

CaDVAS Newsletter

November 2009

Issue 12

*Please consider the environment before printing this email
Thank you*

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Contact details

Please let us know if any of your contact details change so that we can keep our database up to date. If you receive this newsletter by post but do have an email address, please let us know so that we can email future mailings to you and so keep costs down. Thank you.

CaDVAS News

Trustee Development Programme

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, we have funding from Awards for All to deliver a programme of information, training and support for trustees and prospective trustees, which will be rolled out over the coming months. We use the term "trustees" in its widest sense, ie anybody who serves on the governing body of a charity or other VCO, whether you call them trustees, directors, board members, governors or committee members.

We are launching the programme on **Thursday 3rd December** - see details in the Events section below - and invitations for you to pass on to your trustees will be sent out very soon. We know from your feedback that many organisations struggle to fill vacant places on their board and that there are training and information needs for trustees across the district, so we hope that this programme will address some of these needs and that as many organisations as possible will become involved.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Training and Events

CaDVAS Training

Details of our training programme starting January 2010, including further IT training events hosted by Thanington Neighbourpod Centre, will be sent out separately as soon as we have confirmed final details.

Life Skills Training

Marie Miles is a freelance trainer with many years' experience of delivering training in life skills including

- Stress Management
- Assertiveness and Relaxation
- Parenting Skills
- Self Esteem and Confidence

Marie is about to run a course in Self Esteem and Confidence which will be delivered over 4 to 5 weeks, one session a week. The course has been developed in partnership with Business Link and will take place in Broadstairs; it will be **free of charge**.

For further information contact Marie on **01843 604584**.

CaDVAS Trustee Development Programme

Our **Trustee Development Programme**, funded by **The Big Lottery Awards for All**, will aim to provide information, training and support opportunities to trustees across the district. We hope to engage people who are already serving on local VCO governing bodies and also to attract more people into working within their local community in this way. As well as delivering some structured training events and providing up-to-date information, we plan to establish a support network for trustees and a mentoring system for people new to the role.

We are launching the programme on **Thursday 3rd December at Kent Enterprise House** at 12.00. The launch will include speakers and a networking lunch. Please put the date in your diary, tell your trustees and look out for the detailed information and invitation which will follow soon.

Conference review -

PREPARATION FOR CHANGE 22.10.09

This conference, organised by **CDCA**, provided an opportunity to consider **future funding prospects for the voluntary sector** within the Canterbury district. It brought together representatives of both the Voluntary and Community Sector and statutory sector organisations and was attended by approximately 60 people.

After hearing a number of presentations by representatives of both statutory and voluntary organisations, participants split into groups to consider the question: **The Credit Crunch - an opportunity or a threat to the VCO sector?** The topic generated a great deal of discussion on how VCOs can better work together and with the statutory organisations to weather the recession; about collaborative working, partnership and mergers, and about what roles **CDCA** and **CaDVAS** can play in helping the sector through this difficult time. For notes from the workshops click [here](#)

A common theme throughout the conference was recognition of the fact that **significant changes** are taking place and these are affecting both service delivery and funding. However, it is not yet clear exactly what the nature and extent of these changes will be. The conference broke up with commitments from both sectors to continue to work closely together and with a clear desire for follow-up events to build on the work already done. News of events we are planning in response to this will feature in future **CaDVAS** newsletters.

If you have attended a conference or training event recently and would like to comment on it, please write a brief review and send it to sue@cadvas.org

Neighbourhood and Urban Renewal Training Bulletin

Holden Publishing is a flourishing organisation that aims to support good practice in the field of neighbourhood and urban renewal. We publish the Journals of Neighbourhood Renewal and Culture & Urban Development and we are now launching a dedicated training programme for practitioners in these fields. Training sessions in 2009/2010 are to be held across a range of UK and Ireland locations on the following topics:

(a) How to effectively evaluate neighbourhood renewal projects and programmes - for further details please visit

http://www.neighbourhoodjournal.com/page_1255424228058.html

(b) How to appraise neighbourhood and urban renewal projects - for further details please visit

http://www.neighbourhoodjournal.com/page_1255424240689.html

(c) How to develop effective programme management systems - for further details please visit

http://www.neighbourhoodjournal.com/page_1255424252071.html

At these day long events a range of practitioners and trainers will give useful advice on the subject at hand. The day will start at **9.15** and finish at **16.15**. Lunch will be provided to all attendees. In order to ensure that the events are not too crowded the sessions are limited to the first 50 people.

The cost per person for sessions is **£150 plus VAT**. All attendees receive a full training pack to support the training provided on the day.

If you wish to attend any of these events, please just email neighbourhoodjournal@googlemail.com and we will make the necessary arrangements.

Neighbourhood and Urban Renewal Training Team

Details of the forthcoming **2009 Annual Conference of the Journal of Neighbourhood Renewal** can be found at

http://www.neighbourhoodjournal.com/page_1255428158510.html

Details of how to subscribe to the **Journals of Neighbourhood Renewal and Culture and Urban Development** can be found at

http://www.neighbourhoodjournal.com/page_1255424214188.html

Members' News

Santas and Elves needed!

The Market Traders of Canterbury have paid for **Kent Kids Miles of Smiles**

to have a pitch for our tombola and grotto on Canterbury market for 12 days during December.

We need **Santas** for the following dates: **December 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22, 24 am, pm or both.** Santas must be **CRB checked** but with sufficient notice we can organise this.

We also need **general staff** to manage the tombola (can be dressed as an **Elf** if desired), these are needed for: **6th am, 8th am, 10th am, 13th am & pm, 15th am, 17th am, 20th am.**

If you are able to help please contact **Liz Baxter** or **Michelle Moxley** from our Fundraising department, **on 01227 780796** - Thank You.



Job Advert - Project Leads (Training)

Skillnet Group Community Interest Company is a social enterprise (not-for-profit organisation) working with people with learning difficulties.

Our mission is to support people with a learning difficulty (disability) to speak up, make choices, be heard and taken seriously. We support people with and people without learning difficulties to work together equally to develop projects and support networks and to change attitudes about disability in society generally.

We support people to do courses and qualifications. We develop our own qualifications, according to people's interests. We also provide training and workshops to other organisations and groups in Kent and across the country.

We need **Project Leads** to develop this work across the **Skillnet Group**. You will work across East Kent and sometimes further afield.

We have 1.5 posts available:

- **One full-time post - 37 hours**
- **One part-time post - 18.5 hours**

These posts are open to job share and are based on flexible working hours. We want to increase the number of people with a learning difficulty with full-time jobs in Skillnet Group. At least 16 hours of this work will be for someone with a learning difficulty.

These posts are **permanent**. Starting salary is **£20,334** per annum, pro rata.

You will receive an excellent training package and the chance for personal development. We particularly welcome applications from men as they are currently under represented in Skillnet Group.

We are looking for people who:

Have some experience in training other people and can get your point across without being too bossy!

Have experience of developing and delivering courses and qualifications.

Can support people well. This means showing that you understand that people need different types of support at different times.

Are confident to speak up and facilitate groups without taking over.

Communicate well with different types of people and organisations.

Have good IT skills and can use email and the internet confidently.

Are able to work flexibly, use your own initiative, work as part of a team and in partnership with other organisations.

Who can I talk to find out more about the job?

Michelle Huggins 07967 196185 or michelle.huggins@skillnetgroup.co.uk

What do I need to do next?

Application forms and job descriptions and person specifications are available from www.skillnetgroup.co.uk/recruitment

Application forms may be e-mailed to michelle.huggins@skillnetgroup.co.uk

Or posted to:

Michelle Huggins
Skillnet Group CIC
Unit 3, Roper Yard,
Roper Road,
Canterbury
CT2 7EG

Please mark your envelope or e-mail: Project Lead (Training) Application

We will need to receive your application by

12 noon on Monday 16th November 2009

Interviews will be held on Tuesday 24th November 2009.

These posts are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders 1984 and you will be required to declare all past convictions, whether spent or not.

Independent Examination of Accounts of Charities

Roger Kendall ACIB has for several years provided this service to a small number of charities at a very modest charge. He will either prepare final accounts and provide a certificate in the approved form or merely examine the final accounts produced by your book-keeper and certify them .

His fees are based on **£10 to £15 per hour** and he will assess your needs and quote a fee and issue a letter of agreement before commencing the work. If you are interested in this service please contact him on **01227 360207**. In general he prefers to work for charities with a turnover of under £100,000 per annum.

Funding and Finance News

'Contracts Culture' Concerns Dismissed

Dr. Peter Kyle, deputy chief executive of umbrella body the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (**ACEVO**), has dismissed claims that securing income through public sector contracts threatens the third sector's independence.

Speaking at the Northern Regeneration Summit, the former Downing Street advisor on the third sector and social exclusion said:

"Many believe that the 'contracts culture' mutes voluntary and community organisations and leads to an unhealthy dependence on the third sector. We would simply recommend that no charity depends exclusively on one source of income".

According to Kyle, third sector organisations are more likely to receive support from central government if they can present **cross-cutting strategies** - where one funding stream is used to tackle a range of social issues. He also said that with the current economic downturn, central government are now more receptive to innovative suggestions from third sector organisations.

Third sector organisations are better placed than central government to devise a **joined up approach** to funding by involving a **partnership** of organisations that deliver similar services. Kyle suggests that third sector organisations pitch partnership working as a way of helping central government cut costs.

Source: Regen.Communities, 21/10/09 j4bCommunity funding news for 28th October 2009

New National Youth Leadership Fund Announced

The **Reaching Out** scheme is for third sector organisations wishing to build their capacity and create youth leadership opportunities across England. There will be eight grants distributed from the £500,000 funding pot, ranging from £10,000 to £50,000.

The aim of **The Youth of Today Leadership scheme** is to address gaps in the provision of leadership opportunities for young people and to counter the key challenges faced, including the over subscription to current schemes and the lack of access to funds and opportunities.

Member of The Youth of Today Leadership Team, Asli Guzel, said:

"We want third sector organisations and young people to work in partnership to drive the change you would like to see in your community. The funding could support your organisation and the young people you work with to be 'the change you want to see in the world'".

This strand will support the existing **Scaling Up** scheme from The Youth of Today Leadership Fund. This programme is aimed at local voluntary sector groups and will support innovative projects that increase the number and quality of youth leadership opportunities available to marginalised groups. The scheme will distribute £500,000 in approximately 30 grants, ranging from £5,000 to £20,000.

For further information on these schemes visit <http://www.theyouthoftoday.org/>
Source: The Youth of Today, 29/10/2009 News provided by j4bgrants.co.uk

Virgin Money Giving now open to charity fundraisers

By Paul Jarvis, Third Sector Online, 14 October 2009

Virgin Money Giving, the not-for-profit online donation service, has opened to fundraisers. The site opened for charities in August, saying it would **undercut rival Justgiving** by reducing the cost of raising money online by up to 60 per cent.

It said the service would raise more money for charities than other online giving sites because it would look only to cover its costs. It will charge a £100 set-up fee for charities and a 2 per cent transaction fee on donations, but will not charge for administering Gift Aid.

The website allows fundraisers to personalise their pages, send out email alerts and manage the different events they might be taking part in.

Jayne-Anne Gadhia, chief executive of Virgin Money, said: "Virgin Money is using its infrastructure and expertise as a financial services business to ensure that the new service is efficient, secure and offers a high-quality service to all fundraisers, charities and donors."

She has written to the chief executives of the UK's top 100 charities, inviting them to use the fundraising service.

For more information visit www.virginmoneygiving.com/

**For up-to-date news on other funding available,
try the following contacts:**

Kent4Community, which is a free web based grant search facility, at www.open4community.info/kent/; they also produce a regular e-newsletter;

email administrator@open4community.info

Inside Track, the KCC External Funding service newsletter - email externalfunding@kent.gov.uk to be added to their mailing list or contact Martyn Riley, External Funding Officer, Chief Executives Department, KCC. Tel: 01622 694384; Email: martyn.riley@kent.gov.uk for more information.

j4bCOMMUNITY.co.uk produce a regular funding newsletter; email newsletter@j4bcommunity.co.uk

Funding Buddies, a programme to assist community and voluntary groups access funding opportunities. It will also develop training courses to increase and enhance the skills of community organisations. Contact Kent Funding Buddies on

Tel: 01303 813790

Fax: 01303 814203

Mobile: 07900 560235

Email: nigel.turley@ruralkent.org.uk

Website: www.fundingbuddiesinkent.org.uk

If you have difficulty contacting any of the above, please feel free to contact CaDVAS for further information and advice.

Other News

APEK - Advice Partnership for East Kent

November sees the launch of an exciting new partnership that aims to increase access to quality advice in East Kent. **APEK the Advice Partnership for East Kent**, already has the backing of 7 advice agencies, including all the Citizens Advice Bureaux in the area. Shepway District Council and Ashford Borough Council are formal partners in the project, and other local authorities have expressed an interest.

With 5-year funding from the Big Lottery Fund, the project will finally give the advice sector the resources to undertake collaborative work that has been wanted for some years. The project was **formerly** known as the **Channel Community and Legal Advice Partnership (CCLAP)**.

Firstly, the project will build a partnership of 200 organisations that will have

access to an **electronic referral system**, so that people who need advice can be quickly and easily referred to the most appropriate advice provider. Most of the partners will be organisations that don't provide legal advice, but work with people who need advice.

The next part of the project will be to ensure that the advice given by all partner organisations is covered by a **quality framework**. Clients can be assured that they are getting advice from organisations with a commitment to quality and the systems and support to back it up.

Finally, APEK will **identify and try to prevent recurring legal problems**, whether because an organisation is acting unlawfully, or they are acting lawfully but unfairly. This will happen by gathering information from partner organisations on legal problems that people often encounter, and working constructively with the relevant authorities to try to stop them occurring in the future.

Partnership Manager Andy Ball says "APEK will bring together its partners to highlight with one voice the advice needs of people in East Kent, and will work to meet those needs. We will also aim for the sustainability of local advice services. It's an exciting project, and we hope many organisations will join."

"I think that partners will benefit by having a locally recognised quality mark, and an increased ability to help their clients, whether through easy and reliable referral processes, or by the chance to campaign on problems that affect their client group. East Kent will certainly benefit by having a stronger advice sector with a good working relationship with local authorities."

Come along to an event in **Dover** on **Wednesday 25 November 2009** at **4.30pm** to celebrate the launch, and find out more about the project. There will be a guest speaker, a cake-cutting ceremony, a glass of bubbly and nibbles, and a free prize raffle.

To book a place and for details of the venue, please **contact Karen McAthy**, Partnership Administrator on **01303 241 435** or e-mail karen.mcathy@apek.org.uk

More details about **APEK** can be found at www.apek.org.uk

FrogspawnCreatives.com offers charities free creative help

By Kate Youde, Third Sector Online, 9 October 2009

Charities can access free creative help through a new online database of people

willing to lend their skills to good causes.

Third sector organisations can search by expertise for media professionals on the free **FrogspawnCreatives.com**. They can also post adverts for projects with which they want help, such as **making a film** or **developing a social network**.

Founder Luke Bradford said the site cut out the need for agency middlemen. Bradford, a senior producer in creative services at BBC Worldwide, said the idea was that people in the creative industry would provide their services either for free or for preferential rates. No money changes hands through the site.

Thirty photographers, web designers, graphic designers, film makers and music composers have added their details since the site went live.

For more information visit www.frogspawncreatives.com/

Charity Commission publishes constitution

for small charities

By Paul Jump, Third Sector Online, 29 October 2009

The Charity Commission has published a **simplified model constitution** for charities below the registration threshold. The 700-word constitution is aimed at charities that don't own any property or employ any staff and expect their annual income to remain below the £5,000 threshold for registering with the commission.

The constitution explains issues such as membership criteria, trustees' powers and regulations governing trustee and members' meetings.

The constitution was piloted in Wales by Welsh umbrella body WCVA and Welsh County Voluntary Councils. It was drawn up with the help of nine umbrella bodies, whose websites will also be used to promote it. The organisations include Bassac, Charity Trustee Networks, the Directory of Social Change, Navca and the NCVO.

Andrew Hind, chief executive of the commission, said all the organisations hoped the document would make life easier for the trustees of small charities.

He said: "Our shared aim is that the energy and commitment that is the hallmark of small charities is matched by effective governance, appropriate to the size of the organisations concerned."

Hind said that if a charity's income rose above £5,000 the charity would need to

register and draw up a more comprehensive governing document.

Kevin Curley

, chief executive of **Navca**, said: "Even though small charities don't usually need to register with the commission, they are still subject to charity law and still need support and guidance.

"I am pleased the commission has realised the importance of small charities having a simple but legally compliant constitution and we congratulate the commission for this bold move."

Lawyers want consistency in testing of public benefit

By Paul Jump, Third Sector, 27 October 2009

Charities are being put off from engaging with the **Charity Commission** because they fear becoming embroiled in lengthy assessments of their **public benefit**, according to some **charity lawyers**.


Emma Moody, a solicitor at Dickinson Dees, said a wide range of charities had had their public benefit scrutinised after contacting the commission about such matters as applying for incorporation, altering their objects, selling land or revising their trustee benefit provisions.

A commission spokeswoman said she was unable to give a list of situations that triggered consideration of public benefit because each case was taken on its merits. She said public benefit was a routine part of much of the commission's casework and was inevitably a consideration when authorising changes to objects. "We take a risk-based and proportionate approach to assessing this," she added.

Moody said the assessments could be excessively time-consuming and caused anxiety and frustration to charities. "Applications that used to take one or two weeks can now take two or three months," she said. Both she and **Jonathan Brinsden**, a partner at Bircham Dyson Bell, said there was no consistency in the commission's responses. Brinsden said this made it difficult to advise clients. He said he had resorted to advising fee-charging charities and members' organisations, which were particularly likely to be scrutinised, not to contact the commission unless they had to.

Ann Phillips, a partner at Stone King Sewell, said she knew of a number of independent schools whose public benefit had been scrutinised in recent months. She said it was right for the commission to consider issues of charitable status in exercising its powers. "However, where there are minor or no changes in objects, detailed consideration of public benefit causes delay and risks being

disproportionate," she said.



If you have articles for inclusion in the next issue, please contact Sue Tucker:
Tel: 01227 452381 **Mob:** 07595 543411 **Email:** info@cadvas.org

Deadline for items for the next newsletter:

Midday on Tuesday 1st December - thank you.

Registered Office: Tower Works, Simmonds Road, Wincheap Business Park,
Canterbury CT1 3RA.

CaDVAS can also be contacted c/o Whitstable Volunteer Centre, St Mary's Hall,
Oxford Street, Whitstable CT5 1DD

Charity No: 1125359 Company No: 6584654

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