

Voluntary Sector Unit Briefings

June – July 2010

Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund has announced a new £50 million open grants programme called *Community Spaces* to help community groups create or improve green open spaces to enhance people's quality of life. The programme is being managed by Ground works and grants start at £10,000. www.community-spaces.org.uk

Big Society

The Coalition Government has published *Building the Big Society*, which sets out its main proposals including giving communities more powers; encouraging people to take an active role in their communities; transferring power from central to local government; supporting co-operatives, mutuals, charities and social enterprises and publishing government data. There will be four 'vanguard' projects in Liverpool, Cumbria, Sutton and Windsor and Maidenhead. www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/407789/building-big-society.pdf

The New Economics Foundation has published *Ten big questions about the Big Society and ten ways to make the best of it*. www.neweconomics.org/articles/ten-big-questions-about-the-big-society-html

ACEVO has published *The Big Society: moving from romanticism to reality*, which explores what is needed to implement the government's ideas on achieving the Big Society. www.acevo.org.uk/Document.Doc?id=682

Communities and Local Government has published its structural reform plan to make the Big Society part of everyday life. www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/structuralreformplan

Campaigning and influencing

NCVO has published a *Trustee guide to campaigning and influencing – what you need to know*, which outlines what is required by law and what is good practice in developing and implementing an effective campaign. www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/trusteeguidecampaigning

Capacity building

Capacitybuilders has published their *Third Survey* on the state of the voluntary and community sector, which shows demand for frontline groups is continuing to increase and that more organisations are experiencing a reduction in overall income (40%) than are seeing their income rise (34%). In addition, more organisations are contemplating merging and 20% are planning to cut staff numbers. www.improvingsupport.org.uk/resources_by_topic/building_resilience/uploaded_resources/news/br_300610_-_3rd_survey.aspx

Capacitybuilders has published *Learning from mergers*, which explores the experiences of VCS infrastructure organisations undergoing or considering a merger. The report includes the views of prospective commissioners. www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/files/capacitybuilders/Learning%20from%20Mergers_0.pdf

Carers

The NHS Information Centre has published *Personal social services survey of adult carers in England – 2009-10*, which finds that 49% of carers known to local councils with adult social services responsibilities spend over 50 hours a week in caring activities and 37% spend over 100 hours. www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/psscscarerssurvey0910

Civil society

The Cabinet Office, Office for Civil Society has announced £11 million of savings including cuts of £1.9 million from the volunteering programme v, £5 million from the v match fund,

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£1.3 million from Capacitybuilders and £0.4 million from the Commission for the Compact. www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2010/100729-voluntary.aspx

Cohesive communities

IDeA (now known as Local Government Improvement and Development) has published *Cohesive Communities – the benefits of effective partnership working between local government and the voluntary and community sector*, which summarises research carried out by the Young Foundation exploring how local authorities and the voluntary and community sector can work together more productively to build empowered and cohesive communities. www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/20528985

Community development

The Community Development Foundation is setting up an Independent Panel on community development to consider the current context of community development, its future role and what needs to happen if it is to fulfil its potential. The panel has published a paper on the first theme: *The current context for community development*, which analyses the enduring features of community development and their significance. www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/cd-panel

The Community Development Foundation has published *Making the case for community development*, which aims to help community groups and organisations communicate to local government the vital importance of community development work in achieving public sector objectives. www.cdf.org.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=c39b96bf-51b6-4fc0-979c-55300909a984&groupId=10128

Debt

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published *Credit and debt in low income families*, which explores the experiences of people in low income families over a twelve month period during the credit crunch between May 2008 and June 2009. The report focuses on different types of debt, triggers for debt and how people coped. www.jrf.org.uk/publications/credit-debt-low-incomes-families

Environment

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has published *An invitation to shape the nature of England*, asking for comments and ideas for the white paper planned for spring 2011. www.defra.gov.uk/our-responsibilities/nat-environment (this link with re-direct to a temporary website).

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has published a *Review of waste policy – towards a zero waste economy*, which is seeking views and evidence on all aspects of waste policy and delivery in England in order to identify what is needed to create a 'zero waste' economy. The deadline for comments is 9 September 2010 and the Call for Evidence closes on 7 October 2010. www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/waste-review/index.htm

Extended services

The Department for Education has published *Extended services evaluation: end of year one report*, which outlines the results of research commissioned by the previous Department for Children Schools and Families. The report shows that demands for extended services are growing but there are concerns about funding and how services are promoted. www.education.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DFE-RR016_WEB.pdf

Fundraising

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The Charity Commission has published revised guidance on *Charities and fundraising*, to help charities and fundraisers work in a way that complies with the law and best practice. www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/cc20.aspx?

Health

The Department of Health has published the White Paper, *Equity and excellence: liberating the NHS*, which sets out proposals for reform including making GPs responsible for commissioning hospital and community care; moving foundation trusts out of the NHS; abolishing PCTs and SHAs; creating an independent Commissioning Board and moving public health responsibilities to local authorities.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_117353

The Department of Health has published *Liberating the NHS: local democratic legitimacy in health – a consultation on proposals*, which sets out plans to strengthen the role of local government in health by local authorities taking on local public health improvement functions, having a new role in promoting integrated working and commissioning local HealthWatch organisations to act as independent consumer champions. The deadline for comments is 11 October 2010.

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_117721.pdf

The Department of Health has published *Liberating the NHS: commissioning for patients – a consultation on proposals*, which sets out, and seeks views on, the intended arrangements for GP commissioning and the NHS Commissioning Board. The deadline for responses is 11 October 2010.

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_117705.pdf

The Department of Health has published *Liberating the NHS: Transparency in outcomes – a framework for the NHS*, which asks for views on the principles that should underpin the NHS Outcomes Framework, potential indicators and how such a framework could support partnership working.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_117583

Health inequalities

The National Audit Office has published *Tackling inequalities in life expectancy in areas with the worst health and deprivation*, which explores issues of life expectancy, showing that this has increased overall but the gap between the national average and the worst areas has continued to widen. The report focuses on the role of the Department of Health and the NHS, whilst also recognising the wider determinants of health.

www.nao.org.uk/publications/1011/health_inequalities.aspx

The Commission on Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) has published *Community green: using local spaces to tackle inequality and improve health*, which shows how increasing access to, and the quality of, green spaces can improve the quality of life, especially for those living in deprived neighbourhoods in urban areas.

www.cabe.org.uk/publications/community-green

The Department of Health has published *Health profile of England 2009* which compares life expectancy, deprivation levels and early death rates, showing significant variations in health outcomes across the country.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_114561

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The Royal College of Physicians has published *How doctors can close the gap: tackling the social determinants of health through culture change, advocacy and education*, which explores the role of GP's in tackling health inequalities. The report recommends refocusing on prevention opportunities, promoting healthy lifestyles and helping people manage their own health. www.rcplondon.ac.uk/professional-Issues/Public-Health/Documents/RCP-report-how-doctors-can-close-the-gap.pdf

Housing

The National Housing Federation, the Chartered Institute of Housing and the National Federation of ALMOs have published *Responsible choices for a fairer future – the spending review submission*, which outlines the level of public spending required to protect existing services and in particular, housing related support services.

www.housing.org.uk/default.aspx?tabid=288&mid=835&ctl=Details&ArticleID=3091

Intergenerational work

The Local Government Association has published *Intergenerational practice: outcomes and effectiveness* which reports on research undertaken by The National Foundation for Educational Research, the National Youth Agency and the National Institute for Adult and Continuing Education. The report examines what works in intergenerational practice and identifies the key success factors, highlighting the positive benefit and the potential negative effects and challenges.

www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/11939608

Legal advice for voluntary and community organisations

NCVO, in collaboration with various other organisations, including the Charity Commission, the CIC regulator and ACEVO, has set up a website to provide legal advice to voluntary and community organisations, with the legal content provided by the solicitors Bates, Wells and Braithwaite.

www.getlegal.org.uk

Looked after children

The think-tank Demos and Barnardo's have published *In loco parentis – children in the care system*, which explores how the care system could be improved to provide additional stability to looked after children.

www.demos.co.uk/files/In_Loco_Parentis_-_web.pdf?1277484312

Lottery funding

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has set out proposals to reduce the voluntary and community sector share of lottery good causes funding from 50% to 40% with 60% going to arts, sports and heritage organisations in their structural reform plan.

www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/SRP_DCMS_150710.pdf

Poverty

The Trust for London and the New Policy Institute have published *London's poverty profile*, which shows that the percentage of children living in outer London increased more rapidly than any other region and the proportion of adults of working age in low income families increased in outer London by 3%.

www.londonpovertyprofile.org.uk/downloads/LondonPovertyProfile.pdf

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published *A minimum income standard for the UK in 2010*, which is their annual update on what members of the public think people need in terms of income to achieve a socially acceptable standard of living.

www.jrf.org.uk/publications/minimum-income-standard-2010

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Public service delivery

The Third Sector Research Centre has published *The third sector delivering public services: an evidence review*, which examines research evidence, argument and policy development on the third sector and public service delivery over the last five to ten years.

www.tsrc.ac.uk/Research/ServiceDeliverySD/Publicserviceevidencereview/tabid/712/Default.aspx

Social care

The Association of Directors of Social Services has published *Fit for the future – policy, purpose and progress in adult social care*, which highlights four key priorities

- Building personalised services into mainstream service delivery
- Focusing on prevention
- Ensuring outcomes are owned by communities and citizens
- Developing a new settlement for future funding of care and support

[www.adass.org.uk/images/stories/Publications/Miscellaneous/ADASS_Fit for the Future - June 2010.pdf](http://www.adass.org.uk/images/stories/Publications/Miscellaneous/ADASS_Fit_for_the_Future_-_June_2010.pdf)

Social return on investment

The think-tank Demos has published *Measuring social value: the gap between policy and practice*, which includes recommendations to take a social return on investment approach.

www.demos.co.uk/files/Measuring_social_value_-_web.pdf?1278331802

Substance misuse

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published *Drugs research: an overview of evidence and questions for policy*, which reports on a programme of research exploring the problem of illicit drugs in the UK. The report gives an overview of projects and topics include policing of drug possession, domestic cultivation, the impact of drugs on families and drug testing in schools and in the workplace. www.irf.org.uk/sites/files/irf/drugs-research-overview-full.pdf

Alcohol Concern has published *Investing in alcohol treatment – reducing costs and improving lives: Alcohol Concern’s learning from 10 years of consultancy and training*. The report shows that the numbers with an alcohol dependency rose 24% between 2000 and 2007 to 1.6 million and if support is not provided to help drinkers reduce their consumption, the annual health, welfare and crime costs could total £2,300 per person and cost the public sector £3.7 billion a year.

www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/assets/files/Publications/AlcoholTreatReport.pdf

Sustainable development

The Sustainable Development Commission has published *The future is local: empowering communities to improve their neighbourhoods*, which finds that enabling communities to lead local renewal projects can encourage greater participation and be more cost effective.

www.sd-commission.org.uk/presslist.php/112/empowering-communities-to-lead-local-improvement-works-is-the-best-way-to-tackle-climate-change-and

Total Place

Local Government Improvement and Development has published *The public service challenge: implementing the lessons from Total Place*, which looks at lessons learned from pilot schemes across the country. www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/20756871

Voluntary sector workforce development

Skills – Third Sector has published a consultation on its *Framework for a national skills strategy for the voluntary sector* in response to challenges posed in delivery the Big Society. The priority areas for development include governance and leadership, skills for business,

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managing volunteers and measuring effectiveness and impact. www.skills-thirdsector.org.uk/documents/framework_for_skills_strategy.pdf

Welfare benefits

The Department for Work and Pensions has published *Understanding the needs of people with mental health conditions and/or learning disabilities and the implications for the Pension, Disability and Carers service*, which explores the experiences of people when accessing benefits, in particular Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance. <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep654.pdf>

The Department for Work and Pensions has published *21st Century welfare: a consultation*, which outlines proposals to reform the benefits and tax credits system and introduce a single integrated universal credit. The deadline for comments is 1 October 2010. www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/21st-century-welfare.pdf

Young people

The Department for Education has published *Participation in education, training and employment by 16-18 year olds in England*, which provides a breakdown of statistics for those who are in education, training and employment and those who are not, by age, gender, mode of study, type of learning, type of institution, labour market status and highest qualification being studied. www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000938/SFR18-2010.pdf

The Audit Commission has published *Against the odds: re-engaging young people in education, employment or training*, which estimates the financial, personal and social cost of teenagers who are not in education, employment or training. The report suggests that the problem may be worse than the annual 'snapshot' survey indicates. www.audit-commissin.gov.uk/nationalstudies/localgov/againsttheodds/Pages/default.aspx

Ofsted has published *Supporting young people: an evaluation of recent reforms to youth support services in 11 local areas*, which reports on the development of integrated youth support services. The report found that progress towards commissioning services from external providers was limited and that there was a greater focus on targeted services than on universal provision. www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/News-Archive/2010/July?Targeted-support-from-local-authorities-and-their-partners-helps-vulnerable-young-people

The Department for Education has published *Aiming high for young people: evaluation feasibility study*, setting out what should be included in an evaluation of the programme. www.education.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DFE-RR004.pdf

The National Foundation for Educational Research has published *Positivity in practice: approaches to improving perceptions of young people and their involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour*, which highlights a range of approaches being undertaken by local authorities and their partners. www.nfer.ac.uk/nfer/publications/PYC01/PYC01_home.cfm?publicationID=441&title=Positivity%20in%20practice:%20approaches%20to%20improving%20perceptions%20of%20young%20people%20and%20their%20involvement%20in%20crime%20and%20anti-social%20behaviour

The Big Lottery Fund is launching a new programme called *Youth in Focus*, which is intended to support vulnerable young people through difficult changes in their lives focusing on young carers and young people leaving care or youth offending institutions. The programme is looking for partnership applications (which must be voluntary sector led) mainly between £500,000 and £1 million over 3-5 years and will be offering briefings for

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interested organisations in September.

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/youth_focus_guidance.pdf

The Department for Education has published *Young People's alcohol consumption and its relationship to other outcomes and behaviour*, which explores alcohol consumption among 14 to 17 year olds using data from the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England.

www.education.gov.uk/research/programmesofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15815&type=5&resultspage=11