



June/ July 2009

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Funding news

1. The Learning Revolution, Transformation Fund, deadline 12 July

The Government's White Paper "The Learning Revolution" announced a £20 million fund to support informal learning and this new grants programme is now open with a deadline for applications of 12 July.

From the tender advert:

"Transformation Fund grants will test new ideas and creative projects to help:

- Build partnerships and encourage knowledge transfer across sectors
- Encourage more and different people into learning
- Open up new places to support self organised groups and learning clubs
- Develop and share innovative and stimulating content
- Improve the use of broadcasting and technology

Bids for transformation fund grants may come from different kinds of organisations and different sectors, including LSC-funded learning providers, charities, membership organisations, unions and many others"

From the fund prospectus, available from

http://www.dius.gov.uk/~media/publications/L/learningrev_prospectus :

"The Transformation Fund is divided into 3 discrete funding pots:

- a) Small grants below £10,000 aimed at supporting innovative ideas from smaller organisations and partnerships.
- b) Medium grants of £10,000 – £100,000 aimed at more substantial projects.
- c) Showcase projects above £100,000, aimed at making a substantial contribution to the development of a new infrastructure for informal learning and leaving a permanent legacy which will drive forward the Learning Revolution objectives"

The grants will only fund new work. All activity needs to be completed by 31 March 2010.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) team is running an "Early bird bidders" round for groups "with a project that is raring to go" these groups should email the DIUS team at learningrevolution@dius.gsi.gov.uk for advice. The deadline for early bids is 12 June. The deadline for all other bids is 12 July and further details are available from

http://www.dius.gov.uk/skills/engaging_learners/informal_adult_learning/transformation_fund

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2. Third Sector Investment Programme (Previously known as Section 64 Grants)

The Department of Health Section 64 Grants scheme has been replaced with the "Third Sector Investment Programme". The new scheme is due to open in summer 2009.

For more information visit

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Financeandplanning/Section64grants/index.htm>

to register for updates on the programme please visit

<http://www.info.doh.gov.uk/Sect64/S64users.nsf/Person?openForm>

3. £6.6 million funding for volunteering announced by OTS

The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) has announced three new programmes to increase volunteering. £6.6 million will be invested between 2009 and 2011.

Access to Volunteering – A £2 million pilot fund will aim to "reduce barriers to disabled people volunteering and explore the feasibility of a national Access to Volunteering fund." The Office of the Third Sector is currently looking for a fund manager.

Volunteer Managers training – A £3 million programme will provide "support to volunteer managers to ensure that volunteers are well managed and that they get the best possible experience from volunteering." CapacityBuilders will manage this programme.

A £1.6 million programme will "contribute to building a volunteering legacy for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This will include a new gateway to enable people inspired to volunteer by the Games to find local volunteering opportunities, and a team of development workers to help volunteering organisations across England become involved in creating a volunteering legacy for the Games." This programme will be managed by Youthnet and Volunteering England.

For the full announcement visit the Office of the Third Sector website

<http://tinyurl.com/ofvcm8> [URL reduced with TinyURL.com]

4. Health of the 'VCS' survey 2009/10, Y&H Regional Forum

The Yorkshire and Humber Regional Forum has published initial analysis of the results of the 2009 Health of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) survey.

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"The results show that a significant number of the respondents had experienced a growth in the demand for services but that rate of growth was not matched in rises in staff or volunteers.

Many organisations expected to grow in the next financial year although at the time of the survey around 15% of those who took part were still unsure about what was going to happen to their organisation."

The survey results are available from

http://www.regionalforum.org.uk/publications_resources/knowledgebase/500/560/293.pdf

5. Local Food programme to be suspended, deadline for first stage applications 21 August

From 21 May 2009 applicants to the Local Food grants programme run by RSWT on behalf of the Big Lottery Fund will have a period of three months to submit their first stage applications. The deadline for first stage applications is 21 August 2009.

Due to the high number of applications already received and anticipated demand over the next 3 months, the Local Food programme expects to be "able to present to the selection panels sufficient high quality applications to enable effective use of the available funds."

If the applications received by 21 August do not use up all the available grant funds then Local Food will publicise this on their website and in their newsletter and the scheme would reopen for applications.

Local Food hopes to be able to give groups a decision about the eligibility of a first stage application within six weeks of the group applying. Groups can submit their first stage application during the three-month notice period as long as the resubmitted application reaches Local Food before the final deadline of 21 August.

Groups that have been invited to enter a full application already but have not yet done so are not affected. This suspension notice only applies to new first stage applications.

For further information visit <http://www.localfoodgrants.org/> telephone the Changing Spaces Advice Line on 0845 3 671 671 or email localfoodapps@rswt.org

For a list of answers to Frequently Asked Questions visit:

http://www.localfoodgrants.org/grants/faqs_suspension

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6. Sport England grant schemes launched.

The following Sport England grant schemes are now open for applications from eligible groups.

Small grants scheme:

- The scheme is open to any “not-for-profit club or association, statutory body or educational establishment”.
- Grants of £300 to £10,000 are available for “local community sport projects, which seek to increase participation, sustain participation or develop opportunities for people to excel at their chosen sport.”
- The total project cost cannot be more than £50,000.
- For further details and an application form visit http://funding.sportengland.org/funding_programmes/small_grants.aspx

Sportsmatch:

- Sportsmatch is a match-funding scheme that supports grassroots sport. For every pound raised from local businesses, trusts and individuals, Sport England provides one pound of match funding.
- Funding is mainly available for running costs and the maximum grant is £100,000.
- Capital grants of up to £25,000 are also available for sports equipment for groups.
- The scheme is open to community based sports projects. There are no deadlines and groups can apply at any time.
- For further details and an application form visit http://funding.sportengland.org/funding_programmes/sportsmatch.aspx or contact Sport England on 08458 508 508

Innovation Fund, deadline 10 August (5pm)

- “The overall aim of this £5 million investment programme is to find and nurture genuine breakthroughs that will transform the way community sport looks and feels in the future.”
- “The fund will invest in new ideas and solutions which will reach a whole new audience, and provide better, more exciting opportunities to a wider range of people, some of whom, perhaps, think that sport is not for them.”
- Sports clubs, voluntary or community organisations, local authorities, education establishments and social enterprises can all apply.

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- Only around 10 to 20 projects will be funded – Sport England anticipates that the grants will range from £10,000 to £500,000.
- For further details and an application form visit http://funding.sportengland.org/funding_programmes/innovation_fund1.aspx or contact Sport England on 08458 508 508

Sustainable facilities, deadlines 30 June and 31 December

- This fund will help sports groups to build or refurbish facilities to make them sustainable long-term. “This means the projects we invest must be able to bring in enough revenue to maintain high standards of facility provision and customer service and a varied programme of sports opportunities and sports development outreach work.”
- Sport England expects to fund between 5 and 10 capital projects each year.
- Projects must benefit all sections of the local community and “create longlasting partnerships between public, private and commercial organisations” and make an impact on one or more of the Sport England strategic outcomes: “Grow, Sustain and Excel”.
- For further details visit http://funding.sportengland.org/funding_programmes/sustainable_facilities.aspx or contact Sport England on 08458 508 508.

Rural communities fund update:

- Details announced about the rural communities fund from Sport England show that Bradford district is not classed as rural for the purposes of the fund and will not be eligible.
- For more detail on eligibility visit http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/funding_programmes/rural_communities1.aspx

7. LEADER small grants for rural projects

The South Pennines LEADER small grants fund is aimed at rural community projects. Grants of up to £2,000 (representing 50% of the total project cost) are available for projects that “seek to meet at least some of the objectives, outcomes and priorities of the LEADER programme”.

The LEADER priorities are:

1. Realising the unexploited potential of recreational use of the area’s cultural heritage;
2. Creating a collective voice and cultural image for the South Pennines;
3. Improving knowledge of our heritage: research and development;
4. Promoting artistic and creative interpretation of our landscape;

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5. Improving remote service provision;
6. Promoting sustainable community facilities;
7. Optimising use of rural spaces: improved and extended use of community buildings;
8. Improving the historic public realm;
9. Improving access points and community information;
10. Promoting use of land for community recreational benefit.

The fund has a simple one-stage application process and is open throughout the year.

In Bradford district the following wards are eligible (for further details contact Pennine Prospects direct):

- Bingley Rural (part)
- Worth Valley
- Craven
- Ilkley (part)
- Keighley East (part)
- Bingley (part)
- Wharfedale (part)

Further details about the programme are available from <http://www.pennineprospects.co.uk/programmes/?c=LEADER> or contact Ruth Hair, South Pennines LEADER Project Manager telephone 01422 846049 or 07775 704282 email Ruth.Hair@calderdale.gov.uk

8. Equality and Human Rights Commission Strategic Funding, deadline 12 June (5pm)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has announced a new £10.2 million Strategic Funding Programme. The programme will provide three-year funding for voluntary and community groups to run projects. The maximum amount that groups can apply for from EHRC is £150,000 per year. Work in the following two areas will be prioritised:

1. Organisations providing guidance, advice and advocacy services in areas including education, health and employment, as well as building capacity where there are gaps in local provision.
2. Support for increased co-operation between groups including ethnic or religious communities in areas where there are known tensions.

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A separate EHRC programme to support legal advice and awareness of legal rights is due to be launched in June.

"The Commission is particularly keen to fund activity that directly serves and involves individuals and local communities, that meets an unmet need, and that has the potential to inspire and inform longer-term activity that helps promote the Commission's objectives."

For further details and an outline proposal form, visit <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/aboutus/grants/pages/grantsandfunding.aspx>

9. E.ON new Sustainable Energy Fund, deadline 12 June

The Sustainable Energy Fund replaces the E.ON Source Fund and can provide funding of up to £20,000 for a range of projects, including purchase and installation of energy efficient equipment and small-scale renewable generation technologies.

The fund is open to applications from charities; community groups and not-for-profit organisations based in England, Scotland and Wales, and will support projects that target at least one of the following groups:

- Young people.
- The elderly.
- People living in fuel poverty.

The fund cannot support feasibility studies, residential or commercial projects. The application deadlines for 2009 are 12 June and 16 October.

For further information and an application form visit the E.ON website <http://www.eon-uk.com/about/2654.aspx>

10. Shipley Area Committee grants schemes for youth activities and community buildings, deadline 17 June

Three new schemes have been developed by Shipley Area Committee, including two grant schemes. This funding is targeted at the Shipley Constituency i.e. Baildon, Bingley, Bingley Rural, Wharfedale, Windhill and Wrose and Shipley wards:

- "Shipley Constituency "Smart and Clean" Campaign for 2009-2011

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You are invited to nominate a local "grot spot" on public land for attention and improvement. Special (but not exclusive) focus this year is on improving areas around local shopping and commercial centres as a way of supporting local businesses." For a nomination form and further information about the Smart and Clean Campaign visit www.bradford.gov.uk/smartandclean2009 Nomination forms must be returned to the Shipley Area Co-ordinator's Office by 17 June 2009.

- Grants to support voluntary youth activities across the Shipley Constituency (Grant scheme A), deadline for applications 17 June

Grants of £1,000 to £2,000 are available for voluntary and community groups to run positive activities for young people (aged 5 to 18) across the Shipley Constituency. "The Area Committee is particularly keen to allocate funding in order to allow new or additional activity to take place, but will consider applications to cover ongoing costs where a good case can be made that this cannot be funded through other means. Projects where young people are involved in decision-making and community activity will also be favoured."

- Community buildings fund (Grant scheme B), deadline for applications 17 June

"Are you involved in managing a building which is used by the public for community meetings and activities? The Shipley Area Committee has established a grant scheme to provide small-scale grants to community buildings for capital improvements (e.g. improving access, efficiency, or security of a community-building)." Grants of £1,000 to £9,999 are available under this scheme.

For an application form and further information visit www.bradford.gov.uk/shIPLEYgrants2009. "Completed application forms must be returned to the Shipley Area Co-ordinator's Office by Wednesday 17 June 2009. Further panels will be held throughout 2009/10 and 2010/11 providing the fund has not already been fully allocated."

For further information please contact Shipley Area Co-ordinator's Office, telephone 01274 437146 or email diane.walker@bradford.gov.uk

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11. Young People's participation project small grants, deadline 29 June (5pm)

From Seen and Heard: "The Senior Impact group are welcoming applications from organisations/individuals for the young people participation project.

Grants of up to £1,000 will be considered by the Senior Impact group, all applications need to be received by 29th June 2009 by 5pm." "The grant will pay for core costs for the group/ organisation including participation costs."

Groups must be able to "clearly demonstrate that the focus of the group/ organisation is participation/ health/ children and young people's mental health."

The application form and eligibility criteria are available from:

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/senior_impact_young_people_funding_application_form.doc

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/senior_impact_young_people_funding_eligibility_form.pdf

For more information or if you are unable to access these links then please contact Juliet Sadeghian, Healthy Minds Participation Co-ordinator and she will post the application form and eligibility criteria to you. Telephone 01274 531466 or email juliet.sadeghian@barnardos.org.uk

12. Targeted Support Fund, deadline 29 June (12 noon)

The Targeted Support Fund is part of the Real Help for Communities programme funded by the Office of the Third Sector to help voluntary and community groups respond to extra demand created by the recession. CNet is running the Targeted Support Fund in Bradford district and the funding allocation available to the district is £410,892.

Third sector organisations can apply. This includes: registered charities, exempted or excepted charities, voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises.

Groups should also:

- Be constituted
- Have been active in their local community for a minimum of 18 months, with a proven track record in delivering the services they want funding for
- Provide their most recent set of annual accounts

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- Have an evidenced income of no less than £30,000 and no more than £250,000 per annum (taken as an average income over the last three financial years (or over the life of the group if it is less than 3 years old)

"These organisations must be providing key, recession-focussed services under one of the themes below:

- Information, advice and guidance (housing, financial, debt and legal advice and support)
- Employment and employability (training and support related to finding employment)
- Health and wellbeing (mental health, relationship breakdown, counselling, domestic violence & substance abuse)"

"The expectation is that grants will primarily fund revenue costs such as:

- Wages and on-costs (National Insurance, insurances, pension)
- Associated overheads (rent, telephone, heat and light, materials)
- Delivery-specific costs (marketing, web site and leaflets)
- Contribution to core costs (this should be explicit in the application)"

The maximum grant to a local organisation will be £40,000 and the minimum will be £10,000.

The deadline for applications is 29 June (12 noon). "A grant-awarding panel will meet thereafter and decisions will be communicated by end of July. All Grants must be spent in full by 31 March 2010."

For an application form and further details visit

<http://www.cnet.org.uk/grants.php> telephone 01274 714 144 or email contact@cnet.org.uk

13. Community Woodland Network small grants, deadline 30 June

Funding of up to £1,000 is available for Community Woodland Groups from the Community Woodland Network (CWN). Groups must be constituted. Preference will be given to groups that have not had funding from CWN before. Groups that have had funding from CWN in 2007/8 and 2008/9 can only apply to the fund this year for tree planting.

Each Community Woodland Group can only apply for one CWN grant.

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This year CWN is "keen to receive applications for tree planting projects" e.g. for:

- "Trees, shelters and canes
- Training (first aid, leadership skills, woodland management etc)
- Tools for woodland management as appropriate.
- Activities and events to promote the work of the group, attracting new members for example."

Grants must be spent by 31 December 2009. For further details and an application form visit

<http://frontpage.woodland-trust.org.uk/communitywoodlandnetwork/aboutus/grants.htm>

14. BBC Children in Need, deadline 15 July 2009

A reminder about the BBC Children in Need scheme:

The online grant application form, project budget form and guidance are available on the Children in Need website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/grants/apply.shtml>

For further information visit the Children in Need website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/grants/apply.shtml> or email pudsey@bbc.co.uk or contact the helpdesk Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm on 020 8576 7788.

Some advice from the Children in Need team:

- Get the beneficiary group right - projects must be delivered by organisations working with disadvantaged children and young people, who must be 18 years and under, living in the UK, the Isle of Man, or the Channel Islands.

Disadvantages experienced by children and young people include: Illness, distress, abuse or neglect, any kind of disability, behavioural or psychological difficulties, living in poverty or situations of deprivation. The application should focus on the children your project will work with and the differences that your project will make for them. You should clearly be able to demonstrate how your project will change the lives of the children involved for the better.

- Children in Need fund for success - Children in Need is not a full cost recovery funder and they ask that you do not apportion full costs to the

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project you are applying for. The funder will cover costs that it considers to be reasonable for the successful delivery of the project.

- Involve young people - Make sure your project is planned and informed by the young people that will benefit.
- Children in Need is a "one grant per organisation funder" - If your organisation already has a grant from Children in Need then you cannot apply for another to run con-currently. However, you can apply for a grant to continue your current grant. Children in Need will also consider continuing a project funded by another funder.
- There are no upper or lower limits on the amounts that you can apply for - You can apply for as much or as little as you want. Your project must be able to demonstrate that it has delivered outcomes. The fund is over-subscribed each year.

The next deadline for applications is 15 July. The following deadline is 15 October 2009.

15. Safer Homes Fund, deadline 31 July (12 noon)

From <http://www.comm-alliance.org/News/Saferhomes2.htm> :

"Community and voluntary organisations can now apply to a new £6 million grant scheme that looks to fund community led initiatives and programmes which will reduce burglary and improve neighbourhood security.

The Safer Homes Fund, launched by the Home Office in association with Community Alliance, is available for one year and will offer around 300 grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 to key frontline community organisations. Successful organisations will develop safety programmes and support new, locally-run social enterprises, which together will build connections within communities, particularly in areas of high crime." Bradford district is one of the 90 priority areas eligible for funding.

The programme will fund:

- Handy people schemes
- Community development/ facilitation (including leisure, arts and social activities)

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- Peer to peer projects (e.g. befriending and mentoring)
- Community enterprises

Groups can apply at any time before the final deadline of 31 July (12 noon). The Safer Homes committee panel will meet several times before the final deadline to assess applications and the funder advises applying as early as possible to increase your chances of success. The earlier deadlines are: 10 May, 15 May, 1 June, 15 June, and 15 July.

For any queries about the application process please contact the Community Development Team on 0845 543 0329 or email saferhomes@grantsadmin.co.uk
For further details and an application form visit <http://www.comm-alliance.org/News/Saferhomes2.htm>

16. Arts Council England, help for arts groups in the recession

Arts Council England has announced that an extra £44.5 million of funding will be made available to artists and arts organisations over the next two years to "help maintain artistic excellence during the economic downturn".

From the Press Release:

"The initiatives include:

- Sustain – a new £40 million open application fund for arts organisations suffering as a result of the recession
- £500,000 support for the Town Centres Initiative to enable more artistic activities to take place in empty retail spaces
- A £4 million increase in the Grants for the arts budget over the next two years.

Sustain is a new £40 million fund that will provide extra financial support and expert help and advice for organisations under pressure specifically as a result of recession. Grants from £75,000 to £3 million will be awarded and the programme will run initially over two years, 2009/10 and 2010/11. Any arts organisation can apply but priority will be given to those who are seen as vital to the Arts Council achieving its mission of Great art for everyone.

Sustain has been designed as a rapid response fund and it is hoped that the turn around from application to award will be a maximum of six weeks.

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Arts Council England has also set aside £500,000 to support the **Town Centres Initiative** announced by Hazel Blears, Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government and Andy Burnham, Secretary of State for Culture, on 14 April. Hundreds of artists across the country are already helping to reinvigorate ailing town centres by taking over empty retail space for creative activities and it is hoped this new fund, which will award grants of £1,000 to £10,000 will enable many more to do so.

There will also be additional support for individual artists and smaller arts organisations through the Arts Council's existing **Grants for the arts** programme. The 2009/10 budget for the Grants for the arts will be increased from £52 to £54 million and will rise again in 2010/11 to £56 million. These additional funds will be available to individuals and organisations not qualifying for a Sustain grant, as well as to anyone applying to Grants for the arts in the normal way."

For the full press release visit

<http://press.artscouncil.org.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=659&NewsAreaID=2>

Details of how to apply will be published on the Arts Council England website

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/index.php>

17. Big Lottery Fund Secret Millionaire Fund, deadline 21 December

The Big Lottery Fund (BLF) is working with the Channel 4 television programme Secret Millionaire on a new fund. The Secret Millionaire Fund will support projects that give people better chances in life, build stronger communities, improve rural and urban environments or promote healthier and more active people and communities.

- The overall amount of Lottery funding available is £1 million and grants of £300 to £10,000 are available to groups in the UK.
- Voluntary and community groups, schools, parish or town councils and health bodies can apply.
- Groups can either nominate a community project or apply directly at any point until the final deadline of 21 December 2009.

Successful applicants could be selected for filming by Channel 4 and appear on the website or television programme - groups are asked if they want to opt in to this when applying and "accepting or declining will not affect the outcome of your application". The website also gives people the chance to highlight their favourite local cause on an interactive map of the UK and get involved by volunteering or making a donation.

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For further details visit <http://tinyurl.com/qwlbnv> [URL reduced with tinyURL.com] or telephone 0844 88 88 677.

Larger funds/ Strategic Funding

18. ERDF second call for proposals, open until March 2010

A second call for proposals under the regional ERDF programme was issued by Yorkshire Forward in April and will remain open until March 2010. Two areas of the programme are time limited with a deadline of 30 June:

1. Capital funding in Priority 3 is very limited and the deadline for applying to this part of the programme is 30 June.
2. Energy efficiency measures in low-income housing is a new eligible activity for ERDF priority 3. Up to £7.5 million ERDF is available. Enquiries for support for this activity need to be submitted by 30 June. Enquiries should include details of "deliverability, innovative approaches, impact on deprived areas and job creation potential."

Minimum thresholds for applications: The threshold for Priority 3 projects is a minimum of £500,000 ERDF investment. The threshold for other Priorities remains at £1 million ERDF.

Groups interested in applying can choose to submit an initial project idea on a simple form to get early feedback from the Programme managers for example on eligibility. Full details of the programme and the call for proposals, including the priority prospectus and enquiry forms are available from the ERDF section of the Yorkshire Forward website

<http://www.yorkshire-forward.com/about/our-funding/erdf/applying-for-funding>

For further information visit

<http://www.yorkshire-forward.com/news-events/inform/could-your-project-benefit-from-erdf-funding>

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19. Funding to prevent and reduce offending by women

"The Ministry of Justice will be investing £15.6m of new money to prevent and reduce offending by women. The funding will invest in the provision of additional services in the community to build capacity of one-stop-shop services at women's centres and other specialist provision for women in the community."

"The overall aim of the funding is to achieve a reduction of the number of women in prison who do not need to be there as they are not serious or violent offenders who pose a risk to the public."

Funding will be used to support a number of initiatives; further information on the grant funding available to build capacity of one stop shop services for women in the community is available from

[http://www.gos.gov.uk/497648/docs/300069/806738/Update Note on Additional F1.doc](http://www.gos.gov.uk/497648/docs/300069/806738/Update%20Note%20on%20Additional%20F1.doc)

The grant process will begin on 5 June with an information seminar in London - to book a place complete the delegate form available from

[http://www.gos.gov.uk/497648/docs/300069/806738/Update Note on Additional F1.doc](http://www.gos.gov.uk/497648/docs/300069/806738/Update%20Note%20on%20Additional%20F1.doc)

and return it to womenspolicyteam@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk The pre-qualifying questionnaire will be issued after the seminar and the funder aims to award grants to successful parties in October 2009. A full information pack with papers from the day will be available shortly after the event for those unable to attend – to request a pack email womenspolicyteam@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Finance

20. VAT threshold

From 1 May 2009, the VAT registration threshold will be increased from £67,000 to £68,000 and the deregistration threshold from £65,000 to £66,000. More detail about changes to VAT announced in the Budget is available in the Sayer Vincent newsletter visit <http://www.sayervincent.co.uk/Asp/uploadedFiles/File/April%202009%20FINAL.pdf>

21. Gift Aid

From April 2010, Gift Aid on donations will need to be reclaimed within 4 years (currently 6 years). For more information visit <http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/login/901064/> (Source: NCVO Sustainable Funding project)

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Social Enterprise

22. Cash Flow Loans for social enterprises available from the Key Fund

From Social Enterprise Support Centre (SESC):

"Are you facing a short-term shortfall of working capital as a result of the current economic climate?"

Due to support from Yorkshire Forward, the Key Fund is providing loans of £1,000 to £15,000 for existing social enterprises in Yorkshire and the Humber. If your organisation is experiencing difficulty Key Fund Yorkshire may be able to help you with your cash flow needs in these difficult times.

To find out more and to see if you are eligible please contact the Key Fund on 0845 140 1400 or email info@keyfundyorks.org.uk"

23. Explore new products and markets: free toolkit from NCVO

"Have you considered expanding your income base by enhancing your current products and markets, or by developing new ones?" This new toolkit from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations could help guide your group when looking for new options for earning income. The toolkit is available to download from the NCVO website <http://tinyurl.com/pxjbeb> [URL reduced with tinyURL.com]

24. Minister pledges Government support for social enterprises

In May, the Minister for the Cabinet Office announced three new ways in which Government will support social enterprises seeking to deliver public services. The new measures include:

- A new ministerial working group, chaired by Liam Byrne, Minister for the Cabinet Office that will aim to ensure a level playing field for social enterprises and charities to compete for specific public contracts for service delivery.
- A new guide to social return on investment will help public service leaders to understand the social value that social enterprises can bring to local society.
- The guide is available from <http://www.sroi-uk.org/content/view/5/65/>
- A new investment plan for the Futurebuilders loan/ grant scheme will include a new fast-track investment process for social enterprises that want to deliver public services.

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For full details of the announcement from the Office of the Third Sector visit <http://tinyurl.com/p9azsm> [URL reduced with TinyURL.com]

25. Social Enterprise workshops, 19 June Keighley

Introduction to Social Enterprise, 9.30am to 12.30pm

- An introduction to the concept of social enterprise, what it means, what it looks like and how a social enterprise operates.
- At the end of the workshop, delegates should have all the information they need to decide whether to pursue social enterprise as a business model for their idea and be ready to take the next steps.

Legal Structures and Governance, 19 June Keighley, 1.00pm to 5.00pm

- This half-day workshop provides a basic understanding of the legal forms available to social enterprises.
- It will help you think about the key issues you need to cover when setting the rules and regulations and the legal structure that will govern the way you operate the business.

Both workshops are taking place at Keighley Voluntary Services, 135 Skipton Road, Keighley presented by SESC on behalf of Business Link. For further information or to book a place contact Business Link on 08456 048 048 or email events@businesslinkyorkshire.co.uk

Professional development and training

26. West Yorkshire ProHelp - free professional advice for community organisations

West Yorkshire ProHelp is able to provide free professional advice on a range of services. Professional firm members include surveyors, architects, consulting engineers, accountants, solicitors, consultants (management, property and IT), public relations, marketing and design agencies. For further information and an application form visit

http://www.bitc.org.uk/yorkshire_and_humber/programmes/prohelp/west_yorkshire.html or contact Jo Crossley, Regional Campaign Manager telephone 0113 205 8202.

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27. Applying to smaller funders, 17 June Shipley

Taking place 10.00am to 1.00pm at the Cellar Project in Shipley. The trainer is Fit4Funding and this course costs £20 for voluntary and community groups, including social enterprises.

This session is aimed at groups looking for small grants (up to around £10,000) to help run and expand their activities and services.

The session will cover:

- Identifying small and local funding sources
- What the funders want to know about your work
- Completing application forms
- What funders will expect from you if you get the money

To book a place, download a booking form from the bsupported website http://www.bsupported.org.uk/courses/how_to_book_on_a_course/ or telephone Diane Fox at CVS Training on 01274 722772 to be emailed a form.

28. Project management, 18 June Bradford

Taking place 10.00am to 4.00pm at Bradford CVS, Mabel Booth Room. The trainer is Radhia Tarafder from CVS Training and this course costs £40 for voluntary and community groups, including social enterprises.

The course will cover:

- How to work out the project objectives, content and boundaries
- Planning projects including useful tools and techniques
- Identifying project roles and defining responsibilities
- Identifying and managing risks and opportunities

To book a place, download a booking form from the bsupported website http://www.bsupported.org.uk/courses/how_to_book_on_a_course/ or telephone Diane Fox at CVS Training on 01274 722772 to be emailed a form.

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29. How to make a successful application, 16 July Keighley

Taking place 10.00am to 1.00pm at the Temple Row Centre, Keighley. The trainer is Fit4Funding and this course costs £20 for voluntary and community groups, including social enterprises.

The session will cover:

- What to include in a bid and how to present it
- Why some bids succeed where others fail
- Drafting bids, looking at key questions and presentation

To book a place, download a booking form from the bsupported website http://www.bsupported.org.uk/courses/how_to_book_on_a_course/ or telephone Diane Fox at CVS Training on 01274 722772 to be emailed a form.

30. SAGE Line 50 for beginners, 17 July Shipley

Taking place 10.00am to 4.00pm at Caltec in Shipley. The trainer is Alison Wolfenden from WYCAS and this course costs £40 for voluntary and community groups, including social enterprises.

This session is aimed at anyone wishing to learn how to use Sage Line 50, who have not used it before or have just started to use Sage. Participants must be computer literate and have an understanding of basic bookkeeping.

At the end of the session you will:

- Be able to input customer invoices and receipts.
- Be able to input supplier invoices and payments.
- Be able to input entries for bank receipts and payments.
- Be able to enter petty cash transactions and do a bank reconciliation.

To book a place, download a booking form from the bsupported website http://www.bsupported.org.uk/courses/how_to_book_on_a_course/ or telephone Diane Fox at CVS Training on 01274 722772 to be emailed a form.

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Feature 1: Working in Partnership

Working in partnership is a much-discussed topic for voluntary and community groups and some funders actively encourage partnership working so we asked Richard Spencer, West Yorkshire Partnership Advisor based at Bradford CVS some of the questions that groups have raised with the bfunded team:

My group is thinking about working in partnership but it's a big topic, where do we start?

RS: Perhaps the most important first step is to decide and be clear on what you want to achieve by partnership working! A good starting place might be the WYLDA website (West Yorkshire Local Development Agency) where there is a note about the Capacity Builders Modernisation Programme, Partnerships Project, and where we are developing case study information, toolkits and links to useful resources. Shortly a Resilience Toolkit is being published by WYLDA to help voluntary and community groups cope in the recession and this has further reading on partnership working.

What are the benefits of working in partnership?

RS: Partnership working is about being more effective in what you do! That could include providing: more or better services to beneficiaries, increased efficiency through better use of resources, preventing duplication of services and/ or meeting funders' expectations. Working together with other organisations, in consortia-type structures, can be a way of accessing funding not available to individual groups. But there is much more to partnership working than new funding opportunities.

I've heard it doesn't always work - what steps can I take to make sure our partnership works well?

RS: In a nutshell; plan ahead, take advice and clarify what is to be achieved. Working together takes time and practice and often develops best from simple collaboration: "partnerships" which come together in response to short-term funding opportunities may have an uphill struggle. Finally, consider checklists and look at case studies; to learn from others' successes, as well as their mistakes.

When do I need to have a formal partnership agreement in place?

RS: To be technical for a moment, there is no single agreed definition of "partnership" and it is used generally to describe joint or collaborative working between two or more separate organisations. So it can range all the way from an agreement to share

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information or back office functions, right through to a full merger where a new charity or company is formed and/ or one ceases to exist. Apart from situations involving survival or rescue of organisations, experience shows that where mergers are the final outcome, success is usually the result of previous joint or collaborative working. Whilst every situation is unique, there are all sorts of existing model documents that might be relevant so if you need to get something in writing there is usually no need to 're-invent the wheel'.

What support is available for groups in Bradford?

RS: Your first port of call for advice should be your Development Officer in whichever Support Organisation - for example Bradford CVS, Keighley VS and Shipley VS etc - which you relate to. They will be able to make enquiries and signpost you to resources that are relevant to your group. The Modernisation Programme Partnerships Project is itself based at BCVS for West Yorkshire. Also 'watch this space' for small funding grants this summer to assist with buying in specialist expertise you may need to develop partnership working.

Finally, please remember this is a rapidly growing area where expertise is developing all the time: if you are thinking about how to increase your effectiveness by working in partnership, we want to hear about it, help and share it with others!

To contact Richard with your experiences of working in partnership or to find out more about the Adding Value through Partnership project being run in West Yorkshire telephone 01274 722772 or email richard@bradfordcvs.org.uk
Details are also available from <http://www.wylda.org.uk/partnerships/>

Further resources on working in partnership:

For Charities: The Charity Commission can give advice on mergers and collaborative working. In a presentation at the Real Help Communities Roadshow event in Bradford on 21 April, Richard Black from the Commission outlined some of the issues for charities:

Charity Law

- Trustees need to make sure that the objects of the charities involved in the collaboration or merger are compatible.
- Advice may need to be sought from the Commission if trustees are unsure if the objects are compatible. This advice is free and Charities are encouraged to get in touch directly rather than paying a consultant or solicitor to make enquiries. The email address is

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enquiries@charitycommission.gov.uk and groups can email their query or use the “Requesting assistance from the Charity Commission about mergers form available” at <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/Library/enhancingcharities/pdfs/chkhelp.pdf>

- “All charities have an implied power to collaborate in furtherance of their objects”

Types of Collaborative Agreements:

- “Verbal agreement – for very informal arrangements
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – an informal document which may not be legally binding
- Contract – for large scale undertaking between charities, for instance to deliver a public service or joint venture (see Charities and Public Service Delivery CC37)
- In most cases, except for very informal, low risk collaborations, professional advice should be taken”

Recent publications from the Commission include:

- Collaborative working
- Mergers Pack
- Short checklists to help with decision-making are also available from the Charity Commission <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/enhancingcharities/cwmresources.asp>

For voluntary and community groups (inc. Charities): The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) has a Collaborative Working Unit that offers “good practice information and advice to help voluntary and community organisations make decisions about whether and how to work collaboratively” Details are available from the NCVO website:

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/collaborativeworking/index.asp?id=2038>

The Office of the Third Sector has published a guide to working in a consortium available from

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/107235/consortium%20guide%20final.pdf>

Finally, if the purpose of the consortium is to bid for a tender then you might find the following 12 golden rules for tendering as a consortium from training company Tendering for Care a useful starting point. Available from:

<http://www.tenderingforcare.com/system/files/golden%20rules.pdf>

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