

In this issue

- Welcome
- Training and Events
- Members' News
- Other News
- Funding & Finance News

Contact details

Contact us at:
Tower Works,
Simmonds Road
Wincheap Business
Park
Canterbury CT1 3RA

01227 452381
07595 543411
info@cadvas.org
www.cadvas.org

Welcome and CaDVAS News

Welcome to our March newsletter. As mentioned previously, we have been using the website a lot more to publicise events and other items, so do make sure to visit www.cadvas.org regularly. We hoped that using the website more could keep the newsletter down to a reasonable length, but there is as ever so much news to bring to you that we're still working on that!

We are very relieved and pleased that our funding Canterbury City Council and Kent Adult Social Services have both been confirmed again, at least for the short term. However, we are aware that not everyone will be in such a fortunate position and we'll soon be contacting you to ask for your help in putting together a picture of how the cuts are affecting the sector locally, which we can then use in discussion at various levels with funders, commissioners and our local political leaders.

On a brighter note, we are delighted to have recruited a new volunteer who is willing to act as an **IT troubleshooter**. So, are you grappling with an IT problem? Are you thinking it's not a training course you need but a troubleshooter who can work with you to try to find the right solution for your organisation? Well, maybe our new volunteer can help.

Mike Turner has over 30 years' experience as an IT manager/trainer, system builder, database designer (specialising in SQL and web based systems), network trouble shooter and designer (wired and wireless), hardware (servers and PC's) upgrading, software installation and configuration.

Mike also has several years' experience in the voluntary sector, both at home and abroad via VSO, working with a range of different organisations on IT related projects.

Mike says he is happy to do, or guide and or instruct others in, troubleshooting, upgrading PC's, networking including cable installations, designing and implementing networkable databases.

If you think he might be just what you're looking for, you can contact Mike via CaDVAS – just email sue@cadvas.org with an outline of what the problem is.

As with any volunteer, we would expect you to cover the cost of any travel or other expenses that Mike may incur in the course of working with your organisation.

Training and Events

CaDVAS TRAINING

The last of our Spring training events – Developing a Funding Strategy on March 10th – is fully booked, but if you are interested in the course please let us know – we can add you to a waiting list in case of cancellations and if there is sufficient demand we may be able to repeat the course at a later date.

We are in discussion with a local trainer who may be able to deliver IT training for us – look out for that, and for news of other training we are planning for the summer term, which will follow in a separate mailing.

OTHER TRAINING



Skillnet Group CIC provides a range of training services.

Skillnet Group's approach to training is based on a model of coproduction, that is people working together equally (people with and without learning difficulties) to devise and deliver the training, based on local need. Therefore, we are responsive to individual requests and can deliver bespoke training courses, either as one-off workshops or a series of workshops.

We are also able to develop bespoke qualifications, accredited through the Open College Network.

Our style of training is facilitative and interactive. We prefer to work in a relaxed setting in groups and we seek to promote a safe atmosphere in which to ask questions and discuss things. We use a variety of training tools including discussion, question and answer sessions, DVD and video, small group exercises, reflective learning exercises, role play and presentations.

For more information: <http://www.cadvas.org/index.php/training>



Wildlife and Craft Courses 2011

Kent Enterprise Trust is running a number of outdoor course days on **Hambrook Marshes**, giving you the opportunity to learn about Kent's abundant wildlife and how to use natural materials sustainably. You can learn in small relaxed groups from our knowledgeable teachers.

Further information: <http://www.cadvas.org/index.php/training>

Kent Children's Fund Network

Preparation for Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTTLS)

KCFN are running PTTLS at their training centre in Ashford. The Qualification will be intensive over 2 weeks covering the required 30 hours of learning, as follows: -

WEEK 1: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

WEEK 2: Monday, Tuesday

This means that you can get the qualification quickly. There will be a written assessment to complete and you can choose to study for the level 3 or level 4 qualification. The qualification is delivered by qualified trainers.

We are registering this new PTTLS group on the 17th March in Ashford (12.00pm). The trainer will be attending and will get all the delegates to 'sign on' and register online to secure the funding.

With regard to cost, we are able to access £100 in funding per person which means all you will have to pay is the remaining balance. We currently have only 3 spaces remaining and they are going pretty fast. If we can get together a full group, then the cost per person would be only £220. This may increase to £250 in the event

that we do not fill the remaining 3 spaces but I'm sure this is unlikely!

If you are interested, please let me know and I can allocate you a space. Chris Songhurst, Social Enterprise Development Officer, 01233 632957 or chris@kcfn.co.uk

For details on other training from **KCFN** and information on the new **qualification framework** for the **Children and Young People's Workforce**, visit <http://www.kcfn.co.uk/adult/Projects/training>

Caring Confidently in Kent - Support Workshops for Carers

Following the withdrawal of funding for the Caring with Confidence programme, NHS West Kent PCT in partnership with Kent Adult Social Services have commissioned a shorter version of the seven week programme for all Carers living in the County of Kent.

Caring Confidently in Kent has taken the very best of the original, and produced a new three week programme aimed at helping Carers improve their lives and the person they care for.

Week One - Caring Day To Day

Week Two - Caring and Me

Week Three - Caring and Life

Our main objective is to raise your confidence in your caring role, and take better care of yourself. We also aim to put you in contact with other Carers who, like you would like to share their knowledge and experiences, and maybe build a new network of friends.

This **FREE**, three week programme is being held all over the County so there is an opportunity for you to join one near to where you live.

The course in Canterbury has already started but future dates include:

WHITSTABLE	1 st 8 th & 15 th April 2011
HERNE BAY	9 th 16 th & 23 rd June 2011

To register your place contact : Helen Appleton Cert.Ed MfL - Lead Trainer / Facilitator on Tel: 01474 - 330350 or e-mail: caringconfidently@btinternet.com

<http://www.cadvas.org/index.php/training>

Fully Funded Course for Anyone Thinking About Volunteering

Are you interested in volunteering but for one reason or another aren't quite ready to take the plunge? Dover District Volunteering Centre understands there are many reasons why taking on a volunteer role may seem daunting. You may lack confidence or need encouragement, you may worry about your childcare options or travel costs, you may be struggling to decide what sort of volunteer work you would like to do.

If this sounds familiar to you, then our Free course could greatly benefit you. The course takes place in Deal on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th March 2011 . Lunch and refreshments are included free of charge, and travel expenses can be reimbursed. All previous course participants have found them informative, fun and interesting.

If you would like to book a place, please contact Karen at the Volunteer Centre on 01304 367898 or email office@doverdistrictvolunteering.org.uk

EVENTS

Canterbury and Coastal Rethink Carers' Support Group

“Spotlight on Recovery”

Speakers: Rachel Turpin and Venetia Gibbs

**TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2011
7.30pm at the Canterbury Umbrella**

**All Mental Health Carers, Service Users and Professionals
are very welcome to attend**

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served.

The Kent Deafblind Conference

10 March 2011, Oakwood House Maidstone, 9.00am - 1.00pm

Kent Sensory Services, part of Kent Adult Social Services, are organising a free half day event at Oakwood House Maidstone to raise awareness of the needs of people who have both sight and hearing difficulties or who are deafblind. (Any staff working with older people or those with learning disabilities) It will be an interesting and stimulating morning giving people the chance to meet deafblind people and experience a simulation exercise.

You can view an agenda for the day at: <http://www.cadvas.org/index.php/events>

If you would like to attend please email learningresourceteam@kent.gov.uk with your name, job title and organisation. Also indicate if you have any special requirements for the day. Note interpreters and a palantypist have been booked and there will be no lunch as it is only a morning event.

If you have any further questions about the day please contact Jo Frazer on jo.frazer@kent.gov.uk.

Kent and Medway Disability Involvement Forum

**Tuesday 12 April, 2011, 6.30 pm –8.00 pm at Kent Police Training School,
Coverdale Avenue, Maidstone, ME15 9DW**

Come and find out about changes to Policing in Kent.
Come along and have **your** say.

For further information please view the “Diversity –Get Involved” section of the Kent Police website at www.kent.police.uk or contact the Kent Police Diversity Team at diversity.team@kent.pnn.police.uk or on 01622 652437



**Kent
Police**

Members' News



Skillnet Group CIC are holding 2 open days later this month. We will have a variety of stalls, information and interactive workshops for people to find out more about what we do.

The open days are aimed at

- people with and without learning difficulties looking to join one of our many groups or projects, or find out more information
- Businesses and organisations which are looking to become more inclusive and adhere to Equal Opportunities policies, to find out what support and training we can offer them
- People who want to find out what is going on in their area.

You can find out more at: <http://www.cadvas.org/index.php/events>

Other News

Kent's Trees Need You!

Last year environmental organisation **BTCV** was awarded a £652,400 Heritage Lottery Fund grant for a major project focussed on Kent's trees. Now BTCV wants you to get involved!

The five year scheme will involve hundreds of people of all ages in a host of activities focused on Kent's rich stock of heritage trees. Heritage trees are defined by the Forestry Commission as 'old trees, wide trees, rare trees and trees with historical and cultural significance.

Whether it's by volunteering to become a tree surveyor, taking part in a 'Woodland

Wonder' educational session, planting new trees or learning more on free courses, there are plenty of ways to take part:

- Volunteer BTCV Heritage Tree Surveyors
- Inspiring Community Participation
- Woodland Wonder
- Community Tree Planting
- Green Exercise
- Trees of Life Creative Arts
- Future Heritage Trees

Want to find out more about the project?

To register your interest for this project or find out how to get involved, then come along to one of these free daytime Launch Events (includes a buffet lunch along with guest speakers) being held in Kent on:

14 May – Ashford

14 June - Canterbury

10 July – Tonbridge

To find out more about getting involved with this new project or book a place on one of the launch events contact: **Virginia Hodge** on 01233 666519 or email: v.hodge@btcv.org.uk www.btcv.org/kent

Fewer than one in ten charities mention impact in annual reports

By David Ainsworth, Third Sector Online, 11 February 2011

Only 8 per cent of charities provide information on the impact of their work in their annual reports, according to a new study.

[Impact Reporting in the UK Charity Sector](#), published by the [Charity Finance Directors' Group](#) and [Cass Business School](#), is based on a survey of CFDG members and an assessment of 75 charity annual reports.

It says that 68 per cent of charities report the short-term effects of their actions – their outcomes – but only 8 per cent explain their long-term achievements – their impacts. The report says that about a third of charities do not consider impact reporting worth the cost, and that many find it difficult to obtain good data in order to carry it out.

The report was written by Paul Breckell, managing director of corporate resources at the [RNID](#), with Kate Harrison and Nicola Robert, two recent Cass Business School graduates. The CFDG has formed an Impact Reporting Steering Group, with Breckell as chair, to improve its impact reporting services to its members.

Compact Accountability and Transparency Guide

When the [new Compact](#) was launched last December the government also published [the Compact Accountability and Transparency Guide](#), which explains the measures it is introducing to strengthen the implementation of the Compact. It also explains what to do and whom to contact when things go wrong, from informal discussions with departments to formal complaints to the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

The Department of Health has launched a web page with all the [latest news on health and social care reform](#).

Home Office announces limits on criminal record checks

By Kaye Wiggins, Third Sector Online, 11 February 2011

Volunteers and staff will need criminal records checks only if they work "closely and regularly" with children and vulnerable adults, under plans for a wide-ranging reform of the vetting and barring system announced by the government today.

Under the proposals, part of the new Protection of Freedoms Bill, about 4.5 million people who would have had to register with the [Independent Safeguarding Authority](#) under the vetting and barring scheme initiated by the Labour government, would not have to have criminal records checks.

A [Home Office](#) spokesman said: "Far fewer people will come within the scope of regulated activity under the new system. The only people needing checks will be those working most closely and regularly with children and vulnerable adults."

He said the government would also "monitor the scope of criminal records checks" to make sure they were not deterring people from volunteering.

A statement from the Home Office said that, subject to parliamentary approval, the bill was expected to become law by early 2012. It said the new system would be introduced soon after that.

Public to have say in Parliament on new vetting and barring rules

Civil Society e-news 15 Feb 2011

Charities will be able to influence the direction of new vetting and barring rules as part of new government measures to allow anyone to comment on new legislation as it goes through Parliament.

The **Protection of Freedoms Bill**, which includes changes to the controversial [vetting and barring scheme](#), will include a new pilot public reading stage [online](#)

allowing anyone to comment on each clause.

The comments will then be collated by the government and presented to the public bill committee, a cross-party House of Commons committee that will scrutinise the Bill. The government wants the MPs on the committee to use the public's views to inform this scrutiny.

If the pilot is successful the coalition will introduce a public reading stage for all bills.

Charity Commission strategic review

The **Charity Commission** has set out its key regulatory priorities for the next four years as it concludes the first stage of its strategic review and publishes the responses from the public consultation.

Further information:

[Charity regulator sets out initial conclusions on future strategy](#)

Charities invited to join all-party parliamentary group on civil society

By Kaye Wiggins, Third Sector Online, 17 February 2011

Charities and umbrella bodies will be able to become permanent members of the [All-Party Parliamentary Group on Civil Society and Volunteering](#) under new plans to open membership to non-parliamentarians.

Labour MP Alun Michael, the group's chair, told *Third Sector* he was in the process of changing its rules on membership, which is currently only available to MPs and Peers. He said he wanted people working in the voluntary sector to apply for membership.

Members of the all-party group can question ministers and senior sector figures that address the group and make contacts with MPs and Peers who that have an interest in the sector.

The group is hosted by the [National Council for Voluntary Organisations](#). Michael said the NCVO supported the move to recruit representatives from other sector bodies.

BIG SOCIETY NEWS

As you will be aware, there has been an enormous amount of debate and media coverage about the Big Society agenda in recent weeks. Obviously space doesn't allow us to reproduce everything, but here are some links to a few of the items you might find of interest:

[New Report Identifies Changes Needed to Support Big Society](#)

[David Cameron says spending cuts will not undermine the big society](#)

The Big Society Bank will help banks understand social enterprise, says the Prime Minister

[Jon Snow says voluntary sector should be in charge of big society agenda](#)

The broadcaster told a City Bridge Trust conference that the sector should draw up its own proposals

[Government must correct 'polarisation' of business and charity, finds Social Enterprise Coalition](#)

A study by the Social Enterprise Coalition has concluded that the government must reconfigure the role of businesses in social benefit in order to achieve its Big Society aims.

The Public Administration Select Committee is to launch an inquiry into the Big Society in an effort to pinpoint how to make it a success:

http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/governance/news/content/8357/pasc_to_launch_inquiry_into_the_big_society

[Navca chief warns community organisers not to disrupt existing work](#)

Navca chief executive Kevin Curley has issued a warning to Locality, prime contractor for the new community organisers programme, not to ignore or duplicate the work already being done by Navca members when it rolls out the £20m programme.

[How to rescue the Big Society](#) NCVO.

[Who is ready for the Big Society?](#) Consulting Inplace.

[Big Society: Social Action and the Role of Public Space](#) The Centre for Local Economic Strategies.

Funding and Finance News



The Single Grant Gateway

Voluntary Grants Application process for 2012-13

We are currently reviewing the council's **Voluntary Sector Grant Policy** which sets out how the council funds the voluntary and community sector. As a result the application process for **Voluntary Sector Grants** and **Parking Concession** 2012/13 has been **deferred until the autumn 2011** whilst the review is being carried out. I will advise you of the exact dates nearer the time.

Applications for a Loan, Concessionary Rent, Service Level Agreement, Business Rate Relief or an Emergency Grant during 2011/12 are not affected by the review and can be applied for online throughout the year.

Please do not hesitate to contact **Mella White** on 01227 862 516 or email mella.white@canterbury.gov.uk if you would like further information.

Nick Hurd says the sector cannot be immune from cuts

By Kaye Wiggins, Third Sector Online, 16 February 2011

Nick Hurd, the Minister for Civil Society, has told charities it would be irresponsible to argue that they should be immune from public spending cuts.

Speaking at *Third Sector's [The Big Society in Practice](#)* conference in Westminster yesterday, Hurd said he was concerned about the effects that cuts would have on the voluntary sector, but the budget deficit had to be reduced.

Asked by a delegate if he was ashamed that the government was "dismantling the sector brick by brick", he responded: "I'm ashamed that we could contemplate borrowing this much money.

"We are having to manage an incredibly difficult situation. It is not responsible for the sector to say it should be immune from the process of reducing the deficit. The big society is about more than traditional volunteering, however valuable and important that is."

Hurd told the conference that he would like to hear their feedback on the £100m Transition Fund, set up to help charities affected by cuts in public spending.

"We set the Transition Fund up so that it would be fast, and the mission for the Big Lottery Fund, which administered it, was to make it quick and easy. If people have found it complicated and difficult, I would genuinely like to know."

Pickles says councils that make disproportionate cuts could face 'statutory force'

By John Plummer, Third Sector Online, 1 March 2011

Eric Pickles, the communities secretary, has threatened to use the law against councils that make "disproportionate" cuts to their 2011/12 voluntary sector budgets.

Some local authorities, including the Tory flagship local authority [Westminster Council](#) and the Labour controlled [Manchester City Council](#), have announced deep cuts to charity funding in the forthcoming financial year.

The government has previously urged councils to avoid making deep cuts to charities so they can help to build the big society, but has emphasised it is up to councils themselves to make final spending decisions.

But Pickles told delegates at the [National Council for Voluntary Organisations](#) annual conference yesterday that he had "grave concerns" about some councils and was prepared to use "statutory force" against the worst offenders.

He said the government had "reasonable expectations" of how councils conduct themselves.

"It is reasonable to expect that councils will not pass on disproportionate cuts to local voluntary and community groups," said Pickles. "That they will not inflict bigger reductions to your budgets than they take on themselves."

He said it was also reasonable to expect councils to have discussed changes to services with charities "at a very early stage", to give three months' notice of funding changes and allow three months for groups to suggest alternatives to cuts or ways of reshaping services.

"If councils are being high-handed, I'll consider giving our reasonable expectations statutory force," he said.

"They must resist any temptation to pull up the drawbridge and pass on disproportionate cuts. And unless they've squeezed out every bit of waste, unless they are really sharing back offices and unless they've clamped down on senior pay, then there's no excuse."

Government launches free website to help charities find contracts

By Andy Ricketts, Third Sector Online, 11 February 2011

The government has launched a new website aimed at helping charities and small businesses to find public sector contracting opportunities.

The site, called [Contracts Finder](#), will list all such opportunities worth more than £10,000.

Organisations can register on the free site to specify what sort of contracts they are interested in and receive emails about them, the Cabinet Office announced.

Organisations that bid for contracts worth less than £100,000 will no longer have to fill in pre-qualification questionnaires, it said. Organisations that fill in such

questionnaires for larger contracts will be spared filling in further questionnaires for similar opportunities.

Francis Maude, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, said: "Today's changes will help create a system that is transparent and allows small businesses and voluntary sector organisations to compete more fairly for government contracts – helping to drive economic growth at national and regional level, while delivering better deals for the taxpayer."

The government is already paying the [National Council for Voluntary Organisations](#) £1.6m over three years to deliver [Funding Central](#), a website that lists grants and contracts available to the third sector and went live in June 2009.

When do procurement rules apply?

Which procurement rules do commissioners have to follow when procuring a service? LCPU has developed a [flowchart and accompanying guidance](#) to make this complex area more straightforward.

Voluntary Sector Cuts

www.voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk is a new website giving voluntary and community organisations the opportunity to share their concerns about funding cuts and how they will impact on their ability to deliver vital services. It is a joint project bringing together NAVCA, NCVO, ACEVO, Volunteering England and other leading voluntary and community sector bodies.

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 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, or visit their website at www.kent.gov.uk/externalfunding

Kent CAN, the county level infrastructure organisation which exists to support and promote the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Kent and Medway, provides regular **funding e-bulletins** and also hosts the **GRANTnet funding search website**. For more information visit www.kentcan.org

Kent4Community, which is a free web based grant search facility, at www.kent.gov.uk/community_and_living/external_funding/search_for_grants.aspx

J4b community produce a **regular funding newsletter**:
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:

Tel: 01303 813790

Fax: 01303 814203

Mobile: 07900 560235

Email: nigel.turley@ruralkent.org.uk

Website: www.fundingbuddiesinkent.org.uk

Funding Central 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.

Visit www.fundingcentral.org.uk

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

CaDVAS, Tower Works, Simmonds Road, Wincheap Business Park, Canterbury CT1 3RA
Tel: 01227 452381 **Mob:** 07595 543411 **Email:** info@cadvas.org

Deadline for items for the next newsletter: **Midday on Tuesday 5th April** - thank you.
Please send your items to Sue Tucker at the address above or email to sue@cadvas.org

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

Disclaimer:

Whilst every care has been taken in the preparation of this publication, CaDVAS cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions. All contents included in this newsletter are for information purposes only; inclusion does not imply any recommendation