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A wide range of interesting and relevant events coming up in the next few weeks, so get out your diary!

The Report of last month's important Third Sector Conference is now available on our [website](#): check it out.

And we're still looking for the *definitive* answer to our Valentine's Day Competition question ...

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

Emails to: [lee.stevenson@cvs-stirling.org.uk](mailto:lee.stevenson@cvs-stirling.org.uk) or [donald.saunders@cvs-stirling.org.uk](mailto: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.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Measuring Outcomes - How far can SOAs take us?

CoSLA Conference Centre, Haymarket, Edinburgh

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 10 am – 4 pm

SSRG members: £80, Other: £125



The **Social Services Research Group (SSRG)** is holding this seminar to explore the following issues: how far can SOAs take us in measuring outcomes? where do they reside in relation to the 'big picture'? ... and what else is needed?

This seminar is intended for a wide audience, including managers, researchers, planning and evaluation staff and practitioners in

- local government
- health bodies
- **the voluntary sector**
- universities and colleges

\* Overheard at Stirling's Third Sector Conference last month:  
*"That SOA is a right SOB!"*

Discussion and networking will be encouraged.

The full programme/booking form (pdf and xls) are available on the SSRG website [www.ssrq.org.uk](http://www.ssrq.org.uk).

## Combating poverty in a recession

With Scotland entering recession, there is a real danger that any progress made in the fight against poverty is lost. Unemployment is increasing, fuel and food prices have risen dramatically and the decline in child poverty has stalled. Against this background the Scottish Government and COSLA have recently launched a new framework - *Achieving our Potential* - for tackling poverty and inequality.

This sets out a new approach to dealing with poverty, with an emphasis on tackling low incomes and a greater focus on income inequality. In line with the concordat between Scottish Government and Scottish Local Authorities there is also more emphasis on the role of **local actions** to tackle poverty.

**Poverty Alliance** has organised a series of discussion seminars across Scotland between January and March 2009: **Edinburgh (5<sup>th</sup> Feb)**; **Wishaw (12<sup>th</sup> Feb)**; **Hamilton (19<sup>th</sup> Feb)**; **Inverness (3<sup>rd</sup> Mar)**; **Elgin (4<sup>th</sup> Mar)**; and, **Aberdeen (5<sup>th</sup> Mar)**.

The seminars will be an opportunity to discuss the prospects for tackling poverty during the recession, and to look at the role of the new Scottish Government and COSLA anti-poverty framework. This series of free seminars organised by the Poverty Alliance will look at what the prospects are for tackling poverty in the current economic climate. The discussion will focus on:

- ⇒ **The latest trends:** what is happening with poverty and social exclusion across Scotland? - and what may change?
- ⇒ **The new Framework:** what does it mean for the fight against poverty in Scotland, and can it be delivered in the midst of a recession?
- ⇒ **Local and national action:** how can we take action locally and nationally to ensure that progress in the fight against poverty is maintained?

\* A charity worker was making a booking for an event and asked the booking agent hopefully, "Do you have any special terms for charitable groups?"

The agent thought for a moment, then came up with "interfering do-gooders" and "freeloading chancers".

Ouch!

### Who Should Attend?

Community and **voluntary organisations**, community workers, policy officers in local authorities, trade union activists, academics – anyone who wants to contribute to the fight against poverty in Scotland.

The seminars are free but places being limited, you are requested to contact Poe McHugh (t: 141 353 0440; [poe.mchugh@povertyalliance.org](mailto:poe.mchugh@povertyalliance.org)) as soon as you can. For more information about the Poverty Alliance visit: [www.povertyalliance.org](http://www.povertyalliance.org)

## River Tay Canoe Challenge

Loch Tay to Aberfeldy

Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 10 am - mid afternoon



**Sense Scotland** are organising a Canoe Challenge on the River Tay to raise funds to support deafblind children in Scotland. People with sensory loss will themselves be among the Challenge Canoeists.

The charity is looking for support for the event: boats and equipment will be provided, but they ask that supporters raise a minimum of £100 sponsorship per person.

Anyone interested should contact Jim Gales on 01334 650963, email [j.gales@btopenworld.com](mailto:j.gales@btopenworld.com) or Andy on 0141 4290294 , email [ahughes@sensescotland.org.uk](mailto:ahughes@sensescotland.org.uk)

## Politics Explained

Holyrood MacDonald Hotel, Edinburgh



*Politics Explained* is a series of political training events hosted by political communications company *Holyrood Communications*. The following political training events are coming up in the first half of 2009:

- The Scottish Parliament Explained - **Monday 30th March 2009**
- Scottish Local Government Explained - **Wednesday 1st April 2009**
- The UK Media Explained - **Friday 17th April 2009**
- The European Union Explained - **Friday 19th June 2009**

These informative and interactive training courses aim to provide the necessary knowledge and insight into the machinery of Scotland's polity. *Politics Explained* is for anyone who works in the public, private, media, or **third sectors** and wishes a better understanding of the institutions and mechanisms that influence the governance of Scotland

To view the full agendas and to book online visit [www.scottishpolitics.co.uk](http://www.scottishpolitics.co.uk)

If you have any questions or comments regarding this series of events, please email [politicsexplained@holyrood.com](mailto:politicsexplained@holyrood.com) or call 0131 272 2133.

## Recipe for Success

Albert Halls, Stirling

Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 7 – 8.30 pm

FREE (includes complimentary sandwich buffet)

The Food Standards Agency (Scotland) will be the hosts for this celebrity culinary occasion, when well-known TV chef Phil Vickery will present a cookery demonstration. The show is part of the 'Recipe for Success' series of events held throughout Scotland.

During Phil's preparation of his delicious dishes, the audience will learn about cooking, healthy eating and food safety. There will be a chance to ask questions – and there will be prizes on offer.

If you'd like to attend, call 07598 977310 or email [RFS@speak.co.uk](mailto:RFS@speak.co.uk) with your address, phone number and number of tickets required.

## Inclusion Scotland Roadshows

Places are filling up fast for Inclusion Scotland's upcoming FREE roadshows, but spaces are still available at the following:

### ■ Glasgow (in partnership with Skills Development Scotland)

Scottish Youth Theatre, 105 Brunswick Street, Glasgow

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 10am – 3pm

Issues to be discussed: **Inclusive education, volunteering, learning and careers**

### ■ Glasgow - Young disabled persons roadshow (in partnership with Cardonald College)

Cardonald College, Mosspark Drive, Glasgow

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 10am – 3pm

Issues to be discussed: **Volunteering, Relationships and Sexuality, Employment and Access to Leisure and Social Activities**

These events are FREE and a lunch will be provided. (Reasonable travel expenses will also be reimbursed.)

For further information, phone 0141 8877058 or email [angelam@inclusionScotland.org](mailto:angelam@inclusionScotland.org)

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## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

### Creating a Sustainable Third Sector: opportunities and challenges

Roxburgh Hotel, 38 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh

17th March, 8.30 am – 4.15 pm

Holyrood Events are hosting this one-day conference, which offers a unique forum for stakeholders to debate the future direction of a sustainable third sector.

Bringing together a range of leading thinkers and policy-makers in the Third Sector in Scotland and the UK, this event will be a chance to hear the Government's plans for

supporting charities and the voluntary sector in these difficult times, and to consider how charities can help contribute to the Government's vision for a fairer Scotland.

*The conference is for anyone with an interest in the Third Sector in Scotland: charity workers, volunteers, social enterprises, funders, CVS's, local authority reps, etc.*

Key questions to be addressed are

- ⇒ What is the Scottish Government's vision for the charitable and voluntary sector?
- ⇒ How can organisations continue to deliver services in the current economic climate?
- ⇒ Can funding bodies help charities despite having more limited resources to go around?
- ⇒ What are the alternative funding models for service delivery?
- ⇒ What is Social Enterprise, and can it help create a sustainable funding stream for the Third Sector? What are the benefits and limitations?
- ⇒ How can charities work in partnership with each other, with business and with local authorities?
- ⇒ Are SOAs affecting service delivery?
- ⇒ How can public trust be maintained?
- ⇒ What do we need to do to ensure that Boards are diverse, efficient and proactive?

Visit <http://conferences.holyrood.com/content/view/925/142/> for full details, including agenda, speakers, and a downloadable brochure about the event. If you have any questions, please email [thirdsector@holyrood.com](mailto:thirdsector@holyrood.com) or call 0131 272 2133.

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## FUNDING

### 'Investing in Ideas' Extended

Since the Big Lottery Fund's **Investing in Ideas** was launched back in January 2006, the scheme has made over 500 awards totalling £4.5 million to groups looking for up to £10,000 to develop or test their ideas.



The original deadline for applications was set as 30 January 2009, but the good news is that this programme has just been extended to **March 2010**.

Investing in Ideas was designed to help groups work on new project ideas before applying to Investing in Communities. This means that to get a development grant a project has to fit with one of the four investment areas – *Life Transitions; Supporting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Life; Dynamic, Inclusive Communities* or *Growing Community Assets*.

## Applicant Support

**Third Sector First** has been running a telephone and email support service - 0845 478 6339 (lo-call rate), [support@3sf.co.uk](mailto:support@3sf.co.uk) - with advice for applicants to Investing in Ideas since the programme began.

**This service will close on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.**

Any applicant wishing to make use of the service when working on an application should contact Third Sector First well in advance of this date.

Although Investing in Communities has now closed for full applications, the Scotland Committee still wants to see the kinds of project IiC could have funded being developed.

For those applying to Investing in Ideas this means that familiarity with the guidance for the four investment areas is still important before making an application. It also means that the current application and guidance materials are still valid.

Further guidance for each investment area can be accessed at [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

If you want to discuss a project idea before applying you can call our Information Team on **0870 240 2391** or email [enquiries.Scotland@biglotteryfund.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.Scotland@biglotteryfund.org.uk).

## The Henry Smith Charity: New guidelines

The Henry Smith Charity is a UK-wide grant maker distributing around £25 million each year. This ancient charity (founded 1628!) has as its object the relief of need and suffering, and grants are classified into programme areas such as medical and palliative care, research, disability, elderly, young people etc.

From 1<sup>st</sup> March 2009, the Henry Smith Charity is piloting a new application process for eligible projects in Scotland. **Applicants must use the new guidelines and application form if they wish to apply for a grant towards a Revenue or Capital project taking place in Scotland, regardless of whether or not the organisation is based there.**

If the grant being applied for is UK-wide or is regional but involves some work in Scotland, please refer to the Henry Smith Charity's Main Grants Programme guidelines.

Visit the website [www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk](http://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk) for further details and the application form.

## £3 Million Volunteering Fund

The **Intergenerational Volunteering Fund**, a new programme aiming to strengthen the links between young and old across the UK, is set to be launched.



The plan is to recruit up to 20,000 new volunteers in a bid to increase interaction across the generations in tackling key community issues.

The Fund will be available in 2009-10 and 2010-11, with 1.5m available in each year. Further details of how the fund will be tendered and run will be announced over the

coming months by the Cabinet Office, website

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news\\_releases/2008/081227\\_fund.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2008/081227_fund.aspx)

## Community Cash Awards

Young people aged 14-25 can apply for awards between £250 and £5,000 to help tackle the dangers of drugs and crime and play a positive role in their community. The Royal Bank of Scotland Community Cash Awards will see £1 million of grants being distributed by The Prince's Trust youth charity. Community Cash Awards are grants to help set up a project that will benefit your community. Funding of up to £1,000 is available for 14-16 year olds, and up to £5,000 for those aged 16-25

Projects must



- be run and managed by people between the ages of 14 and 25
- clearly benefit the local community
- benefit the people running the project; and
- be a new or developing project.



The awards *do not cover* formal groups or organisations, expeditions or overseas travel, fundraising activities for charity or trips and outings (unless they have educational value).

To apply, fill in the online form at [www.princes-trust.org.uk/need\\_help/enquiry\\_form.aspx](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/need_help/enquiry_form.aspx) or call 0800 842 842. Applications can be made at any time.

## Climate Challenge Fund Awards, Round 3

Last month a total of £4,376,541 was announced to 24 projects in the third round of grants from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund, to help Scotland play a leading role in the fight against climate change.

A Stirling project offered funding was **Recyke-a-Bike Sustainable Transport**. This aims to increase the numbers of reused bicycles for sale, encourage people to travel to work using reused bicycles, and offer bicycles for community use throughout Forth Valley, with Fallin Community Enterprises offering employment and training. They received £182,350.

Details of all the awards can be found at

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/SustainableDevelopment/funding/ClimateChallengeFund/CFthirdround](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/SustainableDevelopment/funding/ClimateChallengeFund/CFthirdround)

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## GROUP NEWS

### Report on Third Sector Conference

The full report of the Third Sector Conference on January 23<sup>rd</sup> can now be viewed on our website, [www.cvs-stirling.org.uk](http://www.cvs-stirling.org.uk)

One of the major recommendations that emerged from the Conference was the desirability of establishing a Third Sector Forum as part of the process of involving third sector groups in Community Planning. A framework has now been drafted and groups will be contacted shortly with information about the proposed structures, as well as how to get involved.

### Cash for Culterhove

Congratulations to Culterhove Opportunities Partnership, who have received over a quarter of a million pounds from the Big Lottery Fund. The money will go towards projects benefiting the Culterhove community over the next five years, including a tenant's support worker.

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## OTHER NEWS

### Fundraising with Confidence

Charities displaying the **FRSB tick logo** are more likely to gain people's trust, and this can make fundraising that much more successful. Membership of the FRSB scheme helps you fundraise with confidence and reassures people that their donations are being collected fairly.



By adhering to the fundraising codes, groups will be applying best practice. And raising standards for volunteers and trustees leads ultimately to better funding.

You can now join online by going to [www.frsb.org.uk](http://www.frsb.org.uk). Fill in the form, and the FRBS will get in touch to check your details. Once your application has been processed, they'll send you all the information you need to get the benefits of FRSB scheme membership. Alternatively, you can request an application pack by emailing [infoscotland@frsb.org.uk](mailto:infoscotland@frsb.org.uk) or calling 0845 688 9894.

### Disability Sports Charity Seeks Support

This year's Special Olympics GB, for people with intellectual or learning disabilities, will be held in Leicester, between 24<sup>th</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August. The charity **Forth Valley Disability Sport** will be fielding



The aims of FVDS are to develop, support and promote opportunities for sport and physical activity for people with a disability in the Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling areas. They provide services such as

- An annual events programme for people of all ages and abilities
- After school sports clubs
- Wide range of sport specific clubs for people of all ages and abilities
- Development opportunities for coaches and volunteers.
- Support for teams and individuals to take part in national and international events
- Information services for the public  
...and many more.

a team of around 60 athletes and 20 coaches, drawn from the Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannan areas.

But to do so they need to raise money for kit, accommodation and travelling expenses - £50K in all.

Organisations or individuals who would like to contribute should make cheques out to Forth Valley Disability Sports. If you would like to discuss contributing or sponsorship, please contact Graham Harvey on 0771 7545195, email [harvey@sportcentral.org.uk](mailto:harvey@sportcentral.org.uk)

### Win £2500 cash or free insurance for a year

Edinburgh-based insurance brokers, Keegan & Pennykid are offering charities and voluntary organisations the chance to win £2,500 cash or one year of free insurance cover (up to the value of £2,500) through their Encompass Insurance Policy.

Keegan & Pennykid provide independent general insurance and financial services advice to individuals, businesses, charities and voluntary organisations.

To enter their prize draw, visit [www.keegan-pennykid.com](http://www.keegan-pennykid.com) and complete the short online entry form **before the deadline of Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> May**. Winners will be announced on the 11th June at the Third Force News Awards.

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## AND FINALLY...

### Valentine's Day Competition

We have had several 'interesting' answers to the question ***“How many volunteers does it take to change a light bulb?”***, some verging on the cynical (*“What light bulb? Volunteers are kept in the dark anyway.”*). However, a clear winner hasn't emerged yet, so we've decided to hold the competition open for another couple of weeks.