

# **EXPANDING HORIZONS NETWORK NEWS OCTOBER 2004**

**Welcome to the October edition of e-Network News. The plan was to send e-Network News bi-monthly by email but as you can see this is a paper version, but this is only temporary. We are currently in the process of updating our database which will enable us to email e-Network News directly to our readers. Over the next couple of weeks a questionnaire requesting this information will be sent out, please take time to fill it in so that you can receive e-Network News and keep up-to-date with the latest information about social inclusion issues via email.**

**ROSINA NDUKWE  
INFORMATION OFFICER**

## **LOCAL NEWS**

### **Working Together Evidence Digest**

Working Together is a national strategy through which the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) aims to create a step-change in its relations with the voluntary and community sector (VCS). The strategy looks at the VCS as a provider of learning opportunities, as an employer, as a source of expertise, and as a channel of communication. Locally, a group has met twice, chaired by Paul Holme and involving representatives from numerous VCS organisations on Merseyside. The aim is to produce an implementation plan. The link below will provide you with information on the national strategy plus a paper detailing the responses received during the national consultation process. If it is too long to type - go to our website [www.expandinghorizons.co.uk](http://www.expandinghorizons.co.uk) where you will find the link under the download section.

<http://www.lsc.gov.uk/National/Documents/SubjectListing/ConsultationsandResponses/Completedconsultationsandresponses/default.htm>

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Improved Rights for Disabled People**

From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004 changes to the Disability Discrimination Act will mean that service providers and business must take reasonable steps to tackle physical barriers preventing disabled people from accessing their services. This means businesses like shops, pubs, gyms, libraries, doctors and solicitors need to consider what they can do to become more accessible. In addition, small employers will for the first time have the same duties towards disabled staff and job applicants as larger firms. This means not discriminating against employees or potential employers because of their disability and making reasonable adjustments to the workplace. For more information contact Merseyside Disability Federation on telephone, 0151 271 9570 or email [info@merseydisability.org.uk](mailto:info@merseydisability.org.uk)  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2004/sept/dis3009ddadis.asp>

### **Delivering Equality for Disabled People: Online Consultation Forum**

The consultation document titled, 'Delivering Equality for Disabled People', gives further details of the Government's plans to extend the Disability Discrimination Act to functions of public authorities, and introduce a duty to promote equality for disabled people. It covers two of the major changes in the Government's planned Disability Discrimination Bill. These changes are the prohibition of discrimination in the exercise of public functions and the introduction of a duty to promote equality for disabled people. For more information contact Merseyside Disability Federation on telephone, 0151 271 9570 or email, [info@merseydisability.org.uk](mailto:info@merseydisability.org.uk)  
<http://www.disability.gov.uk/campaigns/deliveringequality/consultation.asp>

### **Directgov – A Major New Public Website**

Directgov is a major public website that aims to provide a single point of access to government services and information. The section for disabled people and unpaid carers covers topics such as independent living, health, employment, education and financial support. There are also links to many charities and organisations. Other audience groups on Directgov include 'parents' and 'over 50s'. To find out more about directgov visit [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) or [www.disability.gov.uk](http://www.disability.gov.uk).

### **New Guide Launched to Tackle the Stigma of Mental Health**

The Social Exclusion Unit has published a new guide, *Social Exclusion: Action on Mental Health – A guide to Promoting Social Inclusion* to tackle the stigma of mental health and to encourage better opportunities for people with mental health problems. Launched to coincide with World Mental Health Day, the guide is aimed at public and voluntary organisations and people affected by mental health issues. It sets out the key issues on mental health and social inclusion and provides practical tips for action. There are 12 individual fact sheets on themes such as families and carers, discrimination and employment.

[http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2004\\_0240](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2004_0240)

### **Plugging the Gap – Helping Migrants and Refugees Find jobs**

The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) has been awarded a £4 million European project to get refugees into work challenging the widening skills gap in the UK. The Progress-GB partnership will aim to develop and promote ways of helping migrants and refugees advance in the work place. NIACE will work in partnership with organisations including Midland Refugee Council, Birmingham University, Exeter CVS, the North East Consortia for Asylum and Refugee Support, the North of England Refugee Service and Learn Direct. Progress- GB will work with both employers seeking to fill vacancies and with migrants and refugees looking to develop their skills and progress in the work place.

<http://www.niace.org.uk/news/Oct04.htm>

### **CRE Launches Race Equality Website to Help Policy Makers**

A new user friendly website “Race Equality Impact Assessment: A Step by Step Guide” has been set up by the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) designed to ensure policy makers put race equality at the centre of decision making processes. Policy makers will be able to utilize the website to ensure that race equality requirements are met when a new law or change to an existing policy takes place.

The website precedes the Public Authorities and Partnership guide launched in July 2004 which provides guidance for public authorities and government departments on how to work more effectively with other organisations to promote race equality.

For further information contact the CRE press office on 020 7939 0106 or 0072.

<http://www.cre.gov.uk/media/nrarch/2004/nr040908.html>

### **Call for Proposals: Promotion of Active European Citizenship**

The European Commission has released a call to support NGOs and federations of European interest which aim to promote active European citizenship. The eligible thematic areas include: ideas to integrate migrants, protection of children's rights, promotion of European ethical and spiritual values, and non-discrimination. The total budget for the call is approximately 4 million Euros. The deadline for submissions is 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2004. For further information, please contact [nicola.while@merseyside-europe.org](mailto:nicola.while@merseyside-europe.org) or visit: [www.merseyside-europe.org](http://www.merseyside-europe.org).

### **Move off Incapacity Benefit into Employment is double in Pathways to Work Areas**

Secretary of State for The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Alan Johnson has announced that compared to the national rate of movement off Incapacity Benefit and into employment, the success rate in Pathways to Work areas is double. In Pathways to Work areas, new claimants attend compulsory work-focused interviews with Personal Advisors, can access NHS rehabilitation support and are eligible for a £40-a-week return to work credit. In pilot areas, six times as many people claiming Incapacity Benefit have taken up support from the New Deal or other rehabilitation programmes which will give them the skills and confidence to move into work. This is encouraging news for the DWP and shows the improvements Pathways to Work Pilots are making to tackle exclusion within the labour market and to support and help people with health conditions and disabilities find employment.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2004/oct/pathways-111004.asp>

### **Social Inclusion Unit Launches New Focus On Young Adults and Older People**

The Social Exclusion Unit has launched two new projects "Young Adults with Troubled Lives" and "Excluded Older People" to assess how mainstream services can work more effectively to meet the needs of these socially excluded groups. For both projects informal questionnaires and face-to-face consultations will be take place for young adults and older people to investigate the problems that lead to the exclusion faced by these groups.

[http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn\\_id=2004\\_0250](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2004_0250)

## **Volunteering for All? Exploring the Link Between Volunteering and Social Inclusion**

The Institute for Volunteering Research has published a report exploring the link between volunteering and social exclusion. Undertaken by the Institute for Volunteering Research and financially supported by the Community Fund, the report questions whether volunteering is too exclusive and researches the psychological and practical barriers that affects the diversity of volunteering. It concentrates on three groups for whom social exclusion can be an issue – people from black and minority ethnic communities, disabled people and offenders/ex-offenders. Using a mixture of quantitative and qualitative records, the findings raise some interesting questions concerning volunteering and its ability to reduce social exclusion and show the number of methods tested to overcome the barriers to volunteering.

Overall, the Social Exclusion project concludes that volunteering is an effective way for many people to alleviate the symptoms of social exclusion, and can help address some of the causes. However, volunteering is not yet fully inclusive, not only do the psychological and practical barriers need to be addressed but the capacity of organisations involving volunteers from marginalised groups need also to be considered more seriously by policy makers and researchers. Importantly, whilst this report has focused on volunteering within organisational settings, it is apparent that if this is the only form of volunteering which is promoted and recognised then, rather than combating social exclusion, 'volunteering' could arguably reinforce it.

To receive a copy of the full report, or for more information about the Social Exclusion Project call 0845 305 6979 or visit:

<http://www.ivr.org.uk/socialexclusion/about.htm>

## **Barriers to Diversity**

The many barriers against diversity in volunteering is a topic discussed by the Volunteering specialists Energize Inc. The article titled, *Barriers to Diversity* investigates the ways in which organisations can unintentionally set up barriers when recruiting volunteers and highlights the hidden messages that can be conveyed to potential volunteers. *Barriers to Diversity* identifies the language used, where the material is placed, material artwork and the friendliness of an applicants reception all as major factors in determining the volume of diversity in volunteers. For more information on diversity in volunteering visit: <http://www.energizeinc.com/>.

## **Governments Revised Inclusion Framework Paints a Varied Picture of Success**

Results from the Ofsted report titled, *Special Educational Needs and Disability: Towards Inclusive Schools* show that most mainstream schools are now committed to meeting special educational needs identifying themselves as socially inclusive schools. However unequal benefits of the Governments Revised Inclusion Framework have been highlighted by the report. The report found that while most children with special educational needs are educated in mainstream schools, greater inclusion in mainstream schools has slowed. There has been an increase of 10% in the numbers of pupils placed in independent special schools since 2001 and a 25% increase in the numbers of pupils in pupil referral units between 2001 and 2003.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.detail&id=1621>

## **Partnerships to Drive Better Access to Digital Technologies**

The Cabinet Office has published the *Report of the Digital Technologies* which has identified social groups at most risk of digital exclusion and actions to encourage them to take up Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) that can help improve their lives. The report coincides with the launch of the Alliance for Digital Inclusion, a group of private and voluntary sector organisations including Citizens Online, AOL UK BT group plc, Intl UK, Microsoft UK, T-Mobile, Cisco Systems UK, IBM UK, that has been formed to promote the use of ICT for social benefit, as recommended in the report.

Digital Inclusion means the provision of access to ICT and interactive content and having opportunities to transact electronically. Digital technologies include digital television, Internet-enabled PCs and mobile phones.

Groups identified as need support and incentives to take up ICT include unemployed people, people with literacy issues and older people who are not benefiting from or even using technologies. For example while 61% of UK adults have accessed the internet, only 17% of those over the age of 65 have done so

Copies of the report can be found at [www.cabinet-office.gov.uk](http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk). Further information about the Alliance for Digital Inclusion can be found at; [www.alliancefordigitalinclusion.org.uk](http://www.alliancefordigitalinclusion.org.uk).

## **FUNDING NEWS**

### **More Applications Wanted for Fund that Tackles Gun Crime**

The Connected Fund set up by the Home Office in May 2004 to combat gun crime and gun culture is accepting a second round of applications. The Connected Fund provides grants to community groups and organisations tackling gun crime in their local community. £250,000 was awarded in May to The Connected Fund to support small community group tackling gun crime and gun culture in their local areas, kick-start new initiatives and boost ongoing projects in areas most affected by gun crime and help with capacity building for community based grassroots organisations. Projects in high gun crime areas such as Liverpool will be given priority. The deadline for applications is 12<sup>th</sup> November 2004 and the maximum grant available is £5,000.

<http://www.connected.gov.uk/funding/connectedfund/index.html>

### **CRE Funding for Race Equality Projects**

A total of £3,803,678 was awarded to The Commission for Racial Equality in May 2004 to 93 organisations. The remaining £380,000 in grants under the Getting Results funding framework is available in the second funding cycle this year for community based organisations aiming to deliver local race equality projects that will benefit British communities. The organisations who will receive Getting Results funding will be announced in October and awarded in December. For further information about the funding programme, call the Getting Results hotline on 0845 600 1404 or email

[gettingresults@cre.gov.uk](mailto:gettingresults@cre.gov.uk)

<http://www.cre.gov.uk/about/funding.html>

### **Call for Proposals: ESF Article 6 – Innovative Approaches to the Management of Change**

The European Commission has published a call for proposals under Article 6 of the European Social Fund (ESF) which supports innovative measures seeking to promote new approaches and to identify examples of good practice. Projects must focus on one of the two sub-themes; Management of demographic change: supporting innovative initiatives to promote active ageing and raise the employment rate of older workers. Management of restructuring: supporting innovative solutions to restructuring by enhancing the capacity for adaptation of workers, enterprises and public authorities.

The Deadline for applications is 26<sup>th</sup> January 2005 and projects must take place between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005 and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005. For further information, please contact [nicola.while@merseyside-europe.org](mailto:nicola.while@merseyside-europe.org) or visit: [www.merseyside-europe.org](http://www.merseyside-europe.org).

## **NEW ROLES**

### **Top Appointments Bring Fresh Experience To The Northwest Regional Development Agency**

Jacqui Smith, Minister of State for Industry and the Regions, announced four new appointments to the management board of the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA)

David Brockbank, Peter Hensman, John Merry and John Moverley will take up their three year appointments on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2004.

These appointments were made following open competition in accordance with the guidelines set down in the Commissioner for Public Appointments Code of Practice

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=133347&NewsAreaID=2>

### **New Chief Executive for LSDA**

Andrew Thompson has been appointed Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Development Agency. Andrew Thompson who has been the Principal of Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge for six years will start his new role on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005. He will take over from Chris Hughes who retires as LSDA Chief Executive in December 2004.

<http://www.lsd.org.uk/home.asp>

### **New Director of Private Sector for Commission for Racial Equality (CRE)**

Brenda Stern has been appointed Director of Private Sector for Commission of Racial Equality (CRE). Brenda Stern who has been Head of Public affairs and Public Policy since October 2000 for Law Firm Berwin Leighton Paisner will take up her post in October 2004.

[http://www.cre.gov.uk/media/nr\\_arch/2004/nr040924.html](http://www.cre.gov.uk/media/nr_arch/2004/nr040924.html)

## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

- **Some Day... We'll be a Social Enterprise**

Merseyside Expanding Horizons is teaming up with the Social Enterprise Network to bring a **free** event for voluntary and community groups on Merseyside. The event is for any organisation currently considering, however vaguely, moving towards trading as a way to raise income to achieve its' aims in the community. With input from the Social Enterprise Sector Champion, the Merseyside Social Enterprise Initiative, and voluntary organisations that have made the move to trading for income, it should be interesting, informative and useful.

The event will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> November, at Blackburne House, Liverpool. We're running it from 6pm-8pm – so you should even be able to come along if you run your group in your spare time.

To book, contact Maurice McCracken at Expanding Horizons on 0151 330 0552 or [mauricemccracken@expandinghorizons.co.uk](mailto:mauricemccracken@expandinghorizons.co.uk)

- **Breaking Down the Barriers – Towards Full Employment in the Northwest**

This event will focus on the North West Regional Assemblies intent to deliver full employment in the North West. This takes forward a regional initiative that the NWRA undertook with partners. In recognising the challenge of enhancing regional economic performance and improving the lives of North West people; this event seeks to explore ways of achieving full employment, empowering communities and individuals, and engendering a more inclusive society which recognises equality of opportunity and diversity in the region.

As part of this event we will reflect on Government's ambition to eradicate poverty through welfare reform and a drive for full employment in every region. The event will also look to build upon proposals set out in the Northern Way, to make a significant contribution to the advancement of our region.

The event will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> November at Blackburne House, Liverpool. To request an registration form contact Susie Irving on 01942 737916 or visit; <http://www.nwra.gov.uk/>

- **Social Inclusion – Are We Measuring Up?**

Seminar delivered jointly by Merseyside Network for Europe (MNE) and the Merseyside Social Inclusion Observatory (MSIO) exploring what social inclusion is, and how it is measured. Participants will be able to debate whether the right measures are being used to determine whether a person or group of people are 'included'. This seminar is suitable for frontline staff and volunteers working with excluded groups, and for those interested in social inclusion.

The Seminar will take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> November. For more information or to book a place on this event please contact Amanda or Caroline on 0151 258 1454

<http://www.merseynetwork.com/>

- **European Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion**

The third European Round Table on poverty and social exclusion will take place in Rotterdam early next week. For this occasion, the European Anti-Poverty Network will publish a series of position of papers on issues such as 'Reinforcing the EU |Social Inclusion Strategy', stock taking on the National Action Plans and a response to the commission's joint report on social inclusion.

[www.merseyside-europe.org](http://www.merseyside-europe.org).

- **The Pan-European Awareness-Raising Campaign on Corporate Responsibility and SMEs**

The Pan-European Awareness-Raising Campaign on Corporate Responsibility and SMEs has officially been launched. This campaign is an initiative of the Enterprise Directorate-General of the European Commission targeted at European small and medium-sized enterprises. Many SMEs already implement CSR activities without being familiar with the official CSR concept or without publicising what they do. This event will aim to answer the question, how do you ensure the long-term competitive advantage and continuity of your business? By servicing customers and nurturing new ones, by developing new products and services, and – above all - by being profitable. 65 events are to take place across the whole of Europe to support these activities. To view the calendar of events visit; <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/csr/campaign/>

- **DaDa Fest 2004**

Liverpool's DaDa Fest is the UK's largest festival celebrating the work of disabled and deaf artists. The festival will launch at the Unity Theatre on 24<sup>th</sup> November and will run until 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2004. This years Festival hopes to be the biggest yet with forty-one productions taking place in nine different venues across Merseyside. The festival will hold events in theatre, live art, performance art, comedy, rap, live music, signed dance, a variety of writing and visual arts workshops and specialised workshops for young disabled and deaf people. The DaDa Fest 2004 aims to promote disabled and deaf artists within arts culture and ensures local disabled and deaf people can get involved in the arts and creative industries in a variety of ways. For further information and a full list of events please visit <http://www.nwdaf.co.uk/frames/index.html>.

- **Training for Trustees**

Mersey Volunteer Bureau and Liverpool CVS are offering 2 training days for anyone interested in recruiting, retaining and developing their trustees. Dates are Weds 17 Nov and Wed 1 Dec. £10 per person per day or £15 per person total if both days attended; lunch included. For more details and a booking form, go to our website [www.expandinghorizons.co.uk](http://www.expandinghorizons.co.uk) and look under events or visit the link in the download section. Or contact Lynn Smith at Mersey Volunteer Bureau on telephone 0151 707 1113 or e-mail, [violynnz@aol.com](mailto:violynnz@aol.com)

- **From Parallel Lives to Cohesive Communities**

In its latest report '*The End of Parallel Lives?*', the Community Cohesion Panel concludes that while some of the programmes and initiatives launched have been effective at a local level, a great deal more needs to be done to mainstream community cohesion and embed cross-cultural contact in all public services and programmes.

This event will highlight ways forward, examining some of the initiatives and strategies for good practice which have emerged from the Pathfinder partnerships and their 'shadows' who are learning from the Pathfinder programme. Craig Russell, Unit Head of Equality and Diversity of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council will lead the Chair. The event includes lunch allowing delegates and speakers to make new contacts and continue discussing the projects outlined in a comfortable and informal setting.

The event will take place on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 10am - 4pm at Manchester Art Gallery, Mosley Street. For further information and to request a booking form contact Mary Murphy from ROOM@RTPi on telephone, 0207 7929 9488 or email, [mary.murphy@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:mary.murphy@rtpi.org.uk). <http://www.room.org.uk/room@rtpi/rr041201.htm>