

# LOCAL

## State of Rural Services in England

The Rural Services Network (RSN) is producing its first ever *State of Rural Services* report for publication in 2010. This will be an important milestone for the RSN. The report will focus on five topics, which members have told us are a high priority for them - public transport, affordable housing, primary schools, facilities for young people and support services for older people.

Please would you contribute, by spending a few minutes completing a survey specifically on those topics. **We need local views from parish and town councils, to help us put together an informed and persuasive report.**

You can complete the survey online by going to:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Ohm9mss0fgg17dEJKUN1Jg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Ohm9mss0fgg17dEJKUN1Jg_3d_3d) Please be assured that responses will be treated confidentially and we won't disclose any individual views expressed unless we first seek the person's agreement.

## Artwork wanted for Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre, Plymouth

Are you an artist living and working in Devon, Cornwall or the southwest? We would like to hear from you with a view to purchasing your art work. We are looking for a 2D wall work (approximate dimension is 1200 x 1200 cm) which could be a framed photograph, textile, painting, collage or print. Paintings on canvas and 2D metal, glass or ceramic pieces will be considered if available ready for fixing. The artwork is for the reception area so it will need to create a calming, uplifting and welcoming atmosphere.

Local seascapes, landscapes and nature are all popular themes. Abstracts will also be considered. Please avoid religious, nude or violent imagery as these cannot be considered for purchase. If you are a local artist and would like to submit your work to be considered for this project, please send a photographic jpeg image (colour accurate), together with the title, size, medium and price, and your name and contact details to Joanna Espiner at [joanna@willisnewson.co.uk](mailto:joanna@willisnewson.co.uk) by the 12th November 2009.

## Local Views appreciated

We are trying to get some comments for the Work In Progress Trailer being developed by E' Halls one of our Entry to Employment learners.

Would you mind going to our website [www.m-mad.co.uk](http://www.m-mad.co.uk) clicking to the page Activities for young People go down the page to E' Halls request for comments on his trailer. Have a look at the trailer by clicking on the link - this will take you to You Tube so you can have a look. Then could you add your email address to the box below and make a comment underneath then press submit.

## Inter-Link Locality Meeting – Chacewater

Chacewater Village Hall on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2009 from 10am to 1pm.  
The topic for this meeting will be **Health and Social Care**.

This could be a support group, a project working with vulnerable people, a health related project, mental health project, work with exoffenders, supporting the homeless, youth project or any other group or organization that delivers this type of service.

Whether you volunteer or are employed by a group or organization a you are very welcome to attend.

If you would like to attend please contact me at: [alison.mitchelmore@cornwallrcc.co.uk](mailto:alison.mitchelmore@cornwallrcc.co.uk)

There will be a buffet lunch provided so please let me know if you wish to attend so I know numbers for catering.

## FUNDING

### Wanted – pilot schemes to tackle rural broadband not-spots

The funding comes in the form of a European Economic Recovery Plan award – to help mitigate the impact of the current economic downturn – and is earmarked for upgrading rural broadband.

Ideas are now being sought for a limited number of pilot projects that will provide high speed broadband access for rural areas that are losing out in broadband coverage.

For more information go to: <http://ow.ly/yxFv>

### Bursaries Available to Exchange Ideas between Artists

Artists' groups and networks within the UK can apply for awards of up to £500 through the Go & See bursaries scheme. The scheme which is provided by a-n The Artists Information Company and managed by the Networking Artist's Network aims to support exchange between artists' groups and networks in the UK and beyond in order to explore new projects and provide a focus for critical exchange.

NAN defines artists' groups as two or more artists working together or engaged in collective activity who consider themselves to be a group or network. The next application deadline is 6pm on the 1st December 2009. Go to: [www.a-n.co.uk/nan/topic/473133](http://www.a-n.co.uk/nan/topic/473133)

### 21<sup>st</sup> December – Secret Millionaire Nomination Deadline

BIG - Channel 4 - The Secret Millionaire Fund The Big Lottery Fund and The Secret Millionaire have teamed up to give viewers of the programme a chance to act on the charitable inspiration fuelled by the show. Lottery funding worth £1 million has been lined up for people to apply for, or nominate projects to apply for grants of between £300 and £10,000 from the Secret Millionaire Fund. Visitors to the website can nominate or apply at any point before 21st December 2009.

Contact: [www.awardsforall.org.uk/](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/) or [http://secretmillionaire.channel4.com/fund\\_info.shtml](http://secretmillionaire.channel4.com/fund_info.shtml)

### Community foundations to distribute new grant programme for communities

Community Foundations across the UK are inviting applications for grants up to £10,000 from a fund of over £5 million that they are distributing on behalf of Comic Relief, up to **31<sup>st</sup> March 2011**.

Community groups, residents associations, community centres, social enterprises, Community Interest Companies and credit unions are eligible to apply for a grant for a range of activities that will:  
Increase access to sport and exercise for people who face social exclusion and isolation;

- Help people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives to regain their confidence and self-esteem;
- Build the skills of local people;
- Increase community cohesion; and
- Respond to local economic needs

To apply, applicants must contact their local Community Foundation. Details of local Community Foundations can be accessed using the following link:

[www.communityfoundations.org.uk/finding\\_uk\\_community\\_foundations/](http://www.communityfoundations.org.uk/finding_uk_community_foundations/)

### **Funding for offender mental health projects**

The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation is concerned that many prisoners and ex-offenders in the criminal justice system have mental health needs which need to be addressed to reduce re-offending. As a result, the Foundation is accepting applications to fund small projects working specifically with prisoners and ex-offenders to improve their mental health and to help their integration into the community.

Given the disproportionate number of BAME male and female offenders with mental health needs in the criminal justice system, ROTa would encourage BAME organisations that specialise in this field to apply. Grants given under the programme may be one-off payments towards a capital project, or given over one to three years for running costs for established projects and over four years for new projects. The next deadline for applications is 27th November, for further information please visit [www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk/home.html](http://www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk/home.html).

### **Funding to Develop Youth Leadership**

The Youth of Today, which is funded and supported by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and Communities and Local Government and aims to support young people make a positive difference to society, has announced that it is now inviting applications through their Reaching Out Scheme. Youth of Today are inviting applications from voluntary and community sector organisations working with 13-19 year olds for grants of between £50,000 and £100,000 to develop youth leadership opportunities for disadvantaged young people or marginalised groups across England. In particular, the fund is looking to support projects that enhance the capacity of the voluntary and community sector to provide high quality youth leadership opportunities; support organisations or partnerships to work collaboratively; contribute to the building of a lasting, sustainable infrastructure for youth leadership pathways; and work across a wide geographical area. The deadline for expressions of interest is the 19th November, and for submitting full applications is the 12th January 2010. Go to: [www.theyouthoftoday.org/reaching-out](http://www.theyouthoftoday.org/reaching-out)

## **TRAINING & SEMINAR**

### **CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety**

9.00am - 5.00pm

Thursday 5th November - ECCVS Training Room

#### **Description:**

This one-day course is aimed at those in the workplace who participate in activities related to food safety (equating to the present foundation or 'basic' qualification), such as front line staff directly or indirectly involved with open or wrapped food and beverages.

Assessment is by multiple choice at the end of the course. Learners do not need to have any prior formal qualifications to participate on this course.

#### **Learning outcomes:**

- Firm grasp of the importance of food safety and knowledge of the systems, techniques and procedures involved
- understanding of how to control food safety risks (personal hygiene, food storage, cooking and handling)
- confidence and expertise to safely deliver quality food to customers

Refreshment of the qualification is recommended at least every three years. (This qualification equates to the OLD foundation or basic qualification).

Price Band: D (**This course is FREE to voluntary and community sector organisations meeting the Capacity Building Works programme criteria and to those that wish to sign up to the Capacity Building Works programme**). For more information contact Dave Phillips on 01208 832763 or email: [d.phillips@eccvs.org.uk](mailto:d.phillips@eccvs.org.uk)

## **FREE Training - Grant Making Trusts and Foundations - Day 1**

9.00am - 5.00pm

Friday 6th November - ECCVS Training Room

**Aim:** This course is designed to provide participants with skills, information and understanding about how to apply successfully to Grant Making Trusts and Foundations (GMTs) for funding.

**For:** This course is for those with experience in GMT fundraising, or those who have experience in fundraising but not specifically GMT fundraising.

**Content:** • Understanding Trusts - • The Phased Approach: The case for support; Research; Planning approaches and Making an application - • Practical examples of approaching Trusts - • Getting the message across

• What to include when approaching Trusts - • Writing a funding application - • Preparing project budgets

For more information contact Dave Phillips on 01208 832763 or email: [d.phillips@eccvs.org.uk](mailto:d.phillips@eccvs.org.uk)

## **Beacon open day - Preventing and tackling child poverty**

10<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at The Eden Project

Cornwall Council working in partnership with Inclusion Cornwall, JobCentre Plus, NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly and the Voluntary and Community Sector has achieved Beacon status for success in developing an innovative and unique approach to preventing and tackling child poverty. We recognise child poverty is an important issue that affects the whole organisation and our partners.

We will be hosting an open day on Tuesday 10 November 2009 at the Eden Project. We would like to invite you to attend the open day where you will:

- Hear the latest strategic developments from the cross-governmental Child Poverty Unit on progress towards achieving the 2010 and 2020 child poverty targets and the emerging Child Poverty bill
- Receive practical guidance from Beacon authorities- Cornwall Council and Newcastle City Council and a range of partner organisations on developing multi agency approaches to preventing and tackling child poverty
- Contribute to discussion sessions focusing on the emerging legislative framework and the 2020 building blocks ensuring that:
  - o Poverty in childhood does not translate into poor experiences and outcomes;
  - o More families are in work that pays and have the support they need to progress;
  - o Financial support is responsive to families' situations;
  - o A child's environment supports them to thrive

If you would like to reserve a place, please complete this form to register your interest. Please return by post, fax or email to: Joanna Harrison, Communications Officer, Cornwall Council, New County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY. Telephone: 01872 32 3406 Fax: 01872 32 3810. Email: [beacon@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:beacon@cornwall.gov.uk)

## **Free training - Committee Skills**

9.30am - 4.30pm

Wednesday 11th November – ECCVS Training Room

**Course aims:** To enable people who have just become a committee member to be more effective and to understand roles both inside and outside meetings.

**Course outcomes:** To make committee meetings work better and to make being part of a committee interesting and effective.

Price Band: A (**This course is FREE to volunteers, community groups and voluntary organisations. There will be a charge of £25 per person for anyone from statutory and private sector and charities with an income of more than £500,000**)

### **Mentor and Befriender volunteer training for programme co-ordinators (Taunton)**

Date: 24/11/2009

Time: 09:30 - 16:00

Location: Compass Disability Centre, Unit 11-12 Belvedere Trading Estate, Taunton, TA1 1BH

Learn how to train your volunteers and develop your own mentoring and befriending knowledge

- Explore aims and objectives as well as the rationale behind your project
- Consider resourcing and financial requirements
- Establish appropriate structures, roles and policies/procedures

For training costs and booking details go to: [www.mandbf.org.uk/news/eventinfo/article/4068/37/](http://www.mandbf.org.uk/news/eventinfo/article/4068/37/)

## **USEFUL INFORMATION**

### **NCVO Only Connect - England**

Only Connect is a visit scheme sponsored by Triodos Bank. It enables you to visit another voluntary and community organisation (VCO) to learn about their experience and the key issues to consider when generating earned income.

NB - this scheme applies to organisations based in England only.

They pay £150 for your time and travel to visit another organisation to learn about how they have diversified their income into trading or public service delivery or by using loan finance. They will pay the host organisation £200 as a consultation fee for their time spent with you.

All they ask in return is that you write a report of the visit so they can allow others to share your learning.

So, if you would like to: Pursue a new trading idea; Learn about the delivery of public services under contract; Use a loan to increase the capacity of your organisation to do either of the above; then apply to Only Connect and learn from colleagues in the sector.

Visit our applicant's page on website below to download an application form and to view a step-by-step guide to the application process.

**The bursaries are awarded every three months - closing date for the next round is 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009.** Go to: Website: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sfp/?id=7278#applicant>

### **The England-wide survey of Community Development Work 2009 is now open**

- Are you working with local communities?
- Are you volunteering with local communities?

- Are you working with groups or managing a local communities team?

If so, you may be able to help us. Paid and volunteer community development workers and their managers are invited to take part in the England Wide Survey of Community Development Work 2009. **Go to:** [www.keysurvey.co.uk/survey/278199/19fa/](http://www.keysurvey.co.uk/survey/278199/19fa/)

The experiences and information you provide will be used to raise the profile of community development, nationally and locally, at this challenging and important time. This is the authoritative England wide survey of community development workers and their managers, updating and improving on a similar survey conducted in 2003.

#### **How you can help**

- If you are a community development worker yourself or manage community development please complete the survey.
- Tell all your colleagues and networks about the survey, and ask them to complete the survey by visiting <http://www.keysurvey.co.uk/survey/278199/19fa/>.

If you do not have access to the internet and you want to take part in the survey, please call Helen Sender, Research Officer at CDF on 020 7812 5451 or email her at: [helen.sender@cdf.org.uk](mailto:helen.sender@cdf.org.uk). This survey will form part of a published report on Community Development Workers and Managers to be published in March 2010.

#### **Charities Evaluation Service launch Social Return on Investment framework**

Social Return on Investment (SROI) is a framework that third sector organisations can use to understand, measure and manage their outcomes. SROI can encompass all types of outcomes but stakeholders determine what outcomes are relevant.

SROI values outcomes by using financial proxies, so that they can be added up and compared to the investment made, resulting in a ratio. For example, an organisation might have a ratio of £4 of social value created for every £1 spent on its activities. To find out more about Social Return on Investment, including links to publications and other resources, go to: [www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=494](http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=494)

#### **New Gypsy and Traveller Site Management Good Practice**

This new guide, which is endorsed by Friends, Families and Travellers, is particularly aimed at Councils and registered social landlords and includes useful checklists of actions and activities that are required for a well managed site that provides a safe, well maintained environment for tenants on permanent and transit sites. Although they are not the target audience, planners and planning authorities as well as community groups can also benefit from the principles within this guide when working to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and travellers identified in the recent needs assessments as it also provides a template for promoting good relations with the wider community. It is available for free in electronic and hard copy formats from: [www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/sitemanagementguide](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/sitemanagementguide)

#### **Procurement Member Guides Published**

Two guides to help elected members understand procurement have been distributed as an insert in Local Government First magazine.

The first guide features top tips for making savings through better procurement in professional services, with the second offering tips on making savings through better procurement in energy. To download the guides, click on the links below:

**Procurement in Professional Services** go to: [www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/13475393](http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/13475393)

**Procurement in Energy** go to: [www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/13868043](http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/13868043)

# VOLUNTEER NEWS

## Self-study Induction Workbook for Volunteers

It is universally agreed among volunteer co-ordinators that good induction for volunteers is vital and that volunteers are more likely to leave if their induction was unsatisfactory. Induction gives the volunteer confidence about their ability to do the job and shows them that the organisation places a value on their involvement.

We know it is not always easy to arrange group training for a new intake of volunteers – time and funding restraints prevail. So in response to our customers' suggestions we have developed a volunteer self-study workbook that volunteers can complete in their own time and which will require them to gain the information and knowledge they will need to carry out their role effectively. For those volunteers who have literacy or support needs this workbook can be completed with the help of a 'buddy'.

On completion of the workbook, volunteers will:

- know about the organisation – what you do, why and how you do it
- understand their role and their potential contribution to the organisation
- understand how to create a safe boundary within which to work
- have guidelines on confidentiality and other policies that effect them

Once complete the volunteer meets with the co-ordinator to go through their responses and deal with any questions or concerns. The volunteer then has their own personal resource that they can add to and refer back to whenever necessary.

This pack is just £15.00 + £1.25 p&p 10% discount for orders of 3 or more. Larger discount available for orders over 10 – email us for details. For more details visit our website.

At no extra cost we will customise the front cover with your organisation name and logo and include the organisation details inside the pack. We will also insert relevant Policies & Procedures or Code of Conduct (up to 4) in an Appendix, supplied by you electronically. Please state your requirements when ordering.

**Order by email ([sales@volunteersolutions.org.uk](mailto:sales@volunteersolutions.org.uk)) , phone 01474 358281 or from our web site – pre-payment not required as we will invoice**

**All the time and effort you put into recruitment can be wasted if the induction does not reflect the organisations' commitment to volunteers.**

## I.T.& E-RESOURCE

### Google Wave

Google Wave is an online tool for real-time communication and collaboration. A wave can be both a conversation and a document where people can discuss and work together using richly formatted text, photos, videos, maps, and more.

#### What is a wave?

**A wave is equal parts conversation and document.** People can communicate and work together with richly formatted text, photos, videos, maps, and more.

**A wave is shared.** Any participant can reply anywhere in the message, edit the content and add participants at any point in the process. Then playback lets anyone rewind the wave to see who said what and when.

**A wave is live.** With live transmission as you type, participants on a wave can have faster conversations, see edits and interact with extensions in real-time. For more information go to: [wave.google.com/help/wave/using-wave.html](http://wave.google.com/help/wave/using-wave.html).

## **Freerunner - Free WiFi access for community spaces and charities**

Freerunner is offering to install free WiFi wireless internet access in 50 public places for at least three years. The company will also install the Freerunner service for free in 500 charity buildings, provided that they have broadband access. From the Freerunner website: 'Other WiFi operators only cover urban areas where they can make lots of money from business travellers. 'So we decided to do something about it. We have a fund in place to get internet access to people who need it. The fund is paid for by the commercial side of our business, a number of corporate sponsors and advertising we place at the start of your internet session.

'Let us know why your community needs WiFi and we will come and install a totally free service in a public place for 3 years (or longer if we find sponsors to pay for it). We currently have enough in the fund to pay for 50 communities in the UK.

'Freerunner has also partnered with JustGiving.com to put free WiFi internet access where it's really needed - charities. If your charity has a broadband connection, we will come and install the Freerunner service for free in your location. It's perfect for charity shops as it gives people another reason to visit. It also gives you the chance to help bridge the digital divide. JustGiving.com and Freerunner have committed to provide this service to 500 charities, totally free of charge, forever.'

For more information, visit Website: <http://www.freerunr.com/about/> For an application form, visit <http://www.freerunr.com/community/> Email: [connectmenow@freerunr.com](mailto:connectmenow@freerunr.com) Tel: (0800) 860 0815.

# **SME**

## **Social Enterprise 09**

The Social Investment Business is partnering with The Guardian to bring you **Social Enterprise 2009 - the future of public services?** to be held on 19 November at the Hilton Metropole in Birmingham.

This is a new event for third and public sector professionals – providing inspiration and practical examples on how developing social enterprises can benefit the community. If you are involved in commissioning, delivering or improving public sector services, the event will provide you with the expertise on how to engage the community and tap into the energy and potential of local people.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Vince Cable MP, shadow chancellor of the exchequer, Liberal Democrats
- Claire Dove, chair, SEC, CEO, Blackburne House
- Jonathan Lewis, chief executive, The Social Investment Business
- Eilís Lawlor, head, valuing what matters, NEF

Don't miss out this opportunity to gain a better understanding of social enterprise and public service delivery. For more information and to book your place visit: [www.guardian.co.uk/socialenterprise](http://www.guardian.co.uk/socialenterprise).

Please quote GPMM on booking.

## **New 'Social Media for your Business' Events in Cornwall**

**Business Link invites you to attend a new Social Media event being run in Cornwall.**

**27th October, Penventon Hotel, Redruth.**

**17th November, Rosewarne Manor, Hayle.**

This exciting new event will highlight the importance of using Social Media within your marketing plan, and will provide you with the knowledge and understanding to know what path your business should take.

**Areas covered during this event:**

1. Introduction to Social Media
2. How can Social Media benefit your business?
3. How do customers and staff use Social Media?
4. How can your business start using Social Media?
5. How can you promote your business using Social Media?
6. How can you manage Social Media success?
7. How do you build Social Media into a plan?

**Who should attend?**

Anyone in business who wants to find out if they should become involved in Social Media.

For more information go to:

[www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/eventdisplay?site=106&itemId=5001386554#rel=yes&name=Social%20Media%20Event%20\(Cornwall\)&cat=Event](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/eventdisplay?site=106&itemId=5001386554#rel=yes&name=Social%20Media%20Event%20(Cornwall)&cat=Event)

**Free Export - Your Success event**

Business Link's Convergence service has teamed up with HSBC and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) to provide Cornish businesses with a valuable insight into the opportunities and commercial advantages of developing trade in overseas markets.

The significant advantages of introducing export sales within the current economic climate will be highlighted at a special morning event being held at **The Royal Cornwall Showground in Wadebridge on November 17<sup>th</sup> 2009.**

"This is a great opportunity for Cornish enterprises to find out how to go about exporting, how to capitalise on the favourable conditions for trading in overseas markets and to learn from the first-hand experience of other exporters," said Business Link's Anna Peachey.

"There will be plenty of scope for anyone attending to find out what support is available for an overseas sales drive and to raise their own questions with the guest speakers and experienced advisers from Business Link, HSBC and UKTI. It promises to be a highly motivational event and we are expecting interest from established and new businesses right across the county given the importance of developing new market opportunities for any progressive enterprise."

Guest speakers at the 'Export Your Success' event will include Lucy Jewson of Frugi and David Bone from Somar International Limited who will explain how they began exporting, highlight the value of market research and outline the various ways to raise finance for overseas ventures. The presentations will be followed by an open Q&A session and the opportunity to network with other like-minded entrepreneurs.

The 'Export your Success' event is free to attend and is being held from 8am until 11am and includes breakfast and refreshments. Anyone wishing to book a place should call the events team at Business Link on 0845 600 9966 or email [enquiries@blpeninsula.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@blpeninsula.co.uk).

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Play England Conference: Risky Play!**

Play England – South West and Play England – South East are jointly hosting a conference looking at the risky play. This will be held in Swindon on 10 December 2009.

This seminar, jointly hosted by Play England - South West and Play England - South East aims to bring together those responsible for managing and designing play provision and explore how to use the risk–benefit assessment process detailed in Managing Risk in Play Provision.

The event will feature expert speakers and will include presentations, discussions and case studies to investigate practical ways of managing risk in play provision.

Booking forms can be downloaded from [www.playengland.org.uk/southwest](http://www.playengland.org.uk/southwest)

## **Centre for Excellence and Outcomes for Children and Young people (C4EO)**

### **Free Knowledge Workshop on the theme of Vulnerable Children (specifically looked after children)**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Future Inn, Bond Street South, Bristol

Having successfully embarked on work around Early Years, Disability, Safeguarding and Child Poverty, the fifth theme on which C4EO is focusing is that of Vulnerable Children.

The forthcoming Knowledge Workshops are a key element of C4EO's strategy to build capacity for improvement within local services. They are an important means of sharing the evidence base we have assembled so far and debating what this knowledge means for strategic service development. The workshops will also introduce tools and approaches that can help those responsible for improving the wellbeing of children and their families to use this knowledge to deliver local outcome improvement.

**The workshops are designed for local leaders and decision makers so it is important that delegates are of appropriate seniority.** We have saved an additional four to five places per workshop for VCS sector colleagues.

Early booking is strongly advised. Should you or your colleagues have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact: [c4eobookings@rip.org.uk](mailto:c4eobookings@rip.org.uk)

## **GOVERNMENT**

### **Local Councils -Specialist help available for Economic Development projects**

A variety of projects throughout the country in the field of local economy and worklessness are benefiting from the support of Local Improvement Advisors (LIAs).

Despite the benefits derived from LIA involvement, councils and their partners in the South West are yet to make full use of the LIA support programme for local economic development projects. The following examples demonstrate various areas in which LIAs have been able to offer advice and guidance and may inspire you to apply for LIA support for your project.

- Planning and supporting a Skills and Enterprise Initiative. The LIA is involved in putting together the business plan to establish this Initiative in Bath and will offer advice and support at various stages during the Initiative's development. The LIA will also help community members to better understand the policy arena as they articulate their vision for the area. The Initiative, through engagement with the local community, will offer skills and enterprise training to local people not currently in work or training.
- Creating a booklet of best practice in tackling the effects of the Recession. The LIA captured leading practice from London's local councils in guiding their areas through the recession,

producing a booklet that will provide a quick reference resource for Councillors and Officers seeking ideas and further inspiration.

- Advice on data sharing. The LIA is supporting several councils and their partners in pilot projects to investigate how effective data sharing can be used to tackle worklessness. Through the project, run by Communities and Local Government, Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus, LIAs are offering technical expertise and practical support to the pilot areas (Leeds County Council, Liverpool MAA and Kent County Council) helping them to refine their ideas and put together business plans. The pilot authorities will benefit by being able to target their support and enhance their strategic planning.

For details of how to apply for LIA support for your local economic development project, please email [Nerissa Shepherd](mailto:Nerissa.Shepherd) or call 01823 425227.

## DIVERSITY & EQUALITY

### ROTA produces Policy Briefing on Education White Paper

ROTA has produced a Policy Briefing on the Government's recently published Education White Paper, *Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21st century schools system*. The briefing summarises the key aspects of the paper that will potentially impact on BAME organisations and the communities they serve. ROTA will be seeking to work with the DCSF on some of the issues raised in the briefing and would encourage BAME organisations to submit their views to ROTA in order to develop our work in this area. For more information on ROTA's briefing please contact: [carlene@rota.org.uk](mailto:carlene@rota.org.uk) or to download a copy of the briefing please visit the ROTA website. For further information on the White Paper visit: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/21stcenturyschoolssystem/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/21stcenturyschoolssystem/).

### INTER FAITH WEEK - NATIONAL

15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> November – Inter Faith Week

Faithnetsouthwest is working to promote Inter Faith Week, which runs from 15 to 21 November 2009. The initiative comes from the Government's Communities and Local Government Department, at the suggestion of Inter Faith UK. Faithnetsouthwest is keen to support any group or network in the region wishing to organise an event around the time of Inter Faith week and to give the maximum number of organisations the chance to participate. If you have any ideas, plans or specific events in mind that you might consider putting into practice during Inter Faith week, please let us know.

Faithnetsouthwest will do their best to help you publicise your event and will be happy to give any advice on planning or potential funding that you may require.

For more information on Inter Faith Week and forthcoming events, see the Faithnetsouthwest website: [www.faithnetsouthwest.org.uk](http://www.faithnetsouthwest.org.uk)

## HEALTH

### Are you caring for someone with dementia or memory problems?

**Help and support is available.**

It is estimated that there are 700,000 people in the UK who have dementia and one million people providing a caring role. Dementia is associated with complex needs and high levels of dependency.

Caring for someone with dementia can be very demanding and challenging. Access to information, support and advice from people who really understand is very important.

The Outlook South West Dementia Training Team will be providing a series of free advice and information events that will include how to help people understand the nature of dementia, practical planning for the future and how to help carers look after themselves.

**This will be of particular interest to informal carers, such as family members, friends and neighbours of people living with dementia.**

**An informative talk in Launceston will take place at the Eagle House Hotel, 3 Castle Street, PL15 8BA on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2.00pm - 4.30pm.**

On-site parking is available. There will be full access for wheelchair users.

To book your place, please telephone - OUTLOOK SOUTH WEST LLP - main office: (01208) 871904  
[johague@outlooksw.co.uk](mailto:johague@outlooksw.co.uk)

## **Green Paper on Care Systems**

The Department for Health has launched its Green Paper to improve national care and support systems. The document highlights challenges faced by current system and proposes the development of a 'National Care Service that is fair, simple and affordable for everyone'. The department is consulting on its plans until the **13th November 2009** and full details can be found at [www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_102338](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_102338)

**Any Trouble Reading? - Here's an eye-opener about the link between eyes and exclusion.**

**Difficulty reading is a widespread problem in the UK.** For most it's a touch of short/long sightedness – easily sorted with a pair of specs. For many others, the root of the problem is less obvious, remaining undiagnosed or un-treated. Many people who struggle with literacy have no idea why they do. Some assume, wrongly, it must only be because they aren't clever enough.

**A problem with reading is bad news:** In a world where most of what you do relies on the ability to read or write, you can find yourself excluded from essentials that others take for granted.

**Why can't people read easily?** Apart from obvious explanations like blindness or failing eyesight, there are other key causes like dyslexia and the need for basic skills education. The government has invested heavily in courses for adults and has just announced that 4000 teachers will be trained to support dyslexics. But there are still more reasons why people struggle with reading.

Look through this list – are there any that hadn't occurred to you?

- Deafness
- Learning disabilities
- Lack of educational support
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Mental health problems
- Sleep disorders
- Binocular instability
- Visual Stress Syndrome

**The last two items on the list above** are eye problems that often complicate difficulties like dyslexia, and have a major impact on reading all by themselves. Affecting 1 in 5 of us, and causing trouble with concentration, mood and even balance, they remain widely undetected. Go to: [www.openheartsoopenminds.org.uk/news.php?id=976](http://www.openheartsoopenminds.org.uk/news.php?id=976) to learn about the extent of illiteracy in the UK and, what you can do about these widespread but lesser known visual disorders that are quietly staring readers in the face.

# Capacity Builders

## Stephen Dunmore appointed as Capacitybuilders' Chair

Stephen Dunmore has been appointed as the interim Chair at Capacitybuilders, following Chris Pond's announcement that he would be stepping down from the role.



Stephen has been a Capacitybuilders' Board member since August 2008 and his appointment to Chair provides continuity of leadership in support of the delivery of Capacitybuilders' programmes.

He brings with him considerable experience of grant giving and the third sector as a result of his work at the Big Lottery Fund, and as Chair of the BBC's Advisory Committee on Charitable Appeals.

Stephen commented: *"I am looking forward to working with Capacitybuilders' staff and Board, and the sector as a whole, at a time when the ability to access high quality support and advice is more important than ever to those working in the third sector"*.

## £500,000 invested in Neighbourhood Watch groups to help fight crime and build communities

The Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network are collaborating with Capacitybuilders to support local groups working to make their communities safer and better places to live. The Home Office has pledged £500,000 to support this work with Neighbourhood and Home Watch groups across England and Wales. The Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network will be supported by Capacitybuilders to ensure the growth, development and increased effectiveness of local Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

To find out more, please visit:

[www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/detail/500000\\_invested\\_in\\_Neighbourhood\\_Watch\\_groups\\_to\\_help\\_fight\\_crime\\_and\\_build\\_communities\\_/99/424.aspx](http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/detail/500000_invested_in_Neighbourhood_Watch_groups_to_help_fight_crime_and_build_communities_/99/424.aspx)

## Convergence

Convergence is the new European economic regeneration programme for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly that runs until 2013. Convergence will make investments that will have a long-term impact on the economy of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. It will help to build a stronger more diverse economy by supporting businesses, and helping people into employment and those in work gain new and up-to-date skills.

Convergence consists of two funds European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF).

**Who is running Convergence?** At a national level the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) is responsible for ERDF while the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for ESF. More locally the South West Regional Development Agency and Government Office for the South West (GOSW) have had responsibilities devolved to them for ERDF and ESF respectively. Local partners are engaged through the Programme Monitoring Committee which is chaired by GOSW and includes representatives from our local authorities, the private, community and environmental sectors, the trades unions and representatives from national government and the European Commission.

**What is Convergence investing in?** Convergence will invest in a range of activities aimed at strengthening our economy, by:

- Developing our people
- Strengthening business
- Investing in our future

- Making connections

**How can I access Convergence?** Over the lifetime of Convergence there will be a number of straightforward ways to access a range of business support, training; and help into work.

- Focused support for business: Business Link is the main access point for all business support products whether from UK mainstream sources or European programmes. Business Link can be contacted on 0845 600 9966

- Help into work: Cornwall Works is the main access point for help into work and training. Cornwall Works can be contacted on 01872 255015

- Training and support for younger people: Youth Cornwall can be contacted on 01872 326326

- New and updated skills: Nextstep is the main access point for adult learners. Nextstep can be contacted on 0845 850 5070

- Workspace development: Workspace provision can be accessed through the workspace strategic investment framework. Contact: Ian Whale.

- European programmes team: South West of England Regional Development Agency. Email: [ian.whale@southwestrda.org.uk](mailto:ian.whale@southwestrda.org.uk) Address: Castle House, Pydar Street, Truro, TR1 2UJ

(Source: [www.convergencecornwall.com](http://www.convergencecornwall.com))

## Free skills training for recession victims

People who have recently lost their jobs in Cornwall are being offered free skills training as part of a back-to-work scheme launched by Working Links in partnership with Newquay based company The Training Centre.

The Response to Redundancy scheme managed in Cornwall by The Training Centre offers funded places on a range of vocational courses to workers who have been made redundant or lost their jobs within the last six months.

Launched this week in response to rising unemployment caused by Britain's worst recession in recorded history, the programme aims to help people build a portfolio of practical qualifications which could lead them back into sustainable employment.

The innovative scheme offered in Cornwall by The Training Centre is the first in the country to include the National Beach Lifeguard Qualification and includes specialist first aid rescue courses, carefully selected to suit the needs of the county's leisure based economy.

To be eligible for one of the 100 funded places, candidates must be over 18-years old, resident in Cornwall and have lost their jobs in the last six months.

Successful candidates are entitled to 75 hours worth of free training, which must be taken between now and the end of March on specific courses operated at The Training Centre's base at Lusty Glaze Beach in Newquay.

As well as lifeguarding qualifications, participants can choose to take other practical courses such as HSE First Aid at Work, Fire Marshall and Conflict Management, which can significantly improve employment options in many types of businesses.

David Whelan, Training Centre Manager, said: "We're delighted to be delivering this programme in Cornwall in partnership with Working Links. This is a wonderful opportunity for victims of the

recession to turn their lives around and gain new skills which could help them to find their way back into employment.

"This is particularly important in Cornwall where seasonal tourism leaves many hotel and leisure industry staff without jobs at this time of year."

Working Links is funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and has pioneered a number of similar projects across the UK.

The first students on the Response to Redundancy scheme started their courses on the 26<sup>th</sup> October, with many more places now available on further courses throughout November and the next few months. *(Source: Nick Eyriey, Business Cornwall)*