

Voluntary Sector Unit Briefings

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Advice services

The Advice Services Alliance has published *Sharing your toys: advice agencies working together*, which explores advice agencies' experiences of different kinds of partnership working. www.asauk.org.uk/fileLibrary/pdf/AA_Working_Together.pdf

Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission is the new health and social care regulator, absorbing the Commission for Social Care Inspection's social care functions, the Healthcare Commission's role in health regulation and the Mental Health Act Commission's responsibility for protecting the interests of detained patients. www.cqc.org.uk

Childcare

The National Childminding Association has launched a free resource to help childminders improve their practice by looking at the five Every Child Matters outcomes. *Being Reflective* can be downloaded at www.ncma.org.uk/mainwebsite/resources/document/being_reflective.doc

Children, young people and culture

The Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has published the *Children and Young People's Culture Team Prospectus* which provides an overview of the work of the team, together with information on grant funded programmes that provide cultural opportunities and experiences for children and young people. www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/CYPCT.pdf

Community cohesion

The National Foundation for Educational Research has published *Young people's perceptions of effective community cohesion practices*, which was a small-scale study exploring young people's views of community cohesion. The study showed that, although young people were unfamiliar with the term 'community cohesion' they were able to participate meaningfully in discussions aimed at improving cohesion in their schools and local communities. www.nfer.ac.uk/research-areas/pims-data/summaries/young-peoples-perceptions-of-effective-community-cohesion-practices.cfm

Community development

The Living Places Partnership has launched a *Culture, Sport and Planning Toolkit*, which details best practice guidance for people involved in regeneration covering leadership and co-ordination, visioning, needs and provision assessment, delivery and monitoring and review. www.living-places.org.uk/culture-and-sport-planning-toolkit/about-the-toolkit

Community empowerment

The IDeA has developed a new resource which provides information and guidance on community empowerment and shows how councils and their partners can make this happen. www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelD=7381994

Culture and sport: local area agreements

The IDeA has taken over the *Culture and Sport LAA Toolkit* which was developed to help local strategic partnerships embed culture and sport in their Local Area Agreements for 2008/09 and 2010/11. The toolkit is currently being reviewed and any feedback from users would be welcomed. www.culture-sport-la toolkit.idea.gov.uk

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Futurebuilders

Futurebuilders has launched the *Cashflow Fund* which offers loans of over £50,000 for two years to help third sector organisations cover short-term cashflow needs or development capital. www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk

Futurebuilders is looking for partners from organisations delivering public services in welfare reform, education and training and health and social care to join a pilot consortium to test an approach to pooling expertise and resources around tendering including bid writing, financial modelling, contract negotiation and performance management. www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk

Futurebuilders has launched a brokerage service called *Merge-maker* to help third sector organisations identify potential partners for collaboration or merger. www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk

Intergenerational work

The Cabinet Office, Office of the Third Sector, has announced a new £5.5 million fund, called *Generations Together* to help close the widening generation gap. The programme is intended to generate wider interest in intergenerational work, to increase the number of volunteers and to provide robust evidence of the effectiveness of intergenerational activities. Bids are being sought from local authorities, but they must involve third sector organisations. www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/090417_generations.aspx

Local Involvement Networks

The London Voluntary Service Council has published *Local Involvement Network (LINK) Host Commissioning in London: Local authority, host and voluntary sector experiences*, which is the final report updating the earlier interim report on the arrangements made in London boroughs for setting up Local Involvement Networks (LINKs). www.lvsc.org.uk/files/100243/filename/londonlinkhostreport-finalreport.pdf

Local Strategic Partnerships

The Audit Commission has published *Working better together: managing local strategic partnerships*, which includes evidence and guidance for local strategic partnerships taking an area-wide approach to performance and resource management to achieve agreed outcomes. www.audit-commission.gov.uk/Products/NATIONAL-REPORT/05744773-42C2-4ba3-A945-6737715CDF2D/20042009workingbettertogetherREP.pdf

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published *Planning Together: an updated practical guide for local strategic partnerships and planners*, which focuses on the strategic leadership role of local authorities working through their LSP and the planning system to shape good places and deliver quality services, making links between the sustainable communities plan, the local development framework and the local area agreement. www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/planningtogether

Older people

The charity Counsel and Care has launched an updated set of 64 guides and factsheets aimed at helping older people, their families and carers understand their rights and entitlements. www.counselandcare.org.uk/helping-you

The first report from the newly merged Age Concern and Help the Aged called *One voice, shaping our ageing society*, examines the issues facing older people in the UK including poverty, age discrimination, isolation and lack of care and support. The

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report shows a decrease in the number of people receiving low level home care and an increase in hospital readmissions for the over 75s.

www.helptheaged.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/5EE2E299-91FF-48D6-A168-54484D796ACC/0/OneVoiceReport.pdf

The Department for Work and Pensions has published *LinkAge Plus: Capacity building – enabling and empowering older people as independent and active citizens*. The report looks at the LinkAge Plus approach which aims to develop accessible joined-up services for older people that put older people at the centre of policy making and service delivery. www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep571.pdf

The Healthcare Commission (now absorbed into the Care Quality Commission) has published *Equality in later life: Healthcare Commission study of older people's mental health services*, which explores age discrimination in mental health services, the quality of in-patient care; the comprehensiveness of services and how organisations work together to provide services. The report offers recommendations for Government, the Quality Care Commission, NHS Trusts and service providers to ensure there is a co-ordinated approach to improving mental health services for older people. www.cqc.org.uk/db/documents/Equality_in_later_life.pdf

Personal budgets

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations has published *Personal budgets: opportunities and challenges for the voluntary sector*, which looks at the impact that personal budgets may have on voluntary sector providers of health and social care in the future. www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/uploadedFiles/NCVO/What_we_do/Sustainable_Funding/Public_Service_Delivery/NC391_03_psdn_article.pdf

Play

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published *Children and Parents' experiences of recently improved play areas: qualitative research*, which looks at the impact of improvements to local play areas.

www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR089.pdf

Resettlement of offenders

Equal Works has published *The Road to Resettlement Handbook*, developed by prisoners for prisoners, which includes topics on faith, help and support, family and friends, health, housing, education and training, money, getting a job, preparing for release and staying crime free. The handbook includes action plans, next step sheets and contact pages. www.equal-works.com/resources/contentfiles/2370.pdf

Safeguarding children

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published *The child, the family and the GP – tensions and conflicts of interest in safeguarding children*, which looks at the issues around these relationships.

www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RBX-09-05-ES.pdf

Social enterprise

The London Rebuilding Society is running a series of short courses in finance skills and planning through the Social Enterprise Transforming the Lives of Londoners (SETLL) programme. The courses run on Thursdays in June and July (starting 18 June) and cover:

- Finance for investment readiness
- Basic bookkeeping

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- Pricing for profit
- Watching your cashflow
- Balancing your profit

www.londonrebuilding.com/information/90403/91139/setll_smartfinance_classes/

The Smith Institute has published *Social enterprise for public service – how does the third sector deliver?* The report explores how the voluntary and community sector is performing in public service delivery. www.smith-institute.org.uk/pdfs/social-enterprise-public-service.pdf

Social impact

The Tool Factory has published *Social impact measurement: a practical introduction*, which is aimed at helping third sector organisations start to measure their social impact. www.thetoolfactory.com/simebook.htm

Third sector leadership

The Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) has published new materials on *Investing in Leaders: a new aspect in corporate social responsibility, At tipping point; the third sector leading from recession to recovery* and *The Sustainability Challenge: implications for chief executives in the third sector*. www.acevo.org.uk

Thriving Third Sector

The Cabinet Office, Office of the Third Sector has published the detailed results of the survey underpinning the National Indicator 7, Environment for a Thriving Third Sector. <http://nstso.com/analysis/surveyresults>

Welfare benefits

The Department for Work and Pensions has published *The impact of financial incentives in welfare systems on family structure*, which explores the influence of the benefit and tax credit system on decisions people make about marriage, cohabitation and childbearing. www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep569.pdf

Young people

As part of the Budget, the Government has announced that from October 2009 any young person who has not been in education, employment or training for more than 6 months before turning 18 will be placed on an accelerated version of the *New Deal for Young People*, so that they can go straight to the supported job search stage. www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/090422_budget.aspx

Youth participation

Participation Works has published *How to involve children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs in research*. The guide offers an introduction to the merits of involving children in research and what needs to be considered before doing so. www.participationworks.org.uk

Youth work

The Children's Workforce Development Council has launched a consultation on a *Skills Development Framework for the Youth Workforce* as a way of raising standards and ensuring greater consistency across the workforce, including the definition of standards for working together with other professionals. www.cwdcouncil.org.uk

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The National Council for Voluntary Youth Services has published *Sharing spaces – co-location for the voluntary youth sector*, which reports on a co-location project which enabled several youth organisations to share premises in London. The report looks at the case for co-location in the current economic climate and brings together legal advice and possible structures for managing a co-located project.

www.ncvys.org.uk/blogs.php?act=view_topic&id=108