission by 29 July 2005. The relevant application form and documentation can be obtained from,

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/funding/grants/themes\\_2005/calls\\_prop\\_2005.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/funding/grants/themes_2005/calls_prop_2005.htm)

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Disability Awareness: Deadline 11 July 2005**

As a follow up to the 2003 European Year of People with Disabilities, the European Commission plans to fund a series of pilot projects which identify and exchange good practice in the field of equal opportunities for disabled people. Its aim is to try to improve disability awareness across a range of policy areas. Projects should be transnational and should identify and develop techniques to be used to improve awareness of disability issues at various levels. They should also use the exchange of experience and good practice to identify and develop knowledge in this area and encourage networking. Priority will be given to projects in the following areas,

- Integrating equal opportunities in all policies and activities
- Improving the portrayal of disabled people in the media
- The development of academic research into disabled women and the promotion of relevant networks
- Mapping existing research into disability policy

Between six and ten schemes will be funded and should involve a range of partners from at least five Member States. Applications are invited from public or private sector organisations, including local and regional authorities and disability rights organisations. Grants of between Euro 180,000 and Euro 500,000 will be awarded by the European Commission to successful projects, representing no more than 80% of the project's total costs. The deadline for project submissions is 11 July 2005. Further information is available online from,

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/calls/2005/vp\\_2005\\_006/tender\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/calls/2005/vp_2005_006/tender_en.htm)

E-mail: [fatima.ribeiro@cec.eu.int](mailto:fatima.ribeiro@cec.eu.int)

## **INFORMATION SOCIETY**

### **Call for ICT Projects: Deadline 21 September 2005**

The European Commission has issued its fifth call for proposals under the Information Society Programme which funds applied ICT research in a number of technical areas. This call will support projects in the following areas,

- Access to and preservation of cultural and scientific resources
- E-inclusion
- ICT for environmental risk management
- Software and services
- Research networking test beds
- Multimodal interfaces
- ICT for networked businesses
- Collaborative working environments

Applications can be made by single organisations or consortia of at least three organisations from three different EU or associated countries, although this will depend on the particular type of project. The call has a budget of Euro 638 million and a closing date of 21 September 2005.

[http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call\\_details.cfm?CALL\\_ID=208#](http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=208#)

## **JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS**

### **UK Refugee Plans**

As the European Commission prepares for the next phase of the European Refugee Fund, phase two begins in 2005. The Home Office, which administers the UK allowance from the Fund, is currently drawing up its guidelines for the years 2005-10. The Fund supports actions that provide appropriate reception conditions for refugees and asylum seekers, encourage their social and economic integration and help displaced people to make an informed decision on whether or not to return home. Grants of up to 50% of costs are provided by the Fund and the scheme is open to national and local authorities and the voluntary sector. The Home Office recently consulted on how phase two of the Fund will operate in the UK. Within the 2005-10 period, there will be two programming phases, each lasting three years and the Home Office is proposing to fund between ten and fifteen projects during each phase. A call for project proposals is expected to be published in early August, with a deadline in October. However, the call relating to voluntary repatriation may have an earlier deadline, probably in September.

Further information is available on the Home Office website at,

[www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/ind/en/home/laws\\_\\_\\_policy/refugee\\_integration0/funding/european\\_refugee\\_fund.html?](http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/ind/en/home/laws___policy/refugee_integration0/funding/european_refugee_fund.html?)

## **MEDIA**

### **Audiovisual Funding: Deadline 15 July 2005**

The European Commission has made funding available for the development, distribution and promotion of European audiovisual works under the 2001 to 2005 Media Plus Programme, with a total budget of Euro 2.7 million. Eligible applicants are independent companies whose main activity is audiovisual production, registered in one of the Member States of the European Union or the countries participating in the Media Plus Programme and which are owned and continue to be owned, either directly or via majority participation by nationals from these countries. The maximum Community contribution is Euro 50,000 per project. Applicant companies may submit a maximum of two projects. The Community contribution may not exceed 50% (or 60% for countries with low audiovisual capacity) of the eligible costs.

[www.europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/media/i2iav\\_en.html](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/media/i2iav_en.html)

## **RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**

### **Research Funding: Deadline 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. Euro 5 million is available for specific support actions, with a deadline of 7 September 2005. Applications can be made online at the website below.

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

### **Sustainable Transport Research: Deadline 1 September 2005**

The European Commission is calling for project proposals for research into sustainable surface transport as part of the EU Programme for Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area.

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

## **International Co-operation: Deadline 13 September 2005**

Grants are available for research projects involving countries outside the European Union and accession countries. Research consortia made up of partners from the EU and developing countries can apply for funding for projects in public health, resource management, food security and farming. Consortia with partners from the EU and Mediterranean countries can apply for funding for environment, renewable energy and health projects. Further information is available from,

[http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call\\_details.cfm?CALL\\_ID=185](http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=185)

## **Cyber Research Call: Deadline 8 September 2005**

The European Commission has invited proposals for projects that develop high capacity and high speed communications networks for researchers in Europe and specific high performance grids and test beds. Funded by the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Development, the Communication Network Development Scheme is attempting to develop a cyber infrastructure for research, capitalising on new computing and communication opportunities. It aims to encourage greater depth and breadth of collaboration between Europe's researchers. Applications are invited from consortia of organisations from EU Member States and associated countries. A budget of Euro 55 million is available for this call, which has a deadline of 8 September 2005.

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

## **SOCIAL INCLUSION**

### **Social Inclusion Support: Deadline 29 July 2005**

This call for proposals will support key European networks involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion with a view to enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of policies and programmes to combat poverty and social exclusion under the Community Action Programme. Proposals may come from European-level networks of organisations whose main purpose is to contribute to the fight against poverty and social exclusion and whose membership is composed of organisations who are active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. Applicants must be non-profit organisations whose members are themselves non-profit organisations established in at least twelve Member States of the European Community.

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/social\\_inclusion/grants\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/social_inclusion/grants_en.htm)

### **Funds to Support Roma People: Deadline 25 July 2005**

The European Commission is making funding available to support the activities of European level umbrella organisations representing and defending the rights of Roma people. This call supports proposals which improve the representation and defence of Roma people's rights in their dealings with European and national authorities and to develop knowledge on the extent of discrimination against Roma people.

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/fundamental\\_rights/callspt/calls\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/callspt/calls_en.htm)

## **Consultations**

### **Charity Commission Consultation: Deadline 24 June 2005**

The Charity Commission has published the results of their widescale strategic review which will provide a blueprint for the way they will take the Commission forward over the next three years. Their publication also includes a feedback form and they welcome your views. The consultation period ends on 24 June 2005.

[www.charity-commission.gov.uk/tcc/pdfs/StratReview05v1.pdf](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/tcc/pdfs/StratReview05v1.pdf)

### **Postage Cost Increases to Hit Sector: Deadline 4 July 2005**

Charities are being warned that their direct marketing revenues may be severely hit due to Royal Mail's proposals to introduce a size-based pricing structure on postage. The revised structure is predicted to bring additional costs to charities and the Institute of Fundraising is urging the sector to contribute to Postcomm's current consultation on the plans. Postcomm's consultation is open until 4 July 2005. For more information please visit,

[www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk](http://www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk)

### **Home Office to Consult on Compact: Deadline 12 July 2005**

The Home Office is to consult on the future of the Compact and has launched a consultation document, Strengthening Partnerships: Next Steps for Compact, within which it aims to look at ways in which to move the Compact forward and build on the work that has been done so far. Proposals include the Compact Plus scheme, as announced by the Home Secretary, a Compact Champion, who would help them realise those commitments and a kitemark or accreditation scheme.

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/comrace/active/temp/bright\\_future.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/comrace/active/temp/bright_future.html)

### **Sector Views on European Constitution: Deadline 26 August 2005**

Announced prior to recent developments in France and Holland, charities are being urged by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) to get involved with the debate about the European Constitution by participating in the umbrella body's newly launched consultation. NCVO believes that the Constitution may be of benefit to the sector, particularly with regards campaigning activities as EU institutions and Member States would be obliged to

maintain an open dialogue with civil society organisations. However, there are some aspects that are not as helpful – the most recent example being the introduction of new internal rules that limit access to the EU Parliament to organisations with a permanent base in Brussels. These rules are now under review following lobbying by a group of UK charities led by NCVO. A report based on the results will be launched at the next Labour Party Conference at its EU fringe event. Further information and the consultation document are available from,

[www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/europeaninternational](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/europeaninternational)

### **Public Trust in the Management of Charities**

Acevo, the charity chief executives' body, has set up an inquiry into trust in charities. This will incorporate the views of both chief executives and of the general public, reporting to Acevo's Annual Conference in December. The work is designed to complement and feed into the work of NCVO on issues of accountability and transparency. Complete a short questionnaire at,

[www.acevo.org.uk/survey/fillsurvey.php?sid=19](http://www.acevo.org.uk/survey/fillsurvey.php?sid=19)

If you are planning a consultation exercise, why not publicise it within the next issue of the North West Network Newsletter. Please send the relevant details to us as soon as possible, E-Mail: [info@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:info@nwnetwork.org.uk) or Fax: 0161 228 6137. We very much welcome your contribution.

## **Partner Search**

### **Green Routes**

The local authority of Var in the South East of France is undertaking a project to convert an old railway into a green route for the use of pedestrians and cyclists. The project will focus on promoting the area's cultural and national heritage by developing tourism and leisure routes. The authority is seeking other organisations that have organised, or that are interested in, similar projects so as to apply for European funding for the project.

Contact: Céline Canarelli, Conseil Général du Var, Mission 'Europe', 390 Avenue des Lices, F- 83076 Toulon Cedex, France. Tel: 00 33 4 9418 6059, Fax: 00 33 4 9418 638, E-Mail: europe@cg83.fr

### **Europe Here We Come**

An upper secondary school for children with learning disabilities in Sweden is seeking partners for an EU Comenius school project. The project will organise a trip to another country for a small group of students aged seventeen to twenty. It hopes to let pupils get to know students in other countries, share cultural and social experiences and strengthen understanding between EU countries. It is seeking a school in another European country to host the visit.

Contact: Solveig Hallin, Mölndals stad, Stadshuset, Göteborgsvägen 11-17, SE-43182 Mölndal, Sweden. Tel: 00 46 3 1207 738, E-Mail: solveighallin@hotmail.com

### **On the Job**

The local authority of Granada, in southern Spain, is undertaking a project within the EU's Equal Programme on helping those at risk of social inclusion to join the workforce. The project hopes to work with organisations working in this area, helping them to raise their profile and network and to propose new and innovative ideas on reducing inequality between women and men. The project seeks partners who are undertaking similar projects in the field of equality or who wish to get involved in this area.

Contact: Ángel S. Pinto, Técnico Superior de Desarrollo, Delegación del Área Metropolitana y Programas Territoriales, Diputación de Granada, CIE Diputación de Granada, Avda. de Andalucía s/n, 18014 Granada, Spain. Tel: 00 34 9 5880 4954, Fax: 00 34 9 5820 7704, E-Mail: asph@dipgra.es Web: www.dipgra.es

## **Improving Communication**

Essex University is involved in a transnational project, funded through the EU Leonardo da Vinci Training Programme, which is aimed at developing practical training material to address problems of intercultural communication in local communities within the EU. The project leaders are looking to local authorities to help them with their research to identify current trends within local communities, for example looking into gender, age, religion, race, by filling out a questionnaire.

Contact: John Hurst, Debdale, 135 Barrowby Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 8AE. E-Mail: [jf@jfhurst.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:jf@jfhurst.fsnet.co.uk)

## **Pollution Partners**

A company in France is undertaking a project under the EU's Sixth Framework Programme and seeks public or private laboratories in other European countries, that specialise in analyses of pollutants or that wish to extend their areas of expertise to cover pollutants in the environment, food or health. The project will focus on the transfer of expertise in micropollutants, organise expert meetings on food quality and safety research and hold seminars on the environmental impact of pollutants, as well as offering training.

Contact: Philippe Grandsire, Micropolluants Technologie, SA, 5 Impasse des Anciens Hauts Fourneaux, BP 80293, Thionville Cedex F-57100, France. Tel: 00 33 3 82 88 22 90, E-Mail: [contact@mp-tech.net](mailto:contact@mp-tech.net) Web: [www.mp-tech.net](http://www.mp-tech.net)

## **Sport and the EU**

Loughborough University is undertaking a follow up of a University Association for Contemporary European Studies panel held on sport and the EU. It is looking for people carrying out research in this area to exchange information and opinions on sport related topics. The researcher is also seeking information from people dealing with sport and the EU from different points of view (not only policy), such as from the legal, sociological and historical perspective or covering issues of European identity.

Contact: Borja Garcia, Department of Politics, International Relations and European Studies, Loughborough University, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU. Tel: 01509 223 652, Fax: 01509 223 917, E-Mail: [b.garcia-garcia@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:b.garcia-garcia@lboro.ac.uk)

## **Non European Funding**

### **Small Grants for Volunteers: Open Call**

2005 is the Year of the Volunteer. Volunteering England in partnership with BitC, the Media Trust, TimeBank, Youth Action Network and Youthnet are distributing small grants in order to enable and encourage more people to participate in the Year by taking action to address the needs of their own communities. 2005 small grants aim to support local people to put their own ideas into action.

[www.volunteering.org.uk/missions.php?id=935](http://www.volunteering.org.uk/missions.php?id=935)

### **Merseyside Disability Federation Social Risk Capital Grants**

If your organisation works for disabled people, is doing something new or innovative and is within the Merseyside boundary, then the Merseyside Disability Federation (MDF) would love to hear from you. Social Capital funding will support the development and growth of small voluntary and community organisations of, and for, disabled people. It will help organisations develop their skills and test out new ways of working. It is primarily, but not exclusively, concerned with providing support for new and emerging organisations. The grants panel welcomes innovative initiatives and ideas. For more information and an application form please contact, Chris or Gina at Merseyside Disability Federation,

Tel: 0151 291 9570

Textphone: 0151 291 9569

E-Mail: [info@merseydisability.org.uk](mailto:info@merseydisability.org.uk)

### **BLF Announces New Funding Programmes**

The Big Lottery Fund (BLF) has announced the first wave of funding within its new framework to deliver new funding programmes for 2005-2009, the first of which will be introduced later this year. Demand-led programmes and streams will account for one third of all funding UK-wide. The Big Lottery Fund's themes and outcomes and the results from the public consultation will provide the policy framework, with the emphasis on projects identifying needs and offering solutions to local issues. The level of prescription will be minimal, allowing a very broad range of applicants and projects to apply. The Fund has also committed to the principle of full cost recovery and will provide funding for all relevant costs associated

with delivering the projects it supports. The remaining two thirds of funding in England will be allocated to a range of strategic programmes which will allow specific policy areas to be supported in a more targeted way. The areas decided so far for strategic funding include,

- **Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Infrastructure, £155 million**

Following the public consultation and detailed discussions with key infrastructure bodies, the Big Lottery Fund's board has agreed that VCS infrastructure should form a strategic funding initiative in England, covering financing advice, resource centres, developing generic infrastructure in areas currently without it, sharing learning and best practice, governance and cross sector partnership influencing

- **Children's Play, £155 million**

Based on the recommendations of the report Getting Serious About Play, the Fund will invest £155 million in England over three years in the establishment of a strategic fund to create and improve local children's play spaces in areas of greatest need. Grants will be awarded to projects to develop, create, improve and design innovative children's play facilities with the aim of providing free local play provision for youngsters

- **Environmental Programmes, £354 million**

Funding programmes will be developed to enable the Fund to meet the outcome of improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy. This area of funding will include £90 million of funding for parks, which will be run in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund, building on their successful parks programme. This extra funding will allow the programme to expand and provide support for a wider range of projects across the country. The remaining funding will focus on projects that support and develop community spaces; local community enterprise, including local food production and farming; and access to the natural environment aimed at the conservation and enhancement of the natural landscape with improved access for everyone

- **Wellbeing Programmes, £165 million**

In response to the consultation process, the Fund has identified a number of priorities to support healthier and more active people and communities. These will include encouraging healthier lifestyles through community sport, physical activity and healthy eating; an intervention

programme for common mental health conditions; supporting sustainable and active travel initiatives, that will enable more people to walk and cycle as part of their everyday lives; and a focus on alcohol harm reduction

- **International Grants, £60 million**

The International Grants Programme will be increased to £20 million a year from next year. The Programme, which will combine both demand-led and strategic elements, will retain its focus on health, education, natural resources and human rights while adding a new priority of economic empowerment

For more information please visit, [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

### **Awards for All Raises Grant Ceiling (England)**

Awards for All England has announced that it will raise the maximum funding levels on its grant programme from £5,000 to £10,000 from early 2006 onwards. Awards for All is the Lottery scheme that funds projects that enable people to take part in art, sport, heritage and community activities, as well as projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community. In anticipation of the increase, the distributors have boosted their contributions to the Programme for the financial year 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 to £56.3 million - an increase of 50%. For more information please go to,

[www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/england\\_main.html](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/england_main.html)

### **Changes in Tudor Trust Funding**

Important news on Tudor Trust grants in 2005-2006, from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 they will only consider applications from organisations which were awarded a grant by the Tudor Trust in the previous five years (to qualify, the grant commitment letter must be dated on or after 1 April 2000). For more information please go to,

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

### **Hanson Environment Fund**

The Hanson Environment Fund was set up in 1997, using landfill tax credits accumulated by its parent company, to support environmental and community initiatives from not-for-profit organisations. The Fund has distributed more than £15 million in

the last eight years, to support more than 760 projects across the UK. The fund offers two levels of support,

- Small Grants Scheme: Grants between £250 and £4,000 for community amenities and wildlife and habitat conservation. Applicants do not need to be enrolled with ENTRUST
- Main Grants Scheme: Grants between £4,001 and £25,000 for the creation and improvement of parks and public amenities and the creation, restoration and management of areas specifically to safeguard and/or enhance biodiversity. Applicants must be enrolled with ENTRUST

The Fund is administered by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT), which handles all applications and grants. A management board meets quarterly to consider applications for the main grants scheme and monthly for the small grants scheme. All projects must be located within ten miles of a registered landfill site in addition to a Hanson operation. This is a requirement of the Landfill Tax Regulations.

To find the location of your nearest registered landfill site, visit the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme website at: [www.ltcs.org.uk](http://www.ltcs.org.uk) and click on landfill operators on the left-hand menu. Alternatively, you can contact ENTRUST, the regulatory body of the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme on 0161 972 0044 or your local authority, who will be able to provide you with a list of all landfill sites in your area.

For further information please contact,

Hanson Environment Fund  
RSWT  
The Kiln  
Waterside  
Mather Road  
Newark  
Nottinghamshire  
NG24 1WT

Tel: 0870 036 1000  
E-Mail: [grants@rswt.org](mailto:grants@rswt.org)  
Web: [www.hansonenvfund.org](http://www.hansonenvfund.org)

## **The Co-operative Charitable Foundation**

The Co-operative Charitable Foundation has three programmes to support community groups and individuals across its trading area.

**Community Support Programme:** Supporting community groups to find co-operative solutions to community challenges. This Programme is aimed at community groups that want to make a difference in their own communities. The community can be geographically based – such as a village, town or housing estate - or could be a community of people brought together to address a specific issue which affects them. The Programme aims to provide assistance to groups that have a self-help approach or that can show a close involvement with their beneficiaries.

**Opportunity Support Programme:** Supporting individuals to fulfil their potential. This Programme aims to fund grants for individuals, of all ages, who are experiencing difficulties and disadvantages that prohibit them from reaching their full potential or from contributing to their local community.

**Lifelong Learning Programme:** Supports employees, active members and members to develop new skills. This Programme is established to offer support to employees, active members and members of United Co-operatives and other co-operators who wish to undertake vocational or non-vocational training courses, in particular co-operative or mutual studies.

Each Programme has guidelines about the grant-making criteria and the types of work or projects that could be funded. The remaining closing dates for completed applications are,

- First week of August 2005 for trustees' meeting in October
- First week of November 2005 for trustees' meeting in January 2006

For further information or assistance please contact,

The Co-operative Charitable Foundation  
United Co-operatives  
Sandbrook Park  
Sandbrook Way  
Rochdale  
OL11 1RY  
Tel: 01706 202032  
Web: [www.united.coop](http://www.united.coop)

## **Payroll Giving Grants**

The Payroll Giving Grants Programme was launched by the Home Office in January to reward small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) that set up Payroll Giving. Any employer is eligible for a grant of up to £500 so long as the organisation has fewer than five hundred employees. In addition, the first £10 of each employee's monthly donations will be matched, £-for-£, for a period of six months. All charities and businesses with fewer than five hundred employees that sign up to Payroll Giving before the end of December 2006, are eligible to receive a one-off grant of up to £500. Grants are tiered according to the number of employees, as follows: 1 to 199 employees - £300; 200 to 249 employees - £400; 250 to 499 employees - £500. Grants and matched donations will be backdated for any organisation that has signed up since 6 April 2004. Charities that sign up to the Programme will also benefit by being on the receiving end of a regular, reliable donation flow. Payroll Giving has the potential to involve more employees than any other workbased fundraising initiatives and to raise money for charities across the UK. Smaller community-based charities can benefit from the grant programme, as it can be an ideal way for local charities to engage local business and their employees. To make the most out of the Payroll Giving Grants Programme, the Institute of Fundraising is offering training for charities. For further information visit the links page of,

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

Payroll Giving Grants Hotline: 0845 602 6786

## **Co-operative Group Community Dividend Fund**

The Co-operative Group Community Dividend scheme offers grants of £100 to £5,000 to a wide range of community projects that share the Co-op's values of self-help and caring for others. Eligible projects include those concerned with young people, playgroups, disabled people, elderly people, credit unions, education and the environment. Exclusions include applications from projects without a charitable purpose or those involving overseas activities, individual sponsorship, party political activities, religious worship and applications from statutory bodies or services for core activities. Successful applicants are notified in writing within four months of the completed application being received. Application forms can be obtained from Co-operative Group stores or downloaded from the following website,

[www.co-op.co.uk/communitydividend](http://www.co-op.co.uk/communitydividend)

## **Only Connect: Deadlines 5 August & 4 November 2005**

Only Connect is a visit scheme from the Sustainable Funding Project and Triodos Bank. They will pay up to £100 travel and subsistence expenses for employees or volunteers of one organisation in England to visit another voluntary or community organisation that can demonstrate an existing track record in income-generation. They will also give the visitors £150 to pay the host organisation a consultancy fee for their time. All they ask in return is that visitors fill out report forms - one immediately after the visit and one six months later to measure the progress made. This will be very useful for the visitors to embed the lessons learnt, but it will also benefit other organisations, because they will capture the key lessons, and post them on their website. For applications contact,

Tel: 0800 328 2181

Web: [www.triodos.co.uk](http://www.triodos.co.uk)

The closing dates are 5 August and 4 November 2005.

## **The Yapp Charitable Trust**

The Yapp Charitable Trust makes grants to small registered charities. Charities must have been fully constituted and operating for at least three years. Grants are for running costs and salaries and are to provide continuation funding for established work only. Grants are for work with: elderly people; children and young people; people with disabilities or mental health problems; people trying to overcome life-limiting problems of a social origin, such as addiction, relationship difficulties, abuse or a history of offending. Grants are also made to support charities working in education and learning. Single year grants are usually for about £2,000. Ongoing grants are for up to £3,000 a year. Application forms are available by e-mail or post from,

Margaret Thompson

47A Paris Road

Scholes

Holmfirth

West Yorkshire

HD9 1SY

Tel: 01484 683403

E-Mail: [info@yappcharitabletrust.org.uk](mailto:info@yappcharitabletrust.org.uk)

Web: [www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk](http://www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk)

## **The Global Fund for Women**

The Global Fund for Women supports women's groups that advance the human rights of women and girls. The Fund wishes to strengthen women's groups based outside the United States by providing grants ranging from \$500 to \$20,000. The groups that are funded address issues that include but are not limited to: building peace and ending gender-based violence; advancing health, sexual and reproductive rights; expanding civic and political participation; ensuring economic and environmental justice; increasing access to education; fostering social change and philanthropy. Application forms are available from,

The Global Fund for Women  
1375 Sutter Street, Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
USA  
Tel: (415) 202-7640  
Fax: (415) 202-8604  
Web: [www.globalfundforwomen.org](http://www.globalfundforwomen.org)

## **Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund: Deadline 24 June 2005**

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund has launched its first new round of grants since 2003. The UK grants round continues the themes of transition to adulthood and independence and the international grants programme retains the concept of working with people in the poorest areas of the world, whose social exclusion, poverty and displacement are caused by war or serious conflict. Only organisations that are registered charities in the UK can apply.

[www.theworkcontinues.org/grants/international\\_grants.asp](http://www.theworkcontinues.org/grants/international_grants.asp)

## **Y SPEAK Consultation Fund**

The purpose of the Fund is to help young people take their views to decision makers, enabling participation and dialogue between young people and those who make policies and decisions. Grants of up to £7,500 for national projects and £10,000 for international projects are available. Applicants must be not-for-profit, voluntary or community sector organisations or national/local charitable trusts. Statutory bodies, including local authorities, central government departments are not eligible for funding. For more information go to, [www.changemakers.org.uk](http://www.changemakers.org.uk)

## **Training & Events**

### **Capacity Building Training**

Bishop Doye Agama has been awarded a Community Champion's grant for portable training equipment to provide more capacity development in the North West region. Doye has a number of courses available to community groups that include newsletter sub editing and production, as well as leadership training and project management among others. To contact Doye or to book training for your group please E-Mail: [doye@hotmail.com](mailto:doye@hotmail.com)

### **Learn How to Unlock the Fundraising Potential of the Web Online Fundraising 21 July 2005, Birmingham**

For those in the know, online donations can form a lucrative source of income. This one-day workshop shows you how to generate online support and gives you a personalised action plan to make it a key part of your fundraising strategy. Cost: £100 per delegate.

Tel: 01732 520 074

E-Mail: [events@cafonline.org](mailto:events@cafonline.org)

Web: [www.cafonline.org/workshops](http://www.cafonline.org/workshops)

### **European Day of Languages 26 September 2005**

The Council of Europe has announced that this year's European Day of Languages will take place on 26 September. Originally created in 2001, the day aims to highlight the importance of lifelong language learning and raise awareness of the multiplicity of languages around Europe, encouraging Europeans to become multilingual. Events are planned to take place all over Europe to celebrate the day, including language festivals in Greece and Italy and a foreign language song competition in Poland. The UK input into the day is being co-ordinated by the Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research (CILT).

Tel: 020 7379 5101

E-Mail: [info@cilt.org.uk](mailto:info@cilt.org.uk)

For more information on events taking place in Europe, visit the Council of Europe's portal website at,

[www.ecml.at/edl/default.asp](http://www.ecml.at/edl/default.asp)

## **EU Grants and Funding Opportunities** **28 October 2005, London**

How to access EU money, without spending any. Learn about the general funding programmes – including the European Social Fund and the EU's R&D Framework Programme – as well as the specialist cash available for environmental groups, companies trading with Japan and the transport and logistics industry, to name a few at random. If you are unsure what Objective 2 means, what the AGIS Programme covers and what the Learning and Skills Council has to do with EU funding, then this course will provide you with the answers and make sure you leave with a good grounding and the ability to prepare properly for your first bid. Cost: EIA Members £125 + VAT, Non-Members £175 + VAT.

## **EU Information: Finding Your Way Through the Maze** **24 November 2005, London**

A beginner's guide to the work, publications and websites of the main EU institutions. If you're new to EU information or have only a grasp of the basics, this is the course for you. At the end of the day, you'll have a good understanding of what the EU institutions do, how law and policy are made, the key information sources and what other information networks exist to help you. Cost: EIA Members £185 + VAT, Non-Members £255 + VAT.

For both EIA events the contact details are as follows,

European Information Association  
Central Library  
St Peter's Square  
Manchester  
M2 5PD  
Tel: 0161 228 369  
Fax: 0161 236 6547  
E-Mail: [eia@libraries.manchester.gov.uk](mailto:eia@libraries.manchester.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.eia.org.uk/events.htm](http://www.eia.org.uk/events.htm)

## **Free Internet Courses**

Are you often interested in doing a course but find it difficult to make the time or find a suitable location? Doing courses on the internet with the Learners website solves that problem as you can learn whenever you want and wherever you have access to the internet. All the courses are completely free and can be done individually or run by community groups. There's plenty of enticing subjects including digital photography, gardening, parenting, basic

skills, an introduction to the internet, quizzes and lots more. All the courses are colourful, interactive and easy to follow. From ten minutes fun to a number of weeks of structured training, everyone will find something to suit them. The courses are hosted by the Greater Manchester Community Grid for Learning, part of the Workers' Educational Association in the North West. Contact the team for more information at,

Tel: 0161 277 5460

E-Mail: [learners@wea.ac.uk](mailto:learners@wea.ac.uk)

Web: [www.learners.org.uk](http://www.learners.org.uk)

**Learning Disability Today Manchester 2005  
22 June 2005, Manchester International Convention Centre**

If you work in the learning disability field then this event is for you. It is the largest learning disability event taking place in the North of England in 2005. A dedicated exhibition involving sixty key learning disability organisations, a day-long seminar programme featuring key professionals, service users and policy makers and the very best in learning disability art, theatre and dance. This is your chance to get together with thousands of your peers to learn, share and enjoy the latest developments in learning disability care. Cost: £18 + VAT in advance, £20 + VAT on the day or a group offer of five tickets for just £60. To book your place at this event please contact,

Tel: 0870 161 3505

Web: [www.learningdisabilitytoday.co.uk](http://www.learningdisabilitytoday.co.uk)

**Regional Economic Strategy (RES) Review  
7 July 2005, Warrington**

The Environment Agency is hosting this event as part of the North West Development Agency's public consultation exercise for the review of the Regional Economic Strategy. There will be brief presentations on the RES consultation document and the findings of the sustainability appraisal, which has been carried out alongside the developing RES. Workshop sessions will explore the connections between social and environmental issues for the North West and the key priorities for the economy identified by the RES. This event is open to key staff from regional governmental agencies, businesses and the not-for-profit sectors and voluntary and community representatives who have an interest in sustainable development. For further information or to attend this event, please contact Lissa Reid of the Environment Agency. E-Mail: [lissa.reid@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:lissa.reid@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**VAT and Charities**  
**13 September 2005, Manchester**

An all-day course covering all aspects of VAT as it affects charities, including registration, liability of income, fundraising and the VAT reliefs available. Designed for anyone involved within VAT accounting in the charity sector. Further dates are scheduled throughout the year for locations around the country. Cost: £299. For further information please contact Horwarth Clark Whitehall.

Tel: 0161 214 7501  
Web: [www.horwathcw.com](http://www.horwathcw.com).

**14th European Workshop on Voluntary Action**  
**29 September - 2 October 2005, Berlin**

International network Volonteuropes annual conference combines seminars, key-skills workshops, networking, visits to local projects and sightseeing. This year the title is Active Citizenship in Europe and will focus on: volunteer management and episodic volunteering; active ageing; social inclusion; corporate social responsibility and employee volunteering; active citizenship; environment, sports and culture; volunteering and the public sector. It is recommended that delegates book early as places are limited. The conference organisers are also looking for presenters - please see their website for further details. Cost: from Euro 364.

Tel: 020 7643 1327  
E-Mail: [sturner@csv.org.uk](mailto:sturner@csv.org.uk)  
Web: [www.volonteuropa.org.uk](http://www.volonteuropa.org.uk)

**How to Raise Money From Trusts**  
**18 October 2005, Manchester**

Designed for those new to trust fundraising, this course offers a comprehensive introduction to a crucial funding source and will provide delegates with information on how to make creative use of directories and databases of trusts and foundations while developing an objective appreciation of what trusts are looking for from applicants. Cost: from £110. For further information please contact the Institute of Fundraising/DSC.

Tel: 08450 77 77 07  
Web: [www.dsc.org.uk](http://www.dsc.org.uk)

**Influencing Skills for Fundraisers**  
**25 October 2005, Manchester**

An intensive one-day training programme providing information on the latest thinking and best practice. Delegates will: learn how to build a rapport with someone; gain access to a toolbox of techniques; develop skills and confidence in your own ability to handle donors effectively and build up an effective case and adapt it to suit a range of different donors. Cost: £300 + VAT. For further information please contact The Management Centre.

Tel: 020 7978 1516

Web: [www.managementcentre.co.uk](http://www.managementcentre.co.uk)

**The Finances of Projects Funded by ESF**  
**21-22 September 2005, Manchester**

This two-day residential course deals exclusively with the financial aspects of managing projects financed by the European Social Fund. The course will look at issues such as apportionment, eligible costs and calculating overheads through a series of exercises. Participants will work on case studies.

**Monitoring & Audit For Action Plan Bodies**  
**29–30 September 2005, Manchester**

A two-day, workshop aimed at organisations that have Accountable Body status for the delivery of Measure packages. For further information on both events please contact,

European Briefing Unit

University of Bradford

Bradford

BD7 1DP

Tel: 01274 23 5821/3822

Fax: 01274 23 5820

E-Mail: [ebu@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:ebu@bradford.ac.uk)

Web: [www.brad.ac.uk/acad/ebu/training/schedule/](http://www.brad.ac.uk/acad/ebu/training/schedule/)

If you would like to include your event in the next issue of the North West Network Newsletter, please send it to us as soon as possible, E-Mail: [info@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:info@nwnetwork.org.uk) or Fax: 0161 228 6137. We very much welcome your contribution.

## **Publications**

### **Guiding Light**

Local authorities wishing to issue sustainability reports can now follow specific guidelines published by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and sponsored by the European Commission. The guidelines follow similar measures introduced for the vehicle, financial services, mining and metals, tour operator and telecommunications sectors. Sustainability reports are a key component in ensuring corporate transparency and accountability. The guidelines were produced after consultation with a working group made up of experts from around Europe from all levels of government, the civil sector and employment organisations. The full report can be accessed online at,

[www.globalreporting.org/guidelines/sectors/public.asp](http://www.globalreporting.org/guidelines/sectors/public.asp)

### **Not at Home**

The European Federation of Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) has published a new report claiming that homelessness is on the increase in Europe. The report's publication coincided with the Summit of Heads of State and Government to relaunch the Lisbon Agenda. Those most at risk of homelessness include immigrants, who face discrimination when it comes to obtaining decent housing. FEANTSA is critical of the EU for not living up to its commitments, agreed in 2000, to ensure that "everyone has the resources necessary to live in accordance with human dignity". The report is available online at,

[www.feantsa.org/code/en/hp.asp](http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/hp.asp)

### **Quality Improvement Agency for Lifelong Learning: Outcomes of the Progress Report Consultation and Stakeholder Workshops**

In June 2004, the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) published plans to establish a national Quality Improvement Agency (QIA) as part of its strategy to raise standards in the learning and skills sector. A report on the outcomes of the consultation on the Progress Report and stakeholder workshops for the new Agency is now available.

[www.lisda.org.uk/files/lisda/news/QIAProgressReport0305.pdf](http://www.lisda.org.uk/files/lisda/news/QIAProgressReport0305.pdf)

## **Race Equality Action Plan 2005**

The Neighbourhood Renewal Unit has updated its Race Equality Action Plan (REAP), originally launched in October 2002. REAP sets out the key areas for improvement where neighbourhood renewal is concerned and underlines the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's commitment to improving services for black and minority ethnic groups in the country's most disadvantaged areas. This second edition of REAP provides an update of progress since 2002 and sets out new milestones and priorities for 2005/06. It contains numerous case studies, takes a broader look at service delivery and discusses what action individual Government departments are taking to mainstream race equality issues with regard to meeting floor targets on employment, crime reduction, education, health, housing, and liveability.

[www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/publications.asp?did=1432](http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/publications.asp?did=1432)

## **The Voluntary Agencies Directory**

Now in its 24th edition, The Voluntary Agencies Directory is the established reference guide for journalists, job-seekers, researchers, policy makers, politicians and individuals involved in the voluntary sector. Organised into a user-friendly A-Z format, the directory lists over two thousand national charities and other organisations connected to the voluntary sector. Updated annually, it includes a concise description of the charities' aims and objectives plus a comprehensive subject index that groups organisations by their field of interest. The useful addresses section gives additional information on related organisations outside the voluntary sector and this edition also includes a section on job-hunting in the voluntary sector.

ISBN 0 7199 1645 3

Price: £35.00 (£24.50 NCVO members)

## **The Good Campaigns Guide**

This edition of The Good Campaigns Guide enables campaigners to use their skills, judgement and energy to transform available resources into positive social change. Using a range of newly developed tools, this guide examines how to achieve maximum impact using the minimum amount of effort.

ISBN 0 7199 1651 8

£25.00 (£17.50 NCVO members)

## **Good Governance Action Plan Workbook**

Trustees, chairs and chief executives acknowledge that a dedicated, well-trained board is vital to the successful operation of any voluntary sector organisation. This workbook has been designed so that boards are empowered to take responsibility for their own development. It gives trustees the means to immediately start working to improve their governance practices. It includes simple lessons that will spark debate and clarify group thinking. The lessons are designed to be fun team-building exercises with the potential to act as icebreakers.

ISBN 0 7199 1632 1

Price £7.50 (£5.25 NCVO members)

## **Recruiting a New Chief Executive: A Guide for Trustees and Chairs**

One of the most crucial tasks carried out by a board of trustees is the identification, recruitment and induction of a chief executive. This new publication is a step-by-step guide to making the process of recruitment a success. It includes a model job description, interview questions and an example contract. For all four publications please visit NCVO's online book shop,

<http://shop.ncvo-vol.org.uk/main.asp>

## **Making a Difference Together**

The Lloyds TSB Foundation has published an impact assessment of its collaborative grant-making programme, which aims to enhance co-ordination, co-operation and collaboration between voluntary organisations and also between the voluntary sector and public sector. For more information please go to,

[www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk/impact\\_assessment.html](http://www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk/impact_assessment.html)

## **International Organisational Toolkits**

Various toolkits to enable organisations to improve their capacity, from the global citizen participation body Civicus, are available in English, French, Spanish and Russian in word and pdf formats. Topics include action planning, handling the media and writing a funding application. File sizes seem to around 200 to 400 kb, as the documents are fairly long, but well written.

[www.civicus.org/new/content/civitoolkits2.htm](http://www.civicus.org/new/content/civitoolkits2.htm)

## **Evaluate and Rate that Job**

The Local Government (NJC) Job Evaluation Scheme has been adapted for use in the voluntary sector by the resource for groups in London, Personnel Employment Advice and Conciliation Service (PEACe). This links in with NJC pay scales, which are also available via their web pages. "Just Job Evaluation the PEACe approach" comes as a CDrom at £99 and includes a training module and practice exercises.

[www.actionlink.org.uk/peace/Content.cfm?SubSiteContentID=291](http://www.actionlink.org.uk/peace/Content.cfm?SubSiteContentID=291)

## **The Good Giving Guide**

This new publication aims to close the gap between what people think charity is and the reality of the modern voluntary and community sector. Where this book excels is in explaining where the money goes and exploding so-called common concerns about charity. The Good Giving Guide makes a valuable contribution to the debate around the sector's transparency and accountability.

[www.visionpaperbacks.co.uk](http://www.visionpaperbacks.co.uk)

## **Active Ageing in Active Communities**

This report examines the role of older volunteers within the context of an ageing population. It focuses on practical issues, such as recruiting and supporting volunteers aged over fifty as well as on wider public policy debates relating to demographic change and community participation. It also raises issues of importance for public policy and organisational practice. Tel: 01235 465500, E-Mail: [direct.orders@marston.co.uk](mailto:direct.orders@marston.co.uk)

If you would like to recommend a publication for the next issue of the North West Network Newsletter, please send the relevant details to us as soon as possible, E-Mail: [info@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:info@nwnetwork.org.uk) or Fax: 0161 228 6137. We very much welcome your contribution.

## **Noticeboard**

### **North West Network Office Move**

Please note that as of Monday 11 July 2005, North West Network will be relocating to new premises. Our telephone number, fax number and e-mail addresses will stay the same, our address however will be:

North West Network  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Albert House  
17 Bloom Street  
Manchester  
M1 3HZ

Please note that from the 8 – 12 July 2005, our offices will be closed for relocation.

### **Campaign for Learning**

Are you a voluntary sector organisation working with families in your local community? Would your organisation like free hands-on support to develop family learning opportunities? If the answer to these questions is yes, the Campaign for Learning may be able to help you. The Campaign for Learning is starting an exciting new national project, funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, to provide expert support for developing family learning opportunities in your local community. They can offer help with accessing funding and creating exciting new provision for the families in your local area. The Campaign for Learning co-ordinates Family Learning Week nationally, with a record 7,800 live events in 2004. The Campaign also runs the National Family Learning Network, which supports six thousand practitioners, working with an estimated five million families each year. For more information please contact, Abigail Fitzgibbon, Project Officer, Campaign For Learning on Tel: 0121 773 3133 or Fax: 0121 773 3233.

### **Charities Needed for Work Placement Scheme**

Working for a Charity is calling for voluntary and community organisations to host work placement schemes for people participating in its Foundation Course. The course allows those interested in working in the sector to get a feel for what's involved and includes a twenty day placement within a charity where the participant can get hands on experience. Working for a Charity is looking for suitable host charities that would be willing to offer

opportunities which not only would be of help to itself but will also provide a useful learning experience. There are no costs involved to the charity although it is recommended that travel expenses are refunded. The host charity will be asked to provide a brief resume of what was achieved during the placement. More information and registration forms are available from,

Tel: 020 7520 2512

E-Mail: [workingforcharity@ncvo-vol.org.uk](mailto:workingforcharity@ncvo-vol.org.uk)

Web: [www.workingforacharity.org.uk](http://www.workingforacharity.org.uk)

## **Rural Changes**

Sweeping changes in the delivery of rural services mean that the Countryside Agency is to be phased out by 2007 and its services taken on by different organisations. One of these is the new Commission for Rural Communities, which started work officially on 1 April 2005. The Commission will act as an independent expert, advisor and watchdog for the rural sector. Log on at, [www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk](http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk)

## **SOS Campaign**

Voluntary organisations are signing up to the SOS Europe campaign, started by the Social Platform, an EU wide group of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) promoting democracy and social justice. The campaign was launched after European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said that he wanted to remove social cohesion from the main priorities of the Lisbon Agenda for stability and growth to focus instead on jobs and growth.

[www.socialplatform.org](http://www.socialplatform.org)

## **Charities and Tax**

The newly merged HM Revenue and Customs, covering VAT as well as PAYE, Gift Aid and other tax matters, has a charity web section. The site seems to be based on the old Inland Revenue one.

[www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities)

## **Ethnic Health Forum Websites**

A new website created by the Ethnic Health Forum has information on Agenda 2010 in five languages (Arabic, Bangla, French, Somali and Urdu) as well as English. Also coming soon Mental Health

information in Arabic, French, Somali and Urdu languages.

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

### **Fed up with Telephone Salespeople?**

Voluntary organisations now have the same rights as individuals to opt out of unsolicited direct marketing phone calls. You can register for free with the Telephone Preference Service to stop all those annoying calls. The contact details are,

Telephone Preference Service  
FREEPOST  
29 LON20771  
Registration Line: 0845 070 0707  
Fax: 020 7323 4226  
Web: [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)

### **Greater Manchester Consortium Proposal**

Government Office for the North West has given approval to the Greater Manchester Consortium ChangeUp Proposal for 2005-2006. On 31 March GMCVO, on behalf of the Greater Manchester ChangeUp Consortium, submitted a proposal to Government Office for spending the funding available to Greater Manchester in Year One (2005/6). The final draft of the proposal is now complete.

[www.gmcvo.org.uk/viewpage.php?recid=910](http://www.gmcvo.org.uk/viewpage.php?recid=910)

### **National Childbirth Trust – Parenting Fund**

The National Childbirth Trust (NCT) has received funding from the Parenting Fund to support the NCT in developing access to and awareness of its services throughout North West England. Over the next year NCT aims to work in partnership with more voluntary and local government groups than at present, so NCT can provide an even more comprehensive service for parents in the North West region. Further information is available from Sue Edwards, Tel: 0870 066 8834, or Alison Macleod, Tel: 0870 066 8935.

### **New Trust Funding Website Launched**

[www.trustfunding.org.uk](http://www.trustfunding.org.uk) has just been re-launched with a number of excellent new features including an improved search facility and a user profile that will enable users to receive tailor-made updates on grant-making trusts that are of interest. Users will also be able to subscribe or renew subscriptions online.

## **Clarifying the Status of Volunteers**

Government ministers are looking at ways to clarify the legal status of volunteers in response to a series of court cases over unfair dismissal. While the impact of these cases has been small so far, concerns over legal costs and perceived risks could reduce the range of volunteering options.

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/comrace/active/item.asp?ID=126](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/comrace/active/item.asp?ID=126)

## **Compact Advocacy Programme Extended Locally**

A £370,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund will enable the Compact Advocacy Programme to investigate local breaches of the Compact. The grant means the two-member team at the Compact Advocacy Programme will be joined by a full-time local Compact Officer. The Programme, based at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, has so far taken or resolved forty cases of Compact breaches, begun a series of reports on compliance with the Compact in Government departments and launched a website advising organisations on how to identify Compact breaches. Breaches include unreasonable delays in funding decisions, the threat of grant withdrawal because of criticism of a statutory funder, or failure to consult on policy changes.

## **BSI Web Access Specification**

Following a report last year which highlighted the poor state of website accessibility in Britain, the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) is working with the British Standards Institution (BSI) and charity RNIB to develop clear guidance. The Publicly Available Specification (PAS) will focus on outcomes rather than processes and make reference to WCAG and other standards. Due to be published in the autumn and updated every two years, those clued up on web accessibility shouldn't find any surprises, but the DRC hopes it will clarify matters for others confused by the issue.

[www.drc-gb.org/newsroom/newsdetails.asp?id=805&section=4](http://www.drc-gb.org/newsroom/newsdetails.asp?id=805&section=4)

## **Online Help for Grant Seekers**

The Directory of Social Change (DSC) has launched two new subscription websites for grant seekers. Details of over 550 companies with cash and in kind support totaling £580 million are listed at, [www.companygiving.org.uk](http://www.companygiving.org.uk)

More than three thousand trusts with a combined £370 million to give to individuals are listed at, [www.grantsforindividuals.org.uk](http://www.grantsforindividuals.org.uk)

### **Click to Find A Celeb**

Fundraisers looking for celebrity support can now find out exactly which causes celebrities back via a new service from the Profile Group. The publisher of celeb contact book The Red Pages has enhanced the publication's website to include details of ten thousand international stars' charitable support, recent endorsement and promotional activities as well as documented interests and skills. Users can search the database by charity sector or charity name and the site is updated daily. Discounts for charities are available. For further information please contact, Tel: 020 7190 7788 or E-Mail: [enquiry@theredpages.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@theredpages.co.uk)

If you would like to publicise your organisation's latest news in our Noticeboard section in the next issue of the North West Network Newsletter, please send the relevant details to us as soon as possible, E-Mail: [info@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:info@nwnetwork.org.uk) or Fax: 0161 228 6137. We very much welcome your contribution.

**On Monday 11 July 2005  
North West Network  
Will be relocating to:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Albert House  
17 Bloom Street  
Manchester  
M1 3HZ**

**Tel: 0161 236 6493  
Fax: 0161 228 6137**

**E-Mail: [info@nwnetwork.org.uk](mailto:info@nwnetwork.org.uk)**

**[www.nwnetwork.org.uk](http://www.nwnetwork.org.uk)**

**Our offices will close on  
Thursday 7 July 2005  
and re-open on  
Tuesday 12 July 2005**