



12th February 2010

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If you haven't heard about next week's Third Sector Convention by now, welcome back to the planet! And if you haven't booked yet, please do so – there are still some places left on the workshops. Visit www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk for a range of booking options, **or you can make a booking by phone on 01324 692002**. Dial-A-Journey will be running free buses from Alloa via Stirling to the event – *see below for schedule*.

Remember, CVS Stirling now has an up-and-running BLOG or informal, up-to-the minute, info. Why not make it a regular habit to click on the Blog button on our website, read the latest entries and post a comment?

Comments and suggestions for the [website](#) and e-Bulletin are welcome.

Emails to: lee.stevenson@cvs-stirling.org.uk or donald.saunders@cvs-stirling.org.uk

Deadline for contributions is the previous Monday. If you have any queries, please call 01786 469916 and ask for Lee or Donald.

EVENTS & TRAINING

STOP PRESS: Buses to Third Sector Convention

Dial-a-Journey are running FREE buses to the Convention on Thursday 18th as follows:

*** Run 1**

Departing from Stirling (Outside Citizen's Advice Bureau - Upper Craigs) 10.30 am to arrive in Falkirk for 11 am session

Returning from Falkirk College 1pm.

*** Run 2**

Departing from Stirling (Outside Citizen's Advice Bureau - Upper Craigs) 1.30 pm arriving at Falkirk College 2.30 pm

Returning from Falkirk College 4.30pm

*** Run 3**

Departing from Stirling (Outside Citizen's Advice Bureau - Upper Craigs) 5.30 pm arriving at Falkirk College 6 pm.

Returning from Falkirk College at 8 pm.

Please contact CVS Stirling (01786 469916) if you would like to take advantage of this service.

Learning Link Seminars

Learning Link Scotland is hosting two seminars:



■ Mindset and Resilience at Work

Wednesday 24th February, 10am - 1pm, Glasgow

(Speaker: Dr Carol Craig, CEO Centre for Confidence and Wellbeing)

■ Mindset and Confidence

Wednesday 24th March, 10am - 1pm, Edinburgh

(Speaker: Isobel MacNaughtan, Centre for Confidence and Wellbeing)

These seminars are for Learning Link Scotland Members, and Third Sector organisations. They are designed to

- ✓ Increase your understanding of how to develop a “growth mindset”
- ✓ Increase your resilience to succeed at work
- ✓ Develop new techniques in confidence building for you and your service users

The fee is £20 members/£40 non-members per seminar. Contact Stephanie shaigh@learninglinkscotland.org.uk for more information and to book.

Funding Surgery

Raploch Community Campus, Drip Road, Raploch Stirling

Thursday, 4th March, 2 – 6 pm

2 – 5 pm: 15-minute appointments

5 – 6 pm: Drop in session



This event from Stirling Council Communities & Culture offers an opportunity to find out about local small grants. If you are involved with a community or voluntary group working in the Stirling area, this is your chance to meet with funders one-to-one and discuss your project ideas.

You might be trying to start a new service, buy some new equipment or organise some training. Whatever your project idea, find out what small funds could be available to help fund it.

Please note: booking is essential. To arrange an appointment contact Jean Cowie, Funding Officer, on 01786 432268 or email cowiej@stirling.gov.uk

Local People: Local Paths

Scotland's first national networking conference for people working on community paths

Battleby Conference Centre, near Perth

Wednesday, 24th March

Cost: £30 for employees of organisations and agencies; volunteers FREE



Communities all around Scotland have been working for many years to develop paths and promote related healthy outdoor activities. This is the first national opportunity for these groups to meet, learn from each other, share ideas (i.e. planning, fundraising, building, signposting, promoting and improving access) and plan ahead. Anyone with an interest is welcome; community groups, agencies and local authorities. The dialogue between everyone is important.

If you are keen to learn more about working on paths in your local area and to make contacts with others, this conference is for you. If you are already involved, come and share your knowledge and experience with others.

This event will provide opportunities to:

- Find out about community path projects from around the country
- Learn how local path groups can work successfully in partnership with other organisations
- Get some top tips for funding
- Meet other people and make some new contacts
- Share ideas and experiences
- Understand more about where you can get help and support
- Think about how local groups, agencies and access authorities can work better together

The conference will also introduce the two **National Path Demonstration Sites** (Battleby and Oatridge College) which show a wide variety of path construction techniques; the **Path Benefits Toolkit** (for evaluating your local paths); and will launch a programme of **technical training** (path design, construction and maintenance) aimed at community groups for 2010/11.

For a booking form, please contact Paths for All, phone 01259 218888, fax: 01259 218488 or email mary.doig@pathsforall.org.uk

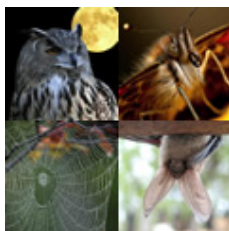
Please return your booking form by 1st March.

Biodiversity Evening

How to improve diversity within your garden, allotment or smallholding

Mayfield Community Centre, Stirling

24th March, 7.30 pm



Central Scotland Smallholders Association, established in January 2008 with the aims of serving the needs and interests of existing and aspiring smallholders, whether smallholding is pursued as a lifestyle or as a business, are hosting this event, which features guest speakers from RSPB and Central Scotland Bat Group.

Entrance is free to members - others are asked to give a donation to CSSA funds. Further details, including membership of the CSSA, are available from

www.smallholders.info



Rowan Training Programme

Perth-based Rowan Consultancy has a series of training events coming up in the coming months that could be of interest to local Third Sector groups.

All Rowan trainers are accredited coaches, counsellors and mediators, and practising professionals in their field.

Booking forms for these courses can be downloaded from the website, www.rowan-consultancy.co.uk along with further details, or they can be posted to you on request.

* Rowan Certificate in Counselling Skills: Module One

Perth on 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 16th and 30th March, 9.30-3.30pm

Dunblane on 10th, 17th and 24th May, 7th, 14th and 21st June, 9.30-3.30pm

Dundee 1st, 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd November and 7th December, 9.30am - 3.30pm

The Rowan Certificate in Counselling Skills, validated by COSCA, is for anybody who wants to improve their understanding of other people as well as themselves. You will learn to support others by developing practical listening skills and increasing your self-awareness.

This is a challenging course that is applicable to anybody who needs to communicate clearly with others, whether you are a sales person, parent, manager, a professional/volunteer carer or helper. The Certificate consists of 4 modules. Each module carries 10 credits at SCQF Level 7 and costs £395+VAT.

* Effective Listening Workshop

Perth, 20th April, 10am – 4pm

Effective listening is essential for understanding. This entry-level course is suitable for managers, HR and anyone working in the caring or service professions. It covers paraphrasing, open questions, non-verbal communication, open questions and costs £95+VAT.

* Rowan Certificate in Coaching Skills

Perth, 9th and 23rd February, 10am -4pm

Part 1: 9th and 23rd February, £390+VAT

Part 2: 3 individual coaching sessions, a half day group training session in June and credit-rating on completion of learning outcomes, including a written assignment, £400+VAT

The Rowan Certificate in Coaching Skills is for managers or those aspiring to a management role.

- You will gain coaching skills and models to help you motivate and inspire your people.
- Your confidence and self-awareness will increase, as you create new ways of thinking and problem-solving.

* **Mediation Skills for Managers** Perth, 15th and 23rd March, 10am -4pm

The Rowan Mediation Skills training is for managers and HR who would like to develop their mediation skills.

- You will gain knowledge and skills to help you resolve conflicts at an early stage
- You will learn how to facilitate the two disputants to create their own mutually agreed win-win solution

The 2008 Employment Act and ACAS code recommend mediation for early dispute resolution. Organisations need staff with mediation skills to help prevent disputes escalating. It is more cost-effective to invest in mediation than in expensive grievance, disciplinary procedures or industrial tribunals. Fees are £395+VAT

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FUNDING & AWARDS

Feedback on Big Lottery's Fund Application Process

The BIG Lottery Fund (BIG) Scotland office is currently developing a range of new funding opportunities. It has already heard the message that stakeholders want BIG Scotland to give clear decisions early in the process to reduce the number of unsuccessful applicants, but it also acknowledges that sometimes it hasn't made itself clear about what it needs to hear from applicants.



So BIG Scotland would like to hear people's feedback on the application materials it used last time around, and its application processes in general.

You can provide feedback by going to <http://www.bigblog.org.uk/>

Funding for Apprenticeships

Scottish organisations of all sizes and **in all sectors** are to be given the opportunity to receive £1000 to take on a new apprentice. The new grant was announced by Scottish Government on Monday 11th January.

There are 4000 of these apprenticeships available for Scotland. The scheme is only available for new employees.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS), Scotland's national skills agency, will play a leading role in taking forward the delivery of the initiatives that ScotAction will deliver for Scotland at this time.

If you are interested, please contact SDS on 0808 100 8095, for more information, or click on <http://vsww.cmph.org/l/7VdB5-0ED2OaDxgcCZZnMg> for an application form. Successful employers will then be linked with a local training provider who will deliver the modern apprenticeship training for you.

* Please note, this scheme is time limited and will run from 11th January to 26th March 2010. To view the new Modern Apprenticeship site, visit www.modernapprenticeships.com

Grants for Renewable Energy



Community Energy Scotland has been awarded a three-year contract by the Scottish Government to deliver the Community and Renewables Energy Scheme (CARES). CARES continues the support available for communities under the previous SCHRI programme and builds on this by increasing the maximum grant levels by 50%.

Grants of up to £150K are now available. Communities may apply for funding for technical assistance and capital grants for renewable energy equipment installation and associated costs. Under CARES there is no set grant funding. The amount of funding awarded is determined on a case by case basis.

For more information, visit the CES website, www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk or speak to Jamie Adam, Development Officer for Stirling, Perth and Kinross, phone 01738 620879, email jamie.adam@communityenergyscotland.org.uk

John Laing Charitable Trust

The John Laing Charitable Trust supports charities working in the following areas:

- Education
- Community Regeneration
- Disadvantaged Young People
- Homelessness
- Environment

Donations range from £250 to £25,000, with up to 12 charities receiving more than £10,000. Applications are only accepted from charitable organisations, or in exceptional circumstances from 'not-for-profit' companies.

Applications should be made in writing to the Trust Secretary, and preliminary telephone enquiries are welcomed. There are no deadlines, as applications are dealt with on a rolling basis. For more information go to www.laing.com/top/corporate_responsibility/john_laing_charitable_trust.html or phone 0208 959 9013.

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Aspire to Enterprise

Aspire to Enterprise is a Scottish Government programme providing a range of Business Support Services to ambitious, developing social enterprises in Lowland Scotland. In the last 2 years, the programme supported 130 social enterprises from the Borders to Aberdeen.

Entering the third year, the programme is looking for a new batch of applicants for 2010. The programme will accept applications from those organisations who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The government criteria for social enterprises, ie:
 - *deriving at least some of their income from sales (at the start up stage) and 25% from sales in the case of more mature organisations;*
 - *having a governance structure which primarily doesn't allow for profit distribution;*
 - *having social as well as business objectives built into their legal structures;*
 - *independent of government.*
- Are already trading
- Have a minimum total turnover of £60K per annum and an upper limit of approx £800k
- Can benefit from tailored development assistance prior to accessing mainstream support

The programme offers access to development support to organisations with the drive and potential to increase their trading and become more sustainable social enterprises.

Social enterprises successful in accessing the programme will receive a business health check and a tailored programme of support to develop their trading capacity. Support will cover business and financial planning, market research and marketing, investment readiness and raising finance and legal support

Applications can be made via the website www.aspiretoenterprise.org.uk or by calling John Hughes, Project Development Manager on 0141 425 2939, or by email to info@aspiretoenterprise.org.uk

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OTHER NEWS

Consultation on Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIOs)

In November 2009 the Scottish Government launched a consultation on policy options for a new form of incorporation for Scottish charities, developed by the SCIOs Working Group.

Most Scottish charities are constituted either as unincorporated organisations or companies limited by guarantee. Both forms can present potential difficulties for charities. Unincorporated associations, though simpler to set up and run, do not provide the benefits of limited liability or

separate legal identity. Company status brings a significant administrative burden: charities are subject to double regulation and have to report to both the Registrar of Companies and OSCR.

The proposed Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) is a legal form, designed specifically for charities, that would enable a charity to become a corporate body without having to become a company or industrial and provident society. The SCIO will be registered and regulated by the OSCR and will not be subject to the requirements of company law, including reporting to the Register of Companies.

As part of the consultation, a number of events were planned for early 2010. One of these, a Public Stakeholder event, took place on 26th January, at The Melting Pot in Edinburgh.

As well as members of the SCIO Working Group, the event was attended by representatives from OSCR, SCVO, Stirling and Fife CVs, charitable organisations, and a number of company and charity lawyers.

Following an overview presentation, a panel-led discussion addressed the three SCIO options presented: 1) the preferred SCIO model, 2) the company model and 3) the minimalist model (*details of these are in the Consultation Paper at www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/11/16181221). Option 3) was largely dismissed as inadequately protective, lacking in detail, and likely to cause confusion rather than clarity. Option 2, which would include large amounts of company law, would not be a significant move from the status quo. There was general a consensus that welcomed SCIOs of the Option 1 model.*

However, concerns were expressed that the target group (charities with annual incomes of between £25K and £1mill.) might be perceived as exclusive: even small organisations with a less than £25k turnover can be subject to risk and might benefit from the protection afforded by becoming a SCIO. The working group stressed that the target group was defined for design purposes, and agreed that the baseline should not be seen as a barrier.

The discussion moved to issues of applying to become a SCIO – it was accepted that OSCR's existing arrangements for applications for charity status could be carried over to SCIOs. Unincorporated organisations wishing to convert to SCIO would first have to wind up (as they have no legal identity) before applying to be SCIOs. Various options for publication of documents were discussed, as well as the duties and liabilities of SCIO members - a key feature of SCIOs is that they protects members from personal financial liability, though not from personal liability for negligence.

In the complex area of winding up, insolvency and dissolution, the working group agreed that progress was slow. They were minded to adopt the option of applying the default regime (treating the SCIO as an unregistered company) on an interim basis.

In summary, the feeling among attendees was broadly welcoming of SCIOs under the preferred model as going a long way to protecting charities, their members and trustees, while minimising the administrative burden.

The consultancy documents are all available on the Scottish Government website www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/11/16181221 or by emailing CharityAct@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

To take part in the consultation online, click on <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6JWVGF5> , or go to <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/justice/OISCIO.asp>

The consultation closes on 26th February 2010.

Scotland's Voluntary Sector Manifesto, 2010-11

SCVO is co-ordinating a sector-wide discussion to produce a Scottish Voluntary Sector Manifesto for the UK Elections 2010 and Scottish Elections 2011 (it will also form the basis for the local government elections in 2012).



The start of this process is the **discussion document**, which proposes some of the commitments we might be seeking from politicians.

Please take this opportunity to get involved in the discussion. With three elections coming up in the next three years, it's really important that the voluntary sector makes its voice heard.

You can inform the direction of the manifestos – have a look at the discussion document at www.scvo.org.uk/scvocms/images/20091123_Discussion_Doc_Vol_Sector_Manifesto.pdf and email your thoughts to: manifesto@scvo.org.uk

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Removals Deals for Charities,

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For information on their 'man and van' services, visit www.moveurstuff.co.uk

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