



21st May 2010

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Welcome to our second eBulletin of May. Remember, Volunteer Week is coming up soon (1st to 7th June). We hope some of you got your nominations in for a volunteer award – the Awards Ceremony will be on 3rd June (details from Stirling Volunteer Centre: www.volunteerstirling.org.uk).

Have you visited the 'Resources' page of our website recently? It's been updated to including guidance on holding effective meetings - useful for any organisation, and particularly those just starting out: www.cvs-stirling.org.uk/ResourcesandDownloads.htm

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

SYHA Hostelling Scotland:

Fundraising in the Stirling area - and all over Scotland

SYHA Hostelling Scotland celebrates its 80th anniversary next year! As you may know, the charity has its headquarters in Glebe Crescent in Stirling and has a Hostel in the city. SYHA exists to provide low cost youth hostelling accommodation for the education, health and wellbeing of people in Scotland and beyond.

The organisation has 68 hostels across Scotland as part of the international network of youth hostelling. The association offers equity of access to enable everyone to experience and appreciate the diverse natural beauty and historic landmarks of Scotland. Whatever their background, SYHA offers young people the opportunity to improve their knowledge, confidence and wellbeing by enabling them to explore and experience Scotland.

As a not-for-profit organisation, any income generated from the provision of youth hostelling is invested back into the network of youth hostels in Scotland. Equally, SYHA needs voluntary income to help maintain and develop its network of Hostels and continue our social inclusion programme by providing funded breaks to children and young people affected by social exclusion.

SYHA has a newly recruited Fundraising and Development Manager: Fiona Rattray. Fiona is keen to make links and build networks with other charities and local voluntary organisations. If you would like to get in touch with Fiona, please don't hesitate to call on 017686 891 373 or email fiona.rattray@syha.org.uk .

In particular, SYHA is keen to highlight two opportunities to local organisations:

✿ Meeting Facilities for local voluntary and community groups at Stirling Youth Hostel

Stirling Youth Hostel, located in St John Street, near the castle, can offer Conference and Meeting Facilities for local voluntary organisations.

The Conference Room costs £30 to hire for half a day or £50 for the full day. It seats up to 40 theatre-style, or up to 25 with tables, and a laptop, projector and flip chart stand come with the room. Reasonably priced catering is on offer, from tea and coffee to a full 3-course meal.



To book, call 01786 445715 or email stirling@syha.org.uk

✿ 'Give Us a Break'

'Give Us A Break' is an exciting project which provides funding assistance for groups of young people most at risk of social exclusion. It gives young people the opportunity to experience a multitude of benefits whilst participating in educational, social, cultural and recreational activities within a Youth Hostel setting. The aim is to tackle social exclusion by introducing young people to new environments, activities and experiences.



The 'Give us a Break' project has helped young people from all over Scotland since it was launched in 2004. One teenager who recently attended a break at Loch Lomond Hostel summed up the impact of our trip by saying '*this is like a dream, I've never been to anywhere like this before.*'

To find out more about 'Give Us a Break' and how *your* group can apply for funding, please call 0845 293 7373, email reservations@syha.org.uk or visit http://www.syha.org.uk/groups_schools/give_us_a_break.aspx

Stirling Carers AGM ...

Guide Hall, Glebe Avenue, Stirling
Wednesday, 16th June, 12 noon – 2.30 pm

The **Carers Forum Stirling Area (Stirling Carers)** extends an open invitation to carers and professionals to attend their AGM at the above venue and time. Business will be followed by an informal get together and buffet lunch.

Please let them know if you will be coming: contact Stirling Carers Centre, on 01786 447003, or email info@stirlingcarers.co.uk

... and Open Day

Stirling Carers Centre, 65-69 Barnton Street, Stirling
Friday, 18th June, 11 am – 2 pm

Also, as part of **Carers Week 2010 (14th – 20th June)** the Stirling Carers Centre is holding an Open Day – an informal, friendly event for ALL Carers, whether registered with the Centre or not, to come along for a coffee and to meet and talk to the staff.

Shelter Calls for additional eviction protection for social tenants



Social tenants must be given the same level of legal protection against eviction as homeowners, says the housing and homelessness charity Shelter.

Shelter Scotland called for additional protection for social tenants last year, following publication of its annual report on evictions which showed that 3,297 tenants were evicted from their homes in Scotland. The majority of evictions were for rent arrears.

Now the Scottish Government is consulting on how to reduce evictions with a range of options. This includes a statutory set of steps that all landlords would have to follow: a so-called **Pre-Action Requirement**.

Graeme Brown, Shelter Scotland's Director, said, "Some social landlords are already trying to reduce evictions ... they recognise that evicting families only to have to house them again under homelessness legislation doesn't make sense.

"The Pre-Action Requirement will firstly afford struggling tenants the same protection as homeowners and mean a fair and equal protection between the two groups. Secondly, a Pre-Action Requirement would ensure that everything possible really has been done."

Read Shelter Scotland's briefing paper on the need for a Pre-Action Requirement at http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/professional_resources/policy_library/policy_library_folder/preventing_homelessness_by_making_eviction_a_last_resort .

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EVENTS & TRAINING

Have Your Say on Stirling's Future

Stirling Council is holding a series of Summer Roadshows as part of a consultation on its new Local Development Plan (LDP), which will guide development decisions across the Stirling area for the next 20 years. It will deal with a wide range of land use issues, such as new housing, business, retail, industry, transport recreation and heritage.

The first phase is to publish and consult on a main issues report (MIR) which sets out general proposals for future development. This is a discussion document seeking local views on policy and development options which can be considered for inclusion in the LDP, which is due to be published in May 2011.

Consultation on the MIR will be carried out from Friday, May 7 until July 30. Throughout May and June the council will hold 14 drop-in sessions in communities across the area. The first session was held in Bridge of Allan on May 8th and forthcoming venues will be as follows:

Thistle Centre, Stirling (May 22), Blairdrummond Hall (May 24), McLintock Hall, Balfron (May 27), Strathblane Primary School (May 29), Cowie Community Centre (June 2), Buchlyvie Community Hall (June 4), Braeport Centre, Dunblane (June 10), Raploch Campus, Stirling (June 15), Alpha Centre, Fallin (June 19), Balfour Centre, Plean (June 21).

For more information, visit <http://www.stirling.gov.uk/localdevplan> or contact Planning & policy, Stirling Council, Tel. 01786 442522.

Better Community Engagement – *Supporting Sustainable Practice*

Teacher Building, 14 St Enoch Square, Glasgow

Tuesday, 15th June, 10am – 4 pm (*registration from 09.15am*)

FREE

A National Conference to share the themes, experience and lessons coming from the **Better Community Engagement Programme** and to explore the concept of sustainable community engagement and how we achieve it.

Following the launch of the Community Empowerment Action Plan in March 2009, the Scottish Government has provided National level investment in a programme to improve practice in community engagement across Scotland.

The programme is working to:

- **develop** learning materials for people who are charged with working with communities, to ensure that they have the right skills and knowledge to fulfil their roles
- **establish** one or more working models of effective learning for community engagement across Scotland
- **obtain** evidence on how structured learning could impact or improve community engagement practice
- **provide** an evidence base for future development of learning for community engagement

The programme is based on the Better Community Engagement Framework which sets out a framework of competences designed to enable the planning of learning in community engagement and was developed to build the capacity of practitioners in community engagement. The framework complements the [National Standards for Community Engagement](#) (Communities Scotland, 2005).

For a flyer containing programme details and booking form, contact Gina Thomson, Linked Work and Training Trust, Tel: 01324 489666, Fax 01324 483444; E-mail: gthomson@lwt.org.uk

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VOLUNTEERING & EMPLOYMENT

Family Mediation Central Scotland -

Opportunity to train as a Volunteer Family Mediator

Family Mediation Central Scotland is looking to recruit volunteers to train as family mediators. Our organisation works with families across Forth Valley in Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire.

- *Would you like to help children and parents going through the process of separation and divorce manage their arrangements for themselves?*
- *Are you interested in helping families to communicate better and to reach their own, informed agreements?*
- *Do you have a background of working in voluntary organisations, the legal profession, social work, negotiation or similar areas?*
- *Above all, do you have a keen interest in people, and in children and families in particular?*

Family Mediation is a voluntary process in which a trained, impartial mediator assists those involved in family breakdown, in particular parents who are going through the process of separation or divorce or who are living apart, to communicate better with one another and to reach their own decisions about some of the issues relating to the family breakdown with particular reference to their children.

Mediators can agree their hours as volunteers with Family Mediation Central Scotland to meet local demand and their own availability. Any expenses incurred in this respect will be covered by the service. Initially trainee mediators are required to complete the Certificate in Family Mediation (Accredited), which requires approximately 200 hours of learning over a period of 12 – 18 months. This enables mediators to begin practising as a mediator in their Local Service. Accredited Mediators are then required to continue their learning and become Registered Mediators. A course guide is available to view at:

http://www.relationships-scotland.org.uk/about_training.shtml

Family Mediation Central Scotland covers the cost of training.

An application pack is available from Family Mediation Central Scotland by calling 01786-472984 or e-mailing fm.central@btconnect.com **The closing date for applications is Friday, 28th May 2010.**

An informal information evening will be held during the first week of June with interviews taking place week commencing 7th June. **Please note: A satisfactory Disclosure Certificate is required for this post.**

FUNDING & AWARDS

Children in Need Fund Open

We are pleased to announce the CIN fund is now open for applications. CVS Stirling is the distributor of CIN funds across the Forth Valley area. For an application form and guidelines, visit our website, www.cvs-stirling.org.uk and click on 'Resources and Downloads.'

Have you received Rural Priorities funding?

Are you involved with a community group or voluntary organisation that has been successful in securing Rural Priorities funding? Would you like to help us help other communities access funding? If so, the Rural Direct team would like to hear from you.

They are compiling a series of case studies from organisations that have applied for Rural Priorities funding, and would like to hear about your projects and what you think about the whole application process.

In particular, they'd like to hear from those of you who might like to come to one of the Scotland National Rural Network (SNRN) events (locally or in another region) and talk about your project - maybe even help "demystify" the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) application procedures.

If you would like to tell the team about your project, please give them a call on 0845 838 8598 or email info@ruraldirect.org.uk



Partnership Drugs Initiative Open

Lloyds TSB Foundation has announced that, along with money from the Foundation, funding secured from the Scottish Government has enabled them to reopen the Partnership Drugs Initiative (PDI) programme with immediate effect for charities across Scotland supporting children and young people affected by the issues of drugs and alcohol.

The target groups remain

- Children and young people affected by parental substance issues (drugs and alcohol)
- Pre-teen children at high risk of developing problems with drugs and alcohol
- Young people who are developing or have an established substance use problems (drugs and alcohol)

Application forms and guidance notes have been changed slightly, and questions and guidance have been included to reflect the need for projects to develop long-term planning approaches. As before, applicants will also need to identify a 50% matched funding contribution.

There will only be one funding rounding this year for new proposals:

Initial Stage Deadline - 23rd July

Full Application Stage Deadline - 1st October

Decision - 2nd December

(NB: projects currently supported by PDI that are eligible to apply for continuation support will be able access funding via *two* funding rounds).

If you would like to learn more about the PDI application process or discuss a specific proposal, then please contact Elaine Wilson (who manages the programme) by e-mail at ew@itsbfoundationforscotland.org.uk .

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SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Meet The Buyer

Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow

June 10th, 10 am – 4 pm

FREE

Meet the Buyer is a FREE event giving Scottish SMEs the opportunity to meet the buying personnel from over 35 major public sector organisations, interested in all types of products and services.

Hosted by the Supplier Development Programme and supported by Business Scotland, this is the 5th such event, and could be of great benefit to many businesses around the Stirling area - including social enterprises, CiCs etc.

Meet buyers from:

- ✓ Local authorities
- ✓ Police
- ✓ NHS
- ✓ Further Education
- ✓ Governmental bodies
- ✓ Fire & Rescue
- ✓ Centres of Expertise ... *and many more.*

The public sector spends approximately £8 billion every year on procuring goods and services - this could be *your* opportunity to build a commercial relationship with a major public sector organisation.

This event is free and to register your interest, go to www.sdpscotland.co.uk/events/events-list/meet-the-buyer.aspx

Understanding Contracts, SLA's and Grants

Introduction and Executive Summary

This briefing note has been commissioned by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to clarify the definitions of **contracts**, **service level agreements (SLA's)** and **grants** by public sector organisations in funding social enterprises to deliver or provide services and to look at the legal and other implications of using the different types of financial arrangements. It has been

prepared by Senscot with support from the law firm MacRoberts LLP and the Pool, DTA Scotland's consultancy service.

There is currently a wide range of terms used to describe the financial arrangements between public authorities and social enterprises. The most common terms are 'grants', 'contracts' and 'service level agreements' (often abbreviated to SLA's). Others include 'performance grants', 'management contracts', 'management fee contracts', and 'service contracts'.

There is also a wide range of understanding, especially amongst social enterprises, of the differences between various types of financial arrangements and the practical implications these differences have in legal, financial and other terms.

These implications can be significant. For example:

- The legal liabilities for each party will vary considerably depending on whether the financial arrangement is a contract or a grant. For example, a contract for delivery of a service by a social enterprise may include clauses which could allow a public sector organisation to seek damages over and above the value of the contract if the social enterprise fails to meet its contractual obligations (and similarly a social enterprise might be able to seek compensation if the public authority fails to meet its obligations).
- The tax position and liability of a social enterprise in respect of VAT and corporation tax will be affected by whether income is grant income or income earned under a contract.
- Similarly, income from a grant and from a contract may or will generally be treated differently in a social enterprise's accounts. In turn this could affect whether a social enterprise is regarded as being a trading organisation, a "going concern" and a suitable enterprise for investment, support and so on.

In view of these implications, it is very important that social enterprises and public authorities both understand the real nature of the financial arrangement they are entering into and also choose the most appropriate form.

As different names can be applied by different organisations to describe the same arrangements, it is often sensible for social enterprises and public authorities not to focus on what they call an arrangement but rather put aside the various names and focus on:

- * whether they are entering into a grant or a contract (which may sometime be called an SLA or be accompanied by an SLA) and
- * the legal and other implications of the provisions of that grant or contract.

This will both clarify the legal status of the arrangement and also, more broadly, assist in establishing whether income associated with it should be regarded as trading income for different purposes.

There is no one factor which determines whether funding is being provided under a grant or under a contract. It is important to analyse the arrangement as a collective whole and social enterprises should be doing this as a matter of course, in any case, in order to determine risks and liabilities. There are a number of features which can be assessed and these are described in detail in the briefing note which contains sections on contracts, SLAs and grants.

In conclusion, in order for social enterprises and public authorities to minimise the risks arising from the financial relationships they enter into together, it is important for each party to be clear about the nature of that relationship from the outset.

Download the full report at http://www.senscot.net/docs/Contracts_SLAs_and_Grants.pdf and more on HIE's website: <http://www.hie.co.uk/strengthen-your-community.htm>

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OTHER NEWS

'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

MOVEURSTUFF

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HOME OR OFFICE
FULL MOVE OR SINGLE ITEM
UK & EUROPE
REGULAR TRIPS TO FRANCE & SWITZERLAND
FROM UK (EMAIL FOR DETAILS OF NEXT TRIP)
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info@moveurstuff.co.uk

www.moveurstuff.co.uk

Cheques to Be Phased Out

Charities and other voluntary groups – particularly the smaller ones – are likely to be affected by the announcement last year that the use of cheques is to be completely phased out in the UK by 2018. This may seem quite far off, but the Payment Council's proposal may be seen as giving a 'green light' to banks to begin phasing out cheques even earlier - and perhaps before a viable alternative has been found.

The Charity Finance Directors' Group (CFDG) has produced a useful FAQ sheet, and have set up a Banking Forum: you can access these by going to www.cfdg.org.uk and typing 'cheques' or 'banking forum' into the site search box.

The Institute of Fundraising has expressed concerns that the demise of cheques could have an adverse effect on charity fundraising. You can read their view on the issue, and if you agree, join their campaign, at www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/pressnews/topstories/saveourcheques

Trustees Are the Key to Charities' Resilience

OSCR, the Scottish Charities regulator, has produced a report which finds trustee recruitment and retention is a key indicator of an organisation's chances of survival. *Charities with low numbers of trustees are the most likely to fail.*

OSCR
Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Charities in Financial Straits

OSCR has also published a [policy statement](#) on its approach to charities in financial difficulties. It says the regulator will monitor the accounts of charities with annual incomes of more than £25,000 and intervene when it identifies a risk, such as a sudden contraction of income or low reserves. OSCR will follow up any concerns to ensure that trustees are aware and are taking appropriate action in the interests of the charity. This includes encouraging the charity to seek professional advice.

As a last resort, OSCR says it could use its statutory powers to compel action by a charity.

The finding is contained in 'A Short Study of Resilience in Scottish Charities,' published on 18th May. Based on submissions received by the OSCR in 2009, the report found that trustee recruitment and retention was a key indicator of whether charities were likely to survive, especially if they were small.

It found that charities wound up in 2009 had an average of four trustees, compared with an average for all charities of 13. Charities that expanded in 2009 had an average of nine trustees.

The report notes that 80 per cent of failed organisations had annual incomes of less than £25,000, and 54 per cent less than £2,000.

'Given their size, a reduction in the number of those involved in a governance role is likely to have affected their capacity to manage the organisation,' it says.

You can read the full text of the OSCR Report at www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=ae614f30-5ba6-4d21-b80e-039678c609f8%20

Provost Civic Awards 2010

A Provost's Civic Award is given to individuals or organisations who have made significant contributions to the life of local communities, or who have achieved national recognition in their field, over the last two years. It is an opportunity to recognise and congratulate local people for the outstanding contribution they make to the lives of their fellow citizens.

Local people are invited to nominate Stirling's outstanding citizens under nine categories of award: Business (large or small), Arts and Culture, Sport, Academic, Community, **Volunteer Sector**, International Relations, Special Achievement and a new category: Citizenship (The William Jaffray Award). Both individuals and groups can be nominated for a Civic Award.

Anyone can nominate someone for an award, and the **closing date for nominations is Tuesday June 15th**. Provost Wood will present the awards at a gala dinner in Stirling Castle on Friday October 29th.

Nomination Forms are available from The Provost's Office, Stirling Council, Room 55 Old Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET, on 01786 443380 or email houstonj2@stirling.gov.uk

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