

CaDVAS Newsletter

December 2010

Issue 24

In this issue

- Welcome
- Training and Events
- Volunteering Opportunities
- Other News
- Funding & Finance News

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Welcome

Welcome to our December newsletter and thank you to everyone who joined us at our AGM earlier this month. Papers from the AGM will soon be available on our new-look website, which will be appearing in the new year.

We hope you are looking forward to a break over the Christmas holidays, as we are. **CaDVAS** will be closed from lunchtime on Friday 17th December through until Tuesday 4th January – but don't let that stop you from booking your places on any of our training courses below – just email and we will respond as soon as we come back.

Training and Events

CaDVAS TRAINING

IT training

There is still time to book places on our **January 2011 IT training courses:**

Databases (Access 2007) for Improvers, Thanington, Thurs 13th Jan

Spreadsheets (Excel 2003) for Improvers part 2 Hersden, Tues 25th Jan

Both courses run from 9.30am - 12.30pm; all places £35.

For more information see the IT training programme on our website at www.cadvas.org; to book your place email sue@cadvas.org or call Sue Tucker on 01227 452381 or 07595 543411.

Our New Year training programme is taking shape and will include:

Monday 31st January, 9.30am - 1.00pm

Thanington Neighbourhood Centre

Legal Structures and Charity Law (Trustee Development Programme)

Thursday February 10th

9.30am - 1.00pm

Kent Enterprise House, Herne Bay

Meeting Skills (Trustee Development Programme)

February (tbc)

All day

Northgate Ward Community Centre

Emergency First Aid at Work

Thursday 10th March

10.00am - 4.00pm

Hambrook Training Room, Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre

Developing a Fundraising Strategy

We will send out further details as soon as they are confirmed. In the meantime, if you think you would be interested in attending any of these courses then please email sue@cadvas.org or call Sue Tucker on 01227 452381 or 07595 543411 for more information and to make a provisional booking.

CASE Kent Training

The Hidden Web, Thursday 27th January 2011

Developing Social Enterprise, Thursday 10th February 2011

Press the Press, Monday 21st March 2011

Emergency First Aid, Wednesday 13th April 2011

Evidencing Need/Outputs, Outcomes and Impact Assessment,

Thursday 12th May 2011

The Accidental Fundraiser, Thursday 2nd June 2011

Don't forget that members of **CaDVAS** also qualify for member rates for **CASE Kent** training courses!

For more information visit the **CASE Kent** website at www.casekent.org.uk

OTHER TRAINING



CRUSE - EAST KENT WITH SWALE AREA

Awareness in Bereavement Care

Accredited Training Course

Dates: Course starts on 26th February 2011 for 9 Saturdays during March and April, completing on 7th May 2011.

Venue: Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital, Highsted Road, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 4DT

Your opportunity to

- Learn Counselling skills
- Develop specialised bereavement awareness
- or become a Cruse Bereavement Care Volunteer

Cost: £250

To find out more contact 01795 844069 or 07855 750 890

EastKentwithSwale@cruse.org.uk

Cruse Bereavement Care, Room 3, Jagow House, Millstrood Road, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3PS, 01227 639745.



Upcoming short courses from KCFN:

What is dyslexia and what is it like to be dyslexic? 13th January 2011

Strategies to help with specific learning difficulties 27th January, 2011

Positive Behaviour Management Strategies 7th February, 2011

Can you Communicate? 22nd February, 2011

Paediatric Life Support for Children and Young People (Ofsted Approved)
3rd March 2011

Easter Play Workshop 10th March, 2011

All courses will take place at the KCFN training centre in Ashford. For more information on these courses or to book online, please click the link below.

http://www.kcfn.co.uk/adult/Projects/bespoke_short_courses

Alternatively, email chris@kcfn.co.uk or ring the KCFN training team on 01233 632957.

Consultation - new QCF L1 Preparing for Work in the Care Sector

As part of the **Qualifications Credit Framework (QCF)** development process, **Skills for Care** would like feedback on a sample of draft units being developed across different qualifications. The new QCF qualifications must be of high standards, reflect current best practice and meet sector need and requirements for registration and regulation.

As part of this quality assurance process, Skills for Care is seeking feedback from employers, training providers, learners and people who use services and carers on the draft units at a very early stage. Participants are asked to review draft materials against tight criteria and within a short timescale in order to meet deadlines for development.

The survey is online at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MJ8HRYT>

We would appreciate receiving your questionnaire by 9am Tuesday 4th January 2011 to be included in subsequent analysis.

EVENTS

Swale & Canterbury Carers' Support Carers' Rights Day

As you know, unfortunately we had to postpone our Carers' Rights Day event scheduled for 3rd December due to the awful snowy conditions, but we are pleased to announce that we have now rescheduled the event followed by our AGM to:

Friday 21st January 2011, 10am – 2.30pm

The venue remains unaltered: **Gatefield Hall, Alexander Centre, Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NY.**

For more information go to www.swalecarers.org.uk and to book your place contact Sandie.Hornby@swalecarers.org.uk .

Sandwich Community Resources Lunch Club

An informal meeting held three times a year for people working within the local community, who are interested in sharing information with one another.

Sandwich Community Resources Lunch Club meets three times a year at The United Reformed Church, Cattle Market, Sandwich, 12.45 - 2.00. This is an opportunity to hear guest speakers on a wide range of community issues and to meet others who work in the community. Local Volunteers, Clergy, Social Services, Voluntary Sector Managers, District Nurses, Practice Managers and many more, have all found these meetings to be very useful and informative.

Meeting dates for 2011 are:

Wednesday 9th March 2011

Wednesday 6th July 2011

Wednesday 9th November 2011

Tea and coffee provided but please feel free to bring your lunch.

For more information contact Kate Gollop on 01227 749400 or volcare@aol.com

‘A Woman’s View: exploring mental health experience through an artist’s eye’

Monday 10th January 2011, 10 - 3pm at Tonbridge Baptist Church.

A unique opportunity for women with an interest in mental health and support services. A day for women to discuss, share and learn from each others’ experiences. Giving women a voice and influencing support services.

Duration

1 Day: 10am – 3.00pm – No Fees.
Lunch will be provided.

Intended Audience

Any woman with a personal or professional interest in improving mental health services for women.

Aims

- To provide a safe place for women to discuss in confidence.
- To create a space where professionals and service recipients can learn from each other.
- To increase awareness of the diverse issues facing women with mental health concerns
- To highlight what women need to providers of mental health services.

The Workshop

Using art work specially produced for this event to stimulate discussion, the workshop will focus on the theme of ‘The 3 phases of womanhood’ (18-35, 35-60, 60+).

Applications

Applications are actively encouraged from women from diverse backgrounds including older women, lesbians, ethnic minorities, carers, trans women, faith groups and those with disabilities.

To register and obtain a booking form please contact: the Equalities team at Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust on tel: 01732 523 347 or email equalities@kmpt.nhs.uk

Please note that the closing date for returned booking forms is Wednesday 5th January 2011 but early application is advisable to secure your place.

To find out more about this event you can discuss any questions you may have with

Sheree Bell, Community Engagement Officer at KMPT, on 07949 037 401

Volunteering Opportunities

Wanted: 18-24 year-old health and social care services supersleuths

What do young people think of health and social care services in Kent? For example, do they know where to turn if they have a mental health problem, need extra support as a carer or how to get help for an STI? How can things be improved?

Health watchdog **Kent LINK** wants to answer these questions. That's why it's looking for people aged 18-24 to act as **voluntary community researchers**. They'll talk to other young people and find out their views.

It's all part of the new **Community Researchers** programme, launching in early 2011. The researchers will get valuable training by the **University of Greenwich** to help them carry out the research – and a certificate at the end of the programme.

'Who better to say what they need from health and social care services than the people who will get to use them?' says Graham Hills, Operational Director, **Kent LINK**. 'That's why we're so excited about our Community Researchers programme. Young people will be able to have a very real say in how services are shaped in the future. Plus it's a chance for some of them to develop valuable new skills to boost their CV and make them stand out in the job market.'

Kent LINK is also looking for organisations that work with young people to take part. Please contact Rebecca Barraclough at rebecca@kentlink.org or telephone 07976 596797.

For more information visit the website: <http://www.thekentlink.co.uk/community-researchers>

Other News

The Daycare Trust has produced an updated version of its publication ***Help with childcare costs: A resource to support professionals who advise parents.***

Welfare cuts resulting from the Comprehensive Spending Review and the emergency budget mean that parents will find it increasingly difficult to pay for

childcare. It has never been so important for them to know about the financial help available with childcare costs. This booklet and poster are designed to support you to meet parents' information needs around paying for childcare.

The resource includes an A3 poster giving you an at-a-glance overview of the range of support available, flowcharts to help you to work out the specific help parents may be entitled to and detailed information about the different forms of financial help and how to claim them, including contact details for useful organisations and further support. These resources are also available as hard copies and can be ordered by contacting publications@daycaretrust.org.uk.

This resource is part of a range offered by Daycare Trust to support parents and advisers to find out about and claim help with childcare costs. We also offer a free training programme for voluntary and community sector advisers. For more information visit the *Training & Consultancy* section of Daycare Trust's [website](#).

Other Daycare Trust resources available include:

- the Family Information Directory available at www.daycaretrust.org.uk/fid which allows you to search for local childcare and family services;
- www.payingforchildcare.org.uk -up-to-date information written for parents including downloadable factsheets; and
- our [Information Line](#) which is open to both parents and advisers on **0845 872 6251**.

We hope this resource is helpful and please feel free to contact info@daycaretrust.org.uk for more information.

Office space needed

Do you have any office space you could rent out from February 2011? **Life Charity**, which supports teenage parents across the country, has a floating support service in East Kent and needs to move from its current Canterbury office. They are looking for somewhere to store a filing cabinet for their client files and maybe the use of a desk for at most a couple of times a week.

If you can help, please contact

Jackie Whitcroft, Regional Manager

LIFE, LIFE House

1 Mill Street

Leamington Spa

Warwickshire CV31 1ES

Tel: 01926 421587 Mobile no: 07717211065

Email: jackiewhitcroft@lifecharity.org.uk www.lifecharity.org.uk

Acevo commission calls for mutualist approach to personalisation of public services

By Kaye Wiggins, Third Sector Online, 9 November 2010

The personalisation of public services will be ineffective unless the government adopts a "mutualist approach" to the policy, according to a report by the [National Commission on Personalisation](#), which was set up by [Acevo](#).

The report by the chief executives body, launched last night, says the government must encourage recipients of personal budgets to pool the funds, and must also urge charities and other organisations providing services to them to work together.

"Public agencies should remove barriers and provide support and incentives for people to band together wherever possible to address their needs on a mutual basis," it says.

The report also calls for a bottom-up model of quality assurance. "There is widespread concern among Acevo members that vulnerable users of public services who are less able to make informed choices could increasingly become victims to fraud or low-quality provision," it says.

"An unregulated free-for-all would make the revenue streams for providers very uncertain and result in both higher cost (due to the costs and risks of lower volume) and much higher numbers of organisations going bust."

Matthew Pike, chair of the **National Commission on Personalisation**, said: "We have reached a fork in the road. Ahead lies either merely a devolution of theoretical rights with a lack of practical underpinning, or an ambitious revolution of rights accompanied by new structures that make individuals' lives better.

"This is a golden opportunity. We must not let it go to waste."

Ministry of Justice makes voluntary sector involvement a priority

Civil Society e-News 10 Nov 2010

The **Ministry of Justice** has released its business plan for 2011–2015 introducing measures for greater participation of the voluntary and private sectors that will create a "revolution in rehabilitation", Justice Secretary Kenneth Clarke has said.

In a five-point plan of action, priority number one for the coalition is to increase involvement of the voluntary and private sectors in the rehabilitation of offenders using **payment-by-results** incentives for the organisations. The document explicates that no further rehabilitation services will be provided without testing if the services can be more effectively provided by the voluntary or private sectors.

The percentage of spending on the voluntary and community sector for its services will not be confirmed by the Ministry until the end of each financial year but increased involvement of the sector follows cuts to the total departmental budget from £8.9bn to £7.3bn in 2014/2015.

Voluntary organisations will be involved from now to August next year with the design of payment-by-results pilots, funded in part by **social impact bonds**, running from August 2011 until November 2014.

How Can Your Trustees Make Your Charity More Effective?

A new report has been published by New Philanthropy Capital which highlights how trustees can help to make a charity more effective. Find out [more](#)

Health service reform is worrying for the third sector, minister admits

By Kate Youde, Third Sector Online, 11 November 2010

A government minister has admitted that the period of change brought about by health service reform is worrying for voluntary organisations.

Responding to a parliamentary question from Conservative MP Julian Smith on the role of voluntary organisations in the future of the NHS, care services minister **Paul Burstow** said they would continue to make a vital contribution to health and care.

But he admitted that the period of transition "will be worrying for voluntary organisations".

Burstow said that, as a result, the [Department of Health](#) was keen for primary care trusts to engage with stakeholders.

"This includes working in **close partnership** with all organisations that they hold funding agreements with through both grant and contract arrangements, recognising the principles of the **Compact**," he added.

In his written answer on 10 November, Burstow said the department was exploring options to ensure it could maximise the potential contribution of the voluntary sector. He said voluntary organisations could strengthen public and patient engagement and needs assessment through their knowledge and understanding of local people's needs.

'Right to challenge' is all about the voluntary sector, says Greg Clark

By Kaye Wiggins, Third Sector Online, 15 November 2010

Greg Clark, **the decentralisation minister**, has indicated that the right to challenge local councils' spending decisions, which will be part of the forthcoming Localism Bill, will be designed to benefit the voluntary sector rather than the private sector. The bill, to be presented to Parliament next week, will contain provisions for a **'right to challenge'**.

Speaking to **Third Sector** at the launch of a [ResPublica report](#) on community rights yesterday, Clark said the right to challenge would allow charities and community groups to bid to provide services if they thought they could do it "differently or better" than the groups the council had chosen.

"I don't want to give away the details of the bill, and it's legally complex," he said. "But it's all about community groups and the voluntary sector. If they can demonstrate that they can do things differently and better, councils should take that into account."

Asked whether the right to challenge would be given exclusively to not-for-profit groups, Clark said: "I wouldn't say exclusively. But the details will be in the legislation."

Some charities have previously raised concerns that the right to challenge would allow private firms to challenge councils' decisions by offering to provide services more cheaply than voluntary groups could.

The ResPublica report, **To Buy, To Bid, To Build**, said public assets, such as libraries, swimming pools and community centres, should be transferred to local community groups, rather than to the private sector.

Trustee boards need skills gaps advisers, says Dame Mary Marsh

Civil Society e-News, 24 Nov 2010

Dame [Mary Marsh](#), director of the **Clore Social Leadership Programme**, has said trustee boards should have a person dedicated to identifying skill gaps on boards that should be filled. Marsh was speaking at a series of seminars on trusteeship organised by [New Philanthropy Capital](#) over this summer as part of its research into the trustee role.

Responding to a question on the challenge of achieving a diverse board with a mix of skills, Marsh recommended that boards appoint a **nominated adviser** to undertake audits to identify any gaps in skills, professional or personal, that should be filled.

The seminars, held with 80 trustees, also covered knowing your charity and role, building good relationships, impact reporting and reviewing board performance. [Tesse Akpeki](#), an independent governance consultant, emphasised that **trustee induction** should not be a one-off process and that boards should be committed to continuous learning and a 're-induction' process which can be helpful if significant changes had taken place within a charity.

Other key points that came out of the seminars was the pivotal role of the chair in determining how well his or her board worked and the need for regular reviews of result from impact measurements, with the suggestion of sub-committees which are focused on results.

To view the full NPC report on the seminars click [here](#).

Charitable incorporated organisation model will be available next year, Nick Hurd says

By Kaye Wiggins, Third Sector Online, 24 November 2010

The **charitable incorporated organisation**, a new legal form for charities that was created by the **2006 Charities Act**, will come into force early next year, according to Nick Hurd, the Minister for Civil Society.

Answering [a written parliamentary question](#), he said secondary legislation to bring CIOs into force would be put before Parliament "with a view to the first charitable incorporated organisations being established from **spring 2011**."

Under the CIO model, charities would be able to have limited liability without the need to register as companies and file accounts with Companies House.

Hurd said: "I have yet to agree the implementation timetable, but the availability of the charitable incorporated organisation model for existing charities will have to be phased in over time to help manage the expected demand."

An **Office for Civil Society** spokesman said the OCS would draft the legislation. He said an implementation period would be set out in due course, but was unable to provide any further information.

Government Publishes White Paper on Radical Reform of Public Health in England

The **White Paper** presents a radical shift in the way public health challenges are tackled, with a move from national direction and central control to placing local communities at the heart of public health.

It responds to Professor Sir Michael Marmot's ***Fair Society, Healthy Lives*** report and adopts its life course framework for tackling the wider social determinants of health. It complements ***A Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens*** in emphasising more personalised, preventive services that are focused on delivering the best outcomes for citizens and that help to build the **Big Society**.

The White Paper sets out how local authorities will be given the responsibility, power and freedom to improve the health and well being of people in their communities and tackle health inequalities. There will be financial incentives to reward local authorities' progress on improving health and reducing health inequalities.

A new integrated public health service - **Public Health England** - will be created by April 2012 to ensure excellence, expertise and responsiveness, particularly on

health protection, where a national response is vital.

In a move away from central control, the majority of public health services will be commissioned by local authorities from their ring-fenced budget, or by the NHS, all funded from Public Health England's new public health budget.

Subject to the passage of the **Health and Social Care Bill**, the Government plans to:

- enable the creation of Public Health England, which will take on full responsibilities from 2012, including the formal transfer of functions and powers from the Health Protection Agency and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse;
- transfer local health improvement functions to local government, with ring-fenced funding allocated to local government from April 2013;
- give local government new functions to increase local accountability and support integration and partnership working across social care, the NHS and public health.

During 2011, the Department of Health will publish documents that build on this new approach including on mental health, tobacco control, obesity, sexual health, pandemic flu preparedness, health protection and emergency preparedness.

The proposals in this White Paper apply to England, but the Government will work closely with the Devolved Administrations on areas of shared interest.

The Government is consulting on specific questions set out in the White Paper.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthyliveshealthypeople/index.htm>

The consultation process closes on 8 March 2011.

Carers' Strategy

The Government has published a four year strategy to ensure the best possible outcomes for carers and those they support. Find out [more](#)

Younger would welcome change to income threshold for registration

By Sophie Hudson, Third Sector, 7 December 2010

The [Charity Commission](#) would welcome a review of the threshold at which organisations must register with the regulator, according to its chief executive **Sam Younger**.

Speaking at an all-party parliamentary group meeting at the House of Commons this week, Younger said that reducing the number of charities registered with the commission could help free up some of its resources, and implied that the income registration threshold of £5,000 could be increased.

The commission is considering how it can reconfigure its services in the face of a cut in its annual budget of 28 per cent over the next four years.

Under the Charities Act 2006, charities do not have to register with the regulator unless they have an income of at least £5,000 a year.

However, Younger said charities still had the right to register even if their annual income was below this threshold. "When [the act] is being reviewed, that is an issue worth looking at," he said.

Roger Gale, the Conservative MP for North Thanet, told the meeting there were far too many charities. "The amount of money that must be wasted in duplication is phenomenal," he said.

He said it would be good if the commission had the power to prevent new organisations from registering as charities where there were already other charities with similar objectives.

Dame Suzi Leather, chair of the Charity Commission, said that if Parliament wanted the commission to do that then it would need a different legal framework. She added it would also need to be given criteria by which it would be able to judge applications.

Funding and Finance News

Charity Bank beats competition from high street banks to win top accolade for Outstanding Innovation

Charity Bank has won the *ifs* Award for Outstanding Innovation at the Financial Innovation Awards run by the **Institute of Financial Services (ifs)**. Charity Bank, which provides financial support and guidance to charities, was selected ahead of HSBC, Royal Bank of Scotland, Lloyds TSB, Barclays and other high street banks.

As well as picking up the top accolade for Outstanding Innovation, Charity Bank won the award for **Social Responsibility and Community Banking** and was shortlisted in three other categories of the awards, including Innovation in Social Enterprise and Inclusion, Excellence in Customer Communication, Excellence in Risk and Management Control.

Suzanne Chadwick, the Chair of Judges said: “Charity Bank is a worthy recipient of this year’s top accolade. Its commitment to transparency, hands on support of the business it lends to and its encouragement of staff to volunteer, are just a few examples of how the Charity Bank has used innovative approaches to embed its core principles throughout the organisation.”

She added: “At a time when the reputation of the financial services sector has been eroded, the work of Charity Bank is a timely reminder to all of the immense benefits that financial services can bring not just to our prosperity, but also to individuals, communities and society in general.”

“We are delighted to receive this accolade from our financial sector peers,” said Charity Bank’s **chief executive Malcolm Hayday**. “We would like to thank our depositors and investors who want to encourage a more responsible and transparent use of money and the enterprising charities and social enterprises that are using their money to benefit society. It is time that social return was taken more into account when looking at what banks offer their customers.”

Charity Bank is the only regulated bank in the UK that is also a registered general charity and 100% of its depositors’ money is used to support charities and social enterprises that benefit society.

Charity Bank’s innovative approach to banking and its mission to benefit society have enabled it to lend over £111m to charities and social enterprises, touching the lives of over 3 million people in communities across the UK.

For more information about Charity Bank’s work, visit www.charitybank.org

New financial reporting arrangements for charities to be drawn up

By David Ainsworth, Third Sector Online, 4 November 2010

[The Accounting Standards Board](#) will develop an accounting standard for public benefit entities, including charities, housing associations and educational establishments, it has announced.

It has also said it will retain a statement of recommended practice for charities, and that work will begin on drafting both the new PBE standard and a new Statement of Recommended Practice.

The announcement comes in a [document containing Financial Reporting Exposure Drafts 43 and 44](#), which lays out future rules for financial reporting.

The draft sets out a three-tier system, which will have standards for large, publicly listed companies, for small and medium-sized companies, and for smaller organisations. It is the latest step in the process of bringing the UK into line with international financial reporting standards.

But the ASB says the IFRSs were not designed with not-for-profit entities in mind, so its committee for accounting for **public benefit entities**, known as Cape, would be responsible for developing a separate standard for those organisations.

"The ASB is proposing that the **PBE** standard should be a 'differences only' standard – identifying where there are omissions in UK financial reporting standards that need addressing for PBEs," the report says.

Another exposure draft with information on a PBE standard will be published in 2011, the report says. Development of a new SORP for charities will not officially commence until this is published.

Further consultation on a PBE standard is expected to take place in the near future, the report says, although it sets out no clear timescale.

Office for Civil Society publishes green paper on commissioning

Third Sector Online, 8 December 2010

The **Office for Civil Society** has published a green paper on commissioning, calling for views on how the government can create a level playing field for voluntary organisations bidding for public service contracts.

Interested parties have until **5 January** to respond to the [Modernising Commissioning green paper](#), which does not contain specific new proposals, but instead seeks views on the government's current plans for action.

These include payment by results, setting targets for service delivery by independent providers, streamlining the procurement process and giving voluntary organisations a new 'right to challenge' local authorities when they think they can provide better services.

The consultation also asks for feedback on its plans to launch a **new website** called **Contract Finder** in March next year. The free site will host all central government tender documents and contracts.

Much of this information is already contained on the [Funding Central](#) website. Ministers awarded the [NCVO](#) £1.6m to run Funding Central for three years from 2009. The green paper says "the government will consider the relationship between Contracts Finder and Funding Central".

Nick Hurd, the minister for civil society, said the green paper would feed into a public service reform white paper next year. "We need smarter commissioning processes that take into account the social and environmental impact of organisations awarded contracts," he said.

Funding Commission sets a blueprint for next decade

By Kaye Wiggins, Third Sector, 7 December 2010

The voluntary sector could almost double its income from individual giving and increase its trading income by £1.7bn in the next decade, according to the [Funding Commission](#), which was set up by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations last year to examine the sector's funding.

Its report, ***Funding the Future*** says charities' income has grown by £10bn in the past decade and could continue to grow significantly in the next 10 years if its 12 recommendations are followed.

A new £10m campaign, called **Better Asking**, could increase individual giving from £11.3bn in 2007/08 to £20bn by 2020, the report says, and charities' income from trading could rise from £8.3bn to £10bn. It also says the sector's reserves could double from their 2007/08 level of £16bn to £32bn by 2020.

The report says the future of the sector is in the balance. "Under one scenario, the pattern of public services is cut to the bone, serving fewer and fewer people," it says. "Commercial organisations take over the running of many of the services that are left. Civil society organisations become hopelessly overstretched and unsustainable through reductions in their funding and an unrealistic assumption that voluntary effort and income can fill the gap left by the state's withdrawal."

Under another scenario, it says, a **new social contract** is developed and the sector increases its income and impact. But it says the commission's 12 members, drawn from charities and umbrella bodies, are "concerned that, despite the rhetoric of the big society initiative, we are in danger of heading for the first scenario".

Fiona Ellis, chair of the commission, said: "If the government and the private sector don't make some of the investments that this report recommends, then we will be in hard times."

Localgiving.com: Charity fundraising

This is a new website offering small charities a suite of online fundraising services, including email marketing and donation processing. Backed by the **Community Foundation Network** and the **Ardbrack Foundation**, the website provides donation and gift aid processing and email marketing capabilities (charging small charities £60). The service is open to organisations of all sizes, with all charities vetted by their local Community Foundation before joining.

Further information: <http://localgiving.com/>

Measuring the impact of volunteering

Volunteering England has recently launched a new **toolkit** to demonstrate to funders, and other stakeholders, the difference that volunteers make to an organisation. The **Volunteer Impact Assessment Toolkit** (cost £29.99 + VAT) includes step-by-step guidance for conducting an impact assessment, case studies and access to a dedicated website of additional material.

Further information and other resources: <http://tinyurl.com/379swca>

Relax the ring-fencing of grant money, says CFDG

By David Ainsworth, Third Sector, 16 November 2010

[The Charity Finance Directors' Group](#) has written to the [Cabinet Office](#) and the [Treasury](#) proposing that charities be allowed to retain grant funding the government had previously required them to spend this year.

"Many charities have grants that must be spent in full before 31 March 2011, or the money is returned to the Treasury as an underspend," says the letter from Caron Bradshaw, the chief executive of the CFDG.

"A portion of these grants will be spent on projects that, although good, will no longer be affordable after the comprehensive spending review.

"We propose that the government **relaxes the ring-fencing rules** to allow bodies funded by government grants to have the discretion to set aside the remaining amount of the 2010/11 grants into an austerity reserve."

The CFDG said it had been approached by its members with the proposal and felt it had merit for all parts of the charity sector.

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**; 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:

Tel: 01303 813790 Fax: 01303 814203 Mobile: 07900 560235

nigel.turley@ruralkent.org.uk 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 Monday 31st January 2011** - 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

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