

# CaDVAS Newsletter

September 2011

Issue 7

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## Contact details

### Contact us at:

Whitstable Volunteer Centre  
St Mary's Hall  
Oxford Street  
Whitstable  
CT5 1DD

01227 772248  
07595 543411  
[info@cadvas.org](mailto:info@cadvas.org)  
[www.cadvas.org](http://www.cadvas.org)

## Welcome and CaDVAS News

Welcome to our rather belated September newsletter. It's been, as ever, a busy few weeks for us, not least as we finalise the merger with Whitstable Volunteer Centre, which is progressing well. We are delighted to welcome **David Terry**, who joined us as the new **Director of EKVAS** in August.

We are working with our colleagues at Canterbury City Council to update the **Directory of Organisations** which we hold on the **Canterbury Community Portal** at [www.e-canterbury.co.uk](http://www.e-canterbury.co.uk). If you haven't already done so, please do complete the survey which has recently been sent out and, if your organisation is listed on the directory, please make sure your details are up to date. If you haven't registered on the directory, please do so. Either way, we do want to hear your views. You can find the survey documents on our website:

<http://www.cadvas.org/index.php/news-2>

We are also looking for your comments on how you want your infrastructure services to develop in the future. As part of their bid on behalf of Kent for the **Transforming Local Infrastructure fund** the **Big Society Co-operative** are asking frontline voluntary and civil society organisations to give them their views about what services they want and need and how they would like to see them delivered in future. Please complete the online survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TLIKentsurvey>

The survey is anonymous and the data will only be used to support the bid process. As the bid is due in to be submitted in October this survey is only open until **Monday 26th September**.

Thank you very much for your help – it is really important that we hear the views of members and users to make sure Kent's bid is as strong as it can be.

## Training and Events

### CaDVAS TRAINING

We still have a few places available on the following courses:

#### Management Courses:

**Management in Action**, Canterbury Innovation Centre

**Personal leadership in action**, Tuesday 18th October (half day)

**Managing for high performance**, Tuesday 15th November (full day)

**Working with Volunteers:** good practice in recruitment, retention and management

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011, 9.30am - 12.30pm,  
Kent Enterprise House, Herne Bay

#### IT Courses:

**Further Desktop Publishing using Microsoft Publisher 2003, 11.10.11**

**Getting the best out of Outlook using Microsoft 2003, 16.11.11**

9.30am – 12.30pm, Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre

#### Other courses:

##### **Gift Aid for small charities**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 10am - 12.30pm, Seasalter Christian Centre

##### **Setting up your group**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October, 10am - 1.00pm  
Whitstable Umbrella Community Centre

Full details, fees, booking information: [training courses Autumn 2011](#).

## OTHER TRAINING

### **BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE COURSE – LEVEL 2**

#### **STARTING SOON IN CANTERBURY**

Get Stage 2 of this very useful qualification easily in weekly **evening** sessions!

Wednesdays starting 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011

**Cost:** £500 per person including 3 stage assessment fees

Course run by **Hi Kent**, the county's charity for deaf and hard of hearing people,  
in partnership with **Kent Adult Education**.

**Info:** Hi Kent 01622 691151 **Email:** [N.Lemar@hikent.org.uk](mailto:N.Lemar@hikent.org.uk) [www.hikent.org.uk](http://www.hikent.org.uk)

**Enrolment:** [www.kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk](http://www.kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk)



## Holistic Marketing for Small Charities . . .

Singleton Environment Centre, Ashford TN23 5LW,

Wednesday 14th March 9.30 am – 5 pm

**Cost:** £50 for members

**Trainer:** Wendy Jackson, Bite sized Marketing

**Further information:** [Practical marketing for small charities flyer rev. 13.9.11](#)

[Booking form](#)

## Kent Children's Fund Network

**Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) Accredited Child Protection training is coming to a venue near you in Kent.**

**only £20!**

The remaining dates have spaces remaining but are going fast so please book soon to avoid disappointment.

**Faversham:** 14th October

**Folkestone:** 16th September & 17th October

**Ashford:** 26th September & 27th October

**[For more info and booking please click here](#)**

### Training Highway - Helping the Over 50's get online

This month sees the launch of several new computer training classes in Kent. Training Highway have been running classes across Kent for over 10 years and link up with many Age Concerns, Housing 21 and other Partner Organisations to run the training. Classes are primarily aimed at the Over 50's but all are welcome! New classes start with an Open Day to enable people to come along, meet the tutor and see the set up, whilst asking any questions they may have.

**Canterbury: Open Day - Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 9.30am – 1pm Canterbury Innovation Centre**, University Road, Canterbury CT2 7FG. Classes start on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September - Beginners: 9.30am – 11am & Next Steps: 11.30am – 1pm.

**Herne Bay & Whitstable dates to be announced shortly.**

Classes are also starting soon in other locations; for more information please call

Adrian Gilson on 01227 811785, e-mail [adrian.gilson@traininghighway.co.uk](mailto:adrian.gilson@traininghighway.co.uk)  
or go to [www.traininghighway.co.uk](http://www.traininghighway.co.uk).

## EVENTS

### Mind the Gap

**Mind the Gap** is an artist-led not-for-profit initiative offering accessible and diverse arts activities open to anyone in Kent wishing to explore, experience and celebrate the benefits of creativity for mental health.

Canterbury Mind the Gap opens its 2011 exhibition, on the theme Tree of Life, on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon – 3pm, Cleary Gallery, Blackfriars, Canterbury CT1 2AP.

More information: <http://www.canterburymindthegap.com/tree-of-life-exhibition.html>



### Shaping the Future of Youth Services in Kent

Kent Youth invites all voluntary youth organisations in Kent to their evening conference

20th October 2011

Ashford International Hotel

from 5:45pm - 9:30pm

[view the programme](#)

Kent Youth would like to hear from you, please email [info@kent youth.org](mailto:info@kent youth.org) with your good news stories and photos about your work with you people and groups over the last year. Kent Youth would like to include this in their display to demonstrate some of the great work carried out by voluntary sector groups.

Anyone wishing to attend the conference should email [info@kent youth.org](mailto:info@kent youth.org)

## Charity Commission Annual Public Meeting

22 September 2011 15.00-20.00  
Abbey Centre, London SW1P 3BU

We are holding our Annual Public Meeting (APM) on 22 September at the Abbey Conference Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BU. This year the event will include a debate on the theme of '**Self-Regulation: how far can it go?**'. We will also be accounting publicly for our performance over the past year.

Full details: [Annual Public Meeting on 22 September](#)

## Funding and finance workshops at the NCVO Trustee Conference

Monday 31 October, London

Come to [NCVO Trustee Conference](#) where you will gain the skills and knowledge from a range of funding and finance workshops to help you and your board adapt to change including:

- Challenging funding decisions: the essentials of Public Law and the Compact.
- Finance for trustees: what you need to know from a governance perspective including annual reports and accounts.
- Making new funding strategies work: Global Action Plan trustees share how they generated a strategy for substantial growth.

[See the full programme. Book your place now](#)

## NCVO Sustainable Funding Conference 2011

Bookings are now being taken for this year's Sustainable Funding Conference from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) on 24 November.

The funding landscape for the voluntary and community sector has been thrown into disarray over the last couple of years. However, new agendas have created exciting opportunities inspiring innovation in income generation and increasing investment in the sector.

### **The day will examine:**

- Why do different funders, donors, commissioners, customers and investors put their money into voluntary and community organisations? Learn from a range of workshops, debates, discussions and plenary sessions to find out how their motivations have changed since the recession.
- Gain the skills and behaviours needed to maximise the return on funding relationships, making use of the new financial models available.
- Learn from the most innovative organisations in the sector who will be in attendance to explain what they're doing to increase their funding, alongside the people and organisations who make their ideas a reality through funding, giving, purchasing or social investment.

### **The following are invited to attend:**

- Anyone with responsibility for their organisation's financial sustainability (trustees, chief executives and staff).
- Frontline voluntary and community organisations, social enterprises and infrastructure agencies.
- Anyone interested in innovation in funding for the voluntary and community sector.
- Independent and statutory funders.
- Policy makers, funders and commissioners.

For more information or to book please click [here](#) (opens in new window).

## **Members' News**

### **Westgate Hall Canterbury – open for bookings for another 100 years!**

In July 2011 Canterbury City Council's executive in principle accepted the Westgate Community Trust's proposal (with Curzon Cinemas), subject to various conditions (mostly to do with a satisfactory structural survey, legal work and planning permission) to transfer the Hall to the Community.

This has also included additional funding enabling the council to continue running the hall until March 2012, to enable the legal work to be completed. The Trust will then take it over on a 99 year lease.

This means that this wonderful facility the 'Village Hall' of Canterbury City Centre will remain open for bookings by voluntary and community groups in the area. To book the hall through to March 2012 visit Canterbury City Council's web site at <http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/main.cfm?objectid=677> or contact Alan Onions (venues manager\ ) on 01227 479670. To get involved with the Westgate Community Trust and it's work turning the Hall into an exciting community venue visit their website at <http://www.westgatecommunityhall.org.uk>



### **Development Officer –4us2**

Salary: £17,000 - £21,000 pro rata, 25-30 hours per week

Based at Herne Bay, with regular travel to Swale and Thanet

**Deadline for applications: 23<sup>rd</sup> September; interviews: w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

4us2 is a new parent-led charity working to improve the lives of disabled children, young people and their families across Canterbury, Swale and Thanet. They are looking for a Development Officer to join the team. Their work includes fundraising, providing family short breaks and other targeted services, lending a listening ear, undertaking research, training and campaigning, and our Development Officer will have a hand in all of this. If you are dynamic, flexible and forward-thinking, this role could be for you.

For more information about the role, including the Job Description, Person Specification and application form, please email [info@4us2.org](mailto:info@4us2.org).

For an informal chat about the role, please telephone the 4us2 Manager, Andrea Bennett, on 01227 741748 or 07519 716186

This is intended as a permanent post, dependent on 4us2 retaining external funding. They are an Equal Opportunities Employer, and operate a Guaranteed Interview Scheme.



[www.kmcharityteam.co.uk](http://www.kmcharityteam.co.uk)

## KM Charity Team Support

The charity dept at KM Group provides the following:

- Manage selection process for the KM Charity of the Year scheme. Would you like to be the editor's chosen cause for 2012? **Deadline to apply is October 19.**
- Free raffle and auction prizes through the KM Treasure Chest initiative.
- Their team stages three shared abseil events each year so your cause can offer an adrenaline challenge to your supporters as part of your fundraising calendar.
- Staging the Kent Water Zorbing Championships with places available to support your cause.

For information or to apply for any of the above visit [www.kmcharityteam.co.uk](http://www.kmcharityteam.co.uk). Got a question or want to find out more? Come to the charity briefing session from 10am to 11am on Wednesday, October 5 at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham.

Visit [www.kmcharityteam.co.uk](http://www.kmcharityteam.co.uk) to book your seat.

## Other News

### BTCV Kent Staff and Volunteer Vacancies

**Local Fundraising Manager (SE)** based in **Ashford, Kent**

**Salary:**£22,511 per annum; **Closing date:** 25/09/11 - [More details](#)

**Trusts and Foundations Officer (SE)** based in **Crinan Street, London**

**Salary:**£22,511 plus £3,787 London Weighting, per annum

**Closing date:** 25/09/11 - [More details](#)

### Volunteer Vacancy - Promotions and Publicity VO, Ashford Kent

We are looking for an enthusiastic volunteer officer to help out with the promotions and publicity side of our BTCV Kent projects based at the Singleton Environment Centre in Ashford. If you are looking for practical hands on experience to pave your way to a career in the promotions or marketing field, or perhaps you've retired from a similar career but want to put your skills to good use supporting BTCV in this way, this role could be for you: for more information [click here...](#)

## Volunteering Ashford Can you help?

A project we hope to begin at the end of this month may be held up due to a lack of bookshelves. The project is a partnership between ourselves and Healthy Planet and aims to open a 'Books for Free' shop in Ashford which will be organised, with our support, by a team of young, unemployed volunteers who will gain valuable experience while working on the project.

We had been offered a number of bookcases but these are no longer available so we are hoping that you or people you know might be able to offer us one or more. We can come and collect.

Please give me a call if you have anything we can use.

Sue Sawyer, Manager

Volunteering Ashford, Berwick House, 8 Elwick Road, Ashford TN23 1PF  
01233 665535; [www.volunteering-ashford.org](http://www.volunteering-ashford.org); [www.kentCOVE.org.uk](http://www.kentCOVE.org.uk)

### **Kent Free Trees scheme 2011**

This year more than 20,000 trees are available to community groups, schools, parish councils and charities across Kent to 'green' their spaces.

**The 2011 scheme is focusing its attention on local community groups and the spaces they use and maintain.**

Groups are being offered free-of-charge packs of 25 trees. There are five different types of pack, including a Hedgerow mix, Woodland mix, Foragers mix, Wildlife mix and Schools mix. All of these contain native species suited to Kent.

The scheme is open to groups and organizations in all the districts and boroughs of Kent, and the London Borough of Bexley.

For more details and how to apply for your trees visit:

<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/environment-and-planning/Countryside%20Management%20Partnerships/Free%20Trees.pdf>



**Charity Commission update:** [New tools to help charities file information online](#)

## **Microsoft offers more free products to charities**

By David Ainsworth, Third Sector Online, 28 July 2011

The computing firm Microsoft has increased the number of free products charities can receive from it each year.

It will raise the number from six to 10 a year, using the [Charity Technology Exchange](#) service, which helps charities to access free software.

Products offered include the Windows 7 operating system, Office 2010 and most other main software packages produced by the company.

Charities will also be able to put in requests as often as they like to CTX, instead of being limited to one request a year. They will be able to request up to 50 copies of each product and will be charged a small administration fee for each request. The fee varies but is usually only a few pounds.

Richard Craig, chief executive of the [Charity Technology Trust](#), the charity that runs CTX, said the initiative would give more not-for-profit organisations greater access to up-to-date technology.

"We look forward to working closely with UK-registered charities to help them acquire the right technology to help support their staff and to achieve their charitable missions," he said.

Microsoft has been running a software-donations programme in the UK since 2006, and says it has provided more than £47m worth of software to charities.

## **Charity Commission launches videos to help smaller charities to file their accounts online**

By Kaye Wiggins, Third Sector Online, 19 August 2011

The [Charity Commission](#) has created [video tutorials on its website](#) that offer smaller charities step-by-step guidance to filing their annual returns online.

There are different videos explaining the process for charities in three different income brackets between £10,000 and £500,000, each of which has different reporting requirements.

Those with incomes under £10,000 have to update their details annually, but do not

have to submit accounts. Those with incomes above £500,000 are felt by the commission to be less in need of help.

"The target audience is smaller charities because, looking at the figures, it is the smaller charities that are less likely to have done it online before," said a commission spokeswoman.

The commission is moving this year to a system under which all charities required to file an annual return must do so online. In a statement, it said 86 per cent of charities filed online last year.

"From 2011 onwards, all charities are being asked to submit the required information online, through the Charity Commission's website," the statement said.

**Source: LINX 191, 4 August:**

### **Will the Work Programme Work?**

The Social Market Foundation's report [Will the Work Programme Work?](#) says the Department for Work and Pensions' performance targets are "unreachable" and this could lead to the failure of the programme.

### **Volunteer Drivers**

The Association of British Insurers has surveyed its members and put together a [list of each provider's policy on insurance for volunteer drivers](#). This is designed to reduce the number of issues that volunteer drivers have with insurance companies. Volunteering England will be monitoring how this works in practice and welcomes feedback. Please email [dan.sumners@volunteering.org.uk](mailto:dan.sumners@volunteering.org.uk)

### **CharityWise free online materials for managing small charities**

CharityWise is a collection of [free Open University materials](#) online for people who are responsible for leading and managing small charities and voluntary and community organisations.



## National organisations produce joint localism briefings

ACEVO, ACRE, CDF, Community Matters, Locality, NAVCA, NCVO, Plunkett Foundation, Social Enterprise UK and Urban Forum have combined forces to produce [two new joint briefings](#) on the Community Right to Challenge and the Community Right to Buy, for the Report Stage of the Localism Bill in the House of Lords.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has also published a [summary of the responses to the recent consultation](#) on its proposals to introduce a community right to buy.

## Charity Commission publishes further guidance on the Equality Act

By Kaye Wiggins, Third Sector Online, 1 September 2011

Charities cannot justify breaking the Equality Act on the grounds that they would lose access to funding from sources that will only provide it on a discriminatory basis, according to new guidance from the [Charity Commission](#)

[The guidance](#), published yesterday, is an updated and extended version of a set of guidance on the act that the regulator released in [September 2010](#). It does not change the commission's stance but provides more detail on how charities can ensure they comply with the act.

A new clause in the guidance says: "A charity could not justify restricting benefits to a particular group as a means of obtaining funding from a source who will only provide it on a discriminatory basis."

The new document also says charities may restrict their benefits to certain groups of people that share "protected characteristics" such as age, race and sex if they can show that this is in their governing documents and that the group in question faces a particular disadvantage.

Charities may also do so in an attempt to achieve a legitimate aim in a proportionate way, the guidance says, but they must be able to provide "a convincing and weighty justification" for doing so.

The guidance says organisations that the act defines as "religious and belief organisations" can make restrictions because of sexual orientation if this is necessary to comply with the organisation's doctrine or to "avoid conflict with the religious or belief-based convictions of many followers of the religion or belief on

which the organisation is founded."

The new document also says it is not a breach of the Equality Act for charities to organise activities or events that are restricted to one sex only, and cites Cancer Research UK's women-only Race for Life as an example of a legitimate activity.

**Source: NAVCA LINX 194, 8 Sept:**

### **Co-op simply series**

Co-operatives UK has launched a series of [advice guides](#) for community enterprises. The guides are free and are available online and as hard copies.

## Funding and Finance News

### **Funding alert from Kent CAN, 13.09.11:**

#### **Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity**

The Charity makes grants to hospitals, charities and individuals in the UK. In general, they aim to provide:

- help to organisations to which funds are not readily available. They prefer to help small or new organisations in favour of long-established, large or national organisations.
- help to individual families by providing financial assistance to help them cope with difficulties they face in caring for a sick child.

For further information including details on how to apply please [click here](#)

#### **React**

**Rapid Effective Assistance for Children with Potentially Terminal illness** is a dynamic charity working to improve the quality of life for financially disadvantaged children with life-limiting illnesses living in the UK.

For further information including details on how to apply please [click here](#)

#### **Grants for Scout Groups**

Funding is available from a number of sources to provide scouting activities

For further information including details on how to apply please [click here](#)

### **FSC Kids Fund**

The Kids Fund is part of the Field Studies Council (FSC) which offers grants to help groups of disadvantaged young people attend residential environmental learning and environmental activity courses at an FSC centre.

Funding will normally be up to 80% of the cost of your group's course to an FSC Field Centre to a maximum of £3000. This cost includes all accommodation, food, equipment, tuition and waterproof hire costs. 1 staff/adult free with every 10 students; additional adults pay 20%.

For further information including details on how to apply please [click here](#)

### **Home Office Opens Community Action Against Crime Innovation Fund**

A new fund is available to grassroots community organisations in England and Wales to support community safety projects.

The Community Action Against Crime Innovation Fund is provided by the Home Office, a central Government Department, which has entered into a contract with the Community Development Foundation (CDF) to administer the fund on its behalf.

The Fund's purpose is to stimulate innovative approaches to tackling community safety problems. It will do so by empowering local groups to develop creative new projects to tackle local community safety problems.

The Fund is worth £5 million in 2011/12, with a further £5 million set aside for 2012/13. Individual grants of between £1,000 and £50,000 are available.

**Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis so that groups have time to develop their bids. The deadline is 1 December 2011.**

**Details:** <http://www.cdf.org.uk/>

## **Government Launches Consultation on New Policy Directions for the Big Lottery Fund**

The Government is seeking views on a number of proposed policy directions for the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) and has launched a 12-week consultation.

Following the transfer of policy responsibility for BIG from the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) to the Cabinet Office, the consultation document sets out the Government's view that BIG is restricted in its ability to distribute funds and proposes a series of new policy directions for the Fund.

Proposed directions include primarily funding projects delivered by the voluntary and community sector organisations including:

- small organisations;
- organisations operating at a purely local level;
- newly constituted organisations;
- social enterprises; and
- organisations with a base in the United Kingdom and working overseas.

Responding to the consultation, Peter Ainsworth, Chair of the BIG Lottery Fund said:

"Now more than ever BIG must be responsive to the evolving needs of the communities we serve. I anticipate that pressure on Lottery budgets will continue to increase and we want to ensure we intelligently address the needs of our communities and those most in need. We very much welcome today's announcement by the Cabinet Office of its 12-week consultation on proposed new policy directions for the Fund and look forward to the outcome."

Views are invited from a range of stakeholders including:

- the voluntary and community sector;
- social enterprises; and
- other government departments.

**The deadline for responses is midnight on 18 November 2011.** A summary of views expressed will be published in January 2012 in conjunction with the overall Government response to the consultation.

[Big Lottery Fund - Consultation on proposed policy directions](#)

## Guidance to local authorities on funding voluntary sector is 'a step in the right direction'

By Kaye Wiggins, Third Sector Online, 5 September 2011

Voluntary sector umbrella groups have issued a cautious welcome to new guidance published by the [Communities and Local Government department](#) that says local authorities should avoid making disproportionate cuts to the sector.

They have also warned that local charities must play a key role in making sure the guidance is followed in practice.

The department's new "best value" [guidance](#), a single-page document that replaces a 56-page set of guidance introduced by the previous government, says local authorities "should seek to avoid passing on disproportionate reductions by not passing on larger reductions to the voluntary and community sector and small businesses as a whole, than they take on themselves".

Neil Cleeveley, director of policy and communications at the local infrastructure body [Navca](#), said he was pleased that the document included a reference to the overall social value provided by local services and also contained a compulsory duty to consult organisations affected by the commissioning and decommissioning of services.

He said, however, that he was concerned about some of the pieces of guidance that had been removed at the same time.

"It has revoked the two-tier code on workforce matters, which was valuable," said Cleeveley. "The code encouraged employers in the voluntary and private sectors, when they took on local authority staff under Tupe legislation, to make sure their other employees were given the same terms and conditions as the new, ex-council staff. It tended to improve employees' conditions, so it is regrettable that it has been withdrawn."

Cleeveley said he thought councils would follow the guidance despite the fact that no sanctions have been set out for failing to do so. He said this was because there would be a risk of legal action and reputational damage if local groups challenged councils for failing to follow it.

Nick Carey, a policy officer at the chief executives' body [Acevo](#), said he would have liked the guidance to have been published sooner since many charities had already been badly hit by local authority spending cuts.

"I would have also liked the wording to be stronger, particularly where it says councils should 'seek to avoid' disproportionate cuts," he said. "It suggests the guidance may not have as much leverage as we would hope."

However the principles behind the guidance, such as a consideration of overall social value, were "excellent", said Carey.

"This is a step in the right direction," he said. "The key thing now is to make sure charities are aware of it and are able to use it as a lever when they deal with local authorities."

Steve Wyler, chief executive of the community umbrella body [Locality](#), said he was generally pleased with the guidance.

"There were disproportionate slash and burn cuts for charities earlier in the year. This guidance gives community groups a measure to encourage local authorities and other public spending bodies to behave well and if they don't it gives the grounds for a formal challenge," he said.

He said the umbrella body would take to task councils that failed to follow either the spirit or the letter of the guidance.

## **Funders say they are getting stricter on applications**

By Sophie Hudson, Third Sector Online, 14 September 2011

Almost three quarters of organisations that apply to [BBC Children in Need](#) for funding are unsuccessful, according to its chief executive David Ramsden.

Speaking at the [Action Planning](#) 2011 Charity Funding Roadshow yesterday, Ramsden said that 70 per cent of applications were unsuccessful.

Of the 30 per cent that were selected, he said not all got the amount they had asked for. Because demand was so strong, his organisation had to make tough decisions about what it would fund.

"We've had to do some pretty careful analysis about where we can make the most difference," he said. "Increasingly, organisations like ours are going to be using the language of **outcomes** as it's competitive out there."

Linda Kelly, chief executive of [Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales](#), said it was thinking about increasing the length of time that had to elapse before an organisation that had been funded could make another application. She said this would enable more organisations to benefit from its support.

According to the guidelines on the foundation's website, organisations that receive a grant are currently ineligible to apply again for at least two years.

Nick Hurd, the Minister for Civil Society, who was also speaking at the event, told delegates that there would be no more money from the Transition Fund beyond the £107m that has been allocated.

"It's finished, there's no money to do another one," he said. "It's over."

### **Guide for learning from grant refusals released**

Civil Society e-news | 8 Sep 2011

Frustration and disappointment often accompany a grant application refusal – on both the applicant and grantmaker sides – but a guide released today aims to outline best practice for rejections and ensure that even refusals offer value to grantseekers.

[\*The Art of Refusal\*](#) covers a variety of subjects including how to try to avoid a grant refusal and how to deal with and learn from one.

For grant-seekers, the guide encourages early contact with the grantmaker and offers advice on how to respond to the rejection, solicit feedback and manage the bad news within the organisation. Grantmakers are encouraged to adopt best practice in feeding back, outlining their funding parameters and how to go about refusing an application.

The guide is released by [Cass Business School's](#) Centre for Charity Effectiveness on the back of research funded by the [Charities Aid Foundation](#) which studied over 100 grantmakers and 40 grant applicants.

Jon Fitzmaurice, one of the report co-authors and a visiting fellow at Cass, said: "We found there was a lot of frustration on both sides. Grant-seekers wanted more feedback even when it was good news and grantmakers recognise the need to give feedback but struggle to find the time to do so in detail. If both sides work harder at this process the sector will benefit enormously."

### **Accountants offer charities free review of financial governance and risk management**

By David Ainsworth, Third Sector Online, 14 September 2011

The [Charity Commission](#) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales have launched a free peer review programme to help charities to assess their financial governance and risk management.

Speaking on Tuesday at the ICAEW's [Charity and Voluntary Sector Group](#) conference, Sam Younger, chief executive of the commission, said any charity would be eligible for a free review, carried out by ICAEW members with knowledge of the sector.

He said the results of the reviews would be collected anonymously and analysed by the reviewers to give charities and the commission more information about the risks faced by the sector.

The commission expects that this will eventually be one of several streams in a wider peer review programme, which will look at most major aspects of charity governance and was [announced by Younger earlier this year](#).

Younger said on Tuesday that he hoped the scheme was part of a move to a more relaxed approach from the commission.

"In the past, we were there on the ground with individual charities, holding their hands, pushing and pulling them in the right direction," he said. "In future, we will be taking a more hands-off approach.

"I hope this project will prove just one step towards a wider culture change in the sector, a change that sees individual boards of trustees gain renewed confidence in their own abilities and judgement and which sees the sector as a whole taking greater responsibility for maintaining standards of governance, anticipating risk, and nipping problems in the bud."

To request a review, email [charityreview@icaew.com](mailto:charityreview@icaew.com)

**For more 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)

You can also view the current edition of Inside Track on the CaDVAS website at <http://www.cadvas.org/index.php/funding-information>

**Kent CAN**, a county level infrastructure organisation, provides regular **funding e-bulletins** and also hosts the **GRANTnet funding search website**. For more information visit [www.kentcan.org](http://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](http://www.kent.gov.uk/community_and_living/external_funding/search_for_grants.aspx)

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

[newsletter@j4bcommunity.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:nigel.turley@ruralkent.org.uk)

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

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

CaDVAS, Whitstable Volunteer Centre, St Mary's Hall, Oxford Street,  
Whitstable CT5 1DD

**Tel:** 01227 772248 **Mob:** 07595 543411 **Email:** [info@cadvas.org](mailto:info@cadvas.org)

Deadline for items for the next newsletter:

**Midday on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October** - thank you.

Please send your items to Sue Tucker at the address above or email to [sue@cadvas.org](mailto:sue@cadvas.org)

**Registered Office:** Tower Works, Simmonds Road, Canterbury CT1 3RA.

Charity No: 1125359 Company No: 6584654