

Voluntary Sector Unit Briefings

August – October 2010

Advice

The BME Advice Network (BAN), funded by London Councils, has now gone live, providing a range of free and confidential advice in community languages for London's migrant and refugee communities. The Network also aims to provide a voice for BME-led advice organisations in London to influence policy and decision-making where it affects the work of the sector. www.bmeadvicenetwork.org.uk

Big Society

The Third Sector Research Centre has published *Big Society or Civil Society: A new policy environment for the third sector*, which explores the legacy of the Labour government and what the idea of the Big Society means.

www.tsrc.ac.uk/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=PwhvBXnPGAU%3d&tabid=716

The Young Foundation has published *Investing in social growth: can the Big Society be more than a slogan?*, which proposes ten steps that could help turn the general aspirations of the Big Society into larger and more tangible improvements.

www.youngfoundation.org/files/images/YF_Bigsociety_Screen_2_.pdf

The Local Government Association has published *Local budgets: building the Big Society from the neighbourhood up*, which identifies potential savings from devolving responsibility and budgets for public services to the local level. www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/14041576

Carers

The Department of Health has launched a funding programme, *Reaching out to Carers*, aimed at supporting VCS organisations that support carers, worth a maximum of £25,000. Deadline for applications is 17 November.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_120426

Childcare

Ofsted has published *Early years registered providers inspections outcomes*, which provides inspection statistics since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation stage on 1 September 2008, showing that nearly 30% of providers were rated satisfactory and only 2% were found to be inadequate. www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Childcare-and-early-years/Early-years-inspection-outcomes/Early-years-registered-providers-inspections-outcomes

The Department for Education has published *Childcare and early years providers survey 2009*, which outlines childcare and early years provision and the workforce involved as well as highlighting the similarities and differences across the sector.

www.education.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DFE-RR012_WEB.pdf

Children's health

The Department of Health has published *Getting it right for children and young people: overcoming cultural barriers in the NHS so as to meet their needs*, which explores the role of culture in the NHS and its position in the wider system of care and support.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_119445

Children's services

Ofsted has published *Outstanding local authority children's services 2009*, which highlights good practice in ten children's services, including Kingston. www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Outstanding-local-authority-children-s-services-2009

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Civil society

The Cabinet Office, Office for Civil Society has published *Building a stronger civil society, a strategy for voluntary and community groups, charities and social enterprises*, which sets out the vision for the sector to play an even more influential role in shaping a stronger sense of society and improving people's lives, through three components of the Big Society: empowering communities, opening up public services and promoting social action.

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/426261/building-stronger-civil-society.pdf

The Office for Civil Society has also launched a consultation on *Supporting a stronger civil society*, which focuses on improving the support for frontline civil society organisations. The deadline for comments is 6 January 2011, except for the question on the strategic partners programme (Q9) which needs a response by 25 November 2010.

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/426258/support_stronger_civil_society.pdf

Community development

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published *Community and mutual ownership: a historical review*, which charts the development of community ownership of land, resources, businesses and services. The report identifies models of community and mutual ownership and highlights the implications for addressing social problems and meeting new needs to help inform current understanding, policy and practice.

www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/community-mutual-ownership-full.pdf

Community engagement

Local Government Improvement and Development has published *Integrating community engagement and service delivery – pointers to good practice*, which shows how councils are using information from community engagement to inform the ways that services are planned and delivered. www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/22696296

Disabled people

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has published *2012 legacy for disabled people: inclusive and accessible business: improving messages to SME's: the case for the disabled customer*, which sets out the economic and business case for companies to be more inclusive. www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/business-sectors/docs/0-9/10-1126-2012-legacy-for-disabled-people-case-for-the-disabled-customer

The think tank Demos has published *Destination unknown*, which explores the impact of spending cuts on disabled people. www.demos.co.uk/files/Destination_unknown_-_web.pdf?1286559411

Domestic violence

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published *Effectiveness of schemes to enable households at risk of domestic violence to remain in their own homes*. The report suggests that sanctuary schemes are helpful in providing a safe alternative to households experiencing domestic violence and preventing homelessness.

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/sancturyschemesreport

Early intervention

C4EO has published *Grasping the nettle: early intervention for children, families and communities*, which highlights the effectiveness of early intervention and suggests that the earlier action is taken the better. The report suggests that this applies to both interventions made early in life and as soon as possible after a difficulty becomes apparent.

www.c4eo.org.uk/themes/earlyintervention/files/early_intervention_grasping_the_nettle_executive_summary.pdf

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Early years

The Department of Education has published *Achievement of children in the early years foundation stage profile*, which examines the proportion of children achieving a good level of development and explores progress in increasing performance and shrinking the achievement gap. www.education.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DFE-RR033-WEB.pdf

Equalities

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission has published *Using the equality data to make fair financial decisions: a guide for decision makers*, which encourages decision makers to consider the potential impact that their decisions could have on equalities, including the provisions of the new Equality Act. www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/PSD/using_the_equality_duty_to_make_fair_financial_decisions_final.pdf

Evaluation

The Charities Evaluation Service has launched the second edition of their good practice guide for charitable funders, *Does your money make a difference?* The guide includes resources and tools to improve monitoring and evaluation and the effectiveness of funding. www.ces-vol.org.uk/funders

Faith based organisations

The Charity Commission Faith and Cohesion Unit has published guidance for faith based charities, including *Faith in good governance* and *Registering as a faith-based charity* together with case studies showing good practice. www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Charity_requirements_guidance/Specialist_guidance/Faith/default.aspx

Foster care

The Fostering Network has published *Bursting at the seams: impact on fostering services of the rise of children going into care 2009-2010*, which examines the effects of this increase on fostering services and examines the challenges faced in their efforts to find the right foster families for all children who need them. www.fostering.net/sites/www.fostering.net/files/resources/reports/bursting_at_the_seams.pdf

Health inequalities

The Race Equality Foundation has set up the *Better Health* website which offers resources, weblinks and policy events to promote race equality in health, housing and social care, funded by the DCLG Tackling Race Inequalities Fund. www.better-health.org.uk

Heritage

Historic Environment Local Management has published *Pillars of community: the transfer of local authority heritage assets*, which gives information on the transfer of heritage land and buildings from local authorities to community based organisations. www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Pillars_of_CON.pdf?1287737384

Learning disabilities

The Department of Health has published '*Six Lives*' *progress report*, which outlines progress made on improving healthcare for people with learning disabilities. The report suggests that much has been done but good work is not embedded everywhere and serious concerns remain. www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_120251

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Localism

The Local Government Information Unit has published *People, place, power: how localism and strategic planning can work together*, which examines how citizens and local government can work together to improve the efficiency of services and reduce spending. <https://member.lgiu.org.uk/whatwedo/Publications/Documents/PeoplepowerplacesB.pdf>

NHS white paper

The King's Fund has published *Liberating the NHS: the right prescription in a cold climate*, which supports the idea of GPs playing a key role in commissioning but arguing that NHS reforms are going too far, too fast and calls on ministers to reconsider the speed and scale of the changes. www.kingsfund.org.uk/current_projects/the_nhs_white_paper/index.html

Older people

Local Government Improvement and Development has published *Ageing well: summary of products*, which outlines the range of free tools and support available to local authorities and their partners to promote the independence and wellbeing of older people. www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelD=22268496

Outcomes

The Charities Evaluation Service has published *Assessing change – developing and using outcomes monitoring tools*, which is a practical handbook to help voluntary and community groups to identify and develop ways of collecting information on the outcomes of their work. www.ces-vol.org.uk/downloads/assessingchange-740-748.pdf?dm_i=6FP,9YUH,24YDAI,QXEB,1

Parenting

The Fatherhood Institute has published *Smoothing the path: fatherhood and couple relationships across the transition to parenthood*. The report urges government to provide couples with better relationship and parenting coaching before starting a family and to extend the reach of existing relationship support to include fathers. www.fatherhoodinstitute.org/index.php?id=28&clD=1137

Personalisation

Sheffield Hallam University Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research, has published *Understanding personalisation: implications for third sector infrastructure and their work with organisations on the frontline*, which explores the issues around how local infrastructure organisations can provide support to frontline organisations as they face the changes which a shift to personalisation of services will bring. www.shu.ac.uk/assets/pdf/cresr-understanding-personalisation-mainreport.pdf

ACEVO has produced a series of guides on Personalisation aimed at voluntary sector organisations including:

- *An introduction to personal budgets*
- *How to cost appropriately with personal budgets*
- *Personalisation: exploring the legal implications*
- *Personalisation: a new approach to marketing*
- *Developing a person-centred workforce.*

www.acevo.org.uk

Poverty

The Institute for Public Policy Research has published *In work poverty in the recession*, which explores the factors that contribute to in work poverty and that in work poverty

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continues to account for a rising share of overall poverty.

www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=774

The Department for Education has published *Local authority child poverty innovation pilot evaluation: second synthesis report*, which contains emerging issues from qualitative interviews with stakeholders, providers and beneficiaries and argues that local officials, third sector bodies and charities are often best placed to improve the life chances of vulnerable children and families. www.education.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DFE-RR036-WEB.pdf

London's Poverty Profile website now includes research from the New Policy Institute commissioned by the Trust for London which analyses the impact of the recession on the capital. www.londonspovertyprofile.org.uk/downloads/CPF-povertyreport2010-LR.pdf

Public health

ACEVO has published *The organised efforts of society: the role of the voluntary sector in improving the health of the population*, which explores the potential role of voluntary sector organisations in public health policy and service delivery in the light of changes including the forthcoming Public Health white paper, place-based budgeting and GP commissioning.

www.acevo.org.uk/Document.Doc?id=1049

Safeguarding

Ofsted has published *Safeguarding and looked-after children: national third sector organisation survey 2010*, which looks at the role of social work practitioners in relation to safeguarding. There is a separate report looking at local authority social workers.

www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Safeguarding-and-looked-after-children-national-third-sector-organisation-survey-2010

The University of York has published a Department for Education commissioned report, *Maltreated children in the looked after system: a comparison of outcomes for those who go home and those who do not*, which examines the consequences of decisions on whether to reunify children who had entered the looked after system with their families.

<http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/1786>

Ofsted has published a report on *Children missing from education*, which evaluates the effectiveness of actions taken in relation to children and young people that go missing from education, who may be particularly at risk of harm.

www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Children-missing-from-education

The Department for Education has published *The Munro Review of child protection: Part One: a systems analysis*, which takes a systems approach to help understand why previous reforms have not led to the improvements expected and in some cases have led to unintended consequences.

<http://education.gov.uk/munroreview/downloads/TheMunroReviewofChildProtection-Part%20one.pdf>

Social care

Counsel and Care, working with the LGA, ADASS, Age UK and the Society of Later Life Advisers, has published *Paying for long term care in England* which provides guidance on accessing advice and information on issues around long term care.

www.societyoflaterlifeadvisers.co.uk/PDF/ADASSpayingforcare.pdf

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Social cohesion

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published *Women, faith and social cohesion*, which examines the role of women and faith in building cohesive communities and provides models for developing and evaluating social cohesion activity. www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/women-faith-social-cohesion-summary.pdf

Social enterprise

Social Enterprise London has produced *Transitions*, with London Councils, which provides information and guidance for public sector workers in turning the services they provide into social enterprises. www.sel.org.uk/transitions-public-services.aspx

The Cabinet Office has announced the launch of twelve Pathfinder Mutuals consisting of public sector staff who want to run their services in a more entrepreneurial way. They include staff from local authorities, NHS and education and the pathfinders will be mentored by business leaders and experts in employee ownership models. www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2010/100812-pathfinder-mutuals.aspx

Social Firms UK has published *2010 Social Firm sector mapping*, which explores the size of the sector, its growth and issues faced in expanding, as well as its successes and the challenges it may face in the future. The sector has grown 32% since 2006 and the top three trading sectors are catering, recycling and horticulture. <http://socialfirmsuk.co.uk/resources/library/2010-social-firm-sector-mapping>

The Third Sector Research Centre has published *Approaches to measuring the scale of the social enterprise sector*, which challenges the different ways in which social enterprises are counted by different surveys and calls for greater clarity and consistency in terms of what is included and excluded. www.tsrc.ac.uk/Research/SocialEnterprise/Measuringthescaleofsocialenterprise/tabid/733/Default.aspx

Social return on investment

New Philanthropy Capital has published *Social return on investment for funders*, which sets out to start a discussion about how and when SROI is best used when funding. www.philanthropycapital.org/publications/improving_the_sector/chartiy_analysis/SROI_for_funders.aspx

The Compact

The Commission for the Compact has published *The Social and Economic Benefits of the Compact*, which demonstrates the business case for Compact implementation. The benefits include: improved relationships, more effective consultation, more efficient monitoring and improved commissioning. www.thecompact.org.uk/information/100019/142091/prsocialandeconomicbenefitsofthecompact/

Transition fund

The Chancellor has announced a £100 million *Transition Fund* for voluntary organisations with an income of between £50,000 and £10 million who are in a good position to deliver public services but who may be experiencing financial pressures. The fund will provide £10 million in 2010/11 and £90 million in 2011/12. www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/7574/chancellor_announces_100m_transition_fund_for_sector

Trust for London

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The City Parochial Foundation and the Trust for London have merged as the Trust for London. www.trustforlondon.org.uk/our-new-name

VCS Governance

A group of VCS bodies including ACEVO, NCVO and the Charity Trustee Network have published *Good governance: a code for the Voluntary and Community Sector*, which provides updated guidance on governance issues. www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/codeofgovernance

Volunteer management

Skills – Third Sector has published *Valuing volunteer management skills*, which explores the skills gaps and development needs of people who manage volunteers and the volunteers they support. www.skills-thirdsector.org.uk/research_policy/library/valuing_volunteer_management_skills

Voluntary and community sector capacity building

The Big Lottery Fund has published *Big and small: capacity building, small organisations and the Big Lottery Fund*. The research was carried out by the Institute for Voluntary Action Research and explores issues relating to capacity building for small organisations, focusing on improving performance by developing their skills and confidence. www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/er_eval_rep_cbneeds.pdf

Waste management

The Mayor of London has published his *Municipal waste management strategy – public consultation draft*, which is aimed at encouraging boroughs to drive down the amount of waste produced, save money and adopt cleaner, greener recycling practices. The deadline for comments is 14 January 2011. www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/MWS-STRATEGY_FINALDRAFT.pdf

Worklessness

The Prince's Trust has published *Destined for the dole? Breaking the cycle of worklessness in the UK*, which finds that 70% of respondents from workless households have struggled to find a job. www.princes-trust.org.uk/pdf/Destined_for_the_Dole_report_aug10.pdf

The Department for Work and Pensions has published *Work-focused services in children's centres pilot: interim report*, which shows that the pilot run in 10 sites was a success in preparing personal advisers for their roles in supporting local parents into the labour market. <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep677.pdf>

Youth crime prevention

HMI Constabulary, HMI Probation and CQC have published a *Joint inspection of youth crime prevention*, which examines approaches to crime prevention focusing on 8-13 year olds, based on visits to seven local authorities. The report found examples of good practice but scope for better co-ordination and improvement in identifying what works both locally and nationally. www.cqc.org.uk/db/documents/Joint_Report_on_Youth_Crime_Prevention.pdf

Youth engagement

The Local Government Group and the National Youth Agency have published *Valuing young voices, strengthening democracy – the contribution made by youth engagement*, which explores the contribution youth engagement makes to strengthening democracy by looking at the difference young people make through public, social and individual participation. www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/22879535