



2nd July 2010

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We expected a tough budget, and we got one. Cuts in public spending will send shockwaves out way beyond the public sector, and voluntary organisations, already struggling to cope with reductions in local authority funding, will not be immune. We will have to wait for the full implications to become clear, but to start with the Charity Tax Group has estimated that the VAT rise alone could cost the sector in Scotland as much as £14 million a year ...

On the plus side, the weather has been fine. Have a good summer.

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

Blood & Organ Donation Awareness Workshop for Ethnic Minorities in Scotland

Albert Halls, Stirling
8th August, 1pm

10,000 people in UK are in need of an organ transplant to enhance or even save their lives. 3,500 organ transplants were carried out in UK last year, but there is a critical shortage of organs available for transplant. It is on record that three people die every day before they get the transplant they need.

Unfortunately, organ donation rates are relatively low among Black and Asian people. This reduces the chances of finding a successful match, and means Black and Asian people have to wait on average about twice as long as a white person for a transplant.

SEMRC is therefore hoping to raise awareness among Forth Valley ethnic minorities of the need for organ donation through a series of workshops, the first of these to be held in Stirling.

Among the aims of the workshop are to:



- identify obstacles to organ donation and transplant
- promote organ donation to the public, particularly ethnic minority communities.
- educate ethnic minorities regarding the need to maintain and improve transplant rates
- identify and implement effective methods of personally and publicly recognising individual organ donors.
- look at minimum notification criteria for potential organ donors
- assist organ donation task force on key issues such as coordination of donor registration amongst the ethnic minorities.
- inform ethnic minorities about the UK wide network of dedicated organ retrieval teams
- complement the organ donation campaign of NHS and Organ Donation Task Force

Following the Stirling workshop, a subsequent one will be arranged in Falkirk, and SEMRC intends to hold these workshops twice annually, until the target of increased organ donors' registration amongst all ethnic minorities is met.

If you can help SEMRC's campaign in any way, or would like to know more about the organisation and its work, email info@semrc.org.uk or visit their website, www.semrc.org.uk

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EVENTS & TRAINING

Big Lottery Fund – Investing In Communities Programme Forth Valley Launch Event

Falkirk Town Hall (Lesser Hall)

Wednesday, 25th August.

3 Sessions: 10 – 11.30am; 12 noon – 1.30pm; 2.15 – 3.45pm



**INVESTING IN
COMMUNITIES**

The Big Lottery Fund in Scotland will be launching its new look “Investing in Communities” programme on 30 June 2010. “Investing in Communities” will run from 2010 to 2015 and will support projects across Scotland that help people, families and communities most in need. To ensure that voluntary organisations and community groups from across the Forth Valley area can take full advantage of these opportunities, an information event has been organised to take place on **Wednesday 25th August 2010, in the Lesser Hall, Falkirk Town Hall.**

The event will provide groups from the Forth Valley area with an opportunity to find out more about Investing in Communities, the level of grants available and the application process. You will also have an opportunity to ask questions and speak to Big Lottery staff about your project ideas. The session will also cover the Lottery small grant schemes: Awards for All and 2014 Communities. As we expect demand to be high, the session will be held at the following times throughout the day: **10am – 11.30am; 12 noon – 1.30pm; 2.15pm – 3.45pm**

If you would like to book a place, please complete and return the [tear-off slip](#) at the end of this newsletter, clearly indicating your preferred session time. You should send/email your booking **no later than Wednesday 18th August** to the External Funding Unit, Corporate and Neighbourhood Services, Falkirk Council, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk, FK1 5RS email: funding@falkirk.gov.uk or tel: 01324 506065/506260.

Please note, due to the expected high level of demand for places bookings are restricted to two representatives per organisation. If your first choice is fully booked, you may be offered an alternative session time.

Further information on the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland is available from the website at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/scotland or you can call the enquiries line on 0300 123 7110.

Bringing the Strands Together - Workshop for Voluntary Sector Providers of Adult Learning

Raploch Community Campus, Stirling
Friday, 27th August, 9.30am – 2pm

If you are part of a voluntary organisation (either a volunteer or paid employee) and you are involved in developing and delivering learning opportunities to adults, this event is for you.

The workshop will be an opportunity to discuss:

- what voluntary sector adult learning is, and who is involved
- how it contributes to Community Learning and Development
- how we know it's really making a difference

... and to meet others involved in voluntary sector adult learning activity, and explore what opportunities there might be for working together.

To book places, please contact Jennifer McKeand on 01786 432360, email mckeandj@stirling.gov.uk by August 23rd (maximum two places per organisation). Please confirm any special dietary requirements when booking. If you require reimbursement of travel expenses, please also advise when you book.

SCVO's Training Calendar

SCVO's new training programme features a wide range of courses as well as opportunities for flexible learning such as learning short courses, distance learning and learning blocks.

And if you earn £22,000 per annum or less, you could be eligible for an Individual Learning Account (ILA) which could save you £200 on the cost of any of SCVO's courses.

Here are just some of the training events coming up after the summer – click on the course title for details:

[Practical Employment Law](#) 16th September (2 hours), Edinburgh

[Managing and Supervising People](#) 27/28th September, Edinburgh

[Thriving in a Downturn - How to Diversify Your Income](#) 5th October, Edinburgh

[Writing a Good Funding Application](#) 6th October (2 hour), Inverness

[Media Work for Beginners](#) 12th October, Edinburgh

Supporting Voluntary Action Calendar:

The SVA Calendar provides details of training and events delivered through the [Supporting Voluntary Action](#) programme. Access it at <http://scvo.cmph.org/l/go41aHz0C2Ln0sTm2imR-g>

To find out more and make bookings visit www.scvo.org.uk/training

Free Local Training to Keep Us Up to Speed!

Coinciding with Adult Learners' Week, Stirling Council's **ASPIRE Project** is offering FREE training to people who are struggling to keep up with changes in the workplace or who may be finding it difficult to progress at work.

Keeping up with changes in the market and with technological developments is vital to maintain competitiveness in the employment market – and this applies to the voluntary sector as much as to the private and public sectors.

The ASPIRE project team receives frequent training requests, in particular for IT and Microsoft training. Training can be tailored to meet your specific requirements, and can be delivered in the workplace or in training centres.

For further information contact Marianne Eik on 01786 432366 or email eikm@stirling.gov.uk

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RESOURCES

Microsoft Office 2010 available on CTX!

Charity Technology Exchange (CTX) which offers bargain IT deals for charities, has announced it now has Microsoft Office 2010 available, as follows:



[Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010](#) (Admin Fee: £20.00+VAT)

[Microsoft Office Standard 2010](#) (Admin Fee: £16.00 +VAT)

Click on the links to find out more, or go to

www.ctxchange.org/node/2373?dm_i=4Y0,6KNL,2C34WM,G7UT,1

If you're not registered with CTX you'll need to do so. It's a straightforward process you can do at their website, www.ctxchange.org/ Once you've signed up, you can browse their online shop, via which you will be able to place your donation request. Please note that donation requests placed must be within [Microsoft's entitlement guidelines](#).

Help with Mergers and Collaboration

SCVO have created a new section on their website providing information and guidance for organisations thinking about **collaborating or merging** with other organisations. Find it at www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/governance/MergerandCollaboration.aspx?q=gov - Read through the information pages to see if this style of working together would benefit *your* organisation.

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FUNDING & AWARDS

LankellyChase Foundation "Small Grants for Summer Activities 2010"

Around 120 grants of £500 each are available to charities to support summer activities for children and young people aged from 5 to 17 who are young carers or who are living in refuges for families escaping domestic violence. Guidelines and application forms are available at the website, www.lankellychase.org.uk

Voluntary Sector Development Fund

The Scottish Government has released the guidance notes and application forms for the **Voluntary Sector Development Fund 2010-2011**.

The purpose of the Voluntary Sector Development Fund is to contribute to the costs associated with meeting required registration qualification criteria set by the Scottish Social Services Council and to assist employers in achieving a qualified workforce.

For further information, visit the website:

www.ccpscotland.org/workforceunit/information/voluntary-sector-development-fund-information-and-forms

Equally Enterprising

A new free support programme, Equally Enterprising supports equalities-focused organisations in the third sector to become more enterprising. It is funded by the Scottish Government, and delivered by ODS Consulting. For more information go to <http://enf.org.uk/blog/?p=1234>

Equally Enterprising: <http://equallyenterprising.ning.com/>

Comic Relief Grants

Comic Relief has announced that its grants UK programmes are once again open for applications. Grants of between £25,000 and £40,000 are available to not for profit organisations for work that focuses on mental health, domestic and sexual abuse; refugee and asylum seeking women; older people, using sport in delivering positive change within the lives of individuals and communities, as well as projects focusing on young people (11 - 25) that are sexually exploited; suffer from alcohol abuse; and suffer from mental health problems.

In addition, Comic Relief operates a programme that supports disadvantaged communities. This programme is devolved to the Community Foundation Network.

Deadline for applications is 3rd September 2010. For more information, guidance and online application go to www.comicrelief.com/

Active Citizens Grants

The British Council is seeking UK partners on the British Council Active Citizens programme - we are currently inviting organisations to apply for a grant of up to £7,500 to be a UK **local delivery partner**.

Active Citizens connects organisations and people involved in local initiatives that benefit their communities, and gives them the opportunity to gain an international perspective on the valuable work they are already doing.

The British Council website contains all the information you need to apply including the application form: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/scotland-society-active-citizens-delivery-partners.htm> Please note, **the closing date for applications is Friday 9th July.**

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SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Students Into Social Enterprise

SISE is a student placement directory that matches up students to placements within social enterprises across Scotland, offering them the experience of working within a social enterprise, thereby helping raise awareness of social enterprise and growing the experience of students.



For more information, visit the website at www.siseup.co.uk/index.php

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OTHER NEWS

What is 'Kinship Care'?

Based on a strategy for kinship and foster care published by the Scottish Government, Citizen's Advice Scotland has received funding to provide a service to kinship carers across Scotland.



Although the term "kinship care" has no statutory definition, it is generally used to describe people who are long-term carers of the child or children of a relative or close friend. There can be many reasons why birth parents are unable to care for their children, ranging from drug and alcohol abuse to ill health, to prison sentences, or death of one or both parents, but it is fair to say that most kinship carers find themselves caring for children unexpectedly and with considerable impact on their lives, and on their finances

Provision of financial support for kinship carers, in the form of a Kinship Care Allowance, is one of the policy agreements in a concordat between COSLA and the Scottish Government, and while this will not pass into legislation until April 2011, many local authorities have begun to assess and support kinship carers, dependant on the legal status of the child or children placed with them.

However, almost every kinship carer's circumstances are different, and the question of legal status - and consequently entitlement to Kinship Care Allowance - varies greatly depending on the level of state involvement in the situation of the child or children and the type of placement. This can range from:

- official placement as a "looked after child" under the provisions of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- placement under a court order
- informal agreement between parents and kinship carer, with or without statutory involvement.

The Scottish Government's guidelines require local authorities to advise kinship carers to visit their local Citizens Advice Bureau and request a "better-off" calculation, which will give invaluable information on income maximisation.

The service which CABs provide is based around the provision of a national helpline to offer advice to kinship carers, and five Regional Kinship Care Support Officers, based throughout Scotland. These regional officers provide training and support to CAB staff and volunteers about the financial support from the local authority to which kinship carers may be entitled, and the potential impact this might have on the benefits they already receive, or may be entitled to receive. They also provide practical information to Citizens Advice Bureaux clients about kinship care support groups and any respite facilities which may be available, and will carry out some second-tier case work on behalf of individual clients in the bureaux in their regions. They are also developing positive working relationships with local authority staff and other stakeholder groups.

The Regional Kinship Care Support Officer for our area is Gill Westwood, based in Penicuik CAB, in Midlothian, and covering Edinburgh, Midlothian, East Lothian, West Lothian, Scottish Borders, Falkirk, **Stirling** and Clackmannanshire.

For further information please contact Gill on 01968 664701 or email gillwestwood@penicuikcab.casonline.org.uk

Human Rights Database

The Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC) are compiling a new database of organisations which help, campaign for, or support vulnerable people in all parts of the country. If your organisation comes under any of these categories, SHRC would like to hear from you - telling them about your organisation will help with compiling their database.



Please email c.whitfield@hull.ac.uk for more information or visit the SHRC website www.scottishhumanrights.com

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**Big Lottery Fund – Investing In Communities Programme
Forth Valley Launch Event**

Booking form

Name:.....

Group/organisation:

Address:.....

.....

Tel no: **Email:**.....

Special requirements (e.g. access, hearing loop,)

.....

I would like to book a place at the information session: *(please tick as appropriate)*

10am – 11.30am

12 noon – 1.30pm

2.15pm – 3.45pm

Please send/email your booking to the External Funding Unit, Corporate and Neighbourhood Services, Falkirk Council, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk, FK1 5RS

or email: funding@falkirk.gov.uk

or tel: 01324 506065/506260.