

NEWSLETTER

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ISSUE NO: 72 May 2010



Profiting the Voluntary and
Community Sector

FOREWORD

Welcome to Issue 72 of the North West Network Newsletter. This issue is packed with useful information that is of benefit to the Voluntary and Community Sector in the North West of England.

News from the European Team features European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund Programme Updates as well as information on the new Skills Funding Agency. We are also reporting on the feedback exercise we carried out on the Working Links project as well as a featured article on the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010.

News from the Volunteer Management Team features articles on Volunteering in Oldham, Oldham Volunteering Agency, Student Volunteering and the Launch of the Oldham's Volunteering Agency

News from One North West features and update on the Regional Strategy 2010, the NW BME Policy Forum and the Launch of the Black Manifesto - The Price of Race Inequalities.

You will also find featured in this issue information relating to **European Funding News, Other News, Funding Opportunities, Training and Events and Publications** which are all of benefit to the Voluntary and Community Sector in the North West.

North West Network is currently recruiting new members to its **Board of Trustees**. The role requires a commitment of approximately one day per quarter. This position would ideally be suited to a Chief Officer or Senior Manager within an organisation that holds full membership to North West Network. For further information please contact Jane Stanistreet, Operations Manager on Tel: 0161 236 6493.

STAFF PROFILE

Natasha Lawless, Administrator

My name is Natasha Lawless and I have just joined North West Network as an Administrator. I have previously worked for very large corporate companies in very big open planned offices so I am looking forward to working in a smaller environment. I am especially looking forward to having my own area of responsibilities and know this role will help to instil skills in me that I have wanted to learn for a while now.



I moved from Middlesbrough to Manchester when I was 5 and have always worked in the City Centre which I love as Manchester offers you just about everything you can need. I also went to University in Manchester and studied Media but after working for a local Newspaper I decided it was not for me and as being organised is my main strength (with my biggest achievement being that I planned my wedding alone in less than 8 months) this is what led me to working in an administration environment. I have worked for two other companies before joining North West Network the first being Countrywide Property Lawyers as an Administrator which was very customer based and allowed me to learn a lot about properties and conveyancing which will now especially come in handy as me and my Husband are buying a new house. I then worked for Network Rail as a HR Administrator for the recruitment department which I enjoyed thoroughly although the sheer number of people I had to deal with was a culture shock but again it allowed me to take on new skills in the HR sector which has always interested me.

Out of work I enjoy shopping of any form (which I am sure you can imagine my husband is thrilled about), reading and watching movies. My other main passion is writing and I have penned a book but am just working up the courage to start sending it out to publishers. I am very social and love having people over for dinner (My friend's know not to eat before coming to my house as I am known to put on six course meals!), I especially enjoy having themed gatherings and recently had a 30's style murder mystery dinner party but I also enjoy throwing casual BBQ's in the summer which is why I am such an avid Come Dine with Me fan. I also enjoy travelling and building memories and am very family orientated and lucky that most of my family and friends live in the North West so I can see them quite often and once I pass my driving test which I am taking in May I will (hopefully) be able to see them more in time for summer.

NATASHA LAWLESS

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN TEAM

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND 2007-2013

Programme Activity

The committees which oversee the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme in the North West (NW) continue to meet regularly and receive reports about the progress of the programme.

North West Network (NWN) along with our Merseyside partners Merseyside Network for Europe (MNE) continue to represent the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) on the committees and anyone who has issues they wish to raise at Regional Committee level should contact NWN on Tel: 0161 236 6493 or MNE on Tel: 0151 237 3972.

At the meeting of the ERDF Programme Monitoring Committee on the 3rd March 2010 a report was given on the performance of the ERDF programme to 31 October 2009.

The "headlines" from that report are:

Note: As a reminder the stages that a project has to go through to receive ERDF funds in the North West (NW) is as follows:

- Expression of Interest
- Concept Development
- Development and Appraisal
- Investment Decision
- Live Contracted Project

Expressions of Interest

The expressions of interest indicate an early stage of project development prior to the concept development stage. A total of 923 expressions of interest have been received, and 334 have progressed to concept.

Concept Development Stage

As stated above a total of 334 projects are in concept development stage, representing £755m of potential ERDF expenditure. An analysis of the projects at concept stage can be obtained by contacting the European Team at NWN.

Development and Appraisal Stage

A total of 57 projects are currently in Development and Appraisal stage, amounting to £165.3m of ERDF potential expenditure. An analysis of projects at the Development & Appraisal stage can be obtained by contacting the European Team at NWN.

Investment Decision Stage

A total of 39 projects are currently at Investment Decision stage amounting to £69.6m.

Projects that are live

A total of 83 projects have been fully contracted for a total value of £280.4m. These include the two Financial Engineering Instruments (FEIs), JESSICA (North-West Urban Investment Fund) and JEREMIE (North West VCLF). A breakdown of these projects can be obtained by contacting the European Team at NWN.

There is a website for the ERDF programme in the NW. You can access the site at www.erdfnw.co.uk

ERDF Newsletter

The North West Development Agency (NWDA) who are responsible for managing the ERDF programme in the NW are now producing newsletter which summarise progress to date and projects endorsed. The newsletters can be viewed online by going to <http://www.erdfnw.co.uk/news/> and clicking on the download newsletters at the left hand side of the page.

Programme Pause

The European Programme Executive (EPE) at the NWDA issued the following information on 29th March 2010

“Significant progress has been made in delivering the ERDF Northwest Programme 2007 - 2013 to date.

At the current exchange rate approximately 50% of the total Programme budget has already been committed to a range of quality projects across the region. And a further 25% of the total Programme budget is currently under consideration for projects at the Development & Appraisal stage of the application process.

In order for us to ensure that the remaining Programme budget is used to achieve the best possible results for the region the ERDF Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) and the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) have decided to apply a temporary pause to the processing of applications at Expression of Interest and Concept stage for a period of 8 weeks beginning 3 March 2010 ending 28 April 2010.

The purpose of the pause is to enable the European Programme Executive to evaluate Programme investments to date and prioritise areas for future Programme investments. We will then develop a framework for commissioning activity in these areas.

All of this will be done in consultation with key partners, including the sub-regional partnerships, the PMC and the NWDA, with individual projects informed of the outcome during May 2010.”

If you require further information about the programme pause please contact The European Team at NWN

For further information about any aspect of the ERDF programme in the NW contact the NWN European Team

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND 2007-2013

The European Social Fund (ESF) Programme is being delivered mainly through Co-financing organisations (CFOs). The CFOs that operate in the North West are the Skills Funding Agency, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) (with Jobcentre Plus (JCP) acting as their delivery agents) and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

Skills Funding Agency

The Skills Funding Agency is a new agency set up by the government to fund and regulate adult skills training in England which has taken over the work of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which closed down on 31 March 2010.

The Skills Funding Agency is an agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The Skills Funding Agency is set up to ensure that government funding gets to the organisations who provide further education and skills training in England. They will invest public spending - £4 billion per year - in colleges and training organisations to fund training for adults in England. The training is mainly to improve skills so that people can do their jobs better, get new jobs, or progress in their careers. To find out more about the Skills Funding Agency please visit: <http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/>

Skills Funding Agency QPF freeze date

The Skills Funding Agency have announced their next 'freeze date' for the Qualified Provider Framework (QPF). This will be will be 14 May 2010. The Qualified Provider Framework is a maintained list of all providers from which the Skills Funding Agency will secure education and training services. This list will incorporate those providers with whom the Skills Funding Agency will negotiate and/or invite to tender.

The LSC from who the Skills Funding Agency has taken over used to run a two stage e-tendering process for their e-procurement round for European Social Fund (ESF) and mainstream funds. The first stage of the process was a series of Pre-Qualification Questionnaires (PQQs) followed by the second stage which is an Invitation to Tender (ITT). Organisations who complete the PQQs correctly will enter the Skills Funding Agency QPF and will be included in any future round of procurement. Organisations who do not 'pass' the

PQQ cannot participate in the tendering process as lead providers. Pre-qualifying questions are mainly based on performance management, health and safety, equality and diversity, capacity and resource.

The Skills Funding Agency will use the QPF until the end of 2010. The Skills Funding Agency is developing the Approved College and Training Organisation Register (ACTOR) for launching in the autumn of 2010 and successful organisations from the QPF will be migrated across BUT only if their information is current. The Skills Funding Agency will use the ACTOR by the end of 2010.

Organisations already in the QPF system need to ensure that if the anniversary of this successful submission is on or before 14 May 2010 then as a minimum must refresh the following information

- Annual accounts or financial statement
- Health and safety
- Quality assurance, e.g. new OfSTED Inspection results

Organisations already in the QPF system should also take this opportunity to update/refresh any other information that may have changed since your initial submission.

Organisations which have been partially successful and partially unsuccessful on your submitted suite of PQQs need to amend and re-submit the unsuccessful portion for evaluation before 14 May 2010 as well as ensuring the above mentioned information is refreshed too.

Finally organisations which have already submitted a response for evaluation since the last freeze date in December their evaluation is pending so if your organisation falls in this category you need do nothing, unless you wish to update any part of the submission which must be done before 14 May 2010.

Provision for young people will also be procured through the Skills Funding Agency. For young people there will be however a new national Non Departmental Public Body, the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) with some regional capacity, which will support local authorities in their new role in commissioning and funding 14-19 provision. Local capacity on 14-19 will therefore, as expected, be with Local Authorities. To find out more about the YPLA please visit: <http://ypla.gov.uk/>

European Social Fund (ESF) Co-Finance Plans 2011-2013 Consultation Events

Recently, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), Jobcentre Plus (JCP) and National Offender Management Service (NOMS) held two briefing events in the North West to discuss the activities to be procured through the new European Social Fund (ESF) Co-Finance Plans 2011-2013.

The Co-finance plans are documents which set out the Co-financing organisation's intentions in respect of the ESF 2007-13 programme and how they are going to meet the priorities set out in the ESF Regional Framework for the North West.

These briefings aimed to set out the broad content of the Co-Finance plans and the procurement timetables for 2011-2013. The morning sessions covered the Adult agenda, the afternoon sessions covered the 14 - 19 agenda.

As the Co-financing organisations are in consultation on their ESF Co-financing Plans for 2011-2013 period, there are currently no ESF tendering rounds.

The timetable for future procurement by the Skills Funding Agency is as follows:

Activity	Dates in 2010
Co-financing Plan Development	February 2010
Consultation with External Partners	March 2010
Approval of 14-19 element by the Regional Planning Group	April 2010
ESF Regional Committee Approve Co-financing Plan	June 2010
Develop Commissioning Plans and Invitations to Tender (ITTs)	May to August 2010
Publish ITTs and procurement of activities	September to December 2010
Commence programme activity	January 2011

According to the timetable above, news for ITTs are expected in the autumn and North West Network will let all interested parties know as soon as ITTs are announced. Please note that subject to demand, North West Network will be holding training events well in advance for submission for tenders for interested organisations in the sub-regions.

Notes on the calls for tenders will be put up at North West Network's website as well as dates and information for future training events. So, for further information the link to follow is: www.nwnetwork.org.uk Information on the ITTs will be posted under the news section.

In addition, North West Network sends out email bulletins to its database members with all the news and calls on European funding. If you are not register on our database and would like to receive our email bulletin and newsletter, please contact us on Tel: 0161 236 6493 or E-mail: info@nwnetwork.org.uk

If you require further information on the European Social Fund, or have a project proposal in mind and would like to find out if it would be eligible for funding please contact a member of the European Team at North West Network.

WORKING LINKS UPDATE

North West Network (NWN) carried out a feedback exercise as part of the Working Links (WL) project. Nine subcontractors were visited during January and February 2010. As a result of this feedback exercise a report has been compiled that has been sent to Working Links. The aim of this report was to highlight experiences the subcontractors have had with WL. This includes issues faced and suggestions made by the subcontractors to see how current contract delivery can be improved.

NWN is currently looking for organisations based in Manchester, Salford and Trafford that are able to deliver services in the future as WL subcontractors. These services include helping people into the labour market by providing different types of support depending on the needs of the customer.

NWN is developing a database of organisations that serves the purpose of gathering intelligence of organisations which operate in Manchester, Salford and Trafford. Currently the database stands at 150 organisations of which 115 organisations are Third sector organisations, 24 organisations have been identified as potential subcontractors and 11 organisations are infrastructure support organisations.

If you would like to become part of this database or would like to get information on the WL project or if you would like to be considered to deliver services for WL in the future, please contact Humza Umair on Tel: 0161 236 6493. Information regarding future contracting opportunities will be forwarded to all Third Sector organisations that are on this database.

For information relating to any aspects of the News from the European Team Section, Please contact the North West Network European Team on the details below.

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CHURCH ACTION
ON POVERTY

EUROPEAN YEAR FOR COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION 2010

The European Commission has designated 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The article below has been submitted by Andrea Jones from Church Action on Poverty who are running events across the North West for activities which contribute to the objectives of 2010.

2010 is the European Year for Fighting Poverty and Exclusion. The aim of the year is to give voice to the concerns of people across Europe who live with poverty and exclusion. The year will be about challenging stereotypes, listening to the stories of individuals and communities and to renew the commitment to combat poverty and exclusion.

There will be national and local events taking place in every EU member state plus Norway and Iceland. Activities will include awareness raising campaigns, workshops and seminars with schools. These events will provide a valuable opportunity to reaffirm public and political commitment to the eradication of poverty and social exclusion, and to mobilise support for this goal.

Here in the UK activities are being delivered regionally and Church Action on Poverty along with its partners, Our Life, Oxfam and GAP has been awarded the bid to run events in the North West region and in Yorkshire. Here in the North West plans for the year are ambitious. Church Action on Poverty want to hear people's views on poverty and social exclusion across the North West - why it exists and how to tackle it.

During the first part of the year the programme Church Action on Poverty has put together aims to:

- Uncover some of the barriers and policy issues that keep people in poverty
- Identify some of the myths about people in poverty, and develop a programme of work to tackle them.
- Recognise and share examples of good practice in tackling poverty, particularly amongst small local organisations.
- Build the capacity of small organisations to campaign on issues in their local area.

Then later in the year we will hold a North West regional assembly event where the organisations which have taken part in the training events will have the opportunity to put forward their concerns, views and issues to leading regional and national policy makers.

We are looking for groups across the region who would like to work with us in running local activities to listen to people experiencing poverty. Different groups will do their activities in different ways. All we ask is for these groups to identify by the end of their events up to either three policy issues, or three myths, that people with experience of poverty think need to be tackled. Examples of events could be anything from talking with people on a one to one basis, asking people's views at a drop in session or organising a special hearing event.

Church Action on Poverty will be running free training events for all those who want to take part. The first event took place in Manchester on 27 April, there is an event in Preston on 14 May and another event will be held in Liverpool on 26 May 2010. The events run from 10am until 2pm including lunch and we are hoping that two or three members of each organisation will take part to maximise the benefits of the training and to take back ideas to run events.

We hope that this information can be circulated as widely as possible to groups who might be interested in joining us in our work on the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. For further information please contact Andrea Jones at Church Action on Poverty E-mail: andrea@church-poverty.org.uk Tel 0161 236 9321.

NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT TEAM

VOLUNTEERING IN OLDHAM

North West Network Volunteer Management Team is proud to be involved in the current work to develop volunteering in Oldham.

We are playing a key role in delivering three important initiatives, commissioned by Oldham Partnership, that are creating a strong cross sector infrastructure for volunteering in Oldham.

Public Sector Volunteering Service (PSV)

We successfully tendered to run a service that co-ordinates public sector volunteering across Oldham. PSV was launched to the public earlier this year and is commissioned up until March 2011.

Mel Whitehead, recruited as Co-ordinator in October 2009, explains what the service does:

"There are so many great opportunities across the Public Sector. It is very much untapped. This project promotes and helps the general public to know and access the diverse range of opportunities to them. I'm the first point of contact and support them to find out what opportunity is right for them and link them up with the relevant service.

I also support services on how to recruit and manage volunteers, before this project services did not have any specific support around managing volunteers and felt unsure if they were doing the right thing. We now have a volunteer managers group which allows people to share ideas, concerns and get support from their peers. I am always on the end of the phone for them to give them answers to any queries on volunteering they might have.

Highlights of the project so far are 80 people contacting the service wanting to volunteers within four weeks of the project launch, established contact and met with four public sector services in Oldham : NHS, Fire Brigade, Police and the Probation Service. Supporting 28 volunteer managers and individuals in obtaining PTLLS accreditation and becoming a SAM Volunteer Management Practitioner."

Mel is based within the Communities Team within Oldham council, which is key to the project's success:

"It is so important, even though I am a member of NWN's staff I am seen as a public sector colleague and have gained a better understanding of how public sector agencies work. It means we have a good overview of all the good projects that are going on and we are able to link them together to have an even bigger impact"

If you would like more information on the Public Sector Volunteering Service please contact Carol or Dan on Tel: 0161 236 6493 or E-mail carol@nwnetwork.org.uk or dan@nwnetwork.org.uk

Alternatively, if you are a public sector agency working with volunteers in Oldham or someone looking to volunteering within Oldham's public sector please contact Mel Whitehead on Tel: 0161 770 8116 or E-mail: mel.whitehead@oldham.gov.uk

OLDHAM VOLUNTEERING AGENCY

The Volunteer Management Team was given a remit to carry out the development phase of a new volunteering agency in Oldham. This involved:

- Carrying out consultation with volunteer involving organisations, volunteers, members of the general public and staff from other Volunteer Infrastructure Agencies within the North West;
- Developing a web presence for volunteering in Oldham;
- Carrying out an Options Appraisal on the location for the service;

- Establishing a Volunteering Stakeholder Group to act as the strategic lead on volunteering;
- Carrying out a Training Needs Appraisal;
- Recruiting Volunteering Champions to promote volunteering in Oldham; and
- Carrying out an Equalities Impact Assessment.

This is all brought together to produce a Delivery Framework for the service. The Framework is based on the six core functions from Volunteering England's Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation (brokerage, marketing, developing opportunities, good practice, policy response and campaigning and strategic development), peer reviews of five volunteer centres, community consultations for volunteer involving organisations, volunteers and the general public. It will provide the future service with guidance on how to meet local need while working towards Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation.

We have recently finished the work and have handed over the delivery framework to Voluntary Action Oldham who will go on to deliver the new service. We will continue to support the service in the initial delivery stage by helping induct new staff when they are in post.

Carol Savage - NWN Volunteer Management Team, comments:

"North West Network would like to thank all of the people who were involved in the consultation and all other aspects of the project. There has been a real spirit of partnership and genuine enthusiasm for the new service. It's been fantastic to be part of some great work in Oldham which we think is leading the way for cross sector collaboration around volunteering."

If you would like more information contact Carol or Dan on Tel: 0161 236 6493 or E-mail carol@nwnetwork.org.uk or dan@nwnetwork.org.uk or Voluntary Action Oldham on Tel: 0161 633 6222.

Alternatively to keep up to date online go to the following website developed by North West Network: www.volunteeringoldham.org.uk

STUDENT VOLUNTEERING

The Volunteer Management Team is currently bringing together organisations that have an interest in supporting students to Volunteer. So far University Campus Oldham, Oldham College, Oldham Sixth Form College, involved, Groundwork, Public Sector Volunteering Service and Voluntary Action Oldham have been looking at how Student Volunteering can be better co-ordinated in order to:

- Raise the profile of volunteering;
- Develop new and creative ways students can volunteer; and
- Ensure the local voluntary sector benefits from the skills, attitudes and abilities students have to offer.

As part of the initiative North West Network will be providing free SAM Volunteer Management training to organisations that support students to volunteer in Oldham. Training will also be offered to infrastructure organisations that broker opportunities for volunteers and help build capacity of frontline organisations to take on students as volunteers.

If you would like more information on how to get involved in developing student volunteering in Oldham please contact Carol or Dan on Tel: 0161 236 6493 or E-mail carol@nwnetwork.org.uk or dan@nwnetwork.org.uk.

LAUNCH OF OLDHAM'S VOLUNTEERING AGENCY



Voluntary Action Oldham is thrilled to announce that it now offers a full range of volunteering services.

Whether you are an organisation looking for volunteers or a volunteer looking for an opportunity then we can help. VAO has re-vamped Oldham's online resource and we've populated it with lots of new opportunities.

Just to give you a taster of some of the things we offer, Oldham's Volunteering Agency (OVA) is: A `one stop shop` for volunteers to find out more about volunteering opportunities and find the right match for you. We offer one to one meetings with an experienced volunteering advisor or purely online service. Lots of help, resources and advice for organisations who wish to offer volunteering roles. Get in touch to explore how we can help minimise the initial set up workload and advertise your opportunities widely. Developing new `non traditional` volunteering opportunities that can suit people who want to volunteer as a one off, or are looking for a longer term role. Bringing together services that provide volunteering support across Oldham.

Oldham Volunteering Agency will be linking up with a range of partners who deliver volunteering services across Oldham, amongst them are; Highways to Opportunities, Groundwork, North West Network and Greater Manchester Youth Network. This service is funded by Oldham Partnership.

For more information see: www.volunteeringoldham.org.uk or give the Oldham Volunteering team a ring on 0161 633 6222.

The NWN Volunteer Management team are continuing to offer quality personal and organisational development opportunities for the voluntary, public and private sectors. We are working to gain funding in order to offer bursaries that will enable the VCS to access our services for free, however, Coaching, SAM Volunteer Management training and External Supervision are available to Voluntary and Community, Public and Private Sectors now for a fee. For more information, please contact Carol or Dan on Tel: 0161 236 6493 or E-mail carol@nwnetwork.org.uk or dan@nwnetwork.org.uk

REGIONAL STRATEGY UPDATE: RS2010

The Regional Strategy is a guide for investment and a development plan in the North West for Business, National and Local Government and the Voluntary and Community Sectors. It will become a blueprint for the region to address tough choices and public expenditure for the next twenty years. It aims to deliver sustainable economic growth and contribute to long-term sustainable development, which includes ensuring a strong, healthy and just society.

RS2010 combines social, economic and environmental areas and identifies key priorities, which are to:

- Capitalise on the opportunities of a low carbon economy
- Build on sources of competitive advantage and regional distinctiveness
- Release the potential of our people and tackle poverty
- Ensure we have the right housing and infrastructure for sustainable growth

One North West understands that all elements of the strategy are important, however, in order to make sure we had the most impact during the recent consultation period we focussed on strand three, which puts 'people and communities at the heart of the Strategy'.

One North West organised a series of six sub-regional consultations on RS2010 delivered during February 2010. In addition we also held an event with BME women's groups through the Oxfam Routes to Solidarity Project. An outcome of these consultations was a feedback report submitted to NWDA on 01 March 2010. To ensure effective influence we followed up our response by having a handover meeting with the Regional Strategy Development Manager at the NWDA on 05 March 2010. To ensure this was given sufficient gravity we brought along with us four BME representatives who participated in the consultation process. These were from Manchester Active Voices, Oxfam, CS (Community Support) Plus, and BRM Network (Liverpool).

In order to maximise our position on the Regional Strategy Advisory Group we have initiated an advocate's programme and on 29 March 2010 we took our first BME advocate to her first regional meeting. This went well; she is keen to build an understanding and an active involvement in the RS Advisory Group through her involvement with One North West.

Next steps on RS2010:

- The intention of partners is the final RS will be a concise, streamlined but useful document
- They will focus on developing Part 1 rather than writing a new Part 2
- The RS will be accompanied by Implementation Framework
- It will maintain an integrated approach in developing policies and actions
- And will focus on what is important adding value at a regional level - not becoming a compendium of NW activities and not repeating national policy guidance

1NW has been included in an expert group to support writing of the policies relating to social inclusion, tackling deprivation, communities and equality. VSNW is taking a lead on this.

Timescale:

End April - first cut of objectives, policies and actions

End May - first working draft of RS

End June - draft RS submitted for 4NW and NWDA Board approval

Summer 2010 - twelve-week consultation period

This of course depends upon outcome of general election.

In tandem to this activity there is also a **full sustainability appraisal**:

Incorporating:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA)
- Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)
- Rural Proofing (RP)

For more information please contact Paul Harris, Tel: 0161 236 6493, Email: paul@nwnetwork.org.uk

THE NORTH WEST BME POLICY FORUM

The North West BME Policy Forum had our second meeting on Wednesday 21 April at Crawford House in Toxteth, Liverpool. The day was attended by over twenty five representatives of BME Third Sector organisations from across the region and also Government Office for the North West.

The Purpose of Forum has been agreed through the terms of reference to:

- Provide a strategic platform for the BME Third Sector in the North West to influence regional strategies, policies and decisions through the expertise, experience and knowledge of participants;
- Encourage joint working and sharing good practice between BME Third sector organisations to provide a living example of an inclusive better way of working;
- Promote the visibility of the BME Third Sector in the North West; and
- Identify, based on regional and sub-regional consultations, equality and human rights issues facing BME communities in the Northwest as a result of national, regional and sub-regional policies.

The morning session involved a presentation from Liverpool BRM Network on the work that they have been doing and a training session delivered by Voice4Change, the national BME Network, about how organisations can use the Compact and Public Law.

The afternoon policy forum focused on how the BME Third Sector can evidence value, looking at the Social Return on Investment model and ways in which organisations might use it. After this, the forum developed an approach to highlight the work that is being done throughout the region by BME Third Sector organisations in order to promote the importance of the sector, building the case for the sector and a foundation from which the NW BME Policy Forum will grow.

For more information, please contact Daniel Silver by E-Mail: danielsilver@nwnetwork.org.uk or Tel: 0161 236 6493.

LAUNCH OF THE BLACK MANIFESTO - THE PRICE OF RACE INEQUALITY

'The Black Manifesto - The Price of Race Inequality' - has been produced by a coalition of over 30 Black Minority Ethnic organisations. The manifesto aims to place race equality and the eradication of poverty at the forefront of this spring's election campaign and the government's policy priorities.

The title 'the Price of Race Inequality' reflects the fact that the current economic crisis poses a unique challenge to Britain. As a nation we face an unprecedented and long-term economic recession and a widening of the inequality gap. Ensuring that Britain creates the conditions to eradicate poverty and puts

racial equality at the forefront of the social and economic agenda will be critical to successfully meeting these challenges.

And to all those who would ask if we are now beyond Race, this Manifesto answers no.

Today we can objectively measure structural inequalities, discrimination and disparities in the criminal justice system, employment, education, poverty, health and housing. Disparate outcomes for Black and Minority Ethnic people in the UK have NOT been eliminated and, in fact in some areas, have increased. The government must place race equality at the forefront of its agenda, and create the optimum conditions to eradicate poverty and injustice.

Six months work from over 30 organisations involved in race equality on this Manifesto represents the concern felt over the position of race in Britain in 2010.

To download the whole Manifesto, please visit:
<http://www.raceequalitypolicy.co.uk>

NEWS

EUROPEAN FUNDING NEWS

HOUSE OF LORDS - MAKING IT WORK: THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

The House of Lords inquiry into the effectiveness of the European Social Fund (ESF) was launched against an evolving EU backdrop, with the financial crisis and increased unemployment looming large and the successor to the Lisbon Strategy, Europe 2020, being drawn up. The objectives for this inquiry were threefold: To assess the effectiveness of the ESF, both in meeting its objectives and in responding to the challenges raised by the financial crisis; To establish whether the policy priorities of the ESF need to be amended in the context of the economic recovery and the imminent adoption of Europe 2020 (see Box 1); and to make recommendations on the long-term role and functioning of the ESF, within the context of the EU Budget Review. For further information please visit: www.publications.parliament.uk

COHESION POLICY: AT THE HEART OF EUROPE 2020

The European Commission launched the Europe 2020 Strategy to prepare the EU's economy for the next decade. Economic, social and territorial cohesion will remain at the heart of the Europe 2020 strategy to ensure that all energies and capacities are mobilised and focused on the pursuit of the strategy's priorities. The Europe 2020 Strategy highlights the role of European cohesion policy as a key delivery mechanism to achieve the priorities of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in Member States and regions. The Strategy calls more effort to develop innovative financing solutions to support Europe 2020's objectives by:

- Stronger prioritisation and better alignment of the EU budget (including European cohesion policy) with the goals of the Europe 2020;
- Designing new financing instruments, in particular in cooperation with the EIB/EIF and the private sector; and
- Making an efficient European venture capital market a reality, thereby greatly facilitating direct business access to capital markets and exploring incentives for private sector funds that make financing available for start-up companies, and for innovative SMEs.

For further information please visit: http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/index_en.htm

INNOVATION, TRANSNATIONALITY AND MAINSTREAMING THEMATIC NETWORKS REPORT

The Innovation, Transnational and Mainstreaming (ITM) strand of the European Social Fund (ESF) supports a small number of strategic, regional projects looking to develop and deliver new ways of extending employment opportunities and raising workforce skills. In doing so, it contributes to the challenges of promoting social inclusion, raising productivity, fostering competitive businesses, and living within environmental and demographic limits.

The report is from the first round of the European Social Fund's, Innovation, Transnationality and Mainstreaming (ESF ITM) Thematic Network Meetings. The meetings took place between 28 July 2009 and 21 October 2009 and thematic networks were held for each of the six themes for innovation.

The meetings provided ITM projects with the chance to find out more about other projects in their chosen theme, engage with the relevant policy makers and give consideration to the shape and nature of future network meetings. For further information please visit: www.esf-works.com/

COMPACT APPLICATION AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDING

European funding is an important source of income for many UK third sector organisations. This is an independent report that was commissioned to produce by the Commission for the Compact. The report uses case studies to explore the experience of third sector organisations in England who had been awarded European structural funding. It builds on policy work by the Commission for the Compact. For further information please visit: www.thecompact.org.uk

EUROPEAN YEAR FOR COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION 2010

The European Union (EU) and its member states are strongly committed to the fight against poverty and social exclusion. The EU Commission has designated 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. This reaffirms and strengthens the commitment for the EU, set out in the Lisbon Strategy, to make "a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty". The UK Government has set up a National programme for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The European Year offers a valuable opportunity for mutual dialogue between all those who have a role to play in this crucial area. The UK Government is confident that the UK Programme will encourage debate about the challenges

that remain, and about the new challenges that we face. The Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion aims to reinforce political and public commitment to this agenda both in the UK and across the EU, and to emphasise both collective and individual responsibility in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. For further information please see the article featured on the Newsletter. You can also visit: www.dwp.gov.uk/european-year-2010/

JESSICA NORTHWEST URBAN INVESTMENT FUND IN NORTHWEST ENGLAND

On 11 December 2009 JESSICA, Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas, a new £100m fund to finance urban development projects across the Northwest of England was launched. JESSICA is an initiative of the Commission in cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), in order to promote sustainable investment, and growth and jobs, in Europe's urban areas. JESSICA offers the managing authorities of Structural Funds programmes the possibility to take advantage of outside expertise and to have greater access to loan capital for the purpose of promoting urban development, including loans for social housing where appropriate. Where a managing authority wishes to participate under the JESSICA framework, it would contribute resources from the programme, while the EIB, other international financial institutions, private banks and investors would contribute additional loan or equity capital as appropriate. Expressions of interest were sought by the EIB, the deadline for submissions was 23 April 2010. For further information please visit: www.nwda.co.uk/news--events/press-releases/ You can also visit: www.eib.org/about/news/jessica-holding-fund-northwest-call-for-expression-of-interest.htm

A SNAPSHOT OF EU ACHIEVEMENTS

The European Commission has launched its annual multimedia yearbook which presents some of the European Union's most important achievements of the past year that will make a real difference in the lives of each and every one of us. From helping us save money when making mobile phone calls from abroad to pooling resources for research into diseases such as Alzheimer's, the European Union is working on policies and practices that have a direct impact on the lives of people and their environment, both within and outside its borders. As wide-ranging as they are diverse, these activities nonetheless share one common purpose: to make Europe, and the world it is a part of, a better place. For further information please visit: http://ec.europa.eu/snapshot/index_en.htm

EU COMPACT FOR JOBS AND GROWTH

The UK Government has published a compact designed to reinvigorate EU economies and build "strong, sustainable and balanced" growth. A new Compact would bring together the institutions and Member States in a common cause of generating strong, sustainable and balanced growth. Agreed between EU leaders and the Presidents of the Commission and the European Council, the Compact would enshrine our political commitment to economic reform in Europe. For further information please visit: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/329788/compact-jobs-growth.pdf

ESF CASE STUDY REQUIREMENTS AND PROFORMA

Case studies are an excellent way to illustrate how ESF is making a difference through a real life story. The LSC has published an ESF case study requirements and proforma. This note seeks to provide LSC Northwest ESF Co-finance providers with:

- Guidance regarding why the LSC requires case studies.
- Timescales and arrangements for the submission of case studies.
- Details of the types of case studies that are required.
- Details of the information that should be included in the case study.

To download the proforma please visit:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/NorthWest/Case_Study_Requirements_-_V3_Jan_2010.doc

For further information on ESF Case Study Guidance please visit: www.esf.gov.uk/publicity/

EUROPEAN COMMISSION - JOINT EMPLOYMENT REPORT

The Commission's draft Joint Employment Report presents an analysis of actions taken throughout the EU to preserve jobs and help those facing difficulties and sets out the challenges still lying ahead. Following the severe deterioration of labour markets in 2009 due to the economic downturn, unemployment is forecast to continue to grow next year in all EU countries, albeit at a slower pace. Although a gradual economic recovery is expected over the next two years, labour markets will take longer to respond. Certain groups have been hit particularly hard: young people, migrants and low-skilled workers.

Member States have considerably stepped up their employment and social policies under the three priorities of the EU Employment Strategy to provide an immediate stimulus to the economy and protect vulnerable groups from the impact of the crisis. Public employment services have been reinforced in many countries to cope with increased unemployment and EU financial support from the European Social Fund and the European Globalisation Fund has substantially helped Member States to finance anti-crisis actions.

Social protection systems have proven their effectiveness: automatic stabilisers have cushioned the immediate social impacts of the downturn, although to different degrees within the EU. Member States' capacity to meet rising demand for social security varies greatly, underscoring the need for strong policies to activate those out of work. For further information please visit: European Commission - Joint Employment Report

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=654&furtherNews=yes>

MORE THAN MONEY MAXIMISING THE TRUE VALUE OF EU FUNDS

The LGA has launched a new publication 'More than money - maximising the true value of EU funds'. The report brings together case studies from across England & Wales to show how EU funds have added value to local authority activities. This is the latest product from a stream of LGA work that helps local authorities to make the case for continued EU funding in the future. For further information please visit: www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/10548097

OTHER NEWS

SUCCESSFUL COMMISSIONING: HOW TO SECURE VALUE FOR MONEY THROUGH BETTER FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS

The National Audit Office has launched a new version of the Decision Support Tool, 'Successful Commissioning: How to secure value for money through better financial relationships with third sector organisations'. This 'how to' guide will be useful for all commissioners, procurement officers and managers, and grants officers who work in local authorities and local health organisations, including in primary care trusts. Third sector organisations will find the tool useful in thinking about their involvement in delivering public services. This guide, rather than telling commissioners how to DO commissioning, it focuses on those aspects of the process that are most likely to affect financial relationships with third sector organisations. For further information please visit: www.nao.org.uk/guidance_and_good_practice/toolkits/

SMALL CHARITIES COALITION

The Small Charities Coalition exists to help small charities access the skills, experience and resources they need to achieve their aims. Recognising that small charities suffer from a chronic lack of resources, skills and expertise, despite having an abundance of passion and commitment, the Small Charities Coalition is like a voluntary sector matchmaking service, matching small charities with other organisations that have the skills, experience, and in some cases resources, that the small charity lacks. The Small Charities Coalition is about helping small charities to help themselves, and enable them to have access to the considerable expertise of their larger counterparts in the charitable sector or those from other sectors. For further information please visit: www.smallcharities.org.uk/home/

NORTH WEST REGIONAL PRIORITY STATEMENT

All Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) have been asked to produce a Regional Skills Strategy which will link economic and skills issues together, in each region. The NW Regional Skills Strategy will be form part of the new Integrated Regional Strategy, RS2010. This statement produced by the RDA synthesises the priorities for sectors, spatial targeting and targeting by employer and learner types. It sets out overall priorities for North West of England for the year 2010/11 and is set in the context of the draft Northwest Integrated Regional Strategy (RS2010). This document will inform discussions on skills between the Skills Funding Agency and its provider base and highlights where skills development is essential to take the Northwest forward. For further information please visit: www.nwda.co.uk/docs/NW_Regional_Priorities_Statement_2010-11.doc

SUPPORTING PEOPLE: CASE STUDIES IN EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The Supporting People Programme has been one of the most significant programmes to support independent living. This is particularly true for those groups identified as most at risk of social exclusion - care leavers, ex-offenders, mental health service users and adults with learning disabilities.

The third sector has worked with local authorities, Health and the Probation Service to deliver effective and innovative ways of ensuring that the most vulnerable in society receive the support they need to achieve the two core foundations of normal, everyday life - a home and a job.

The Office of the Third Sector and the Social Exclusion Task Force have examined four examples of effective partnership working to see what worked best, what has been learned so far, and where the opportunities are now that there is greater flexibility on how the money can be spent have been lifted. For further information please visit: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/

PROMOTE PERFORMANCE

Voice4Change England and Charities Evaluation Services have launched a campaign to encourage BME third sector organisations to evidence the value and benefits of their work. The campaign targets BME third sector organisations that want to improve what they are doing but may not be familiar with performance jargon. The campaign, which is part of the National Performance Programme, has been developed with the input of 10 key BME campaign partners across the country including frontline BME groups. If you would like more information about Promote Performance in the North West please get in touch with Daniel Silver from One North West, Tel: 0161 236 6493, Email: DanielSilver@nwnetwork.org.uk

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CHARITY EMPLOYEES BENEVOLENT FUND

Low wages and few benefits make people working for charities, and their families, vulnerable to serious financial hardship in times of illness, disability, bereavement and other unexpected disaster. The Charity Employees Benevolent Fund (CEBF) will provide assistance for people in these situations, bringing provision for charity employees in line with that for the rest of the UK workforce. Once sufficient money has been raised CEBF aims to extend the service to include: Welfare support and advice on benefits and a friendship network and a caring community. For further information please visit: www.cebf.org.uk/index.html

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Children in Need has launched a new grants programme open to registered charities or other not-for-profit organisations who are working with disadvantaged children and young people who are 18 years old and under. There are four general grant deadlines each year: 15 January, 15 April, 15 July, 15 October 2010. Within our the small grants programme, you can apply for small grants of £10,000 or less per year for up to three years. For further information please visit: www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/grants/general_grants.shtml

THE MSE CHARITY

The UK has a massive problem with consumer and debt illiteracy. Companies spend billions on advertising, marketing and teaching their staff to sell - yet we get no buyers' training. The UK is in debt crisis, a whole generation is in debt up to its ears. The MSE (moneysavingexpert.com charity fund) Charity is designed to try and break that cycle of debt. The MSE Charity provides grants to individuals and charities. If you're looking to take a course that will improve your knowledge of consumer, debt, or personal money management you may be able to get a grant. Plus if you've an innovative idea to help lots of people, or you are an established charity wanting funding for a project; funds may be available. As long as it helps educate and inform people about consumer or debt issues we may be able to help. For further information please visit: www.msecharity.com/

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME - STRAND C

The final funding strand of Capacitybuilders' Volunteer Management Programme is a £1m bursary scheme to support volunteer management skills development. Bursaries of up to £1950 are available to fully fund an approved skills development package; each one is aligned to the National Occupational Standards in Volunteer Management.

There are three levels of access available based on individual experience and role. You also have the option of obtaining an award from a nationally recognised accreditation body. Delivery is undertaken by experienced, regionally based training providers. Bursaries are available to individuals in England who support, coordinate, manage or have strategic responsibility for volunteers. It doesn't matter whether you undertake the role full-time or part-time, or in a paid or voluntary capacity. For further information please visit: www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/vmpskills

PEOPLE'S MILLIONS 2010

People's Millions 2010 gives organisations a chance to win up to £50,000 from the Big Lottery Fund to improve their local area. Every night for a week in November ITV regional news will feature two great project ideas competing for viewers' phone votes. Deadline for submissions is 14 May 2010. Projects can be nominated by visiting www.peoplesmillions.org.uk

FAITHS IN ACTION

Faiths in Action is a £4 million grant programme aiming to create more opportunities for face-to-face dialogue and collaboration between different faiths within local communities. Faiths in Action is distributed over two years in two rounds of funding. In the first round, 216 organisations were offered grants of up to £12,000, totalling over £2.43 million. Round 2 is now open for applications. Applications are considered on a continuous basis until the total value of the fund has been awarded to successful groups. For further information please visit: <http://cdf.org.uk/web/guest/faiths-in-action>

SANTANDER FOUNDATION

The Santander Foundation funds local, regional and national charities for their work within the UK. The foundation is committed to helping disadvantaged people through their two charitable priorities.

The Foundation brings together the initiatives previously undertaken by Abbey, Alliance & Leicester and Bradford & Bingley savings business. Formerly the Abbey Charitable Trust, the Foundation was set up in 1990 and has given more than £28 million to charities in the UK. All of their funding must directly help disadvantaged people through one or both of these charitable priorities - education and training, or financial capability. For further information please visit: Santander Foundation www.santanderfoundation.org.uk/

COMMUNITYBUILDERS

Communitybuilders is a £70m investment fund which takes forward a commitment within the Communities in Control: real people, real power White Paper to build more cohesive, empowered and active communities. Communitybuilders invests in the sustainability of multi-purpose, inclusive, community-led organisations (sometimes known as Community Anchors). These organisations can be the platform to support empowered communities by:

- Providing a place for community activities to take place
- Providing and running local services
- Stimulating community involvement and enterprise
- Generating independent sources of income

There are three elements to the Communitybuilders programme: Feasibility which provides grants and business support; Development which provides grants, one-to-one mentoring and business support; and Investment which provides loans and grants and business support. For further information please visit: www.communitybuildersfund.org.uk/home

SMK CAMPAIGNER AWARDS

SMK was established in 2005 to help develop a new generation of campaigners who are tackling the root causes of injustice. Set up in memory of Dame Sheila McKechnie, SMK is entirely dedicated to helping campaigners create positive and lasting social change. The annual SMK Campaigner Awards provide a support programme for emerging and grassroots campaigners.

The awards are for individuals who are new to campaigning or operating with few resources and who show passion, tenacity and the potential to create change - locally, nationally or globally. You might not see yourself as a "campaigner" but if you are demonstrating commitment to a cause then SMK wants to hear from you. The awards scheme offers a development package to winners, the aim is to equip campaigners with the skills they need to make a greater impact and achieve real change. The package of support does not include cash prizes but uses a model of action learning to share knowledge and acquire skills. Deadline for applications is 12 noon GMT on Monday 28 June 2010. For further information please visit: www.smk.org.uk/smk-awards-2010

SCALING UP FUND

The Youth of Today Scaling Up Fund is inviting applications from small third sector organisations to scale-up innovative youth leadership programmes and reach out across communities. The Scaling Up grants aim to: help more young people take on leadership roles in their community, create more opportunities for young people to influence the decisions affecting them, raise the quality of youth leadership opportunities and enable small organisations to grow. The Youth of Today Scaling Up Fund is looking for innovative projects

that are unlikely to find funding from other sources. In this round projects must be a maximum of 6 months and for between £5,000 and £10,000. The grant should be used to develop and expand youth leadership programmes - including delivery costs, staff costs. Small capital items of up to 20% of the grant we are awarding are allowed. Deadline for applications is 23 June 2010. For further information please visit: www.theyouthoftoday.org/scaling

WOODWARD CHARITABLE TRUST

The Woodward Charitable Trust is one of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts. Small grants £100-£5,000 and large grants, over £5,000 are available for registered charities, schools or churches. Projects the Woodward Charitable Trust will consider funding should work with social and ethnic minority groups, including young people at risk of exclusion or isolation, refugees, asylum-seekers, gypsies and travellers, projects that promote integration and community cohesion will be favoured;

Prisoners and ex-offenders, homelessness, especially affecting young people and women, and covering facilities such as women's refuges, people experiencing violence or abuse, arts outreach work by local groups involving disadvantaged people and disability projects which can include rehabilitation, training or advocacy for people who are either physically disabled or learning disabled as well as help to improve employability. Applications from environmental projects, especially with a strong educational element and addiction, including projects tackling the social exclusion elements and preventative programmes and projects supporting families of addicts are also welcome. Deadline for applications is 24 May 2010. For further information please visit: www.woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk/

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION FUND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The UK Border Agency has announced that the call for proposals for the European Integration Fund 2009 is open. Approximately £6.4 million is available to co-fund projects aimed at: introducing newly arrived third-country nationals to the UK and enabling them to acquire basic knowledge about the UK's language, history, institutions, socio-economic features, cultural life and fundamental norms and values; and/or preparing third-country nationals for their integration into the UK through pre-travel measures which enable them to acquire knowledge and skills necessary for their integration.

The minimum grant amount that can be applied for per year is £40,000 and projects can last for up to three years. Deadline for applications is 1600 on 4 June 2010. For further information please visit: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/255022/66-eif-call-for-proposals

TRAINING AND EVENTS

2010 EUROPEAN YEAR FOR FIGHTING POVERTY AND EXCLUSION: EVENTS IN THE NORTH WEST

2010 is the European Year for Fighting Poverty and Exclusion. The aim of the year is to give voice to the concerns of people across Europe who live with poverty and exclusion. The year will be about challenging stereotypes, listening to the stories of individuals and communities and to renew the commitment to combat poverty and exclusion. National and local events are taking place in every EU member state plus Norway and Iceland which include awareness raising campaigns, workshops and seminars with schools.

Here in the UK activities are being delivered regionally, in the North West activities are run by Church Action on Poverty along with its partners, Our Life, Oxfam and GAP.

As part of the European Year for Combating Poverty (2010) in the North West, the first half of the year will be spent uncovering the main issues that keep people in poverty. To find out the issues and myths on poverty, Church Action on Poverty is looking for groups to run local activities to listen to people experiencing poverty. All organisations who register to take part in the Listening Campaign will be entitled to attend free training from Church Action on Poverty.

Dates and venues for training are as follows:

Preston - Friday 14 May 2010 GHS Enterprise Centre, Preston

Liverpool - Wednesday 26 May 2010, Glaxo Neurological Centre, Liverpool

In November 2010 Church Action on Poverty will hold a North West regional assembly event where your organisation will have the opportunity to put your concerns, air views and highlight the issues you have uncovered to regional and national policy makers. For further information on the events and to register please visit: European Year for Fighting Poverty and Exclusion - North West activities

NORTH WEST TENDERING AND PROCUREMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME

May-June 2010

Whether your organisation has experience of tendering or is new to the process this FREE training programme will help improve your tendering success rate in an increasingly competitive market place.

With the shift towards open tendering for all public service delivery contracts the ability to write winning tenders is critical to your current viability and future sustainability. Many third sector organisations find the tender process time consuming, confusing and costly. The North West Tendering and Procurement Training Programme aims to equip your organisation with valuable knowledge, skills and techniques.

Greater Merseyside ChangeUp's Tendering and Procurement Support Service (TaPS), in partnership with Voluntary Sector North West is managing the delivery of this comprehensive training programme which has been kindly funded by the North West Regional Development Agency.

All courses are FREE for participants. A £50 deposit is required for the Masterclass and CIPS2 courses however this will be returned on completion.

A limited number of places are available and they are specifically for staff within third sector organisations operating in the North West.

Courses include:

- Introduction to Procurement: Demystifying the Tendering Process
- Writing Winning Tenders
- Demonstrating Environmental Compliance
- Surviving Contracts
- Level 2 Introductory Certificate in Purchasing and Supply (CIPS2)
- Masterclass in Strategic Commissioning

For further information on the events and to register please visit: www.nwnetwork.org.uk/are-you-ready-tender-free-training-events-nw Alternatively contact: Linzi Sadler, Greater Merseyside ChangeUp via Email: linzi@changeupmerseyside.org.uk

PUBLICATIONS

YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING

The Children, Schools and Families Select Committee has published its eighth report on young people not in education, employment or training. Young People not in Education, Employment or Training reports that radical change is needed if the Government's latest initiative to increase young people's participation in education, employment or training is to be more successful than past interventions. Whilst some progress has been made towards developing a strategy for 16 to 24 year olds the Committee urges the Government to move more quickly to establish a seamless, overarching strategy for this age group. For further information please visit: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmchilch.htm

NEW HORIZONS: A SHARED VISION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

New Horizons is a cross-government programme of action with the twin aims to improve the mental health and well-being of the population, and improve the quality and accessibility of services for people with poor mental health. This document sets out an intention across a wide range of agencies to move towards a society where people understand that their mental well-being is as important as their physical health if they are to live their lives to the full. It describes some of the factors that affect well-being and some everyday strategies for preserving and boosting it. It also sets out the benefits, including economic benefits, of doing so. For further information please visit: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/

REDUCING THE NUMBERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING: WHAT WORKS AND WHY

While the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training continues to rise, a report published by Ofsted, the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills, shows that local authorities can make a big impact on reducing the number of young people in this category.

This survey examines the key factors that have contributed to reducing the proportion of 16- to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training in 12 local authority areas. For further information please visit: www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/

VOLUNTEERING FOR CIVIC ROLES: INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES

The Government, together with Business in the Community, has embarked on a campaign to encourage more companies to give staff time off to undertake public duties. The new employer information pack, aims to help employers understand the benefits of volunteering for civic roles, what is involved if their staff volunteer and how it can help their businesses. Case studies on how it has worked for others and information on next steps are also included. For further information please visit: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/volunteeringcivicroles

PARTNERSHIPS FOR GROWTH: A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR REGIONAL AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In this publication, the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) sets out the Government's priorities for economic development at national, regional and local levels, and how regional and local partners should work together to deliver them. For further information please visit: www.berr.gov.uk/files/file53941.pdf

DO WE NEED ISO?

This new publication from NAVCA's Local Commissioning and Procurement Unit looks at how quality systems and accreditation are scored in the selection or pre-qualification stage of a competitive tender process. For further information please visit: www.navca.org.uk/localvs/lcp/news/isopamphlet.htm

ONEPLACE

This is a new website that provides independent information on local issues in England. The site includes assessments of each area, of different local public services and a wide range of information on how these public services are performing. This website brings together the views of six independent inspectorates: the Audit Commission, Care Quality Commission, Ofsted, and Her Majesty's Inspectorates of Constabulary, Prisons and Probation. The site also contains information and data on how local public services are doing in the area on things like crime, education, social care, housing or the environment. Opinions and views of local people are also included on the site, through data gathered in the Place Survey. For further information please visit: <http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/Pages/default.aspx>

VOLUNTEERS' CHARTER

The Trades Union Congress (TUC) and Volunteering England have produced a joint Charter for Strengthening Relations Between Paid Staff and Volunteers. The Charter sets out key principles on how volunteering should be organised and has been produced to help trade unions and employers as a guide to good practice in the involvement of volunteers in the workplace. For further information please visit: www.tuc.org.uk/publicsector/index.cfm?mins=610

MONITORING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION 2009

This annual report on the state of poverty and social exclusion in the United Kingdom from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the New Policy Institute covers a wide range of issues, ranging from low income, worklessness and debt, to ill-health, poor education and problems in communities. The report, using official government data, is built around a set of 50 indicators. While the recession has certainly had an impact, the report shows that several key indicators, particularly regarding low income, unemployment and debt, were already getting worse, well before the recession began. In addition, many indicators have improved, notably in health and education. The report is complemented by a comprehensive website which provides updates to graphs, more analyses and links to other relevant sites. For further information please visit: www.jrf.org.uk/publications/monitoring-poverty-2009

DATA PROTECTION GUIDE

This Guide by the Information Commissioner's Office explains the purpose and effect of each principle, and gives practical examples to illustrate how the principles apply in practice. By answering many frequently asked questions about data protection, it is hoped that this guide will become a useful source of practical advice to those who have day-to-day responsibility for data protection. For further information please visit: www.ico.gov.uk/for_organisations/data_protection_guide.aspx

LEARNING FROM THE PAST: TACKLING WORKLESSNESS AND THE SOCIAL IMPACTS OF THE RECESSION

Learning from the Past: Tackling worklessness and the social impacts of the recession argues that beating the social impacts of recession is crucial in preventing the downward spiral into long-term worklessness that

the country has seen in the past. It is published alongside an evidence pack that sets out the data related to the past and current economic context.

The report outlines how previous recessions have resulted in not just rising unemployment, but also increases in crime, mental health problems and family and relationship breakdown. It highlights the social impacts of previous recessions and how this time round despite steeper falls in GDP, labour market effects have been less severe than in the past. For further information please visit:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/short_studies/downturn.aspx

IMPROVING THE REGION'S KNOWLEDGE BASE ON THE LGB&T POPULATION IN THE NORTHWEST

There is currently a lack of data available on the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities at national, regional or local level. This lack of data means that policy makers in the North West lack a detailed understanding of need as well as the nature and scope of the discrimination that these communities face. This study, commissioned by the North West Development Agency (NWDA) and partners aimed to contribute to building a better understanding of LGBT communities and help address gaps in understanding as part of their wider work on building the evidence base and understanding the wider population of the North West. For further information please visit: www.nwda.co.uk/pdf/Final_Report%20LGBT.pdf

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE COMPACT

The Commission for the Compact has published a short guide, *An Introduction to the Compact*, aimed at people who are unfamiliar with the compact agreement. The Compact is an agreement between the Government and the third sector in England. It sets out commitments on both sides to improve the way in which the Government and the third sector work together for the benefit of communities and citizens. It also provides a framework for negotiating Local Compacts.

The Compact will have different implications for different parts of the sector. However, it will frame the relationship wherever a third sector organisation has dealings with public bodies. This holds true for organisations with a funding relationship with government, as well as informal organisations struggling to be heard on a policy question that they care passionately about. The Compact was developed from recommendations made in the 1996 Report of the Deakin Commission on the future of the voluntary sector.¹ The Deakin Commission concluded that the Government should recognise the importance of the third sector's diverse roles and its own responsibility to promote a thriving third sector. For further information please visit: www.thecompact.org.uk/files/140473/FileName/AnintroductiontotheCompact.pdf

AN ACCOMMODATION SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT FOR THE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED ADULTS PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT

This self assessment toolkit is designed to assist local housing authorities to deliver improved accommodation outcomes for the four client groups in PSA 16, in partnership with probation, children's services, adult social care, primary care trusts and other local partners including voluntary sector and registered social landlords. It forms part of an authority's role in mainstream homelessness prevention, involving early intervention, support, advice and information. Although covered in much less detail, the toolkit also gives an opportunity to assess the associated commitment to deliver improved employment outcomes for the four groups. For further information please visit: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/accommodationtoolkit

GOING FOR GROWTH: OUR FUTURE PROSPERITY

A new strategy to boost strong, sustainable, long-term economic growth in the UK has been announced by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The strategy, *Going for Growth*, outlines seven key areas where the Government will build on the foundations of *New Industry New Jobs*. They include:

- Supporting enterprise and entrepreneurial activity
- Fostering knowledge creation and its innovative application
- Helping people develop the skills and capabilities to reach their personal and economic potential
- Investing in the infrastructure to support a low carbon modern economy
- Ensuring open and competitive markets allowing business to grow
- Building on our industrial strengths in sectors where we have expertise and investing to foster new comparative advantage
- Understanding and employing the right strategic role for government in markets enabling us to capitalise on new opportunities.

For further information please visit: www.bis.gov.uk/growth

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE MISUSE OF DRUGS

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) is an independent expert body that advises government on drug related issues in the UK. This website resource contains links to reports for policy makers and practitioners that have come out of the council's in-depth inquiries into aspects of drug use that are causing particular concern in the UK. For further information please visit: <http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs-laws/acmd/>

RESEARCH INTO MULTI-AREA AGREEMENTS - LONG-TERM EVALUATION OF LAAS AND LSPS

This research report is looking at the negotiaton and implementation of the first round of multi-area agreements (MAAs), focusing on why localities decided to create a partnership, what they hoped to achieve, and the implementation challenges for local partners, Government Offices and central government. For further information please visit: www.communities.gov.uk/publications

MAKING IT WORK: ANALYSING DIFFERENT WAYS OF TACKLING WORKLESSNESS

In this publication, the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) aims to unpick existing approaches, to provide a typology of approaches to worklessness. This serves to create a path through the range of policy and intervention options open to national and local agencies who are grappling with this issue. Informed by CLES work on the ground, this publication, sets the policy scene, explores the complex nature of worklessness and introduces a framework for delivery. Finally, the report provides an outlook at the challenges ahead, and pointers as to where policy will need to change in this harsh economic climate, thus seeking to add value to the Houghton Review which examines how the Government can better support local partnerships to deliver more effective worklessness interventions. For further information please visit: www.cles.org.uk/information/103792/pp25_worklessness/

BIS ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL RESEARCH STRATEGY 2009-10: AN OVERVIEW OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

This report consolidates existing and ongoing research to ensure that it aligns with the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) key policy objectives. The report provides an overall picture of the Department's economics research in order to identify potential gaps in the evidence base. Also demonstrates that the Department is focussed on its longer term objectives whilst responding to more immediate challenges posed by the current economic situation. For further information please visit: www.berr.gov.uk/files/file54297.pdf

STATE OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKFORCE REPORT

This report evaluates the young people's workforce. It is part of a three-year project to establish the most up to date picture of the young people's workforce in England and to improve the data for effective workforce planning to achieve the aiming high for young people strategy. For further information please visit: www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/young-peoples-workforce/state-of-the-young-peoples-workforce-report

TACKLING WORKLESSNESS IN THE NORTH WEST

This research report by the North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership highlights the significant role played by third sector organisations in tackling worklessness. Third sector groups were involved in half of the delivery projects cited by the research which was conducted by Professor Harding of Manchester University's Institute for Political and Economic Governance. For further information please visit: www.nwiep.org.uk/files/Worklessness_2009.pdf

GUIDE TO WINNING PUBLIC CONTRACTS

This guide by the Supply National SME Engagement Programme has been developed to equip SMEs with the knowledge and skills they need to increase their chances of winning public sector business. The publication is free and you have to fill out an online form to download it. For further information please visit: www.supplygov.co.uk/events/Supply/SMEGuide_form/

REALISING RIGHTS: INCREASING ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE

This report by the Fawcett Society examines the experiences of ethnic minority women throughout the criminal justice system - as offenders, victims and workers in the justice sector. It explores the intersectional discrimination on the grounds of race and sex that these women frequently face and the realities of a justice system which too often overlooks the needs of ethnic minority women in policy development and practice. Fawcett is the UK's leading campaign for equality between women and men. For further information please visit: www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/

CREATING SPACES: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES TO BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

This report from the Community Development Foundation (CDF) shows you how community projects have tackled social exclusion and violent extremism. It is based on a study examining how community development approaches and methods were used to soothe tensions and bring communities together. Creating Spaces will be essential reading for frontline practitioners and for anyone who works in planning social policy or funding programmes. For further information please visit: www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/publication?id=12526

THE INFLUENCE OF OUTCOME-BASED CONTRACTING ON PROVIDER-LED PATHWAYS TO WORK

This new report published by the Department for Work and Pensions presents the findings from qualitative research exploring the influence of outcome based contracting on the management and delivery of Provider-Led Pathways to Work. Evidence from this research reinforces concern that the job outcome framework of contracts does not incorporate adequate incentives for Prime Providers to work with harder to help customer groups. For further information please visit: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep638.pdf>

NEW REPORTS HELP DEVELOP BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE THIRD SECTOR

The Office of the Third Sector has reported on the results of a number of local pilot surveys, commissioned to explore ways in which the views of smaller, unregistered third sector organisations could be gathered. They have also published a user guide for the National Survey of Third Sector Organisations. This short guide aims to help local authorities, their Local Strategic Partnership partners, as well as third sector organisations, make the most out of the rich data made available through the national survey. For further information please visit: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/

EVALUATION OF PHASE 1 CITY STRATEGY

The City Strategy Pathfinders (CSPs) initiative is intended to combat the issues of worklessness and poverty by empowering local institutions to develop local solutions. This national evaluation of the initiative takes the form of a meta-evaluation where evidence from a number of sources (not just from the CSPs) is collated, synthesised and assessed. The overarching objective of the national evaluation is to assess the extent to which CSPs are suitable models for future devolved employment programmes in deprived areas and for those groups most disadvantaged in the labour market; it aims to assess the different models of partnership working in the CSPs, measure employment rates and benefit flows in the pathfinders, consider how devolving power to innovate helps the most disadvantaged groups, and to determine the most appropriate geographical level for employment service provision. For further information please visit: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep639.pdf>

YOUTH COMMUNITY ACTION

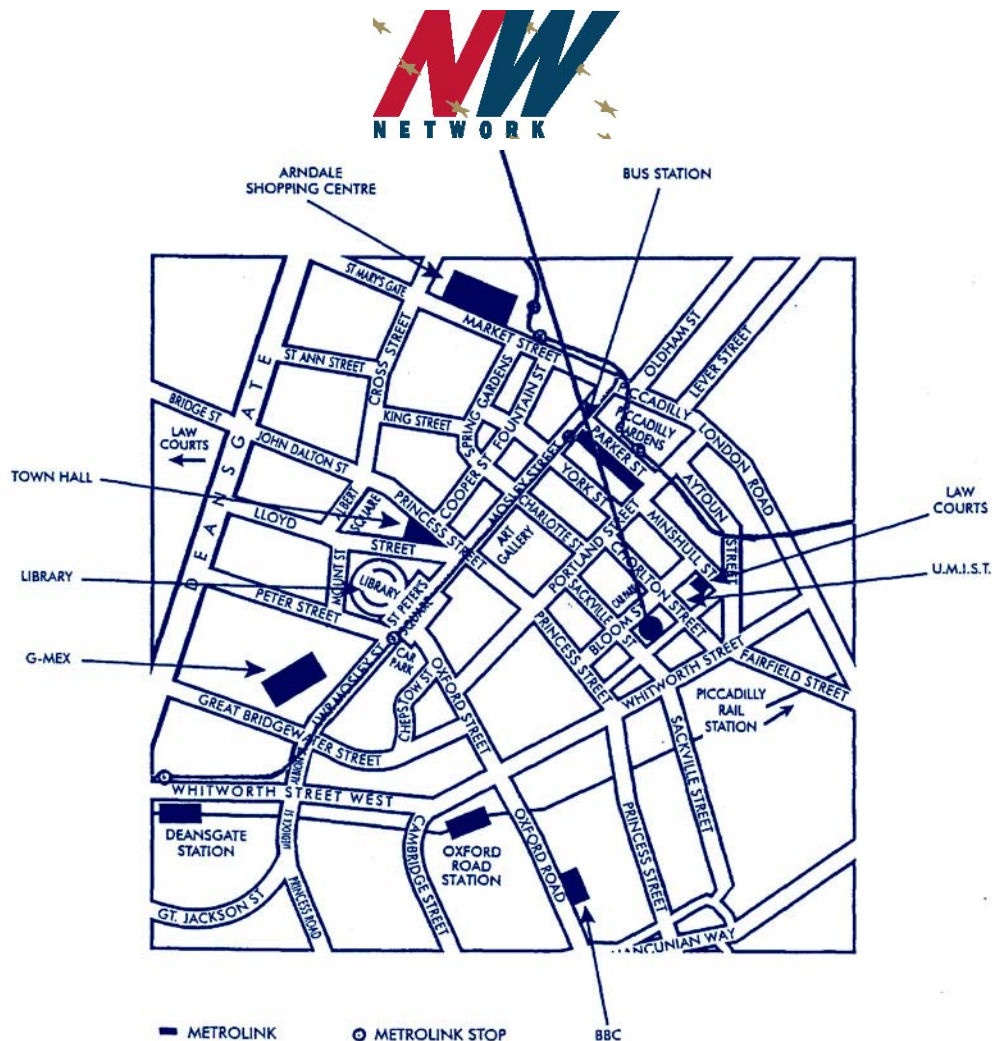
Youth Community Action is a Government initiative designed to encourage all young people in England, aged 14 to 19, to take part in activities that contribute to their communities, as part of their learning and personal development. The government has set an ambitious goal - for everyone between the ages of 14 and 19 to have the chance to give their time and get involved in community action. It is hoped that, over time, all young people will participate in at least 50 hours of community action by the age of 19. This document outlines what the Youth Community Action initiative is and how it works. It also provides case studies for how YCA has been put into practise. For further information please visit: www.publications.teachernet.gov.uk

NEW COMPACT VOICE BRIEFING ON IMMINENT PUBLIC SERVICE CUTS

With cuts to public services in England on the horizon, Compact Voice has released guidance on how the Compact can help partners weather the "perfect storm". This two-page guide is primarily for voluntary groups, who are concerned at the possible effect of changes to funding from local councils. It also has some suggestions for public bodies who want to engage with the local voluntary sector to ensure they make the best and most effective use of their resources. For further information please visit: www.compactvoice.org.uk

North West Network Directions

NORTH WEST NETWORK, ALBERT HOUSE, 17 BLOOM STREET, MANCHESTER, M1 3HZ



DIRECTIONS

Albert House is located on Bloom Street, off Sackville Street and Chorlton Street, in Manchester city centre.

VIA METROLINK

The nearest Metrolink station is Piccadilly Gardens. From there it is a 10 to 15 minute walk.

VIA BUS

The nearest bus station is Piccadilly where most buses pick up and drop off. It is a 10 minute walk from the bus station.

VIA TRAIN

The nearest train station, Piccadilly Rail Station is a 10 minute walk to Albert House.

VIA CAR

From the A57(M) Mancunian Way junction with the A5103. Follow signs to the city centre. Proceed to Medlock Street. Turn right at the traffic lights onto Whitworth Street West. Forward along Whitworth Street, over Oxford Road and Princess Street, turning left into Sackville Street. Bloom Street is on the right. The car park is on Chorlton Street on the left.

VIA COACH

The coach station is situated on Chorlton Street just 1 minute walk to Albert House

PARKING

Directly opposite Albert House is the Chorlton Multi-storey car park.

Please call us on: 0161 236 6493 if you have any problems locating the area.