

Voluntary Sector Unit Briefings

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Adult social care: information, advice and advocacy

The IDeA has published *Transforming Adult Social Care: Access to information, advice and advocacy*. The review looks at activity and research evidence in adult social care and examines whether there are any models of service provision which are considered good practice. www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/9454528

Awards for All

Awards for All has changed its arrangements from 1 April. The Big Lottery Fund will continue to offer grants of between £300 and £10,000 under the Awards for All name. Projects with a specific arts, sports or heritage focus will need to direct their applications for small grants to the Arts Council England, Sport England or the Heritage Lottery. www.biglotteryfund.org.uk; www.artscouncil.org.uk; www.sportengland.org; www.hlf.org.uk

Campaigning

The National Occupational Standards for Campaigning are currently out for consultation for three months from early March. The draft standards are available on the Workforce Hub website.

www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk/component/content/article/505

Carers and individual budgets

York University has published *Individual budgets pilot projects: impact and outcomes for carers*, which looked at the impact that individual budgets would also have on carers in terms of assessment, support planning, costs and outcomes.

www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pdf/IBSENCarersRep.pdf

Child protection

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published *The protection of children in England: a progress report*, which examines the management, training and funding of child protection services in the wake of the Baby P case.

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/HC-330.pdf>

Climate change

NCVO with Green Alliance is seeking members for a Third Sector Taskforce on Climate Change, the Environment and Sustainable Development, which will set out a vision and action plan for how third sector organisations can contribute to the issues raised by climate change. The taskforce has been set up by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs as part of its Third Sector Strategy, launched last year.

www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/policy/index.asp?id=13206

Community Transport

Hackney Community Transport (HCT) has produced its first *Impact Report for 2007/08*. The report highlights HCT's achievements as a social enterprise, outlining its commercial success as well as its contribution to changing lives and communities.

www.hctgroup.org/uploaded/File/HCTImpact_Report_2C.pdf

Deprivation and education

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published *Deprivation and education: the evidence on pupils in England – foundation state to key stage four*, which summarises statistics on the gap in attainment between pupils from deprived backgrounds and their peers. www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RTP-09-01.pdf

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The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published *Breaking the link between disadvantage and low attainment – everyone's business*. The report summarises international and national evidence of the link between deprivation and education and looks at ways of narrowing the gaps in outcomes for particular groups of students, linking to the Department's wider agenda for children and families.

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publication&ProductId=DCSF-00357-2009&>

Domestic violence

The Home Office has published *Together we can end violence against women and girls*, a consultation on issues such as tackling persistent perpetrators, what possible additional police and court powers might help, safer travel, the expansion of the Park Mark safer car parks scheme and the setting up of a new advisory group with a specific focus on how schools can prevent violence against women. The consultation closes on 29 May 2009. www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-vaw

Gang activity

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published a consultation on *Safeguarding children and young people who may be affected by gang activity*, which sets out draft guidance on the risk factors that could lead to a child's involvement with gangs and list sixteen warning signs. The deadline for comments is 19 June.

www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations

Heritage Lottery

The Heritage Lottery fund is offering small grants, under the *Story of London* programme, of between £3,000 and £10,000 to support projects that could help local organisations, communities and voluntary groups to share their London stories with a much wider audience. www.hlf.org.uk/storyoflondon

Housing stock transfer

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published *The impacts of housing stock transfers in urban Britain*, which looks at ten case studies where council housing stock has been transferred to specially established housing associations since 1997.

www.jrf.org.uk/publications/impacts-housing-stock-transfers-urban-britain

Information technology

The Cabinet Office has published the *Power of Information Taskforce Final Report*, which looks at how the internet can strengthen the relationship between the citizen and the state, enabling third sector provision of online services and two-way conversations about public services. <http://poit.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/poit>

Learning disabilities

The Department of Health has published *Health action planning and health facilitation for people with learning disabilities: good practice guidance*, which is intended to clarify good practice and tackle health inequalities.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_096505

Futurebuilders

Futurebuilders is to manage the Department of Health's *Social Enterprise Investment Fund*, which will be offering grants as well as loans and loan guarantees from June onwards. Futurebuilders is also delivering a key part of the Government's *Modernisation Fund*, which was launched to help third sector organisations through

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the recession by offering interest free loans from April. www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk

Informal adult learning

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has published a white paper, *The learning revolution*, which sets out the Government's strategy for promoting and supporting informal adult learning. The white paper recognises the importance of informal learning in helping people gain satisfaction, development and fulfilment and sets out a range of proposals including setting up a high-level advisory forum and outlining measures to encourage local authorities to take a lead in developing informal learning locally. www.dius.gov.uk/learningrevolution

Mental health

The World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe has published *Mental health, resilience and inequalities*, which concludes that mental health problems are worse in rich nations that are social unequal, such as the UK. The report suggests that all future policy should be assessed for its mental health impact. www.euro.who.int/document/e92227.pdf

Migration

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published *Managing the impacts of migration: improvements and innovations*, which provides an update on progress following the earlier report *Managing the Impacts of Migration: a Cross-Government approach* published in June 2008. The latest actions include a new fund, the Migration Impacts Fund, worth £70 million over 2 years, which is aimed at relieving the impact of immigration on local services. www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/migrationimpactupdate

Older people

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published *Managing resources in later life*, which explores how older people plan, use and value resources to maintain independence and control of their lives. The study identifies deteriorating health, especially where it affects mobility, as the key issue and discusses the roles of family and friends, public services, financial resources and personal strategies in dealing with problems. www.jrf.org.uk/publications/managing-resources-later-life

Public services

The Cabinet Office has published *Working together – public services on your side*, which sets out the Government's vision for the future shape of public services, detailing the steps the Government is taking to give people, communities and frontline staff the information and power to personalise public services. www.hmg.gov.uk/workingtogether.aspx

Recession resources

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations has set up an area on its website to offer resources to help third sector organisations in the economic downturn. Topics include financial sustainability, merging and sharing resources, staff management, measuring impact and minimising waste. www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/downturn.asp

The Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) has set up a support website which contains guidance and tips written by experts on finance, management and career development. www.recessionsupport.org.uk

A new Government taskforce has been set up to look at ways that businesses and the third sector can work together to help those communities that need it most during

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the economic downturn.

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/090331_taskforce.aspx

Recycling

The British Retail Consortium has launched a new labelling system to indicate whether packaging can be easily recycled. '*Widely recycled*' means 65% or more of local authorities collect that packaging, '*Check local recycling*' means 15%-65% collect the material and '*Not currently recycled*' means that under 15% collect that packaging. www.onpackrecyclinglabel.org.uk

Social return on investment (SROI)

The Office of the Third Sector has awarded the contract for the *Measuring Social Value* project to a consortium led by the SROI Network, with New Philanthropy Capital, New Economics Foundation, Charities Evaluation Services and NCVO. The project aims to standardise the approach to SROI and encourage its wider use as an approach through making it more accessible and cost effective for organisations as well as more attractive to investors, funders and commissioners. www.sroi-uk.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=55&Itemid=56

Substance misuse

The Greater London Alcohol and Drug Alliance has published *London: the highs and lows briefing update*, which shows that the proportion of 16-24 year olds in London reporting using any drug during the last year fell from 20.3% to 17.8% between 05/06 and 07/08 and the number of problem drug users fell from 14,068 in 04/05 to 11,750 in 05/06, but alcohol hospital admissions for 11-16 year olds increased by 51% from 02/03 to 06/07 from 1,171 to 1,769.

www.london.gov.uk/gla/publications/health.jsp#hilo

Sure start children's centres

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published the results of a survey of parents on Sure Start Children's Centres, which showed a high level of awareness of the centres by parents and carers and generally high levels of satisfaction with them. The most used services were childcare and nursery education. www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RB083.pdf

Targeted youth support

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published *Targeted youth support pathfinders evaluation – final report*, which reports on a programme aimed at targeting vulnerable young people before their problems escalate. The evaluation identifies some of the effective steps taken to provide integrated support and services to improve the situation of young people at risk of poor outcomes but found that there was little evidence of improvements in the early identification of vulnerable young people in the 14 pilot areas. www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR078.pdf

Third sector skills

Skills – Third Sector is the new name for the Third Sector Skills body, funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. A new website has been set up at www.focusonskills.co.uk

The South London Learning Consortium has launched a campaign called *Go Get It!* which aims to promote and support access to Train to Gain for the third sector.

www.sllc.org.uk

Volunteering

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The Cabinet Office has published *Volunteering across the criminal justice system: Baroness Neuberger's review as the Government's volunteering champion*. The report calls for more offenders to be able to volunteer as part of their rehabilitation process, a permanent volunteering champion to co-ordinate good practice in volunteering across criminal justice agencies, guidance on the use of volunteers in public services and more government funding for specific volunteering schemes for offenders. www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/124076/volunteers%20in%20cjs.pdf

Young people not in education, employment or training

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published *Increasing participation: understanding young people who do not participate in education or training at 16 and 17*, which explores the characteristics and experiences of young people not in education, employment or training or in jobs without training and what strategies are likely to re-engage them in education and training. <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR072.pdf>

Barnardo's has published *Second chances: re-engaging young people in education and training*, which reviews the experiences of young people who were recently not in education, employment or training and warns of the problems faced by school leavers during an economic downturn.

www.barnardos.org.uk/10942_2nd_chances_report.pdf

Youth conditional caution consultation

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has launched a consultation on the *Youth Conditional Caution Code of Practice for 16 and 17 year olds*. The consultation is seeking views on pilot schemes to be run in 2009 under the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. The deadline for comments is 25 May 2009.

www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1587&external=no&menu