



18th June 2010

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Whatever next week's emergency budget brings, significant public spending cuts appear to be on the horizon and the implications for voluntary organisations will be severe. Other blows to the sector include being virtually cut off from the European Social Fund for employment initiatives, the possibility of fewer Big Lottery Fund awards to Scottish charities, and the scrapping of the Future Jobs Fund. On top of all this, we learn that Scotland is facing a volunteer crisis as the gap between supply and demand grows.

Yet at the grass roots, groups and individuals continue to show energy and resilience. New and imaginative projects keep springing up, while established organisations find new ways to survive and even grow. There's certainly plenty going on both locally and nationally – below are just some notices we hope you find interesting, relevant and useful.

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.

GROUP NEWS

Gardenshare Stirling

Do you have an unused corner in your garden that you would be happy to share with someone who would love to grow some fruit and vegetables but has no garden of their own? Or perhaps you are keen to grow some of your own food but have no land?



Gardenshare Stirling is a new scheme that aims to match budding gardeners with people who have a garden that they cannot manage themselves, perhaps due to lack of time or ill-health.

The benefits to garden owners include having a keen gardener keeping the weeds under control, seeing things growing in the garden again, meeting new people and sharing some of the delicious produce. There are now so

many people who want to grow fruit and vegetables that it is a major problem finding enough land for them all. There are often long waiting lists for allotments and many modern homes have very small gardens or no garden at all.

Schemes such as this are now running successfully in other parts of the UK. If you have some spare land or would like to grow your own veggies please contact Philippa Cochrane on 07577816262 or email gardensharestirling@gmail.com

There is also a website that has information about the scheme:
<http://gardensharestirling.wordpress.com>

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EVENTS & TRAINING

Smoking, Lifestyle and Culture Change: Scottish Tobacco Control Alliance Annual Meeting

The Tolbooth, Stirling
24th June, 10 am – 3.30 pm



The Scottish Tobacco Control Alliance holds a meeting each year to review previous activity and plan for the coming work cycle. The theme of this year's meeting is 'smoking, lifestyle and culture change' and there are a number of presentations aimed at providing new information regarding child smoke exposure, synergy between tobacco and alcohol control, partnership working in culture change and illicit tobacco.

Community and voluntary organisations will be particularly interested in the opportunity to learn about local alliance activity taking place around Scotland in support of healthier communities.

A number of community and voluntary sector organisations and local projects send representatives to STCA events, but not nearly enough considering the impact that smoking has on our communities. If you have never been to an STCA event, or, if you have been to a local tobacco summit and would like to build on that experience, please consider sending a representative to the STCA Annual Meeting.

Download the registration form at www.ashscotland.org.uk/ash/files/STCA%20AM%20Registration%20Form%202010.doc , and get event information at www.rehis.org/event/scottish-tobacco-control-alliance-annual-meeting-2010 . For more information, contact David Robertson at ASH Scotland on 0131 220 9467.

Scottish Charity Media Seminar

The Melting Pot, 4th Floor, Thorn House, 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh
Thursday 1st July, 2 – 4 pm
FREE

What are the biggest challenges you face getting your stories into the media? At this free seminar **ngo media** will help you tackle the barriers that prevent your organisation achieving maximum impact through the press and broadcast media.

You'll gain invaluable tips and practical advice to make a genuine difference to your charity's media coverage. That means your organisation can make an even bigger impact. Come along and learn how to:

- Identify your organisation's most newsworthy stories
- Package them to appeal to journalists
- Approach the media more effectively
- Make your press releases stand out from the crowd

Plus: Your opportunity to network with other charity press and media professionals, and to meet ngo.media's experienced journalists, media and publications experts.

This event is exclusively for Scottish charities. Places are strictly limited so sign up today at www.ngomedia.org.uk/seminar. For further information, contact Jennifer Campbell by e-mailing jennifer@ngomedia.org.uk or call 0131 243 2659.

The Big Lunch

Sunday, 18th July - nationwide



The Big Lunch is calling on all neighbourhoods and communities across the UK to come together next month. Events around the nation are taking shape from simple tea parties in back gardens to large street parties for the whole neighbourhood.

Last year, the first Big Lunch saw almost a million people come together at events ranging from simple back garden barbecues to full-on street parties with entertainment, games, food, music and bunting that quite literally stopped traffic. This year, The Big Lunch is encouraging millions more to join forces and knock on the door of their neighbour, say hello and invite them for lunch.

The Big Lunch is led by the Eden Project with the support of a family of partners, The Big Lottery Fund, MasterCard, EDF Energy and the Department of Communities and Local Government who all want to break down barriers and build bridges within neighbourhoods through The Big Lunch 2010.

- * The Big Lunch 2010 is less than five weeks away, and those who are planning a street party are reminded of imminent deadlines for applying to their local Council to close their road. Now is also the time for those lunchers opting for a BBQ in the back garden or a picnic in park instead, to start gathering neighbours together to plan for the biggest Big Lunch yet.

For a whole menu of ideas on how you can run your own Big Lunch, find out if a Big Lunch already taking place in your area or to register your own, visit www.thebiglunch.com. For further information please contact Caroline Rams or Leena Patel at The Big Lunch Press Office on 020 7307 3104 or email caroline@cakegroup.com / leenap@cakegroup.com

Working with Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants & EU Nationals

Positive Action in Housing, 98 West George Street, Glasgow

11th August, 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

Cost: Non-members: £220;

Community/voluntary organisation's: £150; Members: £125



This one day course examines the rights of migrants under UK and European Law. Participants will be briefed on all the fundamental issues such as barriers faced by different groups and their respective entitlement to services. They will receive up-to-date knowledge on the housing, employment and welfare entitlements of refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and EU nationals.

This course is highly participative, with comprehensive course packs.

Who should attend?

The course is for anyone who works with new migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and therefore needs a thorough understanding of the barriers faced by these groups in accessing services such as housing, employment and welfare entitlements. It is particularly relevant to people working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system.

Course Outcomes:

By the end of the day you will

- Understand the barriers faced by refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and EU nationals
- Have an awareness of the relevant legislation that impacts on individuals from these communities
- Have a knowledge of their housing, employment and welfare entitlements
- Be equipped to effectively review and update your organisation's policy and practice.

To book your place, please contact Ms Suki Sangha, Training Officer, Positive Action in Housing Ltd, 98 West George Street, Glasgow, G2 1PJ, phone 0141 353 2220, email suki@paih.org

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FUNDING & AWARDS

Rural Direct – Helping Rural Communities Access Funding

Whether you're looking to refurbish a village hall, develop new local amenities and services, or work out a long term plan for your community's future development, funding is available from the Scottish Government through SCVO.

For help with locating and applying for funding, contact Sheila Fraser on 0131 474 8021, sheila.fraser@scvo.org.uk or visit www.ruraldirect.org.uk

Progress on Dormant Bank Accounts Funding

At last there seems to be some progress with Dormant Bank Accounts. A draft order has been laid with the Scottish Parliament indicating the funds created from these accounts will be available to the third sector for provision of services, facilities or opportunities which promote strong,

resilient and supportive communities. The orders were considered by the Subordinate Legislation Committee on 1st June.

There will be further consultation through BIG once they are designated to distribute the money. The sums involved are likely to be much lower than originally thought, due to the changes in the economy, and will be likely around £12 million in the first year, £12 million in the second year and £1.5 million year-on-year thereafter.

For a full update, and a link to the Act, go to the Scottish Government website page at www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/15300/Dormantbankaccounts

Digital Outreach Small Grants Programme

Digital Outreach is providing a Grant programme to enable local organisations and groups to increase awareness of the switchover from analogue to digital television by running events or other activities in connection with the switchover.

The one requirement is that the grant should be to help engage people, fund activities or raise awareness of switchover in a way that **adds value to what is already planned**. The aim is to help local organisations to include digital switchover information in local events, meetings, presentations and to engage with these target groups:

- Older People
- People with sensory, mobility or dexterity impairments
- People with learning difficulties
- People who have experienced mental health problems
- People whose first language is not English
- People who may be socially isolated

Groups are encouraged to come up with innovative or unusual ways of raising awareness and understanding about the digital switchover.

Any community group or third sector organisation can apply for a grant. To find out more, contact Freda on 01557 331345 or email Freda.Lewis@stewartrycvs.org.uk

Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards

The Tesco Charity Trust is now accepting applications for projects that support children and their education and welfare. The funding is available to schools, community and voluntary groups, who can apply for grants of between £1,000 and £4,000.



Deadline for applications is 30th June. For further information and how to apply, visit http://www.tescopl.com/plc/corporate_responsibility_09/community/making_difference/charitable_giving/tesco_charity_trust/cagapr09.pdf

Friends Provident Foundation

The Friends Provident Foundation makes grants of up to £200,000 to not-for profit organisations for projects that address financial exclusion within disadvantaged communities. The Foundation will consider applications for work that will make a strategic contribution to the overall outcome of financial inclusion in the UK (for example in the fields of banking access, debt advice or affordable credit). **Deadline for applications is 30th July.** For more information on how to apply, visit <http://digbig.com/5bbpbx>

What Makes a Good Report for Funders ?

Organisations that receive funding usually find they have to account for how they use it and report back to funders. **Scotland Funders' Forum**, a gathering of funding organisations across the country committed to best practice and maximising impact, has recently issued a checklist that seeks to make reporting more effective and less of a hassle all round.

It's brief and practical. To download '**Good Practice for Funded Organisations. What Makes A Good Report?**' click on

www.chex.org.uk/uploads/reporting_good_practice_for_funded_organisations_may_2010.pdf

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SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Social Enterprise Conference

Strathclyde Suite, Glasgow Concert Hall

2nd September, 9 am – 4.15 pm



For the last four years the first week of September has seen Community Enterprise in Scotland (CEiS) organise an annual social enterprise conference to enable social enterprise practitioners and supporters to engage with best practice and consider the best routes to creating value and maximising impact. This year CEiS are teaming up with a range of partners including Big Lottery Fund, Kibble, The Wise Group, The Scottish Government, RBS Community Banking and others to explore social enterprise priorities in advance of the next action plan for social enterprise.

CEiS will again use Crystal interactive technology, where participants use laptop tablets to comment, question and respond to issues, ensuring a really participative event as well as a record of the discussion. Speakers will include a mix of home grown and international social enterprise, business and community leaders.

Bookings are now open: for the full programme, cost information and to register visit

<http://www.ceis.org.uk>

Bring it to Life Awards

A new urban regeneration initiative is aiming to encourage and reward entrepreneurs with a 'business head and a social heart'.

The makers of Guinness are behind a UK-wide social entrepreneurship programme inviting people aged between 25 and 35 to enter the **Bring It To Life Awards**, which offer support, skills, and funding to create positive social ventures.

Initiatives need to be either new or a new way of delivering an existing idea, incorporating social and/or environmental aims.

Those who need running costs to get their idea off the ground can apply for 'catalyst awards' each worth up to £2,200, while 'development awards' of up to £15,000 can be accessed by established social entrepreneurs to help get ventures fully operational.

Successful applicants will receive a package of development, funding, training and volunteer support. For more information, and to apply online, visit www.unltd.org.uk/guinness-bring-it-to-life-awards/ **The deadline for entries is 23rd July.**

Starter for 6: Fast Track Programme

'Starter for 6' is an initiative being administered by The Cultural Enterprise Office to support the Creative Industries in Scotland. Fast Track is a new element to Starter for 6, offering creative entrepreneurs the opportunity to learn valuable business skills, progress their product, service or business idea and pitch for up to £10,000 cash investment over an intensive five week period.

Now open for applications, Fast Track is ideal for those who have spent some time developing their idea and are ready to set up in business. Further details, including application forms and criteria, are available on the 'Starter for 6' website at <http://tinyurl.com/2ury354>. **Deadline for applications is Wednesday, 28th July.**

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OTHER NEWS

Sally Ann's New Recycling Venture

"The Valley" Salvation Army Furniture recycling project, unit 8, Imex Business Centre, Broadleys Industrial Estate, Stirling, opened for business earlier this month. The project sells items of furniture for all rooms in the house and white goods. There is also a shop selling small electrical items, clothing and general household products. Everything is very reasonably priced, and all profits from the project will go towards the work carried out by the Salvation Army in Forth Valley.

Donations of furniture and household goods are still welcome. If you have any furniture that you no longer require that is too good to just throw away, just call 01786 479262 to arrange collection.

All furniture donated is available for resale to anyone in the community. Prices are kept to a minimum so that everyone can benefit from this project, and discounts are offered to people referred by recognised social agencies.

The only stipulations are:

- ✓ that the furniture is in a useable condition

- ✓ that upholstered items (e.g. suites and beds) have labels on stating that they comply with the Furniture & Fire Regulations of at least 1988. Please be aware though, that furniture is collected only at the drivers' discretion, subject to regulation compliance, suitability and quality and also dependant on available warehouse space
- ✓ that all electrical items offered for donation must have been purchased since 2000 (due to various regulations and restrictions)

Collection is free within a 30 mile (approx) radius of the Project. Collections outside of this area are hard to arrange due to the time it takes to cover the additional distance. If we are able to assist, a small charge will be applied – please call for details.

Volunteers are still wanted to help in the showroom and shop. Anyone with a few hours to spare per week, or with donations, please contact Sandra Clements, Project Manager on 01786 479262.

Visit the website to find out what The Salvation Army is doing across the United Kingdom and Ireland... and near you - www.salvationarmy.org.uk.



‘MAN & VAN’ Removals for Charities

The removals/deliveries company MoveUrStuff, which operates throughout the Forth Valley, the UK and Europe, has announced that its **special rates for charities** are continuing through 2010.

For information on their ‘man and van’ services, visit www.moveurstuff.co.uk or call 0800 612 6632.

Continuous Learning Framework (CLF) Audit Tool

The **Continuous Learning Framework (CLF)** was developed by the Scottish Social Services Council in partnership with the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services. It sets out what people working in social services need in order to do their jobs well now and in the future, and what their employer needs to do to support them.

In 2009, the Workforce Unit assisted 6 small and medium sized organisations (SMEs) to undertake an "audit" against the organisational capabilities identified in the Continuous Learning Framework. The audit focused particularly on "planning for learning, development and improved practice" through which they were able to identify priorities for future development.

This audit tool is now available to the wider sector.

It can help your organisation identify a baseline for how it is performing in respect of "planning for learning, development and improved practice" - one of the six capabilities outlined in the framework, and selected as a good place to start if you are looking for a route in to using the continuous learning framework within your organisation.

For step-by-step instructions on how to use the tool, visit the Workforce Unit website www.ccpscotland.org/workforceunit/sharing-practice/continuous-learning-framework-audit If you

need any further information, contact Voluntary Sector Social Services Workforce Unit, Jubilee House, Forthside Way, Stirling. FK8 1QZ, phone 01786 849 752.

To view and listen to a general presentation about the Continuous Learning Framework click [here](http://www.continuouslearningframework.com/clf/tools-and-resources/introductory-presentation-on-the-clf.html), or visit www.continuouslearningframework.com/clf/tools-and-resources/introductory-presentation-on-the-clf.html

Helping with the Switchover

(From the Community Outreach Programme)

Digital Television Switchover is the process of converting the UK's terrestrial television system to digital. Between now and 2012, analogue channels will be switched off region by region and replaced with free-to-air digital TV and radio services (Freeview). Switchover will extend Freeview coverage to the whole of the UK and free up airwaves for new services such as ultra-fast wireless broadband and mobile television.



We have been set up through a unique partnership between Age Concern, Help the Aged, Community Service Volunteers and Collective Enterprises Ltd., to deliver a Community Outreach Programme, providing advice and guidance about the Digital Television Switchover. The Digital Switchover Community Outreach Programme supports people who do not qualify for the government's Switchover Help Scheme, but who nevertheless need or would like some assistance or advice in making the switch from analogue to digital TV.

Digital Outreach is rooted in the voluntary sector and we achieve our aims by working with and through trusted voluntary sector and charitable organisations. In each region we enable local organisations to support older, disabled and other potentially vulnerable local people, by providing information and speakers for events or drop-ins, training volunteers and developing a network of help and advice for older, disabled, vulnerable and disadvantaged people to help them make the switch.

We are currently working in the ITV regions covering The Borders, West Country, Granada and Wales. We are working with voluntary and community sector organisations which provide support and information to the following groups of people:

- ✓ Older people (other than those who qualify for the Switchover Help Scheme)
- ✓ People with sensory, mobility and/or dexterity impairments
- ✓ People with learning difficulties
- ✓ People who are socially isolated
- ✓ People who have English as a second language and require extra assistance to understand the implications of switchover
- ✓ People who have experienced mental health problems

In order to deliver the Digital Switchover Community Outreach programme, we will:

- * Undertake research to identify and scope the number of people in a region who will need our support, and which organisations are currently working with them

- * Make our outreach activities as accessible as possible and provide grants to other organisations to enable them to disseminate information
- * Mobilise and train volunteers to deliver these services in line with sector best practice
- * Establish and coordinate volunteer services in localities where support services do not currently exist

If you would like further information on Digital Outreach, or are interested in working with the Community Outreach programme in these areas, please contact us via enquiries@digitaloutreach.org.uk or call us on 01457 891912.

Third Sector Cut Out of £56m Funding

Voluntary organisations may not be able to access over £56 million in European funding for employment initiatives.

A report has been sent to the government recommending that a remaining £56.7m of the 2007 - 2012 European Social Fund (ESF) for all of Scotland, (Highlands and Islands ESF funding is separate), should be allocated to the Scottish Funding Council, the STUC, Skills Development Scotland and Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs).

This means Third Sector organisations will therefore only be able to apply for funding through CPPs, preventing them from directly accessing funding for national employment initiatives.

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) has urged the government to reconsider and ensure that third sector employment initiatives are given parity with other providers. Donna Mackinnon, director of employment with SCVO, said: "Scotland's third sector has played a vital role in supporting employment for a number of years, in particular we've taken an innovative approach to provision of services designed to support those most disadvantaged in the labour market ... It is inconceivable that the sector is now being pushed out of applying for the funds that are designed to help boost this activity."

The Scottish Government is yet to decide on whether or not to approve the strategy recommended by the report...

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