

# **EXPANDING HORIZONS e-NETWORK NEWS JANUARY 2005**

**Welcome to the January edition of e-Network News. The Committee and staff of MEH would like to wish everyone a happy New Year!**

## **FUNDING NEWS**

### **EXPANDING HORIZONS – SOCIAL CAPITAL GRANTS**

We are inviting community groups and voluntary organisations working with excluded groups to apply for funding (between £500 - £5,000) to support innovative / capacity building activities which will help the organisation to 'grow'.

Social Capital funding will support the development and growth of individual small voluntary and community organisations and groups. It will also help organisations develop a good track record and eventually apply for other funding in their own right. It is primarily, but not exclusively, concerned with providing support for new and emerging organisations. Existing organisations are also encouraged to apply for support for new / innovative activities.

You must be a group or organisation working within Merseyside with a constitution and membership. Organisations must not have previously received ESF funding, Expanding Horizons Social Capital Grant, or substantial financial support from other sources for the project.

This initiative is part-funded by the European Social Fund and Single Regeneration Budget.

For further information and an application pack please contact Lisa Baxter at Expanding Horizons, telephone 0151 330 0552 or email [lisabaxter@expandinghorizons.co.uk](mailto:lisabaxter@expandinghorizons.co.uk).

## **MONEY WITH MANAGEMENT FUND**

### **SUSTAINABILITY FUND**

The Money with Management (MwM) Sustainability Grant Fund is no longer open to **new** applications. The Fund has proven to be very popular and requests for funding have far outweighed the level of grant funding available.

Applications will be considered from applicants who have already contacted MSEI or Enablers, and have an **application in progress**. Applications should be submitted to the MwM Fund Manager at Merseyside Expanding Horizons office to arrive no later than **5pm, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005**. We will not be able to consider applications that are submitted after this deadline or are submitted incomplete.

### **START UP FUND**

The Money with Management grants programme is still open for applications from new or start up social enterprises and any interested organisations should contact Alan Johnson (MwM Fund Manager) on 0151-330-0552 or the Enablers on 0151-258-1058 (Weston Spirit Trading) or 0151-284-7728 (Blue Orchid). Full details and an application pack may be downloaded from the MSEI website at [www.msei.org.uk](http://www.msei.org.uk).

## **£8.6 MILLION ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR NWDA**

An £8.6 million cash boost has been awarded to Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA). The award recognises the achievements of the NWDA in 2003-04 in tackling the unique challenges of the Northwest. The additional funding will be used to help schemes which benefit the region. Chairman of NWDA Brian Gray says the additional funding will help NWDA “continue to deliver more high quality schemes across the Northwest, efficiently and with strategic purpose”.

<http://www.nwda.co.uk/SimpleContent.aspx?news=1&area=72&subarea=73&tem=200412013803155656>

## **LOTTERY MONEY MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO DISABILITY ORGANISATIONS IN THE NORTH WEST**

Local charities serving communities in the North West received a massive boost with the news that the Big Lottery Fund has awarded grants totalling more than £3 million to over 23 groups in the area. Nearly £1 million was awarded to 10 groups helping people with disabilities. Henshaw Society for Blind People in Merseyside was just one of the many organisations that received funding. They were awarded funds of £246,057 to set up and run an IT training programme for partially sighted, blind and deaf people.

<http://biglotteryfund.org.uk/newsroom/release.aspx?prld=726>

## **NEW ENTERPRISE FUND TO HELP PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES START UP**

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) will help people with a mental illness by providing £1.25 million worth of funding to kick-start their entrepreneurial ambitions.

The funding, part of the DTI's £177 million Phoenix Fund programme, was announced by the Small Business Minister, Nigel Griffiths, and will help people with mental health problems become self-employed.

Projects throughout the UK will include training, advice and hands on support to help this minority group combat the problems of social exclusion and help them set up their own business.

Research shows that around one in six people of working age suffer from poor mental health, with between two and four per cent with a severe mental illness.

A total of 13 new projects will be awarded with the fund, who between them plan to help more than 1,000 people. These include:

Impact Initiative – East Sussex

**Granby Toxteth Development Trust – Liverpool**

Fredericks Foundation – London

Burnely Enterprise

Northern Pinetree Trust – Durham

For further information visit [www.startup.co.uk](http://www.startup.co.uk)

<http://www.renewal.net/newsitems.asp#Tackling+social+exclusion+%2D+helping+people+with+mental+illness+become+self%2Demployed>

## **£120 MILLION FOR FINANCIAL EXCLUSION FUND**

The government, in its 2004 pre-budget report, has pledged to set up a £120 million fund to tackle financial exclusion. The three-year fund was launched in December 2004 alongside the Financial Inclusion Taskforce led by former lottery commission chair Brian Pomeroy. The document sets out the establishment of a Financial Inclusion Fund to support initiatives to tackle the problem, and a Financial Inclusion Taskforce to oversee progress. The document also identifies three areas that the government considers key to tackling financial exclusion, and where it is determined to see significant progress: access to banking services; access to affordable credit; and access to free face-to-face money advice. For a copy of the *pre budget report 2004 – promoting financial inclusion* visit [www.renewal.net](http://www.renewal.net)  
<http://www.renewal.net/newsitems.asp#%A3120+million+pledged+to+tackle+financial+exclusion>

## **BIG LOTTERY FUND SET TO CHANGE IN 2005**

The Big Lottery has announced major changes to its funding programmes which are to be implemented throughout 2005. The Big Lottery Fund has announced that the 'Community Fund' programmes it inherited will end this year. The deadline for applications for the current Medium and Large Grants Programmes in England, and the UK-wide Strategic Grants Programme, including international and research is **31 May 2005** and the Fund will be awarding and announcing grants up to **November 2005**.

The Big Lottery Fund's first new programme, the Young People's Fund, is currently being rolled out in England and is open for applications from organisations. From early summer to late 2005, building on the outcomes of the current wide consultation, the Fund expects to launch incrementally a range of new programmes. These will include new international and research grants programmes UK-wide. Awards for All will also continue across the UK in 2005-2006. The Big Lottery Fund has given an undertaking that 60-70% of its new funding will go to the voluntary and community sector and 30-40% to the public sector and others.

Any groups seeking further information about these changes to Lottery funding should visit [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk) or ring the Big Advice Line on 0845 4 10 20 30.

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/newsroom/release.aspx?prld=771>

## **£150 MILLION MORE FOR REDUCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE NORTH WEST**

Millions more will be targeted at improving the condition of hostel accommodation and the vital services they provide to help rough sleepers make a permanent move away from the streets. In the North West this means extra cash for Pendle, Rochdale, Liverpool and Blackburn councils.

Liverpool will receive £380,000 in this financial year, £4.21 million in 2005/6 and £1.15 million in 2006/7 to upgrade and improve the standard of accommodation and services provided to clients. This will support schemes such as the Supported Bedsits Scheme providing accommodation and support to vulnerable single homeless people; 'Wet "Sheds" to safe outside facilities at two hostels for heavy drinkers; Male and Female Direct Access Centres providing temporary accommodation to single homeless men and women in separate facilities; and the Shaw Street hostel for homeless men. <http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=139079&NewsAreaID=2>

## **EXTRA £111 MILLION OF EUROPEAN FUNDING TO HELP THE DISADVANTAGED GAIN JOBS AND SKILLS IN ENGLAND**

Work and Pensions Minister Chris Pond announced an extra £111 million of European Social Fund (ESF) money to help the most disadvantaged people in England gain jobs and skills. The extra money was awarded following a review that showed a high level of performance by the ESF in England. The money will be targeted at helping people who remain unemployed or inactive despite record levels of employment in the UK. Chris Pond says "over a third of the people joining ESF employment programmes have no qualifications and many have poor basic skills, so this money is going to the people who need it most".

<http://www.esf.gov.uk/news/index.asp>

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

### **COMTECHSA 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2004 Comtechsa celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This celebration is a huge milestone for the organisation. For the past 25 years the Duke Street based technical centre, has empowered local communities, helping them to play an active role in the regeneration of their neighbourhoods.

Liverpool in particular is experiencing a massive renaissance, and currently there is much speculation amongst the government and professional planning and architectural circles regarding the amount of input that local people should have, when changing the landscapes of their communities. This revolutionary establishment was a direct result of forward thinking from Liverpool City Council, they realised how important it was to involve the people of Liverpool in their city's architectural future. Comtechsa was the first organisation of its kind, to be formally and constitutionally established in the U.K. In 1979 the organisation was registered under the Provident and Friendly Societies Act (1965) and was established as a user-controlled co-operative organisation.

For the last 25 years, a committee comprised almost entirely of representatives from Merseyside's voluntary and community organisations, has provided guidance to what in principal is an architects' office. Although they are much more than architecture, Comtechsa is an all encompassing facility, their strengths lie in an multitude of areas, including surveying, project management, building development and consultancy.

Impressively the strong team consisting of 650 members have completed over 1,000 projects and has enabled hundreds of community led regeneration projects to access millions of pounds, worth of funding.

In 2004, 25 years after beginning what was then a revolutionary breakthrough for community development, Comtechsa continues to provide a range of technical and related services to community and voluntary organisations in Merseyside and surrounding areas.

<http://www.comtechsa.org>

### **NEW BASE FOR YOUNG CARERS**

A new bungalow in Huyton for young carers was officially opened in December 2004. The bungalow in Huyton is part of the borough's Young Carers Project, which works with young people under 18 who provide care and support to a family member, usually a parent, who has a physical or sensory disability, or mental ill=health. For further information contact:

[media@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:media@knowsley.gov.uk)

### **NATIONAL NEWS**

#### **CHARITIES BILL WILL BACK VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR'S WORK TO CHANGE LIVES**

The Charities Bill published by the Government will support the work of thousands of people and organisations across the country to make a real impact on their community, through a variety of measures designed to improve the ways in which charities are run and regulated. Recognising the ways in which charitable organisations can contribute to the development and delivery of public services, the Charities Bill will provide a modern, sustainable framework through which charities can fulfil their aims. It contains a range of measures designed to enable charities to administer themselves more efficiently and to be more effective in their work.

Part one contains definitions of "charity" and "charitable purpose". Part two is made up of eleven chapters and deals with the regulation of charities. It establishes the Charity Commission for England and Wales as a body corporate; it establishes the Charity Appeal Tribunal to hear appeals from decisions of the Charity Commission; and it deals with various regulatory matters. Part three makes provision in relation to funding for charitable, benevolent or philanthropic institutions.

The Bill emerges partly from the increasingly complementary roles that Government and the voluntary sector play in the development and delivery of public services but, crucially, charities will continue to choose for themselves how closely they engage with Government, maintaining the independence cherished by both the Government and the sector.

[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n\\_story.asp?item\\_id=1196](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n_story.asp?item_id=1196)

## **COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANIES (CICS) FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES**

The Community Interest Company (CIC) will be a new type of company, designed for social enterprises who want to use their profits and assets for the public good. CICs will be easy to set up, with all the flexibility and certainty of the company form, but with some special features to ensure they are working for the benefit of the community. CICs will report to an independent regulator on how they are delivering for the community and how they are involving their stakeholders in their activities.

A series of three fact sheets have been published to make people more aware of CICs, help them consider whether a CIC may suit their needs and allow them to register their interest.

The first fact sheet, *An Introduction to Community Concept Companies* gives an overview of CICs. In the New Year two further fact sheets will be issued giving more information on the new Regulator, and forming, running and financing a CIC.

Hard copies of Fact Sheet 1 will be available from early January 2005 and can be ordered by calling the DTI Publications order line on 0870 1502 500 and quoting URN 04/1983. Request forms to receive further information about Community Interest Companies can also be completed online at <http://www.dti.gov.uk/cics/>

To download a copy of the full report go to our website [www.expandinghorizons.co.uk](http://www.expandinghorizons.co.uk) and look under the download section.

## **YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER WEBSITE**

The Year of the Volunteer website has been officially launched in January. The Home Secretary, Charles Clarke and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, officially switched-on the website where people will be able to find out their nearest voluntary opportunity just by typing in their post code.

The Year of the Volunteer 2005 will celebrate the valued work volunteers do and encourage more people – especially the young – to get volunteering. The year is funded by the Home Office and will be delivered by the voluntary sector in a partnership led by Community Service Volunteers (CSV) and the Volunteering England Consortium.

The Year of the Volunteer website – which can be found at [www.yearofthevolunteer.org](http://www.yearofthevolunteer.org) – provides information on how to volunteer, contacts for voluntary groups and all the support needed for people to learn about events throughout the year.  
[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n\\_story.asp?item\\_id=1210](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n_story.asp?item_id=1210)

## **INCLUSION THROUGH INNOVATION**

The 'Inclusion through Innovation' project will examine how Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and technological innovation can be used to tackle disadvantage.

The project also aims to ensure that future developments explicitly address the needs of the most disadvantaged groups and disadvantaged people.

The Social Exclusion Unit will do this by:

- Looking at how new and innovative ways of delivering public services could make use of new technology;
- Reviewing how existing information systems could be used more effectively to support vulnerable and excluded people;
- Identifying future trends in ICT and 'exclusion proofing' new technology;
- Identifying current good practice and looking at how to share it more widely; and
- Addressing the ethical concerns arising from some new technology and preventing technology itself causing social exclusion.

Development of the project will include:

- A review of available research evidence, including literature and international comparisons;
- Consultation with government departments, the voluntary sector, the private sector, and local authorities;
- Discussion with key stakeholders to test the emerging analysis and recommendations; and
- Development and promotion of user-specifications to highlight the most positive uses of ICT to deliver services for excluded groups

Findings and recommendations from the project will be published in spring/summer 2005.

<http://www.socialexclusionunit.gov.uk/>

## **ETHNIC MINORITY TASK FORCE AIMS TO TACKLE ETHNIC MINORITY UNEMPLOYMENT**

During the launch of the first Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force annual progress report, the Government have announced plans to tackle low ethnic minority employment levels. Set up to deliver the first cross-Government ethnic minority employment strategy, the Task Force aims to tackle issues such as lack of access to guidance and advice on training and employment, under-attainment at school and discrimination. For more information about the full Task Force progress report visit

[http://www.dwp.gov.uk/news/archive/english/2004/23\\_11\\_04.asp](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/news/archive/english/2004/23_11_04.asp)

## **NEW PUBLIC SERVICES FOR THE DISADVANTAGED**

A new project to improve the life chances of disadvantaged adults - including disabled people and those with long term health conditions, people with poor basic skills and some ethnic minority groups has been launched by Social Exclusion Minister Jeff Rooker.

Improving service delivery for disadvantaged adults will consider why these groups are least likely to benefit from the services that could help them and identify how the barriers can be overcome. The Social Exclusion Unit (SEU) report, *Breaking the Cycle*, published in September 2004, identified these groups as being most likely to suffer disadvantage.

The project is expected to focus on housing, health services, education, training, employment and services and benefits and will seek the views of government departments, services providers and disadvantaged people themselves.

The closing date for the consultation is 14<sup>th</sup> February 2005. Information on the projects and the questionnaire can be found at [www.socialexclusion.gov.uk](http://www.socialexclusion.gov.uk).  
[http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn\\_id=2004\\_0250](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2004_0250)

Copies of *Breaking the Cycle* and other reports in the series can be found at [www.socialexclusionunit.gov.uk](http://www.socialexclusionunit.gov.uk)

## **NEW ROLES**

### **RUTH KELLY APPOINTED SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS**

Ruth Kelly has been appointed as Secretary of State for Education and Skills. Ruth Kelly who joined the Cabinet Office as Minister for the Cabinet Office in September 2004 will take up her new post in January 2005.  
[http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2004\\_0228](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2004_0228)

### **FIRST FEMALE CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR KNOWSLEY COUNCIL**

Knowsley Council has appointed its first female Chief Executive.

Sheena Ramsey will become the new figurehead in the borough, moving to Merseyside from her current position as assistant Chief Executive at Newcastle City Council.

[http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/tm\\_objectid=15075227%26method=full%26siteid=50061%26headline=knowsley%2dpicks%2dfirst%2dfemale%2dchief%2dexecutive-name\\_page.html](http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/tm_objectid=15075227%26method=full%26siteid=50061%26headline=knowsley%2dpicks%2dfirst%2dfemale%2dchief%2dexecutive-name_page.html)

## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

- **DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SUMMIT 2005**

The Summit is being held in Manchester from 31 January to 2 February 2005 at the GMEX/MICC and Bridgewater Hall. The Summit follows on from the Urban Summit of 2002 and provides an opportunity to take stock and bring together the key people who are delivering the Sustainable Communities Plan to discuss achievements and what's still to be done.

Two years on from the launch of the Sustainable Communities Plan, this international Summit will bring together the key people who are delivering the plan. They will discuss achievements, what has been learned and what is still to be done.

The programme will include main plenary sessions, workshops, expert master classes, fringe events and an extensive exhibition. On day one delegates will be able to attend exclusive Summit tours of some of regeneration schemes. On day two an evening Gala Dinner will host the Deputy Prime Minister's Award for Sustainable Communities.

For more information and to register a place on the Summit visit [www.odpm.gov.uk/summit](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/summit)

A limited number of discounted tickets will be made available, on an application basis, for delegates from community and voluntary groups, black and minority ethnic groups, faith groups, students and senior citizens. If you would like to be considered for one of these, please e-mail [summit@rslive.co.uk](mailto:summit@rslive.co.uk) or fax 01564 797621.

- **JOBS AND ENTERPRISE IN DEPRIVED AREAS**

The Social Exclusion Unit' report, *Jobs and Enterprise in Deprived Areas* published in September 2004 contains new evidence about very local pockets of unemployment and economic inactivity that exist across the country.

The *Jobs and Enterprise in Deprived Areas* Conference held on 28<sup>th</sup> February in Manchester is a learning day run by the LGIU in partnership with the Social Exclusion Unit, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Trade and Industry. It is a chance for key decision-makers from local authorities and other organisations to discuss this crucial agenda.

For further details and to reserve a place on the learning day please e-mail [events@lgiu.org.uk](mailto:events@lgiu.org.uk).

- **SYMPOSIUM: ENABLING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN REGENERATION**

To celebrate 25 years of assisting community and voluntary organisations in regeneration, Comtechsa are organising a Symposium, to take place on 18th & 19th April 2005 at Liverpool Town Hall. The Symposium will include plenary sessions, workshops, site visits, and a panel discussion. Keynote speakers will include Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott and Jonathan Glancey, Architecture critic of *The Guardian*

A summary of the programme and further details are available at [www.comtechsa.org](http://www.comtechsa.org)