



20th November 2009

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A number of funding features this week: on the Lloyds TSB front, the Foundation has decided, rather than wait for the outcome of its negotiations with the banking group, to seek other funding sources to allow it to continue functioning over the next couple of years. This could prove a lifeline for many Scottish charities. If your group is one of those who've been supported by the Foundation in the past, and were counting on its help into the future, we'd be interested to hear how the crisis has affected you – please share your experiences.

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

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Stirling-Shu'fat Friendship Link

Council Chamber, Old Viewforth, Stirling
Monday, 23rd November, 7 – 8.30 pm

A reminder that the above launch (*eBulletin*, 6th November) is on Monday, and that it would be helpful if anyone attending would let Councillor Finlay know by e-mailing finlayc@stirling.gov.uk or by telephoning 01786 443497.

LEADER Rural Youth Networking Event

Council Chambers, Old Viewforth, Stirling
Thursday 3rd December, 10.30 am – 1 pm



All individuals and groups involved in *rural* Youth Work in the rural Stirling, Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and West Dunbartonshire/Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park areas are invited to this morning event to share ideas and experiences.

Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER is a rural development grant fund for innovative/pilot community-driven projects. 'Youth' is one of its priority groups. Applications from individual projects are welcomed, but more importantly this networking event is intended to explore the potential for more strategic area-wide or co-operative projects.

In July 2009, LEADER ran a similar event for Community Workers which was very successful. Feedback highlighted the benefits of networking with colleagues across the wider FVL LEADER geography of four Council's rural areas, as well as meeting the LEADER team.

For this Youth event, the invitation has been extended to include volunteers and youth leaders from the community.

The event will include small group discussions on the world in which our youth groups and projects currently function:

- successful activity / achievements
- lack of activity / difficulties
- area-wide opportunities for addressing difficulties or building on success

Following feedback to whole group, there will be a sandwich lunch and chance to chat.

R.S.V.P. to Sue Wyllie, FVL LEADER Development Officer, wyllies@stirling.gov.uk giving your name and your organisation/group. Tel: 01786 442777. For more information on Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER visit www.fvl.org.uk

'An Inspector Calls' - Learning Link Scotland Seminar

Salutation Hotel, Perth

Wednesday, 9th December, 10 am - 3 pm

£20 Members/£40 Non-Members (includes lunch and refreshments)

'An Inspector Calls' is a one-day seminar for staff, volunteers and students working in or with an interest in adult education in the community: **3rd Sector Organisations, Learning Link Scotland Members**, Local Authorities and those involved with Further and Higher Education

It is designed to:

- Increase understanding of the process of HM Inspection and Review
- Improve knowledge of tools for self-evaluation
- Explore accountability and the application of Freedom of Information legislation

HM Inspectors carry out inspections to evaluate the outcomes and impacts of Community Learning and Development (CLD) activities, including adult learning in local areas. These inspections focus on the work in communities of relevant local authority services and their partners in the voluntary sector as well as in other public bodies. They aim to give organisations fast and detailed feedback to help them improve provision and provide stakeholders with clear messages on the quality of CLD provision.

Sheila Brown, HMle, will give an overview of the current policy context for Inspection and Review and examine the process for organisations. Two workshops will examine more closely the ways in which using tools for self evaluation can improve our practice.

Sarah Hutchison, Head of Policy and Information for the Scottish Information Commissioner, will talk about our rights under Freedom of Information laws and examine how we can make use of this public accountability.

For bookings and any further queries contact: Learning Link Scotland on 0131 553 7992 or email Stephanie on shaigh@learninglinkscotland.org.uk

The Gathering 2010

Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC)

18th & 19th February 2010

The Gathering 2010 is Scotland's largest voluntary sector event. Run by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) it is **open to the public** and **free to attend**, so come along to the EICC and get involved.

Over the two days, thousands of visitors will have the chance to visit ninety organisations, all under one roof, in the exhibition marketplace. Fringe events will allow audiences to get involved in debates, seminars and workshops.

Voluntary groups are invited to take advantage of an enthusiastic and engaged audience and book event space or exhibition space in the marketplace.

For further information please get in touch with SCVO's dedicated events team at thegathering@scvo.org.uk or on 0131 474 6172.

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TRAINING & RESOURCES

GCNS Website

Going Carbon Neutral Stirling has launched its website: www.goingcarbonneutralstirling.org.uk/



Going Carbon Neutral Stirling (GCNS) aims to connect people, communities and businesses with inspiring and practical ways to cut carbon and show that low carbon living can be fun, easy, healthy - and might even save you some money too.

The site has been designed to help local people access sustainable solutions around Stirling. Case studies of carbon reduction are highlighted, as well as funding opportunities, action with specific partners, our national networks and influence, as well as awarding a green champion of the month.

The site should give you a flavour of the enthusiasm, commitment and success of the Going Carbon Neutral Stirling team...and perhaps a taste to get involved if you aren't already.

Coming soon:

- **The Carbon Counter** that will let us know (in real time) the amount of carbon our communities have saved, and intend to save over the coming months.
- **The Carbon Cutter Plan** tool, which will allow anyone to join by creating their own on-line plan.

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FUNDING & AWARDS

Lloyds TSB Foundation Plans to Raise Funds

Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland has announced that it is seeking to raise funding of £12m to guarantee its future for the short term.

Trustees have agreed that efforts should now be made to secure monies from sources other than Lloyds Banking Group to cover the Foundation's grant-making programmes for the next two years, whilst continuing to work to reach a settlement for interim funding with the Group.

The Foundation is entitled to only £39,000 under the covenant it has with the Banking Group because of the losses incurred by the Group this year.

By seeking to raise its own funds for a limited period, the Foundation hopes that, whatever comes out of its negotiations with the Banking Group, it will be able to restart its grant-making programme early in the New Year.

Mary Craig, the Foundation's Chief Executive, explaining why the decision had been reached, said:

"Our last planned awards will be made in early December. I hope that, by that time, we will have secured offers of funding from major donors and other sources of potential monies. That, in turn, should enable us to provide charities with reassurance of our financial support going forward."

Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland is also in line for money from Lloyds Banking Group's second Rights Issue of this year, currently under way. And it is due compensation of £2m+ after being wrongly excluded from their first Rights Issue held earlier this year.

Women's Fund For Scotland

The Scottish Community Foundation established the **Women's Fund for Scotland** in 2002, to focus resources on projects that seek to enable women to develop themselves and their communities and to improve their own quality of life.



Grants will be available to:

1. Organisations predominantly run by and for women
2. Organisations with women-only projects, which seek to support and empower women.

Grants will only be made to projects that benefit women aged 16 or over.)

Applicants must be constituted not-for-profit groups. (Statutory organisations and organisations with an annual income over £250,000 may no longer apply to this programme.)

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for a wide variety of costs and projects. They must be spent within 12 months of being awarded and applications must be for between 25% and 100% of a project's or item's total cost.

Projects should support women's development, self-sufficiency, and economic and social equality. The majority of this funding will be available for locally focused projects that also contribute to the regeneration or development of a specific geographic area, for example:

- Enhancing local facilities, for the purpose of encouraging women who experience discrimination, disadvantage, or live in areas of deprivation to live or work within their local community;
- Benefiting local women who have particular needs because of their gender, age, sexuality, disability or race or religion;
- Assisting women to make use of local facilities and opportunities for education, training or employment purposes;
- Promoting a safe and crime free environment for women in their communities.

Please note the closing date for the Women's Fund for Scotland is fast approaching: **deadline for applications is Friday 11th December**. If you have any questions please contact Jennifer McPhail, Grants Officer, on 0141 341 4964, email Jennifer@scottishcf.org

Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards

The Tesco Charity Trust has announced that it will once again be seeking applications through its Community Awards programme in early 2010.

The Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards Scheme provides one-off donations of between £500 and £4,000. The funding goes towards providing practical benefits, such as equipment and resources for projects that directly benefit children, the elderly and adults and children with disabilities, living in the local communities around our stores in the UK.

There are two categories of Community Awards:

1. grants to support children's welfare and/or education (including special needs schools)
2. grants to support elderly people and/or adults and children with disabilities.

For further information please contact: <http://digbig.com/5bangs>

Awards for All Relunched

The Awards for All funding scheme has been relaunched. As of this month, the application form no longer asks for details of an independent referee to be included.

While they haven't removed the requirement completely, and may still ask some groups for a referee once their application has been assessed, it will nevertheless make the initial application process quicker and easier for all.

Awards for All have also made some slight changes to the application form and guidance to make them clearer, and have produced a new guide which fully explains their requirements once a group have received a conditional offer of grant.

For further information, visit the Awards for All Scotland website, www.awardsforall.org.uk/scotland/ or contact: Sam Howorth, 0870 240 2391, email sam.howorth@biglotteryfund.org.uk .

Scott Moncrieff Charitable Trusts: Craigbrook Mortification Fund

The Craigbrook Mortification Fund provides financial help for elderly people born in Scotland or who have resided in Scotland for over 10 years. £30,000 is distributed each year with individuals receiving between £1,000 and £1,500 per annum.

For further information contact: http://www.scott-moncrieff.com/charitable_trusts/page1.html

People's Postcode Trust

The People's Postcode Trust will distribute funds to small organisations, community groups and registered charities. Funding is available for 3 month projects, ranging from £500 up to £10,000.

Funding will go to projects with one or more of the following aims:

- To prevent poverty, sickness and distress for the benefit of the public
- To promote, maintain, improve and advance health
- To advance citizenship or community development
- To advance public participation in sport
- To promote, improve and advance human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation
- To promote and advance environmental protection or improvement

Deadline for applications is 18th January 2010. For further information, contact: <http://www.postcodetrust.org.uk>

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SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Understanding Social Enterprise

Develop your knowledge of social enterprise

Glasgow

1st - 2nd December



Social enterprise is a new model of business that combines the best of business with clear and purposeful social aims. This programme from the Social Enterprise Academy, **Understanding Social Enterprise (USE)**, will allow you to develop a broad view of the concept of social enterprise, the challenges established enterprises currently face, and what the future holds for this emerging movement.

For more information or an application form, go to www.theacademy-ssea.org/ Alternatively, email learn@theacademy-ssea.org or phone 0131243 2670.

Ready For Business

Ready for Business is a public social partnership (psp) pilot project designed by Senscot, Social Firms Scotland and CEiS for the Scottish Government. The aim is to support social enterprises and procurement agencies to realise maximum value from procurement opportunities, and to encourage the public sector to consider social benefit as well as cost when awarding contracts.

The project will develop a range of services including:

- a social enterprise register
- information on community benefits
- case studies
- model community benefit clauses.

The project will:

- ✓ promote community benefits in procurement
- ✓ engage in research into best practice in social enterprise procurement
- ✓ provide support to procurement agencies
- ✓ facilitate consortia development
- ✓ encourage collaboration between social enterprise and SMEs

Social enterprises can visit the website at www.readyforbusiness.org/index.php Once you have registered, you can access the Notices and Documents sections (the latter contains valuable information on commissioning and procurement).

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OTHER NEWS

Cinema in Scotland's Rural Communities

Regional Screen Scotland is the development agency for access to cinema-going opportunities, improving Moving Image access, participation and learning in Scotland's rural communities.

In 2009, working with HI~Arts and Scottish Screen, the group awarded over £114,000 to 27 organisations to support and develop cinema in rural communities.

Now they would like to hear from groups who are currently exhibiting films, or have ambitions to screen films. They want to know what they are currently delivering, and what support they need, and have prepared a Questionnaire to help them with future projects, funding streams and support and training.

The Questionnaire can be found at: www.regionalscreenscotland.org/networks_development.html, or you can contact Lynne Stanford at 0778 943 1720, email lynne@regionalscreenscotland.org.

'Apparently inactive' Charities

OSCR, Scotland's charity regulator, has outlined how it intends to apply the charity test in future to charities and applicants that are apparently not carrying out activities, including 'anticipatory' charities such as shell trusts.

The statement, **Apparently Inactive Charities**, sets out four categories of such bodies and the factors that OSCR will consider in determining whether public benefit is provided.

To pass the charity test, a body must have only charitable purposes and provide or, in the case of applicants, intend to provide public benefit (section 7(1) of the CTISA 2005). What is meant by 'providing' public benefit is therefore crucial.

OSCR's previous guidance document '**Meeting the Charity Test**' (October 2008), stated that there must be activity on the part of an existing charity in pursuit of its purposes. While different charities would have different levels of activity, and periods of apparent inactivity, OSCR would expect such periods of apparent inactivity to be of limited duration. To date we have considered any body that either does not have overt activity or in the case of applicants does not intend to have any overt activity, to fail the charity test.

But it may now be possible for **apparently inactive** bodies to pass the charity test. The new policy note develops OSCR's thinking in this area to set out circumstances where such bodies may meet the charity test.

Read the full document (PDF) at www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=816724d7-0c91-4e19-a62c-ee62d1736761

New Companies House Rules

New rules have come into effect at Companies House from the 1st October. **These mean that old Memorandum and Articles of Association templates may no longer be valid.**

New templates are available on the SCVO website and have been approved by OSCR. The quickest way to access this from the homepage (www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Home/Home.aspx) is to click into *Information > Frequently Asked Questions > How do I set up a Charity > Forming a Company Limited by Guarantee.*

Existing companies do not need to immediately change their Memorandum & Articles, but will be contacted by Companies House in due course.

Beware Scams

Christmas, season of goodwill – and scams! Here's one the Trading Standards Office is warning us about. It works like this:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you do get one of these, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 02072396655 or ICSTIS (the premium rate service regulator).

Don't get caught out!

What do you think about SCVO?

Please take a few moments to share your thoughts and opinions about the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO). And in order to involve as many people as possible, please pass this link on to your colleagues too.

Click here for the link: [SCVO 2009 Survey](#)

The survey can be completed anonymously, however if you leave your name you will be entered into a free prize draw to win a Scottish Food Box (like a hamper but more sustainable, SCVO claims!).

Your input will inform SCVO's future work and help them – and the CVS's - to be stronger together.

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