



18th December 2009

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

As this will be the last eBulletin of 2009, we would like to extend to everyone the compliments of the season, and to wish them a thriving and prosperous 2010.

Given that 2009 has been characterised by financial constraint and uncertainty for the voluntary sector, with little prospect of improvement in the near future, this may seem an empty hope. But the resilience of voluntary groups and of the sector as a whole should not be underestimated. It is founded on a belief that what they do is of real value to society, and an understanding that, as more and more seek their help, their role is becoming ever more crucial.

For our part, we at CVS Stirling will strive to deliver services and support to our members and the local sector into this new, and challenging, year.



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

Fundraising Fundamentals

SCVO, Mansfield Traquair Centre, 15 Mansfield Place, Edinburgh

13th & 14th January, 2010

9.30 am – 4.30 pm



In these straitened times, any information and advice that could lead to extra funding must be more than welcome! This training course from SCVO will teach participants how to raise and secure funds from a range of sources.

For more information, and to book online, visit the SCVO webpage

www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/SCVOEvents/ViewSCVOEvents.aspx?al=t&EID=1149&from=t&f=0 or

email organiser Jane Baillie on jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk

'Tell Someone': *Training the Trainers Event*

Jubilee House, Stirling

2nd February, 2010

The Scottish Government has introduced new legislation designed to protect people from harm - The **Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act**. 'Tell Someone' is a resource pack, funded by the Scottish Government, which helps people to understand how the Act affects them and what they should do if they suspect harm is occurring to someone.

Following successful training sessions last year, the Workforce Unit, in partnership with the Private Care Sector Workforce Initiative, has announced another round of training, available to all Care Commission-registered adult care services in Scotland across the private and voluntary sectors.

These training sessions are **free** and tend to be over-subscribed, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Book online at www.ccpscotland.org/workforceunit/news-and-events/events/display/tell-someone-training-the-trainers-02-02-2010/book

Invest to Engage: *enhancing connections with the NHS*

Falkirk (venue to be confirmed)

2nd February 2010

COST:

Voluntary/community organisations, turnover <£250K per annum: £45

Voluntary/community organisations, turnover >£250K per annum: £65

(Refreshments & lunch included)



This is one of a series of one-day seminars across Scotland to equip third sector organisations with the skills to engage with NHS Health Boards. The events will be hosted jointly by Brian

Cavanagh, former chair of NHS Lothian and City of Edinburgh Councillor, and Voluntary Health Scotland.

These events are planned to help members of voluntary and community organisations, Councils for Voluntary Service, Volunteer Centres, Social Enterprises and Equality and Diversity groups develop strategies for increasing influence on and engagement with the NHS, and to

- ⇒ Increase awareness of **current strategic health policy** in Scotland
- ⇒ Identify the **key players** within Scottish Government and NHS Scotland
- ⇒ Explain how the Direct Elections to Health Boards will work and the **opportunities for engagement**
- ⇒ Increase awareness of **how Health Boards operate** and how to navigate Health Boards' **decision making** process
- ⇒ Increase confidence in **influencing and engagement strategies**
- ⇒ Design a best practice **engagement framework** for your organisation

It is anticipated that interest in these seminars will be high and as there are limited spaces it is advisable to book early. To register for these seminars, please complete the online registration at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6QXHWP3> or call Voluntary Health Scotland on 0131 225 7290. Following registration, a programme for the day will be issued.

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RESOURCES



The NHS Scotland Costs Book

Every year the Information Services Division, Scotland's national organisation for health information, statistics and IT services, collects annual data on the cost of providing health care in Scotland and publishes this information in Scottish Health Service Costs, commonly known as the Costs Book.

Costs Book 09 is now available online and it contains a wealth of financial information on NHS services from both a local and a national perspective in an easily accessible format.

The Costs Book is a series of Excel spreadsheets whose detailed reports are structured to analyse around 93% of the NHS operating costs, presenting information on the Boards and hospitals that provide care directly to patients as well as an overview from a Scotland wide perspective.

It notes, for example, that across Scotland there were over 1.6 million attendances at Accident and Emergency in 2008-09, with an average cost of £100 each. To support Shifting the Balance of Care, NHS Boards require to achieve agreed reductions in the rates of attendance at A&E within their 2010 HEAT targets.

It can be seen from the information that NHS services have a high percentage of fixed costs, such as staff salaries, which third sector organisations cannot influence.

However, by using the geographical breakdown in the Costs Book, local organisations will be able to show where they are reducing pressures on the NHS by providing services which complement and support existing services while providing value for money.

Third sector organisations may do this, for example, by providing evidence that their services are influential in reducing their client group's attendance at A&E. This may be for services as diverse as preventing falls in the elderly to supporting young people to safely manage their alcohol intake.

Although it is in itself no guarantee of securing future funding, when used in this way, the Costs Book is another tool which can be effectively used to evidence the added value of the third sectors involvement in health.

The NHS Costs Book is available online from the Information Services Division at <http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/4683.html>

(Contributed by the Partnership Development Officer, VHS)

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FUNDING & AWARDS



2010-2011 Community Chest Programme

The Voluntary Action Fund, Scotland's leading independent grant-making body investing in small voluntary and community-based organisations throughout Scotland, has announced its funding priorities for 2010-2011 for its Community Chest grants programme.

Voluntary Action Fund operates a number of funding programmes furthering the legacy of grass roots grant making and robust practice it has established over the last 28 years aimed at promoting the inclusion of those most excluded within their communities. Its Community Chest programme aims to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need. Applications are welcomed from small community and not-for-profit groups who can apply for a small grant up to £1,000 to fund general activities or a specific project.

Each year the Voluntary Action Fund targets different regions throughout Scotland - this year it particularly welcomes applications from groups based within North Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire. But as well as funding groups in the target geographical areas, the Voluntary Action Fund is especially keen to hear from groups who work with **disability** or **health related** issues, provide **childcare** or whose beneficiaries face **exclusion** due to their ethnicity, disability gender or sexual orientation.

Applications for the Community Chest programme are welcome throughout the year, with the next deadline being **31st December 2009**. Groups wishing to apply for a Community Chest grant can download an application form and guidance notes from the VAF website at www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk . Alternatively call 01383 620780.

Other VSA Funding -

Voluntary Action Fund operates a number of other funding programmes, including:

- **The Volunteering Scotland Grant Scheme (VSGS)**
This provides grants for up to three years for projects that attract harder to reach volunteers. The philosophy behind VSGS is simple: that with dedicated resources, organisations can develop and sustain high quality volunteering opportunities for people who need more support to get involved, and that with this extra resource of volunteers, the organisation can enrich its services. VAF has recently awarded grants to 62 organisations. Twenty three of the awards are for small grants of less than £5,000, while the remaining 39 are for more substantial projects over one, two or three years.
- **The Equality Grants Programme (EGP)**
The EGP incorporates 4 separate streams funded through the Scottish Government Equality Unit. The programme aims to combat inequality, foster integration, promote dialogue and understanding between communities: Race Religion and Refugee Integration Fund, Grants through the Gender funding stream, Grants through the LGBT funding stream, Grants through the Disability funding stream.

Each funding stream has specific outcomes and grants are for a maximum of 2.75 years from 2008 to March 2011. In addition to managing the grants programme, VAF provides investment support and capacity building to funded organisations.

For details of all the VSA funding programmes, visit their website: www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk

Scottish Community Foundation Express Grants

Express Grants are for community groups based in Scotland looking for funding of up to £2,000. As the name suggests, Express Grants have a straightforward application process, and a short turnaround time, meaning that within six weeks, applicants will know if they've been successful.

Express Grants replace the Small Grants programme, introduced in 1998 to support small community groups who only needed small amounts to make big differences in their communities. The Foundation has increased the value of Express Grants to £2,000 to reflect the increased cost of living.

To find out more about Express Grants go to <http://www.scottishcf.org/strengthening-communities/apply-for-a-grant/scotland-wide-grant-programmes/>

Heritage Lottery Fund – Skills for the Future fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund's **Skills for the Future** programme funds projects which provide paid work-based training placements to meet a skills gap in the heritage sector and which fully support trainees to learn practical skills. It will fund skills that are essential to the future conservation of heritage or to opening heritage up to wider audiences.



These could include traditional building and natural heritage skills and the skills to deliver

education, community participation or volunteering programmes, or to use new media and technology to open up heritage (NB: traditional skills primarily directed towards the making of new craft or art objects are not a priority for the programme).

The minimum size of grant available is £100,000 and the maximum is £1million. For more information go to www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/Skillsforthefuture.aspx
Deadline for applications is 19th March 2010.

Community Grants Still Available!

A reminder that grants up to £1000 are still available through the Stirling Council Community Grants Scheme. The Community Grants Scheme will fund both capital and revenue projects which are of benefit to communities in the Stirling Council area.

With some money left to be distributed before the end of March 2010, groups are encouraged to put in applications as soon as possible. There are 2 further **deadline dates: 7th January and 18th February.**

For an application form and further details please contact Jean Cowie on 01786 432268.

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SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Survey on Social Enterprise Marketing

Community Enterprise Ltd is researching the feasibility of a new trading subsidiary that will focus on of the marketing, advertising and promotion of social enterprises and their products and services.

As part of their research, they are carrying out a survey looking at the successes, challenges and best way forward for social enterprises which engage marketing agencies, and are seeking feedback from social enterprises. To take part in the survey, go to:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2XD5SMZ>

SSEC Launches its Manifesto

This month the **Scottish Social Enterprise Coalition (SSEC)**, the national collective voice of social enterprise in Scotland, has launched its General Election Manifesto, calling on the UK government to re-examine the support given to social enterprises in their forthcoming policies.

The Manifesto outlines the opportunity for social enterprises to be a strategic part of the next UK Government's recovery plan and urges the Government to reflect this in their policies. It calls on Government to actively support the growth and development of social enterprises through:

- more resources and additional support for social enterprises
- tailored financial packages and ethical banking practices



- further linkage between the benefits of social enterprise and the employability agenda
- ensuring public sector procurement leads the way in requesting community benefit clauses
- embedding the green agenda further in to business practice.

The Manifesto outlines the need for a review of the current taxation system and legal systems, and a more ethical community focussed banking provision are all key measure outlined which will aid social enterprise growth.

Policies must also use the social enterprise movement more strategically to address increasing unemployment (historically, social enterprises have a good track record in developing 'welfare to work' projects and helping the unemployed gain vital employability skills). Changes to the welfare system, such as an increase in disregarded earnings limit, could encourage a previously untapped workforce into employment.

The Manifesto also calls for more encouragement of greener methods of waste disposal and better delivery of energy at a community level with a national grid.

The launch took place at the House of Commons with MPs, leading social entrepreneurs, funders and business leaders in attendance. You can download the full Manifesto at www.ssec.org.uk/policy/manifesto/

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OTHER NEWS

Petition to Secure Charities' Funding

A new petition on the Scottish Parliament website is calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to make representations to the banking and other private funding sectors to ensure that funding which they provide to charities is maintained in order to protect the jobs and services they provide and to outline how it will address any funding shortfall as a result of the current financial difficulties faced by banks and others.

If you would like to sign the petition follow the link, and please feel free to pass it on to others: http://epetitions.scottish.parliament.uk/view_petition.asp?PetitionID=360

Follow up to CHEX Conference

At the end of the CHEX (Community Health Exchange) National Conference 12 people volunteered to work together to take forward the actions identified at conference for developing a collective voice for community health initiatives in Scotland. That group met on December 9th and made good progress towards agreeing a clear focus for this work and starting to sketch out an action plan for taking the work forward.

The next meeting will take place in Glasgow in the last week of January (venue and date to be confirmed) and existing members of the group would like to extend an invitation to anybody with an interest in working in this group.

So if you are in a community or voluntary sector health initiative and want to be involved in this work please contact Elspeth Gracey, Development Manager, Direct line 0141 222 4840, **before Tuesday 19th January.**

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Council for Voluntary Services - Thriving and Connecting Communities in Stirling
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