



In this issue:

- ⇒ **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**
- ⇒ **TRAINING & RESOURCES**
- ⇒ **FUNDING**
- ⇒ **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**
- ⇒ **GROUP NEWS**
- ⇒ **OTHER NEWS**

EQUALITY is something that should inform and be integrated with all our activities. It's also an issue of particular relevance today with the introduction last April of the Equality Bill, expected to come into force in autumn 2010. If you haven't yet come to grips with the concept of 'mainstreaming equalities' or don't know what an 'Equalities Impact Assessment' is, now's the time to remedy this.

To help you, we've a new resource on the CVS website devoted to equalities: information, definitions, FAQs and links that will tell you what you need to know to ensure your organisation is meeting its equalities obligations.

Check it out at www.cvs-stirling.org.uk/Equalities_Information.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.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Equality and Human Rights Commission: *Delivering Fairness for All*

The Academy Conference Centre, Holiday Inn, Regent's Park, London
Tuesday 14th July, 10 am - 5 pm



With the launch in 2007 of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Government signalled a new era of championing equal opportunities for all, the protection of human rights and tackling discrimination at all levels and on all grounds.

This major one-day conference, hosted by the Centre for Parliamentary Studies, will provide local practitioners with an insight into how the Equality Body's vision, mission and priorities will be delivered.

The conference will consider how the EHRC will safeguard the work of the legacy Commissions, incorporate the seven 'strands' of equality into a multidimensional framework and maintain a leading role in the reform process. Furthermore, in these difficult economic times and with new legislation in the shape of the Equality Bill, the conference will consider how equality can be 'future-proofed'.

- *Maintaining Compliance and 'Future-Proofing' Equality and Human Rights*

- *Recognising Multiple-Identities, Developing a Multi-Dimensional Framework*
- *The Challenge for Local Authorities, Public Bodies and Employers*
- *Preparing for New Legislation: Update on the Equality Bill*

As well as networking with colleagues from across the equality and human rights landscape, delegates will have the opportunity to debate, share best practice and explore how fresh challenges can be met locally to tackle discrimination on all grounds, promote equality and deliver fairness for all.

Full details, conference programme and registration form can be accessed at the Public Policy Exchange website <http://publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/9G14-PPE.php>

Healthier Lives, Wealthier Communities?

Economic Evidence of Community Health Improvement Impact -

What is it? How might it be used? Why does it matter?

Barceló Edinburgh Carlton Hotel, North Bridge, Edinburgh

Wednesday 30th September 2009

In recognising the important contribution that community and voluntary sector health initiatives can make to improving health and tackling health inequalities, NHS Health Scotland invites you to register interest in this important national conference.

The conference will provide an opportunity for funders and those involved with community health improvement and community and voluntary sector health initiatives to come together to learn more about, and take forward the agenda on economic evidence of community health improvement impact. The Programme includes

- **Overview** of national policy direction
- **Launch** of preliminary case studies on potential for and use of economic evidence
- **Presentations** by leading Scottish and UK experts
- **Workshops** on Economic evidence in practice Social Enterprise, Social Return on Investment

The key note speaker is Shona Robison, MSP (Minister for Public Health and Sport). Other speakers include leading Scottish and UK experts, policymakers and sectoral representatives.

The Conference's overall aims are to

- **Increase knowledge** and understanding of economic evidence of community and voluntary health improvement activities
- **Enable dialogue** and discussion on potential for and use of economic evidence
- **Identify actions** required to support use of economic evidence

The conference will be of interest to: national and local funders, commissioners from statutory and private sector organisations (e.g. NHS Boards, Local Authorities, Community

Health Partnerships, Community Planning Partnerships, Scottish Funders Forums); community and voluntary health initiative managers and board members.

To register your interest, email hope.turner@health.scot.nhs.uk with your name and email address **by Friday 24th July.**

You will be advised by email when registration opens. It is expected that there will be a high demand for this conference and places will be limited, so please *book early to avoid disappointment!*

[Back to top](#)

TRAINING & RESOURCES

'Working With Communities' Course

Forth Valley College, Stirling Campus
P/T, Thursdays, August 2009



Interested in a career in working with communities? Forth Valley College have a new one-year, part-time **Introduction to Working with Communities course** (SCQF level 4/5) which will be running in their Stirling campus as from August 2009.

This course would be suitable both for people currently in community work or youth work who wish to attend on a day release basis, or for those wishing to work with communities.

It will consist of SQA units in Communication, Information Technology and Introduction to Youth Work at Intermediate 1/2, a work placement in a community-based setting an Introduction to Working with Communities and an Understanding Equality & Diversity unit. Those who successfully complete this course may be able to access a National Qualification course at SCQF level 5/6 in a related discipline or possibly the HNC Working with Communities course.

Entry to the course requires a successful interview, including a short written element, and a positive reference.

For further information, or an informal chat about the course, phone Billy McChord, Curriculum & Quality Leader, on 01324 403000 or e-mail: billy.mcchord@forthvalley.ac.uk

Free Mentoring Support

Do you have some enterprising ideas to develop your organisation and its financial sustainability? Perhaps you're looking to tender for new contracts or diversify your income base? If so, help is at hand with the new Realise Mentoring programme. You can access **free, confidential mentoring support** from experienced mentors with expertise in the

areas that interest you. Whether it's winning new contracts, managing cultural change or developing your organisation's sustainability, there is a mentor for your needs.

Realise Mentoring is a new programme funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by the Scottish Chambers of Commerce, SCVO, Edinburgh Business Development and Forth Sector Development.

For more information, or to apply for a mentor, log on to www.realisementoring.org.uk
Alternatively, phone 0131 221 3197 or e-mail info@realisementoring.org.uk You can also download the programme flyer (PDF) at www.senscot.net/docs/mentoringleaflet.pdf

ILA's Will Help More Scots

Changes to the Individual Learning Accounts Scotland Scheme, which will be available to learners in the 2009-10 academic year, mean that up to 250,000 more people can now be helped to develop their learning when changing jobs or facing redundancy.

The changes are:

1. the income threshold will be increased from £18,000 to £22,000
2. the minimum study requirement for the ILA £500 grant will be reduced from 50 per cent of a full-time course to 40 SCQF Credits
3. eligible students studying part-time taught postgraduate courses (SCQF level 11) will be supported through the ILA500 scheme

For more information, visit www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/04/20124721

[Back to top](#)

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

UnLtd Advantage

UnLtd Ventures 

UnLtd, the charity which supports social entrepreneurs has announced the launch of **UnLtd Advantage**.

UnLtd Advantage aims to bring high potential social enterprises to investment readiness to enable them to access the finance they require; help social investors identify high potential opportunities more efficiently; and build a more efficient capital market for the social enterprise sector.

UnLtd Advantage are seeking applications from established social enterprises that are seeking at least £250,000 (possibly in several stages), are scalable, are sustainable (i.e. cash generative) and have good management in place.

They are also seeking to form relationships with investors looking for opportunities to invest in social enterprises.

Go to <http://unltd.org.uk/template.php?ID=177&PageName=unltdadvantage> for full details.

[Back to top](#)

FUNDING

Voluntary Sector Development Fund Applications 2009

The Scottish Government has now published the application form, guidance and equality monitoring form for the 2009-2010 Voluntary Sector Development Fund (VSDF).

The forms and guidance are available to download from the Workforce Unit website, www.ccpscotland.org/workforceunit/info/news.php. They're Word documents, so you can enter text directly into the forms if you want.

The guidance document sets out who can apply for funding and what can be funded. As a reminder, funding this year will support:

- ✓ Support workers in care home services for adults,
- ✓ Practitioners in care home services for adults,
- ✓ Supervisors in care homes for adults,
- ✓ Managers of housing support services.

Applications must be returned to the Scottish Government by **Friday, 4th September**.

If you have any queries on VSDF, please phone Mrs Gwen Smith, Children, Young People and Social Care - Workforce and Capacity, on 0131 244 3737 or email: Gwen.Smith@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Community Chest

Community Chest is a small grant programme providing grants of up to £1,000 and free training to help small community groups in Scotland sustain and develop their activities. It is managed by the Voluntary Action Fund (VAF), with funding from the Scottish Government, and has £400,000 available over the two years 2009-10 and 2010-11.



Groups can apply for funding for a wide range of activities or operational costs. However, they are particularly keen to fund activities that will help build and develop strong organisations, for example:

- * **Training** for committee members and volunteers;
- * **Visits** to other organisations or conferences;

* Professional **support** or **consultancy**.

Free training on topics such as charity law, making successful funding applications, and monitoring and evaluation will be offered to all groups applying for a grant. The training events will also provide information on where groups can go for further support and funding. Groups receiving a grant will be expected, as a condition of the grant, to attend at least one of the free training events.

Groups will be considered for a grant if they have:

- ✓ An annual income **below £25,000 per year** (excluding any income for capital items such as buildings or equipment);
- ✓ A **signed constitution** or set of rules (*if you do not have a constitution you should get in touch with us at CVS Stirling, and we will advise you*)
- ✓ A **bank account** in the name of the group;
- ✓ An **independent referee** who can vouch for the group and has knowledge of the plans for using the grant, such as community worker or a CVS or volunteer centre worker.

The Community Chest programme will *not* consider funding individuals or activities that promote a political party or religion. The Voluntary Action Fund (VAF) will also not fund groups that have had a Community Chest grant within the previous 12 month period.

Hobby groups that do not provide a service wider than their members will be a low priority and are unlikely to receive a grant.

Applications for the Community Chest programme are welcome throughout the year with deadlines on the 31st March, 30th June, **30th September** and **31st December**. You should hear within 12 weeks whether your application has been successful or not.

To download an application form and guidance notes please follow the links below:

Application Form:

www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/assets/Comm_Chest_App_Form.doc

Guidance Notes:

www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/assets/Comm_Chest_Guidance_Notes.doc

For further assistance please contact either Patricia or Chris at the Voluntary Action Fund on 01383 620780.

Innovation In The Community Awards

TalkTalk's Innovation In The Community Awards enable charity and community groups throughout the UK to harness the power of the Internet. 30 winners receive cash grants of

£2,000 each to fund both technology related projects as well as technology equipment, to help them make the most of the Internet.

This year winners received their awards at a ceremony at the House of Lords and five overall winners got technology equipment of their choice and a one-to-one workshop with celebrity Dotcom entrepreneur and co-founder of lastminute.com Martha Lane Fox.

Applications are invited from **1st July to 30th September**. Look out for more information on how you can apply for the 2009 awards at www.talktalk.co.uk/innovation - you can also see who won last year's Awards here.

[Back to top](#)

GROUP NEWS

'Stories on Safari'

Thistle Centre, Stirling

4th – 29th July

At 2 pm tomorrow, Artlink Central will open the doors of what was a vacant shoe shop in Stirling's Thistle Centre to let the public see the work achieved in their recent '**Stories on Safari**' project.

The project was inspired by Artlink Central Patron, Julia Donaldson, author of The Gruffalo. Banners and Stories were created by children, some with additional support needs, with help from Bea Ferguson, professional Storyteller and six Artlink Central artists. The schools involved were Denny Primary, Borestone Primary, St. Patrick's RC Primary, Windsor Park & Bantaskin Primary, Fallin Primary and Cowie Primary.

The schools all had their own animals to write about, which proved a spark to their very active imaginations. The stories were recorded and will be available for sale on CD at the shop on Saturday. The work will remain in the shop window for a month, after which it will go to Blairdrummond Safari Park to be hung in the restaurant there.

For more information contact Diane at Artlink Central on 01786 450971 or email info@artlinkcentral.org

Pony Deaths Force Closure of Bannockburn RDA

Bannockburn Riding for the Disabled, based at Sauchieburn, has been hit by Equine Grass Sickness, and has had to close temporarily following the deaths of four ponies there.

Staff at the Centre, which has helped hundreds of people with disabilities since it began in 1994, were devastated. They are now faced with breaking the news to children and families. Procuring and training replacements will be a long and costly process.

In the meantime, they are doing everything possible to prevent any other ponies being affected. But the cause of Equine Grass Sickness is a mystery, and no cure is known.



The Centre in happier times.

The RDA team is now appealing for help to tide them over this critical time. Any support, from the loan of ponies to financial donations, will be welcome.

Contact Sarah Smith on 07736 731743 if you can help in any way, and visit the Sauchieburn Centre website at www.bannockburnrda.org.uk/ for the latest updates on the crisis. *The site now has an online donation facility, via PayPal.*

[Back to top](#)

WANTED: Tape Recorder

Have you got a tape/cassette recorder (any type) lying around unused? **ME Support (Central Scotland)** is looking for one they can use to record their Newsletter for the benefit of partially sighted clients.

If you can help, please give them a ring on 01786 816478, or get in touch with us here at [CVS Stirling](#) and we'll arrange the rest.

Up For Grabs ...

Some items of office equipment are being given away FREE to any voluntary/charity group who will uplift them -

- **Desk:** 1 L-shaped desk, tan colour, size 1600 x 1600. Scratches on work area. Top only, no legs or pedestal drawers.
- **Desk Trays:** 2 Grey, 4 Black, numerous risers
- **Fastfiles** (fold flat type): 1 Box Green (approx. 40), 2 Box Red (approx 40)

If interested, please contact Dianne at Council on Disability (phone 01786 462178) or email dis.stirling@btconnect.com

OTHER NEWS

No Charitable Status for Creative Scotland

Unlike the Scottish Arts Council, its replacement, Creative Scotland, will not be designated a charity. This could mean a cost to the arts world of around £300,000 a year.

Although an approach for charitable status has yet to be made by Creative Scotland (which will see the merger of SAC and Scottish Screen) it was clear that the new body would not to be designated a charity by the official charities regulator, leading to a significant loss of financial benefits. The rules in the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 do not allow charities to have a direct link to government - and Creative Scotland will have board members appointed by ministers.

Addressing the artistic community in Edinburgh, culture minister Mike Russell said he would engage in further talks with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) about the issue. *"It is a shame, the Scottish Arts Council is a charity but the new body will not be, but that is their reading of the legislation,"* he said.

"I am intending to speak to OSCR about the situation, but Scottish Screen have already had to manage it and take the financial hit. This is not new to us, but it will reduce the amount of resources available to Creative Scotland."

However, yesterday he did announce details of a new £5m Innovation Fund, which will allow Creative Scotland to run a series of projects that will "bring to life new partnerships that cross traditional boundaries, supporting and sustaining the artistic and creative community during this economic downturn."

The new funds include a £1.5m digital media fund, a £1m support programme for entrepreneurs, a £750,000 rural innovation fund and a £1m "odd fellows" award to bring together two or more Scottish artists of different disciplines. There will also be £500,000 to support artist residencies and a further £250,000 for Own Art, the interest-free art credit scheme. The digital media fund is matched by a further £1.5m from Scottish Enterprise and will be managed by Scottish Screen.

TFN Talkback Poll

Every week TFN (Third Force News) will pose a question online. – This week:

Is it realistic to pay the £7 an hour living wage during the economic crisis?

Visit www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=iqCw1AhV7fCuhmsw_2fhu55g_3d_3d to say what you think, and leave a comment if you wish.

Child poverty in Scotland: *Taking the Next Steps*

This study, by the [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#), discusses progress made in Scotland to end child poverty, and suggests what the Scottish Government needs to do to reach the 2020 target.

Child poverty has fallen in Scotland, but evidence from the study suggests that the current rate of progress will *not* achieve the 2020 target to eradicate child poverty. Some policy measures required to reduce child poverty (such as benefit increases) are not devolved

powers, but the Scottish Government could do more to remove barriers to employment, sustain people in work and tackle low pay.

Key findings were:

- ⇒ In 2006/07 there were 210,000 children living in low-income poverty (before housing costs) in Scotland – approximately 21 per cent of all children.
- ⇒ Over the last decade, child poverty has reduced further in Scotland than in other UK regions, but progress has stalled since 2004/05.
- ⇒ The Scottish Government's anti-poverty strategy targets the poorest 30 per cent – giving relatively less priority to children in workless households than would be the case if the bottom 10 or 20 per cent were the focus of policy.

Recommendations to the Scottish Government include

- **Encouraging** employers to create more flexible jobs which allow parents to combine work and care responsibilities.
- **Increasing** access to affordable, flexible childcare.
- **Providing** in-work support and advice to help parents remain in employment.
- **Defining** a Scottish living wage, and commit to paying this to public sector employees.

The Summary can be downloaded at www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/poverty-children-scotland-viewpoint.pdf

MoveURstuff!

Do you need a man and a van?

We are a small, professional and reliable local light removals and haulage business, we are fully insured to accommodate all of our customers needs.

We offer assistance with moving/delivering:

- ▽ Home or Office
- ▽ Single Items - No job too small
- ▽ Relocation - UK or Europe
- ▽ Auction Collections
- ▽ House Clearances
- ▽ Regular Deliveries
- ▽ Special Rates for Charities

If you want a reliable, professional service at a reasonable cost then give us a call

Free phone
0800 612 6632 or
07729 490 651
for a QUOTE

www.moveURstuff.co.uk

For further information please take a look at our website



'Man and Van' Deals for Charities,

A new removals/deliveries company, operating throughout the Forth Valley and beyond, is offering **special rates for charities.**

< Check it out!

[Back to top](#)