

**NACVS' LINX - Local Infrastructure News Extra
Issue 33, 12 January 2006**

NACVS UPDATE

=====

For further updates see our website at <http://www.nacvs.org.uk>, especially <http://www.nacvs.org.uk/news> and <http://www.nacvs.org.uk/thisSite/whatsnew>

Local partnerships transforming communities

1 and 2 February, London. Closing date 18 January.
<http://www.nacvs.org.uk/nacvs/events/partnerships>

DfES Infrastructure Fund

Susanne Baccini from Merton CVS is representing NACVS in discussions with DfES and national VCS organisations about the new DfES Infrastructure Fund. This will support VCS engagement in Every Child Matters and Change for Children. The fund is small - £1m in 06/07 and £2m in 07/08.

We are arguing that most of the investment should be in local engagement between VCS and Children's Trusts. In a recent survey of NACVS members and other relevant VCS agencies 94% of respondents said that small amounts of money available locally would make a positive difference for VCS engagement; 97% felt that funding regional officers would not be the most effective way of ensuring local engagement; and 16% said that small grants for local engagement excuses the proper responsibility of local authorities and PCTs. We'll keep you informed of developments.

Public Law training

NACVS is working with the Public Law Project and expects to advertise low cost training courses for LIOs in public law from July 2006. We hope to appoint a Public Law Training Officer in April 2006. The Public Law Project will be recruiting a solicitor to undertake public law case work, supporting the local VCS where local authorities breach the principles of public law. We will advertise the post and announce the courses in LINX.
<http://www.nacvs.org.uk/news/publiclaw.shtm>

Full Cost Recovery training

We are working with acevo on the Full Cost Recovery project. In this case acevo will deliver the training and NACVS members will host the courses - and be paid modest amounts for doing so. Training should begin some time after April 2006 and developments will be announced in LINX.
<http://www.nacvs.org.uk/news/fullcost.shtm>

SKiLD - Skills and Knowledge for Local Development

SKiLD, NACVS' new learning project for development workers, is now on the web: <http://www.skild.org.uk>

SKiLD has developed a Learning Needs Analysis to help assess the training and development needs of people doing development work with voluntary and community groups: <http://www.skild.org.uk/needsanalysis.doc>. Please complete and return the questionnaire by 26 January. There's a prize of two free SKiLD training days for the first completed one pulled out of the hat after the deadline. For more information contact Dave Carr, <mailto:dave@nacvs.org.uk>.

SKiLD is also setting up focus groups to inform the learning programme and a new competencies framework. <http://www.nacvs.org.uk/skild/focusgroup.doc> or email Alison Norris, <mailto:alison@nacvs.org.uk>.

ChangeUp ICT Hub News

The December edition of the ICT Hub newsletter is still available at <http://www.ictconsortium.org.uk/newsletter>. If you provide ICT support services at a regional or sub-regional level please contact Paul Webster, <mailto:paul@nacvs.org.uk>.

ChangeUp ICT Hub free accessibility training

As part of the ICT Hub's work, free courses on 'successful computing on a low budget' for people with disabilities will be offered across the UK. <http://www.ictconsortium.org.uk/AbilityNetFreeCourses.doc>

NOMS/NACVS workshop

Notes from the recent NOMS/NACVS workshop on improving voluntary sector services for offenders in the North West are now on the NACVS website. <http://www.nacvs.org.uk/news/noms.doc>

Enquiries and complaints procedure

NACVS has always sought to respond promptly to the enquiries and issues that members and service users bring to us. Our target is to acknowledge a letter, email or telephone message within two working days. We will respond fully within 15 working days unless we have made personal contact with you and agreed a longer timescale. <http://www.nacvs.org.uk/nacvs/publications/enquiries.shtm>

Our complaints procedure is also on our website at <http://www.nacvs.org.uk/nacvs/policies/complaintsproc.doc>.

BLF Reaching Communities Fund

Some local infrastructure organisations have been told they are not eligible to apply to the Reaching Communities Fund because there is a separate infrastructure support fund, and have been referred to other programmes such as Awards for All.

NACVS has confirmed with BLF that what matters is the type of work the application is for, not the organisation. BLF is aware that many organisations (e.g. RCCs) are involved in both direct service delivery and

infrastructure services. They are at liberty to apply to the programme most relevant to the work they need funding for. See <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk>. We would be interested to hear if you get a different response from the Fund. <mailto:kevin@nacvs.org.uk>

Capacity Builders

Chris Pond, Chair of Capacity Builders, has sent a letter of introduction to NACVS. <http://www.nacvs.org.uk/news/capacitybuilders.doc>. The new Chief Executive, Simon Hebditch, will join Capacity Builders on 30 January.

Procurement and competitive tendering

Thanks to all those people who have offered to serve on the procurement and competitive tendering email reference group. This will soon be very active. Gill Snowden from Voluntary Action Leicester will be recruiting a group of mentors to help NACVS members with both procurement and competitive tendering in the first quarter of 2006. She will also be putting together a procurement and competitive tendering toolkit. Members of the email reference group will be consulted about both aspects of the work. More information from <mailto:kevin@nacvs.org.uk>.

VCS involvement in second phase LAAs

An NACVS survey shows that VCS involvement in Local Area Agreements is patchy. There are some welcome examples of good practice and some areas where there seems to be a disappointing level of engagement with the voluntary and community sector.
<http://www.nacvs.org.uk/resources/la/laaphase2.doc>

NACVS EVENTS

=====

Dates for your diary

-
- For better or for worse? The changing relationship between PCTs and the VCS: 17 January, London
 - Local partnerships transforming communities: 1 and 2 February, London
 - Effective trustees: effective organisations: 21 February, Leicester
 - Chief Officers' Residential Event (CORE): 24 to 26 April, Peterborough
 - NACVS Annual Conference 2006: 19 & 20 September, Warwick.
- <http://www.nacvs.org.uk/nacvs/events>

NEWS

=====

Respect

The Government's Respect action plan to tackle anti-social behaviour is now on the web. <http://www.respect.gov.uk>

ORRION

The Neighbourhood Renewal Unit has launched its Online Race Resource for Improving Outcomes in Neighbourhoods (ORRION).

<http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk>

Barking and Dagenham secure CEN funding

Whilst many Community Empowerment Networks face an uncertain future, in Barking and Dagenham continued funding for the CEN has been assured until March 2008. Key to the CEN's success in securing its future was a report that set out the importance of having an independent CEN with which LSP partners can engage during the development of the local area agreement.

<http://www.nacvs.org.uk/news/cen.doc>

FareShare

FareShare is a national charity that redistributes quality surplus food from the food industry to organisations working with homeless and vulnerable people in community day centres and hostels. <http://www.fareshare.org.uk>

Chief Executive vacancy

Nottingham CVS is currently recruiting a Chief Executive.

<http://www.nottinghamcvs.co.uk/jobs>

Better business

The HSE has launched a campaign to highlight to small businesses the possible cost savings to be made through good health and safety practice.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/betterbusiness>

New vetting scheme

In response to the Bichard Inquiry Report, the government is planning to introduce a new vetting and barring scheme for people whose jobs bring them into contact with children and vulnerable adults.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/vettingandbarring>

European rights information centres

The European Commission has launched a call for proposals to host Europe Direct information outlets across the United Kingdom.

<http://www.cec.org.uk/work/edirect/call.htm>

Community halls for rural people

These new pages on the Defra website aim to raise awareness of sources of funding and advice for village halls and other community buildings.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/communities/halls>

Expressing a grievance

Sandy Adirondack's 'Legal Update' reports that recent employment appeal tribunal cases have found that any letter from an employee expressing a complaint - even a resignation letter, and even if it does not say it is a grievance - can be a step one statutory grievance letter. As such it must trigger the statutory grievance procedure.
<http://www.sandy-co.uk/employment.htm#grievanceletter>

Charities Bill

'Legal Update' also has an update on progress of the Charities Bill:
<http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#charitiesbill>. The Charity Commission has updated its commentary on proposed charitable purposes in the Bill:
<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/spr/corcom1.asp>

Simplifying regulation

The Charity Commission is seeking ideas on how to reduce the regulatory burden on charities: <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/news/simplereg.asp>. This is part of a simplification programme led by the Better Regulation Executive <http://www.betterregulation.gov.uk/simplification>

Capacity Builders recruitment

Capacity Builders Programmes is now recruiting a Resources and Planning Director, a Programmes Director and a Communications Manager. Closing date 20 January. <http://www.capacitybuilders.net>

The LGBT Young Persons' Mental Health Project

Are you working with young people in a young persons' mental health area or with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) young people? The National LGBT Young Persons' Mental Health Project would like to hear from you. Contact David Farrington at <mailto:dfarrington@lgbtconsortium.org.uk> or tel 020 7064 8383.

Criminal Records Bureau website

The CRB has launched its new website <http://www.crb.gov.uk> which combines the Disclosure and CRB sites. Both <http://www.disclosure.gov.uk> and <http://www.crb.gov.uk> will now take you to the new website.

Immigration rules

A consolidated version of the current Immigration Rules can be found on the Home Office Immigration and Nationality Directorate website.
<http://digbig.com/4cscq> or <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk>

Parenting Education Materials

NCVCCO's Parenting Education Materials website has gone live.
<http://www.parentingeducationmaterials.co.uk>

Rural Health Good Practice

The Department of Health has launched a Rural Proofing Toolkit.
<http://www.ruralhealthgoodpractice.org.uk>

Area profiles

This new website from the Audit Commission outlines the quality of life and public services available in every local authority area in England.
<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/areaprofiles>

POLICY, CONSULTATIONS AND RESEARCH

===== Managing performance: information, indicators and targets

The ODPM has published initial ideas for a new information framework for local services, which will underpin the new performance management framework. Comments are invited by 3 February. <http://digbig.com/4fwtx> or <http://www.odpm.gov.uk>

Supporting people

The ODPM's initial strategy for the future development of the Supporting People programme is out for consultation until 28 February.
<http://digbig.com/4ftpp> or <http://www.spkweb.org.uk>

Reducing Re-offending Through Skills & Employment

The DfES is seeking views on new strategy ideas to help reduce re-offending. The consultation closes on 29 May. <http://digbig.com/4ftyb> or <http://www.dfes.gov.uk>

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

===== Working for a better world

'Working for a better world: Your guide to careers in the charity sector' has been published by the UK Workforce Hub. <http://digbig.com/4fmyq> or <http://www.voluntarysectorskills.org.uk>

Early Findings from the Home Office 2005 Citizenship Survey

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr4905.pdf>

Case law at work 2005-06

Labour Research Department. <http://www.lrd.org.uk>

Research Report 17: New Deal for Communities Evaluation 2001-05

Neighbourhood Renewal Unit. <http://digbig.com/4fxds> or
<http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk>

A Shopper's Guide to Green Labels

Recently updated by Defra.
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/consumerprod/shopguide>

Changing our world: Work-life balance in the voluntary sector

From Working Families. <http://digbig.com/4fxkd> or
<http://www.workingfamilies.org.uk>

The Leadership Imperative

'The Leadership Imperative: Reforming children's services from the ground up' has just been published by the Demos think tank.
<http://www.demos.co.uk/catalogue/leadershipimperative>

Countryside and Community Research Unit Briefing 2005/06

Available from CCRU at the University of Gloucestershire.
<http://www.glos.ac.uk/ccru>

Pathways into and out of crime: risk, resilience and diversity

ESRC research on how and why young people become involved in antisocial and criminal activity. <http://digbig.com/4fskt> or
<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk>

Monitoring poverty and social exclusion

Updated New Policy Institute/Joseph Rowntree Foundation report.
<http://www.poverty.org.uk>

JRF publications

- 'Economic segregation in England: Causes, consequences and policy'
- 'Evaluating community projects - a practical guide'
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop>

A guide to promising approaches

A Communities that Care guidebook that brings together evidence about effective programmes that improve outcomes for children and young people.
<http://www.communitiesthatcare.org.uk/publications.html>

Community development and older people

Centre for Intergenerational Practice publication. <http://digbig.com/4fskg>
or <http://www.centreforip.org.uk>

Aggregation - is bigger always better?

Office of Government Commerce procurement guidance on the recent trend towards larger contracts. <http://digbig.com/4fsjs> or <http://www.ogc.gov.uk>
or

FUNDING AND AWARDS

=====

Local Heritage Initiative update

The LHI was expected to close as a programme in March 2007. As one of the LHI partners, the Countryside Agency, will cease to exist at the end of September 2006, LHI will now cease to operate from that date. LHI projects that are still 'live' will be transferred to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The last date for formal applications to LHI will be 30 June.
<http://www.lhi.org.uk>

Lloyds TSB Foundation

The Lloyds TSB Foundation has published new guidelines and grant-making plans. <http://www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk>

Nationwide Foundation

The Nationwide Foundation is seeking applications from projects dealing with domestic violence issues. <http://www.nationwidefoundation.org.uk>

Guidance for funders of community transport

This Community Transport Association publication provides examples of good practice for funders and the community transport organisations they support. http://www.ctauk.org/fundsupport/pdfs/funders_guide.pdf

Garfield Weston Foundation

The Garfield Weston Foundation is a UK-based grant-giving charity which helps projects in the following categories: Arts, Community, Education, Welfare, Medical, Social, Religion, Youth and Environment.
<http://www.garfieldweston.org>

Percy Bilton Charity (UK)

Organisations assisting disadvantaged young people, people with disabilities and older people may apply for grants towards capital expenditure.
<http://www.percybiltoncharity.org.uk>

Coalfields Regeneration Trust

Grants of between £500 and £20,000 are available for groups involved in improving the quality of life for people in Britain's coalfield communities.
<http://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk>

Comic Relief support for mental health

Small grants of up to £5,000 are available for user-led mental health groups with an annual turnover of less than £150,000. <http://www.comicrelief.com>

EVENTS

=====

The Power Within

National Body of Black Prisoner Support Groups Conference. Bristol, 25 January. <http://www.nbbpsg.co.uk>

Urban Forum Regional Seminars

Seminars take place in each region from 23 January. <http://www.urbanforum.org.uk/events>

Thriving or surviving?

'Thriving or surviving? The future of the women's voluntary and community sector' is the theme for the Women's Resource Centre conference 2006. 23 March in London. <http://www.wrc.org.uk>

Centre for Civil Society events

- Faith Based Agencies - Promoters of Development or Part of the Problem? London, 9 February
- Organising Within and Around Muslim Communities in the UK: challenges and opportunities. London, 2 March.
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CCS/newsevents/events.htm>

Disability Equality Duty: Overview Guidance for the Public Sector

14 February, Manchester. <http://www.neilstewartassociates.com/sh197>

Corporate community involvement seminar

15 February, London. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/ccis>

Transformation for Change

Asian Health Agency seminar on barriers to social inclusion and integration for refugee communities. 17 January, Hounslow. <mailto:admin1@taha.org.uk> or tel 020 8538 7704.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day 2006 takes place on 27 January. <http://www.hmd.org.uk>

Future of Local Strategic Partnerships consultation event

To be held at NCVO in London on 10 February. Email
mailto:policy@ncvo-vol.org.uk

Working with change, meeting the challenge

Refugee Council update on asylum policy and legislation.
- 9 March, London
- 23 March, Birmingham.
<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/refugeecouncil/training/conferences.htm>

Good practice on databases

London, 21 February
<http://www.preponderate.net/database>

Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion events

- Welfare Reform Green Paper: 28 February, London
- Recruiting Diversity - What Works? London, 8-9 March.
<http://www.cesi.org.uk/Events/listEventsall.asp> or <http://www.cesi.org.uk>

LEARNING

=====

National Occupational Standards in Community Development Work

Federation of Community Development Learning Workshops. January/February
2006. <http://digbig.com/4fsjw> or <http://www.fcdl.org.uk>.

Working together for the future

NIACE seminars on the Learning and Skills Council's strategy for work with
the voluntary and community sector.
- 17 January, London
- 19 January, Sheffield.
<http://www.niace.org.uk/Conferences>

Interpersonal Skills for Volunteers

The University of Wales Lampeter offers a Certificate in Interpersonal
Skills for Volunteers by distance learning. <http://www.volstudy.ac.uk>

Clinks

Clinks, the national infrastructure body for organisations working with
offenders and their families, has established an Action Learning Programme.
mailto:kate.holmes@clinks.org or tel 01904 673970.

Clinks also offers training/awareness courses for organisations wanting to
work with offenders and their families. <http://www.clinks.org> or
mailto:info@clinks.org

Human Rights Advocacy

Education Action International offers free courses in Human Rights Advocacy for Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Tel 020 7426 5814/5825 or email <mailto:enquiries@refugee-advocacy-project.org.uk>

Independent Examining

The Association of Charity Independent Examiners (ACIE) is running two courses in Independent Examining (IE) (end of year 'audit' for smaller charities) in Newcastle and Middlesbrough between February and April 2006. <http://www.acie.org.uk> or tel 01302 828338.

DISCLAIMER

=====

Publications, events and services mentioned in LINX are not necessarily endorsed by NACVS. Please note that NACVS is not responsible for the content of external websites - opinions expressed on these sites do not necessarily represent those of NACVS.

We are happy to receive brief items for LINX, but reserve the right to refuse any item which contravenes our 'Statement of Values'. See <http://www.nacvs.org.uk/nacvs/statevalues.shtm>

RECEIVING LINX

=====

LINX is sent out to Chief Officers, Chairs and the main email address of our members, associates, affiliates and friends. It is also sent to 'Circulation' subscribers.

All NACVS email networks will be notified when the latest edition of LINX is published. It can be accessed by members, associates and affiliates from the NACVS website, <http://www.nacvs.org.uk/members/restrict/linx>. You will need your username and password.

Subscription to LINX is available as part of a 'Circulation' subscription. For more details see <http://www.nacvs.org.uk/nacvs/publications/circulation.shtm>

NACVS

177 Arundel Street
Sheffield, S1 2NU

Tel: 0114 278 6636
Fax: 0114 278 7004
Textphone: 0114 278 7025
Email: linx@nacvs.org.uk
Web: <http://www.nacvs.org.uk>

Registered charity no. 1001635
Registered company no. 2575306
Registered office as above