

# CaDVAS Newsletter

March 2010

Issue 16

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## In This Issue

[CaDVAS News](#)

[Training](#)

[Events](#)

[Trustee Development Programme](#)

[Members' News](#)

[Other News](#)

[Funding and Finance News](#)

## Contact details

### Contact us:

01227 452381

07595 543411

[info@cadvas.org](mailto:info@cadvas.org)

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

Another busy month has gone by. We have been concentrating mainly on the **Trustee Development Programme** and the **Disability Forum** over the past few weeks - you will find more information about progress on both of these later in this newsletter.

As ever, we have a full programme of training and events; do remember to book your places early to avoid disappointment.

We have a bit of a first in this edition, which is a **member's opinion piece** on a topic of great interest and discussion at the moment - Personal Budgets and Self Directed Support (SDS). We would be interested to hear your comments and responses to this. If the demand is there we might consider making this type of item a regular feature - let us know what you think.

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## Training

# CaDVAS TRAINING

## IT Training:

There are still places left on some of our IT courses but they are limited and filling fast so if you want to attend any of the following, do book your place **now**.

All courses will take place at **Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre, Ashford Road, Canterbury CT1 3XR**, from **9.30am - 12.30pm**.

The trainer is **Ken Baughan**, who is the **Programme Director of a Microsoft IT Academy**, an **NVQ Assessor for IT**, and a **Microsoft Office Specialist**. He's been teaching IT at all levels since the 1990s, and likes to keep training sessions simple, relevant and practical.

## Friday 30.04.10: Website Building for Beginners:

A short course designed to show you the basics of creating and editing a functioning website. No prior knowledge or experience required but a good level of general computer literacy and knowledge of the World Wide Web very helpful. Delegates will come away having built and published a live webpage on the internet.

## Friday 28.05.10: Word for Improvers (Newsletters):

A short course designed to get you to use the more advanced features of Microsoft Word to create, format, and improve documents for presentation including newsletters, and save them in a template form that you can use over and over again. Delegates will come away with a template they can use, modify, or redesign for use at work.

## Friday 25.06: PowerPoint for Improvers:

A short course with the aim of improving your overall use of PowerPoint, both from a technical and a "personal presentation" viewpoint. Learn how to use the Slide Master to create and impose standardised designs, as well as inserting sound, and even film clips, as well as fully-functional Excel spreadsheets. Delegates will create an interactive PowerPoint Advert that can be used at exhibitions, on displays, or anywhere else where you want technology to advertise your services.

## Friday 30.07.10: Computer Maintenance for Beginners:

A short course aimed at showing basic users how to look after their computers and

keep them running more quickly, more reliably, more often. Learn how to create and implement a basic maintenance plan, as well as how to defragment a hard drive, clear your internet cache, remove unwanted programs, and download, install, use maintenance programs.

All places are **£25** (payable at time of booking) and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To apply for a place on any of the sessions please call 01227 452381 or email [sue@cadvas.org](mailto:sue@cadvas.org).

It might be possible to offer further IT training sessions on Tuesday evenings, if there is sufficient demand. If you would be interested in evening events please let us know.

## **SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) Training**

***Places are going fast - BOOK NOW!***

**Date:** Wednesday 21.04.09

**Time:** 10.00 - 4.30

**Venue:** Kent Enterprise House, Herne Bay

This is a one day course for **trustees** and **managers** who need to produce **SORP compliant accounts** and want to understand the main requirements of the **SORP regulations** (and the importance of the SORP). The course will cover:-

- Financial management in the voluntary sector: main concepts and terminology
- The Charities Act and its financial reporting requirements: an overview
- What is the SORP and who does it apply to?
- Detailed requirements: step by step
- Implications for internal financial management
- Next steps: what does your organisation need to do?

The trainer will be **Kathy Roddy**, who has spent more than 17 years in the voluntary sector. She has run a national charity and is now a freelance trainer and consultant. She is a member of the Institute of Fundraising and holds their Certificate in Fundraising Management. She is also a qualified project manager.

To book your place please contact Sue Tucker on 01227 452381 or email [sue@cadvas.org](mailto:sue@cadvas.org). Places are limited so please apply as soon as possible and **by 5pm on Tuesday 6th April** at the latest. Priority will be given to **CaDVAS** members.

**CaDVAS** are offering this training event in partnership with **Action for Communities**

in Rural Kent as part of the **KentCAN FINC** (Funding Information Networking Celebration). **FINC** is a countywide initiative which is fully funded, so all places are **free** to participants.

## Introduction to Health and Safety Awareness

**Date:** Tuesday 15th June

**Time:** 9.30 - 1.00

**Venue:** Kent Enterprise House, Herne Bay

This short course will provide an introduction and overview of health and safety in the workplace and will be delivered by trainers from Learn to Care, which is part of Enterprising Opportunities CIC and has been providing training to the health and social care sector since 2001.

To book your place please contact Sue Tucker on 01227 452381 or email [sue@cadvas.org](mailto:sue@cadvas.org). Places are limited so please apply as soon as possible and **by 5pm on Tuesday 25th May** at the latest. Priority will be given to **CaDVAS** members.

## OTHER TRAINING



CASE Kent's new April - July training programme is now available. Topics include:

- Accounts and Introduction to SORP
- Effects of the Recession on Fundraising and What you should do
- Emergency First Aid
- Full Cost Recovery
- Train the Trainer

For more information contact **Liz Shihabi** on **01233 610171** or email [ashford@casekent.org.uk](mailto:ashford@casekent.org.uk) or visit the CASE Kent website at: [www.casekent.org.uk](http://www.casekent.org.uk).

Don't forget that if you are a full member of CaDVAS you are eligible for reduced

member rates on CASE Kent training courses. You will need to give your membership number when you book; if you're not sure of your number or your membership status, email our admin staff on [cadsupport@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cadsupport@hotmail.co.uk)



**Learn to Care** offer a wide range of courses in a range of topics including

- Food Hygiene and Nutrition
- Safeguarding Adults
- Mental Capacity Act
- Epilepsy and Diabetes
  
- Alzheimer's and Dementia

and many others. Course fees start at £35 per person. **Learn to Care** also has 100% funding for Health and Social Care NVQs and up to £1000 funding for management training.

For more information contact

Learn to Care, Kent Enterprise House, 1 The Links, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 7GQ

01227 844 449

[info@learntocare.com](mailto:info@learntocare.com)

[www.learntocare.com](http://www.learntocare.com)

### **Media Training from Kent Volunteers**

**Kent Volunteers** are offering **FREE** media training workshops for voluntary groups. Workshops will cover why you should bother with the media in the first place, what you need to do if you're going to be Press Officer, how to find a news story that gets you

free publicity, how to write great press releases and give great radio interviews, and much more.

Dates already confirmed include:

- Ashford - 6th April
- West Malling - 11th May
- Maidstone - 1st June

For further details on any of these contact Kent Volunteers on 01622 694 844 or [margaret.sherriff@kent.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.sherriff@kent.gov.uk)

They would like to deliver a workshop in Canterbury if there is sufficient demand; if you would like to attend a local workshop please contact [sue@cadvas.org](mailto:sue@cadvas.org) or call me on 01227 452381 and I'll work with Kent Volunteers to set one up.

### **New Excel & Sage Short Courses at Training 4 Business**

#### **Book your place today!**

View our range of [Computing and I.C.T. courses](#) for full details and to download the booking form, or call us today on **0845 207 8216**.

### **Free Bespoke Training Advice**

Just because many of us are working with reduced budgets, the **importance of training** for staff and volunteers within the voluntary and community sector and social enterprises remains high. These organisations will now be entitled to a **free consultation** and **training needs analysis** thanks to a new regional partnership led by Community Action Hampshire.

The service will provide information and advice and where appropriate will lead to referrals to potential sources of funding for training.

So what is on offer to voluntary groups and social enterprises?

- Learning and development information and advice through an initial phone call
- An organisational training needs analysis
- A report on your analysis including advice as to where to source the training
- If appropriate, and with consent, a referral can be made to Train to Gain or the Leadership and Management team who maybe able to help with funding for some training

The service is being provided through the **Learning and Development for the Third Sector** project, being delivered by Community Action Hampshire and partners (Voluntary Action Within Kent, Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action, the Working Together Project and Surrey Community Action), funded by the **Learning and Skills Council** and the **European Social Fund**.

For more information please contact: **Jon Weller**, Business Manager, Voluntary Action Within Kent 01892 530330 or [learn@vawk.org.uk](mailto:learn@vawk.org.uk)

[back to top](#)

## Events

### ***CANTERBURY DISTRICT DISABILITY FORUM INAUGURAL MEETING***

We are pleased to announce that the first meeting of the **Canterbury District Disability Forum** will take place on **Friday 23rd April at the Marine Hotel Tankerton, Whitstable.**

The programme will include registrations and coffee from **10 am**, presentations from a number of speakers from **10.30**, followed by table discussions. The event will close with a buffet lunch served at 12.30. The overall aim of the morning will be to set up the forum and to consider questions including

- what its focus and functions will be
- how it will develop
- what it will be called

- how it will be organised
- how often it will meet.

If you would like to attend the meeting please call us on 01227 452381 or email [sue@cadvas.org](mailto:sue@cadvas.org) for more information and to book your place.

## **Kent Children's Fund Network Step Up 2 Participation! Conference**

7th April 2010, 9am - 4pm, Ramada Hotel, Hollingbourne, Maidstone

Workshops will include:

- 'The Participation Surgery'
- 'Recruitment and Selection live'
- 'There is more than one way to do a survey.'
- 'Comic Life' Workshop
- 'The Kent Participation Ladder'

For more information and to book your place visit [www.kcfn.co.uk](http://www.kcfn.co.uk)

**Coming up ....**

**Tuesday 11th May - CaDVAS** and **CDCA** conference - following up the recent 'Preparation for Change' event. Further details to follow.

[back to top](#)

### **Trustee Development Programme**

Our **Trustee Development Programme** continues; events coming up soon include:

## **Trustee Recruitment Fair:**

**Monday 08.03.10, 1.30pm - 4.00pm**

Whitstable Umbrella Community Centre

This "marketplace" event will bring together organisations currently seeking to recruit new trustees with individuals who want to find out more about becoming a trustee and how to go about finding a suitable opportunity.

There are still a few spaces available, so if you want to come along and set up an information display about your organisation and about your trustee vacancies, contact [sue@cadvas.org](mailto:sue@cadvas.org) or call 07595 543411 to book your place.

A second **Trustee Recruitment Fair** will take place in the Autumn - details to follow.

## **Trustee and Governance Briefing:**

**Thursday 25.03.10, 4pm - 6pm**

Kent Enterprise House, Herne Bay

This two hour briefing session covers the essential duties and responsibilities of charity trustees and will be suitable as **part of an induction for new board members** or as a refresher for existing board members.

The agenda covers:

- Introduction and welcome
- What is governance?
- Who are the trustees?
- Duties and responsibilities of trustees
- About legal structures and charitable status
- About trustee liability

The course includes interactive group and pair exercises as well as presentation and discussion, with plenty of time for questions.

**The trainer will be Peter Dyer.** Peter is an independent consultant specialising in charity governance and trusteeship. He works with charities, community groups and support providers at local, regional and national level. Peter is author of The Good Trustee Guide (published by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations) as well as numerous other publications and practical resources for trustees and those who work with boards.

**For further information and to book your place please contact Sue Tucker on 01227 452381 or [sue@cadvas.org](mailto:sue@cadvas.org)**

**More training events** will take place in April, May and June: topics will include **Finance - an overview** and **Developing Your Board** - look out for details in future mailings.

We will soon be launching the **Trustee Network**, which will give trustees the opportunity to exchange information, ideas and good practice with colleagues from other organisations across the district and to support each other by sharing their experience and expertise. We expect to be able to offer some regular meetings but will also be inviting interested trustees to join an online google group, which is a simple and effective way of sharing information. More details to come soon.

The **Trustee Development Programme** is **fully funded** by the **Big Lottery Fund Awards for All**, which means that training and other events are **free** to participants.

[back to top](#)

## Members' News

### **WOODWORK WORKSHOP FOR HIRE**

The Umbrella Centre of Herne Bay has space available during the week in a fully equipped woodwork workshop near Sea Street.

For further details contact **Lynn Cambridge** on **01227 370200**

### **CANTERBURY LOCAL INFORMATION FACT FILE**

A new, revised and updated version of **CLIFF** - The Canterbury Local Information Fact File, a guide to services for people over 60 in the Canterbury City Council area - is now available.

For more information and to order hard copies, contact **John Newell** at **CROP** (Citizens' Rights for Older People) on **01227 789777**. You can also view the guide online at [www.cropkent.org/localguide](http://www.cropkent.org/localguide).

## **PERSONAL BUDGETS AND SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT - ONE MEMBER'S OPINION**

It was of concern to me to see that **Ralph Michell**, head of policy, for the **Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations** (ACEVO) hailed the introduction of **Personal Budgets and Self Directed Support** (SDS) as a great opportunity for voluntary organisations to provide "niche services" and "micro enterprises".

During a discussion by the **Canterbury & District Pensioners' Forum** in January on Self Directed Support, much concern was expressed. Generally people felt that for some younger people to take the pot of money and employ their own support may be quite acceptable. For more vulnerable and older people it could become a further burden to bear.

The form filling and the bureaucracy associated with it are daunting, without the responsibility of becoming an employer.

As more of the caring service is taken up by the non-public sector, so will the safety net of support be reduced; that is the major area of concern, and we would begin to have an American model of voluntary provision with very little statutory support.

One of the functions of the voluntary & community sector is to be a collective voice for positive criticism of the service providers, how will they do that if they become an intrinsic part of that service provision?

**Anne Belworthy**  
**Chair Canterbury & District Pensioners' Forum**

***What do you think? Send us your comments***

***Please note that the views expressed in this article are the writer's own and inclusion does not imply recommendation by CaDVAS.***

## **AVAILABLE NOW AT KENT ENTERPRISE HOUSE SERVICED OFFICE SPACE**

High quality, affordable & accessible serviced office space available for charities, social enterprises, voluntary and community groups.

We provide a fully inclusive and supportive service, which enables you to concentrate on your core business.

## Benefits include:

- Daily hot desking - only pay when you need a desk
- Easy in, easy out license - no long term contracts
- Fully manned reception area - someone always available to answer the telephone
- Just one all inclusive monthly bill - easy budgeting
- Business rates and waste collection - included
- Inclusive of utilities excluding telephone
- Appointed Facilities Officer to ensure smooth running
- Networking opportunities and a supportive, working environment
- High speed internet connection including
- Wi-Fi Access to meeting and training rooms at preferential rates - no more meetings in pubs and hotels
- Disabled access

Our location is on the outskirts of Herne Bay, Kent - near to Canterbury and Whitstable and is easily accessible from the A299 Thanet Way and public transport.

If you would like more information or would like to arrange a '*no obligation tour*' please contact us at.

**Kent Enterprise House**, The Links, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 7GQ  
01227 844 544 or e-mail [info@enterprisetrust.org](mailto:info@enterprisetrust.org)  
Visit our website: [www.enterprisetrust.org](http://www.enterprisetrust.org)

[back to top](#)

## Other News

### **NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent - Are you a potential provider?**

If you are a service provider who wishes to be considered for future **NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent commissioned services**, please contact:

**Sue Cornell**

Business Manager - Market Management  
NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent  
Protea House  
New Bridge  
Marine Parade  
Dover CT17 9HQ

**Tel:** 01304 222 270      **Fax:** 01304 225 775

**Email:** [sue.cornell@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk](mailto:sue.cornell@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk)

Sue will record some information regarding you/your organisation, and place this onto a potential provider database. This process does not guarantee you any future work; however it does ensure that you are considered for future NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent procurement opportunities as they arise.

If you would like more information please contact Sue in the first instance and your call can be directed appropriately within the team dependant upon your requirements.

## **JOB OPPORTUNITY - SWALE CARERS**

**Swale Carers Centre**, covering the Swale and Canterbury Districts of Kent, aims to reduce the stress and stigma caused as a result of the caring role, and in the case of **Young Carers**, to restore lost childhood.

We support:

- Adults caring for another Adult
- Young Carers aged 5 -18 years (Swale only) caring for any family member
- Parent Carers of a child with a disability or special needs
- Alzheimer and Dementia Family Support.

In order to deliver our new '**Caring Families**' programme we now wish to recruit :

**Young Carer Support Officer**

(Advocacy and Respite) - Full Time

NJC 20 £18, 453 p.a. + allowances (initially 1 year)

As part of the Swale Carers Centre Staff Team you will be working with Carers to assess their needs and to provide support, advice, advocacy and respite opportunities

for them.

You will have experience of working with vulnerable children and adults and an understanding of the complex needs and issues facing people with caring responsibilities. You will need excellent communication skills at all levels. You must be able to engage in flexible working hours including occasional weekend working.

Appointments are subject to the Swale Carers Centre receiving an enhanced disclosure from the ISA/CRB which is considered acceptable. Swale Carers Centre is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

For further information and an application pack please contact:

**Sandie Hornby**-Chief Operations Officer  
Swale Carers Centre  
Suite 9, Bank House  
Broadway  
Sheerness ME12 1TW

Or telephone **01795 583440** or visit [www.swalecarers.org.uk](http://www.swalecarers.org.uk)

**Closing Date for Receipt of Applications:** 10th March 2010

**Interview Date:** 15th March 2010. To be held in Sheerness

Swale Carers Centre is a member the Princess Royal Trust for Carers Network and offers good working conditions, a comprehensive training programme, essential car users & mileage allowance and pension contribution.

We welcome applications from all sections of the Community.

## **DIRECTORY OF SOCIAL CHANGE PUBLISHING GUIDE 2010**

The **Directory of Social Change** is pleased to present a brand new **Publishing Guide** for our [2010 publications](#) and [online resources](#).

DSC Publishing offers the widest selection of print titles aimed at Voluntary and Community Sector bodies anywhere. Our [online resources](#) are designed to help you boost your income with more sources of funding, more commentary and more analysis than anywhere else.

Our expert authors focus on practical solutions specifically aimed at the voluntary sector. DSC Publications cover:

- Fundraising Sources
- Fundraising Techniques
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Information & Communication
- Law
- Management and Governance
- Personal Development
- Sector, Policy & Campaigns

### **[Browse the full Publishing Guide PDF today](#)**

#### **Find the resources you need**

This year we have been busy working away to produce a raft of new titles for you as well as updating traditional favourites. Some of the new and updated editions include:

- [Directory of Grant Making Trusts 2010/11](#)
- [The Guide to Major Trusts 2010/11 Vol 1 & 2](#)
- [Environment and Government Funding Guides](#)
- [Writing Better Funding Applications](#)
- [Fundraising Management, Analysis, Planning and Practice](#)
- [Four new Speed Read Titles](#)
- [The Complete Guide to Creating and Managing New Projects](#)
- [The Charity Trustee's Handbook](#)

You can find all of our new and best selling publications and resources three easy ways: browse [online](#), download the [PDF](#) or [email](#) us for a hard copy of the Publishing Guide. Once you find the publication or resource that is right for you, ordering is easy. Simply log onto our website or fax in the order form. **So what are you waiting for? [Log on](#) and find the resources that can help you.**

#### **Further delays for charitable incorporated organisation**

By Paul Jump, Third Sector, 23 February 2010

The launch of the charitable incorporated organisation - a new legal form for charities - has been delayed again. It is now not expected to become available until late this year or early 2011.

Provisions for the establishment of CIOs, which would allow charities to incorporate without registering with both the Charity Commission and Companies House, were included in the Charities Act 2006.

CIOs were initially expected to be available from summer 2008. A spokesman for the Office of the Third Sector said hopes that the model would be available by this spring had evaporated because there would not be enough time in the current parliamentary session to pass the necessary secondary legislation.

He said officials were still working through some operational issues the commission had raised, such as the details of a phased implementation and concerns about the regulator's ability to manage information on the liabilities of CIOs.

"We do not want to implement a model that the commission cannot properly support," he said. "The aim now is to be ready to take the legislation through as soon as possible in the new parliament, with the CIO becoming available either later this year or early in 2011. Updated draft regulations will be published in due course."

Rachel Holmes, a professional support lawyer at Farrer & Co, said the delay was disappointing but not entirely surprising. "I agree with the OTS that it is better to wait and get something workable," she said.

Shivaji Shiva, an associate at Michelmores, said the continuing uncertainty would encourage more unincorporated charities to opt for incorporation as companies limited by guarantee.

Earlier this month, the OTS announced that a proposed consolidation of charity law would also have to wait until the next parliament

From CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) news for charities, Feb 2010:

## **NCVO releases election manifesto**

**24 February 2010**

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) has released an election manifesto that outlines ways in which the third sector should be supported and the role it should play in society as a whole.

The document states that democracy, climate change, public services, financial security, fairness and an active society are all important themes that must be considered by political parties in the UK.

According to chief executive Stuart Etherington, charities can provide different solutions to problems faced in the UK but cannot take a backseat if

they wish to do so.

Speaking at the NCVO annual conference, Mr Etherington said: "I believe that our willingness and ability to speak out when we see that something is wrong is more important than ever."

He added that the third sector must "define what we want our society to look like and say what role we can play in achieving that".

Key points on the NCVO manifesto include support for the so-called Robin Hood Tax, a 0.05 per cent tax on banking transactions to support public services, and five days' annual leave for all UK workers to take part in volunteering.

The NCVO represents some 7,500 charities across the UK.

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From NAVCA Linx issue 134, 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010:

## **Small Charities Coalition**

The **Small Charities Coalition** is like a free voluntary sector matchmaking service, enabling small charities to help each other to achieve their aims and objectives by exchanging the skills and resources they have, for those they don't.

This model of support is self sustaining; small charities helping small charities but the coalition underpins this support with help of larger charities. One of its aims is to bridge the gap between large and small and it aims to do this by encouraging the largest charities to allow their key staff time-off to support small charities under the guise of staff development.

For more information visit [www.smallcharities.org.uk](http://www.smallcharities.org.uk)

## **Unite organises day of lobbying on voluntary sector's 'short-term contract culture'**

By Paul Jump, Third Sector Online, 17 February 2010

Third sector minister Angela Smith will host round-table discussion with union and address a mass meeting of members

Trade union Unite has organised a day of political lobbying over what it sees as the debilitating effects of the "short-term contract culture" on voluntary sector staff.

Angela Smith, Minister for the Third Sector, has agreed to host a round-table discussion with the union, which has 60,000 members in the voluntary sector, on 9 March. She will also join representatives from umbrella bodies Navca and the NCVO in addressing a mass meeting of Unite members, who will then be encouraged to lobby their own constituency MPs.

Rachael Maskell, Unite's national officer for the not-for-profit sector, said union research, which will be released before the meetings, shows that short-term public service contracts given to the voluntary sector have increased job insecurity in the sector and contributed to an "excessive and stressful hours culture" among staff struggling to meet tight demands.

She said falling voluntary income and corporate donations had combined with accelerating local authority cuts and increased competition for contracts to put sector workers under severe stress and threaten the quality of services.

"Best value has gone back to meaning the cheapest option, and many contracts are loss-leaders that involve people working extortionate hours," she said. "The sector is seen as a panacea, but you have to get things right for the workforce because it is crumbling under the pressure.

"One reason the third sector has worked in the past is that there has been support for the workforce. But now no one ever talks about the workforce. It is as if it has been airbrushed out."

She said Unite wanted contracts to last at least five years, improved training opportunities and a commitment to making sure terms and conditions were preserved when staff were obliged to transfer between organisations at the end of a contract.

## **Association of Charity Shops warns members over business rates**

By David Ainsworth, Third Sector Online, 15 February 2010

Charities with shops should make sure they follow the rules on business rates relief because those that fail to do so are likely to be charged the full amount, the Association of Charity Shops has warned.

David Moir, head of policy and public affairs at the association, said that shops must be selling "wholly or mainly" donated goods in order to qualify for rates relief, which is administered by local authorities.

"There's no legal definition of this term," he said, "but it's generally taken to mean that more than half the goods sold must be donated."

He said that councils, under pressure to bring in more income as public finances became tighter, might start to check more carefully whether charities were entitled to rates relief.

Pesh Framjee, head of not-for-profit at accountancy firm Horwath Clark Whitehill, said charities that sold goods through trading subsidiaries could also fall foul of local authorities over rates.

"Trading subsidiaries are not eligible for rate relief," he said. "Only the charity itself is eligible."

All business premises are given a rateable value. The amount of business rates payable is calculated using the rateable value and the 'multiplier', which is set by the government.

[back to top](#)

## Funding and Finance News

### **KCC External Funding Service - new web address**

The **KCC External Funding** webpages have moved; our new addresses are:

Website: [www.kent.gov.uk/externalfunding](http://www.kent.gov.uk/externalfunding)

Why not visit our website which contains information on our services, some useful factsheets and contacts, KCC schemes as well as some previous issues of **Inside Track**.

You might also like to undertake free searches of our **Kent4Community** database of funding opportunities which contains information on The Lottery, Government and local schemes as well as Trusts and Foundations:

[www.kent.gov.uk/community\\_and\\_living/external\\_funding/search\\_for\\_grants.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/community_and_living/external_funding/search_for_grants.aspx)

From NAVCA Linx issue 134, 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010:

### **Nationwide Foundation Small Grants Programme**

The **Nationwide Foundation** has expanded its Small Grants Programme criteria for charities **working with older people**. The previous age restrictions have now been removed, and work can benefit any older person to improve their housing needs or

address financial exclusion. [www.nationwidefoundation.org.uk/smallgrants.asp](http://www.nationwidefoundation.org.uk/smallgrants.asp)

## Guide to winning public sector contracts

From the **Supply National Small & Medium Enterprise (SME) Engagement Programme**. You have to fill out an online form to download this free publication. [www.supplygov.co.uk/events/Supply/SMEGuide\\_form](http://www.supplygov.co.uk/events/Supply/SMEGuide_form)

## Big Lottery Fund programme offers short-term funding

By Kaye Wiggins, Third Sector Online, 10 February 2010

Up to £40,000 a year available from new strand of Reaching Communities

The **Big Lottery Fund** has announced a new funding programme that will allow voluntary organisations to apply for grants of up to £40,000 a year until 2015.

The fund is a new strand of the BLF's Reaching Communities programme, which is worth £500m. It is designed to support charities that want shorter-term, smaller-scale grants than those available through the existing Reaching Communities scheme.

Peter Wanless, chief executive of the BLF, announced the new scheme at the Funding the Future conference in London's Westminster yesterday. He said the process of applying for the smaller grants would be simpler than that for other Reaching Communities grants.

Wanless said the BLF would improve its decision-making process so that applicants could find out more quickly whether their organisations had a chance of receiving funds. He said the BLF would offer more informative feedback on unsuccessful applications.

The new system is expected to be in place this spring.

Wanless said the BLF would also introduce a new funding stream for refurbishment projects, which would be available this autumn.

## VAT reclamation helpline set up by NCVO

By David Ainsworth, Third Sector Online, 9 February 2010

Service will be free to small charity members of the umbrella body

The **NCVO** has launched a new helpline for members with the express intention of increasing the amount of VAT reclaimed by small charities.

The umbrella body will work with accountancy firm **Saffery Champness** to offer support and advice to member charities.

The service will be free to NCVO members with incomes of less than £100,000 and

provided at a discounted rate to other members.

Richard Williams, director of enterprise at NCVO, said: "Britain's VAT rules are extremely complicated, so many charities lose vital funds because they simply don't realise they are entitled to reclaim all or parts of some VAT payments."

For more information, email: [charityvat@saffery.com](mailto:charityvat@saffery.com)

## **Payments Council assures sector that cheques will not go before 2018**

By Kaye Wiggins, Third Sector Online, 5 February 2010

Council tells umbrella groups it will hold workshops for charities concerned by the phase-out

Banks will not phase out cheques before 2018, the Payments Council has assured sector umbrella groups.

The organisation's chief executive, Paul Smee, held separate meetings with representatives from the Charity Finance Directors' Group and the Institute of Fundraising last week about its plan to phase out the use of cheques on October 31, 2018.

The IoF had expressed concerns that cheques might be phased out before that date.

Smee told both groups that he would arrange workshops with charities later this year at which they could raise their concerns. The council has pledged to hold a review in 2016 before a final decision is taken.

Louise Richards, director of policy and campaigns at the institute, said she had given the Payments Council a "robust idea" of the sector's concerns. She said she would arrange a meeting with charities and umbrella groups to discuss what they wanted from an alternative to cheques.

Angela Haynes, policy manager at the CFDG, said the organisation had agreed to help the Payments Council to identify alternatives. "We will make every effort to ensure charities' needs are protected," she said.

A Payments Council spokeswoman said the decline in cheques would have happened regardless of its 2018 target for phasing them out. "We want to make sure the alternatives meet the needs of charities," she said.

## **Tories consider review of tax problems faced by charities**

By David Ainsworth, Third Sector Online, 25 February 2010

A Tory government would consider reviewing the way charities are treated by the tax system, according to Nick Hurd, the shadow charities minister.

Speaking at an election debate held by the Charity Finance Directors' Group last night at Portcullis House, London, Hurd condemned the complexity of the existing tax

system for charities.

"There's been a failure to think through at the start the implications of tax on charities," he said.

"There's a need to take a step back. There's a case for having a review of how the sector is treated by the tax system."

He said shared services, whereby charities that share back offices must pay VAT on those services, was a "particularly frustrating example".

Jenny Willott, the Liberal Democrat spokeswoman, said: "The system is messy and complicated and has not been properly thought through. There needs to be a step back to look at the whole set-up. There are some things that seem contrary to common sense."

The system was cumbersome and wasted time for charities and Government officials, she said.

Politicians found the system difficult to understand, Willott added. "There's also a huge cost in complying with it. That's dead money."

Angela Smith, Minister for the Third Sector, said the Government wanted to make progress in a number of areas, including Gift Aid reform.

She said a consensus was beginning to form among charities in support of one proposal.

"It really helps to put the case to the Treasury if there's a common position," she said. "The Treasury has previously raised with me that there were a number of very complex proposals around Gift Aid."

Willott said the Liberal Democrats had already committed themselves to putting a composite rate for charities in their manifesto, but had not yet decided what level that rate might be.

A composite rate would give charities the chance to claim increased Gift Aid on each donation but would not allow higher-rate taxpayers the opportunity to claim any personal tax relief on their donations.

Both Willott and Hurd said that it was possible to simplify the process of claiming Gift Aid.

"The Gift Aid system is archaic, out of date, bureaucratic and cumbersome," said Hurd. "We don't see why it couldn't be reformed now."

All three speakers said they were worried by the potential effects of falling public sector budgets on public commissioning.

Smith also said she was in favour of the wider introduction of community benefit clauses, which ask businesses to show their wider benefit to the community when they bid for public sector contracts.

"I'm aware of bids for local authority contracts where it says 'and what else are you contributing to the aims of the council?'," she said. "We want to see that built in to more public sector contracts."

## **Cancer Research UK takes the lead on Gift Aid reform**

By David Ainsworth, Third Sector, 23 February 2010

Charity aims to gather support for 30p composite rate

Cancer Research UK is pushing for a consensus in the sector in favour of a 30p composite rate for Gift Aid, one of the reform options researched last year by the Treasury.

The UK's largest charity by fundraising income said it had received positive responses when it recently sounded out two dozen other charities about the idea. It is now thinking of writing to a wider range of organisations to seek further support.

The 30p composite rate would allow charities to claim a 30p rebate on every £1 donated by taxpayers. Higher-rate taxpayers would no longer be able to claim any personal tax relief on their donations.

So far, sector representative bodies have been unable to agree on a preference from a range of possible Gift Aid reforms. The Government has expressed frustration that the sector has not adopted a collective position.

Sarah Woolnough, head of policy at CRUK, said the sector needed to present a united front. "The Treasury has said it will be difficult to reform until the sector speaks with one voice," she said. "We felt we could help in getting the sector to do that.

"We did some modelling and decided that the composite rate was a good option, with the added advantage of being cost-neutral for the Treasury.

"We've received positive responses from some of the charities we've approached. No one has said they don't like it. We'll approach more organisations and, if that goes well, we'll put this to the umbrella bodies, whose job it is to lobby for reform."

Richard Bray, regulatory and taxes manager at CRUK, said charities that relied on a small number of large donors might be opposed to the composite rate because it would be a worse deal for higher-rate taxpayers.

"We're proposing that donations over £10,000 could still be made using the existing model," he said. "This would protect donors who see the tax break as a big incentive."

Louise Richards, director of policy at the Institute of Fundraising, said the institute would welcome a united stance in the sector.

"There have been differences of opinion among sector bodies about the best option to choose," she said. "This is a helpful proposal."

From CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) news for charities, Feb 2010:

## **Robin Hood Tax backed by NCVO**

19 February 2010

A campaign to introduce a charity tax on a number of financial transactions between banks has been backed by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO).

The initiative, dubbed the Robin Hood Tax and led by the Trades Union Congress and Oxfam, proposes charging an average of 0.05 per cent tax on currency transactions, a move that could raise billions of pounds for the third sector.

Now the NCVO is calling on its 7,500 industry members to get behind the campaign, which it believes "promotes fairness and social justice".

NCVO chief executive Stuart Etherington commented: "This tax would help achieve our aim by using a tiny proportion of monies transferred between banks every day to pay for crucial aid and support for those who need it."

Some 75 groups have already spoken out in favour of the Robin Hood Tax, while an active presence on social networking websites such as Facebook has gathered thousands of supporters.

Experts have predicted the tax could eventually generate up to £250 billion every year for charity and could be used to tackle child poverty and the effects of climate change.

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

- Inside Track, the **KCC External Funding** service newsletter - email [externalfunding@kent.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:martyn.riley@kent.gov.uk) for more information, or visit their website at [www.kent.gov.uk/externalfunding](http://www.kent.gov.uk/externalfunding)
- Kent4Community, which is a free web based grant search facility, at [www.kent.gov.uk/community\\_and\\_living/external\\_funding/search\\_for\\_grants.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/community_and_living/external_funding/search_for_grants.aspx)

**j4bCOMMUNITY.co.uk**

produce a regular funding newsletter; email  
[newsletter@j4bcommunity.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@j4bcommunity.co.uk)

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**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**:

**Tel:** 01303 813790

**Fax:** 01303 814203

**Mobile:** 07900 560235


**Email:** [nigel.turley@ruralkent.org.uk](mailto:nigel.turley@ruralkent.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.fundingbuddiesinkent.org.uk](http://www.fundingbuddiesinkent.org.uk)

**Funding Central** is a free is a free smart website for all third sector organisations, including community groups, providing access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities, plus a wealth of tools and resources supporting organisations to develop sustainable income strategies appropriate to their needs. It is managed by **NCVO** and funded by the **Office of the Third Sector**. Visit [www.fundingcentral.org.uk](http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk)

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

[back to top](#)



If you have articles for inclusion in the next issue, please contact Sue Tucker:  
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Deadline for items for the next newsletter:

**Midday on Thursday 1st April** - thank you.

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