

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO FORWARD/COPY THIS E-NEWSLETTER TO YOUR COLLEAGUES OR PARTNERS WHO MAY BENEFIT FROM OR HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE INFORMATION. NOTE: VIEWS EXPRESSED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE POLICY, VIEWS OR POSITION OF THE SUFFOLK ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS. COMMENTS/ CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOMED: E-MAIL laura.hack@savo.co.uk

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS are

PIVOTAL

TO SUFFOLK

FEBRUARY 2007

FAST >> FORWARD

- Latest from Suffolk County Council 2
- News from Suffolk PCT 3
- The Mental Capacity Act 4
- Conferences 5
- News in Brief 7

Compact
working together better together

Produced by Suffolk
Association of Voluntary
Organisations
Charity reg.: 1091039
Web: www.savo.co.uk
Email: admin@savo.co.uk

ISSUE 19 Welcome...

To the first PIVOTAL of 2007. This issue focuses on the latest news from Suffolk County Council. As I write this, I am awaiting details of the budget setting, which is to be agreed at the Council Meeting today. These decisions will have direct implications on the voluntary and community sector. The current 'more for less' agenda will mean that the VCS are expected to deliver more public services for less money. Predictions have been made that the VCS will suffer severe losses over the next two years as traditional funding streams dry up, not just within Suffolk, but nationally. For example, funds from the Big Lottery are being channeled away from the arts and the VCS into the 2012 Olympic Games. The move to tendering will see some VCS organisations lose contracts to larger or national charities, unless they can ready themselves and work together to survive within such a competitive market.

It is not just the VCS that is changing, the PCTs are now settling down from their restructure. The recent KPMG consultation report stated that a restructure of the County Council is required, with mergers between teams and loss of some management. We are also waiting to see the results of the Pathfinder bid and whether Ipswich will be granted a unitary authority. This has massive implications to our relationship with public service agencies. All of these changes will affect the VCS in some way. Unfortunately, the future is very uncertain!

Laura Hack, Editor

Press release from Suffolk County Council

This press release was issued on the 15th February 2006:

Suffolk County Council plans to protect future delivery of public services

A radical new way of working to protect the future delivery of Suffolk County Council services will be needed in the next three years, according to a report being discussed at the full council meeting next week.

Faced with the prospect of severe financial pressures over the medium term future, a new model of service delivery will be needed to secure the future of front line services.

At their meeting on 22 Feb, councillors will be asked to agree that the council's chief executive, Mike More, develops plans to implement this new model across the whole council.

Whilst the county council has made significant strides over recent years in its drive to be more efficient and improve service quality, it is still faced with the prospect of having to slice around £25 million per year from the base budget. This is the gap between the level of funding received from the government, and the increased cost of providing services, and the increased demand for those services. In total this gives a funding gap of £150 million over the next six years, which is not viable and which would severely impact on service delivery if the equivalent level of cuts were made.

Councillor Sue Sida-Lockett said: "It is clear that we cannot bury our heads in the sand over this. We must look closely at all aspects of our organisation, and make sure the way we work is fit for our purpose of delivering high quality, efficient and accessible services for the people of Suffolk. Looking at a new model of service delivery is essential to improve and protect front line services in Suffolk."

She added: "We can't risk having change forced upon us. By addressing this issue now, we can make sure that we are in charge of how services develop. To do nothing would put our services in real danger."

The council paper also includes details of complementary lobbying work that would be carried out at the same time as the internal review:

- ◆Challenging the government on the levels of spending on adult social care, where demand is increasing at the highest level, and where the funding gap is greatest
- ◆Arguing strongly for the re-instatement of a proper grant funding formula that recognises Suffolk's needs
- ◆Lobbying for a reduction in the amount of government bureaucracy that the council must comply with, as outlined in the recent Local Government White Paper

Councillor Jeremy Pembroke, Leader of Suffolk County Council, said: "We are effectively £7.3 million worse off this year because the government is ignoring its own funding distribution formula. Suffolk should gain through this, compared to other county councils, based on socio-economic factors and population changes. Ultimately it's the people of Suffolk who are disadvantaged by this."

"We know that we have to make the best use of what we have, and therefore a much more radical view of local government structures, systems and financing is now needed. I have seen through recent events in our county the ability of our staff to rise to the challenge - I have no doubt that they will once again show their determination to do what's right for Suffolk."

If you have any comments about how changes to SCC will impact on your organisation, please contact me:
Laura.hack@savo.co.uk

News from Suffolk PCT

Suffolk PCT now releases a bulletin on the 12th of every month, this is available on the PCT website at www.suffolkpct.nhs.uk

.....
Strategic planning event set for 21 June 2007

The PCT is organising a strategic planning event for major stakeholders and decisionmakers.

The aim is to bring together lead clinicians and managers in health, local authorities, the voluntary sector and representatives of the local community to determine the issues for health and healthcare in Suffolk from 2008 for the next five years.

This will lead to the publication of a Suffolk health strategy in September 2007. The date for the event is **21 June**, venue to be confirmed. Please mark this date in your diary. Further details will follow on the programme for the day and the number of places available.

.....
Vulnerable Adults:

Updates and useful resources around policies for working with vulnerable adults can be found at: www.suffolkvapc.org/modules/news/

The PCT Board approved on 24 January a draft in progress of the updated Local Delivery Plan for 2007/08. Comments on the Plan are welcomed and may be sent to them **by 15 March**. The latest draft is available from their website www.suffolkpct.nhs.uk This document gives further details on where to send your comments.

The Plan sets out the healthcare priorities for Suffolk, an outline of what the PCT and practice-based commissioners will be commissioning in 2007/08 and how the plan will be financed. It is a refresh of the three-year plans set by the previous primary care trusts.

.....
Care about healthcare - involvement and discussion programme

Meetings are under way to gather views on the future of health and healthcare in Suffolk. Four out of a programme of 12 open workshops have taken place so far. Various group meetings are also happening across the county and people are sending in their views in writing as well. A summary of the feedback from this exercise will be published in May and will be part of the information for consideration at the strategic planning event on 21 June.

See www.suffolkpct.nhs.uk for further details.

The Mental Capacity Act

Mental Capacity Act (2005) Implementation

The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) comes into force in April 2007 and will affect the way you work. It will apply to everyone who works in health and social care sector and is involved in the care, treatment or support of people over 16 years living in England and Wales, who may not have the capacity to make some decisions about where they live and serious medical treatment. To find out more, please go to www.dca.gov.uk/legal-policy/mental-capacity

Six half day training events are being run in March to:

- Review the general principles of the MCA
- Explore the roles, responsibilities and duties of professionals and informal carers in decision making on behalf of people lacking capacity
- Understand the new structures for formal decision making in respect of people lacking capacity and consider the role of Independent Mental Capacity Advocates (IMCA)

These training sessions are particularly relevant to **occupational therapists, social workers, residential and care home managers, care staff, support workers (including people who work in supported housing) and their managers.**

There are also training for trainer events, to which VCS trainers are invited.

INTRODUCTION TO THE MENTAL CAPACITY ACT
Training events

This Training is provided through the Suffolk Mental Capacity Act Local Implementation Network

Date	Time	Venue
March 13 th 2007	9-30am - 12-30pm	Beccles PCT Training Room
March 13 th 2007	1-30pm - 4-30pm	Beccles PCT Training Room
March 14 th 2007	9-30am - 12-30pm	West Suffolk Hospital
March 14 th 2007	1-30pm - 4-30pm	West Suffolk Hospital
March 15 th 2007	9-30am - 12-30pm	Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre Ipswich
March 15 th 2007	1-30pm - 4-30pm	Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre Ipswich

All sessions will be facilitated and delivered by Dr Carol Dawson

The Mental Capacity Act has been developed to co-ordinate and simplify the law about the care and treatment of people who lack capacity. Much of the Act builds on common law, but it is also designed to protect the rights of individuals and to empower vulnerable people. The Act introduces new powers and organisations to protect individuals and helps to clarify what is expected of staff.

This training is free to employees of public, private or voluntary providers of Health & Social care who operate within Suffolk. It is aimed at managers and professionals

For further information or to book places on any of these training events contact Liz Alcock on 01379 672745 or preferably contact her by e-mail: liz.alcock@acs.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Conferences

Learning for a changing world
Co-operative perspectives • Conference 6th & 7th July 2007

Co-op Education Department
East of England
Building a better Society • www.eastofengland.coop

East of England
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

Co-op Education Department

Learning for a changing world

6th Annual Co-operative Education Conference
6th-7th July 2007 Easton College, Norwich

A dynamic, imaginative and versatile conference open to anyone seeking a **Co-operative perspective** to engage with others. For those working with:

- Voluntary and community sector
- Young people ● Social enterprises
- Schools

Together we will:-

- Apply bold solutions
- Provide a fresh toolkit of ideas
- Promote creative interaction

Cost: £199

To find out more about this event please contact us:
 ● education@eastofengland.coop
 ● www.eastofengland.coop or ● 01473 280316
 To request a booking form please email or call us.

Limited places - so first come - first served!

Jointly facilitated by...

1ST QUESTION
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

CLADA
CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES

Maintaining Independent Living Regional Conference

April 18th 2007, St Andrew's Hall, Norwich

This is a forthcoming conference that will address many of the key issues around maintaining independent living for older people.

The agenda for the day has been developed through a unique partnership between local older people, regional Better Government and Go-East, and will bring together professionals and older people from around the region. Speakers for the conference will come from a wide range of agencies with a keynote address from Government. The day will also encourage dialogue and debate through a series of facilitated round table discussions.

In particular, the conference will focus on:

- Maintaining independent living for older people
- Effective engagement with older people
- Older people and local planning

Who can attend?

The conference is aimed at older people; older people's groups, organisations and networks, representatives from the voluntary, statutory and private sectors from Norwich, Norfolk and the Eastern Region.

If you are interested in attending please contact MIL@2upltd.co.uk or telephone 01953 889401.

Conferences



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE EAST OF ENGLAND

**Volunteering: Local Area Agreements & beyond
A Workshop**

10.30 – 3.00, Friday 16 March 2007, GO-East,
Cambridge

Aims:

**Sharing best practice around technical aspects
of volunteering and Local Area Agreements:**

- ◆ benchmarking and baselining levels of volunteering;
- ◆ interventions to take forward activity locally;
- ◆ working across sectors/organisations.

Looking at particular issues for volunteering:

- ◆ Making a positive contribution: youth volunteering;
- ◆ Volunteering for socially excluded groups.
- ◆ Volunteering and sport
- ◆ Volunteering and economic development

Developing regional priorities for volunteering:

- ◆ Regional England Volunteering Development Council (EVDC)
- ◆ London 2012 and volunteering: a regional response
- ◆ Regional Social Strategy

Networking with colleagues involved in similar issues

To book a place, please contact:

Neil Weston: Neil.Weston@goeast.gsi.gov.uk
Tel: **01223 372663**

FREE websites for Suffolk's Clubs and Voluntary Groups!

FREE
website?
(no catch)

Find out more at our FREE event

Learn how a website can help your organisation and see just how easy it is to put together a website in 5 minutes!
No previous web experience needed

Monday 16th April 2007

Bloodmoor Hill Community Centre

10.30am - 12.30pm (Coffee from 10.00am)

Lunch will be provided

To book a place please call Kerry on
01473 583891 or 07818 005958



Visit our website to find out more about the OneSuffolk project and view examples of the FREE sites we have already provided

For more information call or email our friendly Suffolk-based team:

www.onesuffolk.co.uk



01473 583891
info@onesuffolk.co.uk

Please Note: We do not offer FREE websites to businesses.

Reliance on contracts puts charities at risk

An interesting article in the Guardian (21/02/07) states that the future of Britain's biggest charities is being put at risk by their growing dependence on poorly-funded contracts to deliver public services. The Chair of the Charity Commission's stark assessment comes after a survey revealed that fewer than one in eight charities running services was confident it was being paid enough to cover its costs. An "all-party love-in" between the voluntary sector and politicians who see the sector as offering a more effective and user-friendly way of delivering public services is also threatening charities' independence.

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/voluntary/story/0,,2017883,00.html>

News in Brief

Fundraising:

Funding advisers networks - where, when, how?

In what way do funding advisers work together in networks? Is there a need for a national body to support advice work? Answers to these questions will be produced by the Finance Hub's newly commissioned project being undertaken by Sheffield Hallam University Centre for Voluntary Sector Research. If you are a funding adviser and have not responded to the survey and would like to get involved, [email: j.c.leman@shu.ac.uk](mailto:j.c.leman@shu.ac.uk)

Fundraising Standards Board (FSB) launched

The Fundraising Standards Board (FSB), the new self-regulatory body for fundraising has been launched. Research shows that only 22 per cent of people who have given to charity know where to go to complain about a charity's fundraising. The FSB will handle public complaints about how their members' raise money as well as offering the public a 'mark of reassurance' to look for when giving to charities in the future.

Don't raid the lottery to fund the Olympics - Sign the petition-

Rising costs of the Olympic and Paralympic Games means that National Lottery money may be diverted to meet the shortfall. This will unfairly penalise charities, voluntary organisations and grassroot community groups. We want the games to be a success but not by diverting lottery funds from other good causes. Please sign the following petition and encourage others to do so:
<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/Defend-funding>

Consultation on CRB checks of trustees of charities

On Wednesday 14th February the Charity Commission launched a consultation on its approach to Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks for trustees of charities working with children or vulnerable adults.

Charity trustees have a duty of care to their beneficiaries which is particularly important for charities working with vulnerable beneficiaries, and it is the responsibility of charity trustees to ensure that CRB checks are carried out. The Commission monitors charities and in June 2006 they introduced an interim policy for charities registering with them for the first time. They are now asking to see CRB disclosures for trustees before registering charities working with vulnerable beneficiaries. The consultation document explains the policy on CRB checks both for existing charities and those registering for the first time.

The Commission is keen to ensure that their policy achieves the right balance between protecting vulnerable beneficiaries and not placing unnecessary burdens on charity trustees.

The consultation will be of particular interest to you if your charity: has workers, paid or voluntary, whose normal duties include caring for, training, supervising or being in sole charge of children; has workers, paid or voluntary, whose normal duties include work in institutions mainly or exclusively for children; or is concerned with the provision of care services to vulnerable adults and if the trustees in the course of their normal duties have access to vulnerable adults in receipt of those services.

Views are welcomed on the issues raised in the consultation document and are needed in writing or by email by 11th May 2007. The full consultation document which includes details of how to reply is available from:

www.trusteenet.org.uk/files/consultcrb.pdf

News in Brief

Launch of Trustee Net, the national network of trustees

CTN has recently launched a national network for trustees and management committee members. Membership of the network is absolutely free. By signing up to the network on www.trusteenet.org.uk you can keep up to date about key issues affecting your role, contribute your views to influence national policy network online with other trustees and management committee members and hear about a range of benefits - free and discounted - to support you in your role as a trustee

Commissioning Public Services from the Third Sector: Inquiry

The Public Administration Committee has launched an inquiry into the growing trend toward Government buying or commissioning services from the "third sector". The Committee is calling for interested organisations and individuals to submit evidence to the inquiry.

For full terms of reference and a fuller explanation of the issues and questions that the Committee would like addressed in evidence, please go to the Committee's website:

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/public_administration_select_committee/pasccommissioning.cfm

NCVO will be submitting a response to the inquiry and would like to hear about your experience and evidence. If you respond to the inquiry and/or would like to feed into NCVO's response, please email the Policy Team at policy@ncvo-vol.org.uk



VCS Engage is an 18-month programme for engaging the Voluntary and Community Sector in Every Child Matters (ECM).

The purpose of the VCS Engage programme is to engage the VCS in the new framework for planning, commissioning and delivering services for children, young people and families. This will be achieved through tailored training packages, equipping the sector with the skills and knowledge they need to engage with LAs and work within the ECM agenda. The programme is funded by the [Department for Education and Skills](http://www.ndb.gov.uk). The central team is based at NCB (www.ncb.org.uk). The regional team is co-ordinated by NCVCCO.

Find out more at: <http://www.vcsengage.org.uk/>

NACVA is moving

From the 26th February 2007, NACVA is moving to: The Tower, 2 Furnival Square, Sheffield S1 4QL

Their main telephone, textphone and fax numbers will remain the same; however individual staff will have direct dial phone numbers - see the website for details:

www.navca.org.uk/about/staff/

News in Brief

SITA Trust - Launch of Communities Challenge Fund

SITA Trust has launched its Communities Challenge Fund for 2007.

The Fund forms part of the Trust's Enhancing Communities programme, and provides a total of £750,000 for projects located within 10 miles of an active landfill site owned by SITA UK. Three awards of £250,000 are offered, one for each of the following categories:

- ◆ Community facilities.
- ◆ Historic buildings or structures (Grade 1 listed places of worship and historic buildings or structures with an appropriate designation from a recognised body).
- ◆ Sport and recreation facilities.

The Trust is looking for high quality projects that will deliver substantial benefit to communities, or help to preserve buildings and structures of significant heritage value. Any not-for-profit organisation such as a community group, parish council, charity, local authority and voluntary organisation is eligible to apply. The closing date for applications is 31 May 2007.

BBC Children in Need Closing Date:

30 March 2007 More info:
www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey

Big Lottery Fund:

For information on new programmes visit:
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/pub_new_programmes.pdf

For further information please visit
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk or contact the Big Advice Line t: 0845 4 10 20 30



Open Hearts Open Minds



Open Hearts Open Minds Handbook - Updated Version 2006

An updated version of the Open Hearts Open Minds Handbook is now available from Exeter Community Initiatives.

Purpose of Handbook

The 'Open Hearts, Open Minds Handbook' is a self-assessment handbook for front-line workers (whether paid or working on a voluntary basis) to assess their professional development needs in the following areas:

- their understanding of social inclusion and its importance to the organisation
- their ability to reach excluded groups/communities
- their ability to work in partnership with others.

The original version was published in early 2004. It has been revised in 2006 to ensure that the information is current and that the sources of information referred to are up-to-date. It can be used in any part of the country.

The handbook is available in two versions: as a spiral bound book for individual use, and as a loose-leaf ring binder version for organisational use, which enables workers to photocopy exercises or sections. The ring binder version comes with a licence to photocopy as many copies as needed by an organisation.

If you would like to obtain a copy of the handbook, please contact ECI on 01392 205800 or e-mail kevin@eci.org.uk to get hold of an order form.

News in Brief

Briefing on Strong and Prosperous Communities - the White Paper Implementation Plan.

The Department of Communities and Local Government have published an implementation plan for strong and prosperous communities, the local government white paper. The implementation plan outlines how and when the government proposes to implement the proposals in the white paper and in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill (which is currently going through its committee stages in the House of Commons).

NVCO have now produced a briefing on the implementation plan, available at www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/LGWPIimplement

Yapp Charitable Trust Grants:

Grants of up to £3,000 per year for up to three years are available to sustain the work of charities that work with elderly people; children and young people aged 5 - 25; people with disabilities or mental health problems; people trying to overcome life-limiting problems of a social, rather than medical origin such as addiction, relationship difficulties, abuse, and a history of offending.

Grants are also available to promote lifelong learning.
www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk/

New contact for PPI in Suffolk

Jennie Fisher has now taken over as Head of Patient and Public Involvement and Relations from Elaine Lamb. Her contact details are as follows:-

Jennie Fisher, Head of Patient and Public Involvement and Relationships
Tel:- 01473 329519
Mobile Tel:- 07879 815861
email:- jennie.fisher@suffolkpct.nhs.uk

B&Q 'You Can Do It' Awards:

The awards aim to play a key part in helping local communities create inclusive and sustainable projects; for example giving new life to a community centre, local sports club facilities or community garden. The closing date for applications is the 30th March 2007. In addition, each local B&Q store also has a 'limited' budget to provide grants of between £50 and £500 to community groups under its Better Neighbour Grant Scheme.
http://www.diy.com/diy/jsp/bq/templates/content_lookup.jsp?content=/aboutbandq/2004/social_responsibility/YCDI_Awards/main.jsp&menu=aboutbandq

Free Community Development Training:

Adult and Community Learning at Suffolk County Council are holding a range of courses for community development work in Spring and Summer. These range from Working with Groups, Working with Young People, Monitoring and Evaluation of Community Development Work etc.

All workshops are FREE and held at Pemberton House, Curriers Lane, Ipswich. And run from 10am to 1pm.
e.mail/call:
Nicola.bradford@educ.suffolkcc.gov.uk
01473 325298 / 07973512174