

EXPANDING HORIZONS NETWORK NEWS JULY 2004

HELLO FROM THE NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

I joined Merseyside Expanding Horizons on 5 July, already feel like “an old hand” and am really enjoying my new role.

I am a true Merseysider – born in Liverpool, now living in Sefton and I have worked in Merseyside most of my life. I have a public sector background, Employment Service, Training Agency, Merseyside Task Force, Merseyside TEC and more recently – GONW, Objective 1 and NWDA. Most of the work I have done has involved close working with voluntary and community sector partners, so I know the sector but --- I have a lot to learn from the “other side of the fence”.

MEH is a great organisation with a great team and I am really looking forward to all the challenges. You’ll notice some immediate changes over the next few months – we are re-vamping the MEH website to make it a lot more interactive and relevant, and we will be re-vamping Network News (watch out for the next edition in September).

Looking forward to working with you all

COLETTE TURNER

TENDER OPPORTUNITY – FACILITATION OF MERSEYSIDE EXPANDING HORIZONS, COMMITTEE AND STAFF AWAY DAY (27 OCTOBER 2004)

We are planning an away day for Committee and staff and we want to utilise a facilitator to develop the plan for the day, prepare any materials, facilitate the event and produce a final report outlining key issues discussed. If you are interested in tendering for this work, please contact Julie Doyle (0151 330 0552) for a copy of the brief. The closing date for receipt of tenders will be Friday 20th August 2004.

SOCIAL CAPITAL GRANTS

Expanding Horizons are inviting community and voluntary organisations working with excluded groups to apply for funding (between £500-£5000) to support innovative activities which will help the organisation to grow. You must be a group working within Merseyside (excluding St Helens) with a constitution and membership, and a bank account set up in the group's name. You won't be eligible if you have previously received an Expanding Horizons Social Capital Grant or any other ESF funding.

We are now also in a position to offer further support to groups applying for Social Capital funding through the new post of Project Support Worker. This could be help to fill in the social capital application form, advice on further funding sources, help with putting together a management committee, or connections to other useful networks.

For an application pack, or a request for support (either as a previous Social Capital recipient, or a potential applicant) contact Maurice McCracken on 0151 330 0552, or info@expandinghorizons.co.uk

MERSEYSIDE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE (MSEI) WEBSITE UPDATE

The MSEI website has now been updated, to provide all the latest news about what is going on with social enterprise throughout Merseyside. You can find details of how things are progressing with the MSEG, who are responsible for shaping and developing the programme; what support you can get and who to contact and all the latest events in the area. You can also view proposals submitted to the Objective One team for resource towards social enterprise support on Merseyside in the future. For further details please visit: - <http://www.msei.org.uk>

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK CONFERENCE 16 & 17 SEPTEMBER 2004

Social Enterprise Network and COMMACT UK are hosting a 2 day conference at Liverpool Hope University titled 'SOCIALISING THE GLOBAL ECONOMY'. The conference will address key questions of policy and practice and will include thematic workshops and debate. For further details please visit: - <http://www.sen.org.uk/events/conference.htm>

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL STRATEGIES: DOCUMENT ANALYSIS & REVIEW

This study was conducted for the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit during 2003, as part of ODPM's Local Strategic Partnership Evaluation and Action Research Programme. The objectives were: to collect and collate Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies; to provide analysis of the content of LNRS documentation submitted by NRF LSPs, using a template developed collaboratively with the NRU; and to provide a collective analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the documentation and identify where LSPs may need additional support to develop these strategies.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=20122&heading=e-mail+alert>

BILL SET TO HELP CHARITIES SEEK PUBLIC CONTRACTS

Community and voluntary organisations seeking contracts for public service delivery will be in a much stronger bargaining position when draft legislation recently published becomes law, a senior industry figure claimed last week.

The Charities Bill, unveiled by home office minister Fiona Mactaggart, laid out proposals for a major shake-up of the legal framework for charities and the voluntary and community sector (VCS). The proposed legislation is intended to boost public confidence in the third sector and is regarded by the Government as a key part of its campaign to help local people play a greater role in solving the problems that affect their neighbourhoods.

http://www.regenerationmagazine.com/news_story.cfm?ID=3697

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES 2004

The Deputy Prime Minister's Award for Sustainable Communities will be presented at the Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit in January 2005. The award underlines the department's commitment to delivering sustainable communities and also helps to identify best practice examples that others can learn from.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/singleLink.asp?linkid=3879&heading=e%2dmail%20alert>

FUTURE STATE AID RESTRICTIONS THREATEN REGIONAL RECOVERY

Regeneration chiefs are to hold talks with the government over proposals to tighten state aid rules which could prevent billions of pounds worth of investment in many of the UK's poorest communities. Under plans drawn up by the European Commission, richer countries will be restricted in the amount of state funds they can use to encourage private investment. The government would be unable to offer incentives to large employers to locate in many parts of the country. Overall, the proportion of Britain's population eligible for state aid would fall from almost 31% to 9%. The Department for Trade and Industry will hold talks with regional development agencies soon to formulate an official response to the proposals in time for a summit in September.

<http://www.newstartmag.co.uk/news658.html>

EURO CASH FOR CLEANER, GREENER MERSEYSIDE

More than £1million of European cash is to be pumped into a creating a cleaner, greener Merseyside. New funding of £1,257,000 from the Objective One programme will go into forestry, tourism and waste recycling projects. All three projects tie into the Merseyside integrated countryside and environment plan (ICEP), a broad initiative that aims to maximise the benefits of Objective One funding for rural and environmental sectors.

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/content/detail.asp?ReleaseID=121289&NewsAreaID=2&ContentID=-1&NavigatedFromDepartment=False&NavigatedFromDepartmentList=False>

£38 BILLION FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Over the five years to 2008, ODPM will spend £38bn in its drive to tackle housing shortages in the South and boost the economic renaissance of the North, following the Chancellor's announcement on future public sector spending. Overall, spend on ODPM programmes will increase by 3.3% a year on average, in real terms – to £8.4 billion in 07-08. Substantially increased funding for affordable homes will bolster the Government's commitment to providing high quality housing, in areas where it is needed most, and for the people who need it most - people on low incomes, key workers and the homeless. A further £525 million a year will be targeted on the most deprived neighbourhoods to step-up action to eradicate the blight of post-code poverty.

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2004_0162

£2.4m GRANT FOR SCHOOL SPORTS HALL

A Wirral school has been awarded a £2.4m grant to build a six court sports hall for its pupils and the local community. Woodchurch High School Engineering College has been given the money by the Big Lottery fund. It is the largest single grant in the latest £14m handout by the lottery in the North West. Schools across Merseyside have been celebrating as they receive a massive £5m total windfall. http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/tm_objectid=14424797%26method=full%26siteid=50061%26headline=%2dpound%2d2%2d4m%2dgrant%2dfor%2dschool%2dsports%2dhall-name_page.html

NEW FUNDING BOOST FOR REFUGEES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NORTH WEST

Refugees in the North West were called on to contribute and make their voice heard on a new national refugee integration strategy as the Home Office published it for consultation today. The strategy – "Integration Matters" open for consultation for three months, sets out the Government's long term plans to help integrate refugees into the fabric of UK society. The Government's plans will be supported by over £400,000 of new funding for refugee support projects and networks in the North West. Separately, a further £116,811 will help provide asylum seekers with the opportunity to give something back to their host communities while they are waiting for their asylum decision. The new funding will go to a range of projects including a project that will match the skills and abilities of refugees to local volunteering opportunities and another project that will train refugee volunteers for a community radio station and promote cultural exchange between refugees and local communities. http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n_story.asp?item_id=1019

INDICES OF DEPRIVATION 2004: SUMMARY & DATA SETS (REVISED)

This document, published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, is the summary for the Indices of Deprivation 2004 report. Indices of deprivation are measures of deprivation for every super output area and local authority area in England.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=20282&heading=e-mail+alert>

IMPROVING SUPPORT FOR THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

The ability of the voluntary and community sector (VCS) to help drive improvements in public services was boosted today with the publication of ChangeUp, the Home Office framework for capacity building and infrastructure development in the VCS. ChangeUp, developed in collaboration with the voluntary and community sector, sets out what needs to happen to strengthen and change infrastructure if frontline organisations are to get the support they need. Supported by £72 million from the Home Office's Capacity Building and Infrastructure Fund, the three investment programmes in ChangeUp will increase the capacity of organisations working in key areas. These include older people's services, correctional services, ethnic minority employment, homeless hostel provision and parenting support services; modernising voluntary sector infrastructure and improving the reach and quality of infrastructure.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n_story.asp?item_id=984

CULTURE AT THE HEART OF REGENERATION

There is an emerging body of evidence, which suggests that culture is a key driver in the regeneration process and can help create sustainable communities. The Government has published this consultation document, which aims to build on the evidence and strengthen the use of culture in regeneration projects.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=20516&heading=e-mail+alert>

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SKILLS: AN OVERVIEW

This is an overview of the National Centre for Sustainable Communities Skills, published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, which will work with others to promote and deliver world class skills for everyone engaged in the sustainable communities agenda.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=20332&heading=e-mail+alert>

ONE-STOP SHOP TO HELP TRANSFORM LIVES

A valuable new tool to help voluntary sector organisations get more people involved in shaping their communities was launched by Home Office Minister Fiona Mactaggart today.

The new website - <http://www.active-citizen.org.uk> is a one-stop shop for facts, figures, debate and case studies on how people can make a real difference in their community.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n_story.asp?item_id=1011

COMMUNITY NEWSWIRE

The Community Newswire has been launched by the Home Secretary David Blunkett. It is a new free service run by the Media Trust and The Press Association, the national news agency of Britain and Ireland, to help community and voluntary groups gain coverage in the media. Each day Community Newswire journalists will write a selection of news releases into stories. These will then go straight into the heart of England's newsrooms. For further details please visit:

<http://www.mediatrust.org>

LINKS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

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Julie Doyle 0151 330 0552

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http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/tm_objectid=14424797%26method=full%26siteid=50061%26headline=%2dpound%2d2%2d4m%2dgrant%2dfor%2dschool%2dsports%2dhall-name_page.html

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