

# **Voluntary Sector Unit Briefings**

## **May 2009**

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### **Access to justice**

The Ministry of Justice has published two reports on access to justice: *Evidence of the experiences of minority groups based on ethnicity, identity and sexuality* and *Evidence of the experiences of adults with mental health problems*. Both reports summarise research evidence on the experiences of different groups and make recommendations about how they might be improved.

[www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/access-justice-minority-groups.pdf](http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/access-justice-minority-groups.pdf)

[www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/access-justice-mental-health.pdf](http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/access-justice-mental-health.pdf)

### **Adult social care workforce development**

The Kingston 2009 *Workforce Development Conference for the Local Adult Social Care Workforce* will be held on 14 July 2009, focusing on the key priorities of the new national strategy for the adult social care workforce in England. Local education and training organisations have been invited to exhibit as well. For further information contact Jeannette James, the NVQ, Learning and Development Manager:

[jeannette.james@rbk.kingston.gov.uk](mailto:jeannette.james@rbk.kingston.gov.uk)

### **Advice services**

The National Association of Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA), in partnership with Cornwall County Council and Citizens Advice has published *Cornwall's Community Advice Network: a case study*. The report sets out the approach taken in Cornwall to developing a local community advice network, building on existing relationships to develop a sustainable partnership to meet local needs, rather than going down the procurement route proposed by the Legal Services Commission. [www.navca.org.uk/news/cornwall.htm](http://www.navca.org.uk/news/cornwall.htm)

### **Charity governance**

New Philanthropy Capital has published *Board matters: a review of charity trusteeship in the UK*, which questions the strength of trustee boards in the charity sector and argues that recruitment, training and evaluation of board members is frequently neglected because charities and funders do not prioritise governance.

[www.philanthropycapital.org/research/research\\_reports/other/trusteeship.aspx](http://www.philanthropycapital.org/research/research_reports/other/trusteeship.aspx)

### **Child protection**

The Government has published *The protection of children in England: action plan – the Government's response*, which outlines how they will start to implement Lord Laming's recommendations. These include making revisions to *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, revising statutory guidance on the roles of directors of children's services and lead members and updating guidance on the Common Assessment Framework.

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductID=CM+7589>

The British Medical Association has issued guidance for doctors dealing with suspected cases of abuse or neglect of children. [www.cypnow.co.uk/bmaquidance](http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bmaquidance)

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has launched a consultation on draft guidance on *Handling allegations of abuse made against adults who work with children and young people*. The deadline for comments is 7 August 2009.

[www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1639&external=no&menu=1](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1639&external=no&menu=1)

### **Children and Young People's Participation**

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Participation Works has published a range of materials to evaluate the effectiveness of participation approaches for children and young people. *Evaluation in a nutshell*, provides a summary of the basics of evaluation; *Evaluating Participation Work – the Guide*, provides advice and guidance on the evaluation process and *Evaluating Participation Work – the Toolkit* includes examples that can be adapted for different circumstances. [www.participationworks.org.uk/resources](http://www.participationworks.org.uk/resources)

### **Climate change**

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has announced the appointment of 16 third sector representatives to their Third Sector Taskforce on climate change who will be responsible for developing a vision and action plan for wider third sector involvement in environmental issues. [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

### **Communications**

The Home Office has published *Communicating for confidence – a practical guide*, which is aimed at helping Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, Community Safety Partnerships, neighbourhood policing teams and drug and alcohol teams to get their messages across to the public. [www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/learningzone/communicatingforconfidence.htm](http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/learningzone/communicatingforconfidence.htm)

### **Community development**

The National Housing and Planning Advice Unit has published *Affordability – more than just a housing problem*, which reviews how a lack of affordable housing can have a negative impact on health, employment and equalities. [www.communities.gov.uk/nhpau/keypublications/research/affordabilitymorethan](http://www.communities.gov.uk/nhpau/keypublications/research/affordabilitymorethan)

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published the *Citizenship Survey April – December 2008*, which provides data on a range of issues including community cohesion, empowerment, values, racial and religious prejudice, discrimination, volunteering and charitable giving. [www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1208751.pdf](http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1208751.pdf)

The Urban Forum has published *Leading lights: research into councillors and third sector representatives in community leadership*, which explores voluntary and community sector perceptions of the relationship between local councillors and voluntary and community organisations particularly in terms of how they represent the local community. [www.urbanforum.org.uk/files/ufpublic/leading\\_lights\\_2009\\_04.pdf](http://www.urbanforum.org.uk/files/ufpublic/leading_lights_2009_04.pdf)

### **Comprehensive Area Assessment**

The Cabinet Office, Office of the Third Sector has published *Comprehensive Area Assessment: a briefing for the third sector*, which is aimed at encouraging third sector organisations to take a co-ordinated approach to engaging with the Comprehensive Area Assessment locally, so that they can get their contribution heard most effectively. [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/212183/caa%20briefing%20amended.pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/212183/caa%20briefing%20amended.pdf)

### **Disabled children**

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published *Parental experiences of services for disabled children*, which provides the results of its first national survey of parents' views on disabled children's services. The average score of 59 out of 100 provides the 2008/09 baseline against which the government, local authorities and primary care trusts can assess progress in future years. The DCSF

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plans to publish the survey annually.

[www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000846/index.shtml](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000846/index.shtml)

Contact a Family has published *What makes my family stronger*, which explores the experiences of families with disabled children and finds that negative attitudes towards disability and lack of access to services are the main barriers preventing families with disabled children from leading ordinary lives.

[www.cafamily.org.uk/pdfs/wmmfs.pdf](http://www.cafamily.org.uk/pdfs/wmmfs.pdf)

### **Economic downturn**

The Department for Work and Pensions has published a *Review of evidence on the impact of the economic downturn on disadvantaged groups*, which examines the effect of previous recessions on disadvantaged groups including disabled people, ethnic minorities, lone parents, the over-50s, and the lowest qualified.

[www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/WP68.pdf](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/WP68.pdf)

### **Evaluation**

The Home Office has published *Passport to evaluation*, which sets out how the impact of crime reduction projects can be assessed.

[www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/learningzone/passport\\_to\\_evaluation.htm](http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/learningzone/passport_to_evaluation.htm)

### **Foster carers**

The Fostering Network has published *The age of foster care*, which finds that two thirds of foster carers are aged over 50, only 6% are under 40 and there is an urgent need to recruit younger foster carers.

[www.fostering.net/resources/documents/recruitment/age\\_of\\_foster\\_care.pdf](http://www.fostering.net/resources/documents/recruitment/age_of_foster_care.pdf)

### **Job creation**

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published *Stepping up to the challenge: the Government's response to the Tackling Worklessness Review*, which proposes setting up a Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership and National Workless Forum to support local authorities in job creation programmes.

[www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/tacklingworklessnessresponse](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/tacklingworklessnessresponse)

### **Joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA)**

The IDeA has published *Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – progress so far*, which highlights the variety of approaches being taken across the country and achievements to date. Case studies demonstrate the potential value in incorporating the wider determinants of health and involving other partners. The report also looks at how the JSNA might be developed in the future. [www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/9606722](http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/9606722)

### **Health inequalities and older people**

The Economic and Social Research Council has published *Inequalities in health in an ageing population: patterns, causes and consequences*, which finds that inequalities persist well into old age and that older people from lower socio-economic groups have lower life expectancy and a greater likelihood of experiencing chronic illnesses.

[www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/ViewAwardPage.aspx?awardnumber=RES-000-23-0590](http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/ViewAwardPage.aspx?awardnumber=RES-000-23-0590)

### **Open spaces**

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) has published *Open space strategies: best practice guidance*, which offers practical guidance to local authorities and their partners and stakeholders on how to prepare, deliver,

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monitor and review an open space strategy. [www.cabe.org.uk/publications/open-space-strategies](http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/open-space-strategies)

### **Pandemic influenza**

The Cabinet Office and Department of Health have published *Pandemic Influenza – supplementary information for third sector organisations*, which provides background information and advice on planning for a pandemic.

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_099094](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_099094)

### **Patient choice**

The Department of Health has published the *Report of the national patient choice survey: December 2008*, which shows the results of the sixteenth national survey assessing the implementation of choice at primary care trust level.

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH\\_098859](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_098859)

### **Refugees**

Refugee Support has published *Over Not Out: the housing and homelessness issues specific to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender asylum seekers*, which finds that these groups experience multiple disadvantage and explores how the situation can be improved.

[www.refugeesupport.org.uk/documents/MST\\_LGBTreport\\_screen\\_0509.pdf](http://www.refugeesupport.org.uk/documents/MST_LGBTreport_screen_0509.pdf)

### **Social return on investment**

The Cabinet Office, Office of the Third Sector has published *A guide to social return on investment*, which shows third sector organisations how to calculate the social and environmental benefits that they create.

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/news/news\\_stories/090512\\_sroi.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/090512_sroi.aspx)

### **Social Work Taskforce**

The first report of the Social Work Taskforce is a letter detailing their advice on implementing Lord Laming's recommendations about child protection, which includes key messages from frontline staff, service users and adult's and children's services.

[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/files/Moira%20Gibb%20letter.doc](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/files/Moira%20Gibb%20letter.doc)

### **Substance misuse**

The Centre for Policy Studies has published *The phoney war on drugs*, which questions the effectiveness of the focus on harm minimisation in the UK national drugs strategy and compares it with approaches taken in Sweden and the Netherlands which focus more on reducing the supply of drugs and enforcement.

[www.cps.org.uk/cps\\_catalog/the%20phoney%20war%20on%20drugs.pdf](http://www.cps.org.uk/cps_catalog/the%20phoney%20war%20on%20drugs.pdf)

### **Third sector capacity building**

The Centre for Charity Effectiveness has created a new website *Know-how Non-Profit* which includes sections on strategy, marketing, managing change and improving performance. [www.knowhownonprofit.org](http://www.knowhownonprofit.org)

The Modernisation Fund website, supported by the Office of the Third Sector, now includes a self-assessment tool to help determine an organisation's strengths and weaknesses in eight key areas, including governance, finance and people. The tool helps create a priority list so that organisations can identify where they might need support. [www.modernisationfund.org.uk/about/further-support.html](http://www.modernisationfund.org.uk/about/further-support.html)

### **Third sector strategy**

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The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has published its *Third Sector Strategy*, which sets out what is needed for the third sector to thrive, how the department can work better with the third sector and explores the potential of social enterprises. [www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/publications/6144.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6144.aspx)

#### **Volunteering**

The Office for the Third Sector has announced three new programmes for volunteering: a £2 million *Access to volunteering programme* will aim to reduce barriers for disabled people to volunteer, a programme of *Volunteer Manager training* will be taken forward by Capacitybuilders and £1.6 million will be available to contribute to building a volunteering legacy from the Olympic and Paralympic games. [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/news/news\\_stories/090512\\_volunteering.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/090512_volunteering.aspx)

#### **Waste management**

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has published waste management figures comparing April 2007 – March 2008 with October 2007 to September 2008. According to the figures, total municipal waste fell by 1.6% from 28.5 million to 28.0 million tonnes, the amount sent to landfill fell from 15.5 million to 14.6 million tonnes and household recycling increased from 34.5% to 36.3%. [www.defra.gov.uk/news/2009/090507b.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2009/090507b.htm)

#### **Women and the criminal justice system**

The Fawcett Society has published *Engendering Justice – from policy to practice: the final report of the Commission on women and the criminal justice system*, which explores women's experiences as victims, offenders and workers in the system. The report finds that widespread discrimination against women still exists, despite policy developments over the last five years. [www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/documents/Commission%20report%20May%2009.pdf](http://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/documents/Commission%20report%20May%2009.pdf)

#### **Young carers**

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers has produced a *Manual for measures of caring activities and caring outcomes for children and young people*, which provides relevant and accessible instruments and tools for assessing the caring activities and outcomes for young carers. <http://static.carers.org/files/2248-yc-outcomes-manual-sb-4047.pdf>

#### **Young people**

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published *Neglected adolescents – literature review*, which looks at the impact of neglect and draws out the implications in relation to the Every Child Matters outcomes. [www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RBX-09-04.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RBX-09-04.pdf)

The Muslim Youth Helpline has reported that use of its services has risen by 57% in 2009, compared with 2008. The organisation has also re-launched its website as a safe space for young people to help and support each other online. [www.muslimyouth.net](http://www.muslimyouth.net)

#### **Youth work**

De Montfort University has published *Squaring the Circle*, a small-scale study exploring the impact of policies such as *Aiming High for Young People* and *Every Child Matters* on the core principles of youth work such as open access and confidentiality. [www.dmu.ac.uk/Images/Squaring%20the%20Circle\\_tcm6-50166.pdf](http://www.dmu.ac.uk/Images/Squaring%20the%20Circle_tcm6-50166.pdf)