

EXPANDING HORIZONS NETWORK NEWS MAY 2004

FAREWELL FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

I leave Expanding Horizons in June after five and a half years with the organisation. I took up post in January 1999 on a one-year contract to set up the SRB scheme and Expanding Horizons and somehow stayed.....

I am leaving behind a strong and diverse company, which is well placed to promote social inclusion into the future. Activities include:

- Social Capital small grants
- A base for Merseyside Social Inclusion Observatory (MSIO)
- Employment and exclusion projects
- Information dissemination
- A role as accountable body / key partner with Merseyside Social Enterprise Initiative (MSEI)

I am delighted that my successor is Colette Turner, who many will know from NWDA. I feel sure that with Colette, a strong staff team and a supportive management committee, Expanding Horizons will continue to thrive into the future.

Barbara Burgess

CHANGES TO CHARITY LAW

A fundamental shake-up of the 400-year-old Charity Law in England got underway on 27th May 2004 with the publication by the Home Office of the draft Charities Bill. The Government's Strategy Unit report, 'Private Action, Public Benefit' which informed the Bill, contained some recommendations requiring legislation, which the Bill will provide, and some, which the Charity Commission and others can take forward without legislation.

Proposed changes in the Bill include: - a modern definition of charity (12 headings), raised registration thresholds; local authority licensing for public fundraising; measures to help charities to merge; changes to Charity Commission role; creation of a new legal entity Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO); measures to support charity trustees; audit and accounting safeguards.

A useful guide to all the changes including those not in the Bill is given in the Charity Commission News on: www.charitycommission.gov.uk

The full text of the Bill can be downloaded from:
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/comrace/active/charitylaw/index.html

CHANGE AT THE TOP

John Stoker will leave his post of Chief Charity Commissioner in July 2004. Geraldine Peacock, who will be the first non-executive chair, will replace him as Chairperson of the Commission. Geraldine is a former Charity Commissioner and Interim chair of Futurebuilders (see next item).

FUTUREBUILDERS UPDATE

Futurebuilders is a Government investment fund, which will be operated through a newly appointed, independent voluntary sector consortium comprising Charity Bank, Unity Trust Bank, National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and Northern Rock Foundation. The fund will be open for applications from 5th July 2004 on and will provide a mix of loans, grants and capacity building. It aims to invest in five public sector delivery areas: - community cohesion; crime; education and learning; health and social care; support for children and young people. Keep up to date with developments on: - <http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk/>

NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL 2004 GRANT ALLOCATION

The purpose of this grant is to improve services in the most deprived areas of the country, in order to narrow the gap between these areas and others. Local targets are set in each local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, which is drawn up by each Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). The amounts for each Merseyside authority area are: -

Halton	£3.928 million plus £1.116m	Total £ 5.045m
Knowsley	£7.39 million plus £2.101m	Total £ 9.492m
Liverpool	£20.133 million plus £5.724m	Total £ 25.857m
St. Helens	£3.873 million	
Sefton	£5.631 million	
Wirral	£5.075 million	

For Halton, Liverpool and Knowsley these amounts are supplemented by a 'residual allocation' based on a standard amount per head of population in the most deprived 10% of all wards nationally. Full details from: -
www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/publicationsdetail.asp?id=687

LSP EVALUATION AND ACTION RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Liverpool John Moores University and the University of Warwick have produced a report examining the documentation produced by each LNRS (see above) on behalf of the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (NRU). Amongst other elements, it identifies the very different stages of development across the LSP's, the priority groups targeted, the range of intended audiences which documentation is produced for and the variations in strategic development addressed. Interesting reading!

The summary report can be downloaded from the NRU's website:
www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/research.asp

VITAL HELPLINE SAVED FOR MERSEYSIDE

Liverpool City Council is stepping in to keep alive a helpline for vulnerable people across Merseyside. Through the Liverpool Direct Contact Centre, the City Council will launch a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year helpline on June 1st. The City Council has also offered the service - which will help people who are being racially abused or intimidated - to other local authorities across Merseyside. A dedicated team of trained staff will assume

responsibility for the helpline, ensuring proper advice is given and effective action taken where necessary.

http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/graphics_version/root/News/newsdetail-0699.asp?ComponentID=17082&SourcePageID=14140#1

UNDERSPEND SET TO ALLAY PHOENIX FUND CONCERNS

Struggling 'community banks' which provide finance to social enterprises and business in deprived areas look set to receive additional support from a government fund designed to kick start the sector. The funding, which would come from any underspend left after the Small Business Service's Phoenix Fund is withdrawn in 2006, would be allocated to ensure community development finance institutions, struggling to raise enough money to run their operations through their loan funds, could continue to lend money.

<http://www.newstartmag.co.uk/news637.html>

BOOSTING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITIES

Helping more young people realise their potential and strengthening voluntary groups and neighbourhoods is the goal of a review launched by the Home Secretary, David Blunkett, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown. The Russell Commission has been set up by the Government to look at innovative ways to increase the number of young people volunteering – to enable more young people to benefit from getting involved, and to support voluntary groups and local communities. It is part of the Government's wider programme to promote volunteering right across society, and to encourage active and engaged citizens.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n_story.asp?item_id=949

SPORTS BOOST FOR LIVERPOOL

Two major sports schemes, which will benefit school pupils and the local community in Liverpool have been given the green light. Alsop Community Sports Centre in Walton – which will replace Queens Drive Recreation Centre – is to receive £3,648,000 from the New Opportunities Fund for PE and Sport. The grant is one of the largest ever awarded by the Fund, and will be used to construct a state-of-the-art building which will include a 25 metre swimming pool, Lifestyles fitness suite including gymnasium, and a sports hall. It will be a dual

use facility that will benefit both the re-developed Alsop High School and the local community.

http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/graphics_version/root/News/newsdetail_0716.asp?ComponentID=17896&SourcePageID=14140#1

CRIME REMAINS STABLE – BLITZ ON ALCOHOL-FUELLED VIOLENCE

Crime in England and Wales has remained stable according to the British Crime Survey (BCS), the most authoritative and reliable indicator of crime trends, and police recorded crime, compared to the same quarter last year. Both the quarterly figures published and a new report on violent crime suggest a changed pattern of crime in Britain today, with criminal activity more likely to be focused on anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related violence than on crime such as burglary and vehicle theft. The quarterly update shows that recorded burglary, robbery and vehicle crime, have again all fallen significantly. Both the risk of being a victim of crime and the risk of being burgled remain at their lowest levels in more than 20 years.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n_story.asp?item_id=923

HOME SECRETARY CALLS FOR RENEWED FIGHT ON DRUGS

Home Secretary David Blunkett has called on police chiefs to renew efforts to tackle the menace of drug abuse. Speaking ahead of his speech to the Association of Chief Police Officers' annual conference, Mr Blunkett said that the police and the government have achieved a lot, but "the law abiding citizen expects us to do more". He urged police chiefs to redouble their efforts and make sure that new measures and resources are being used. Tools to help the police do their job include the Criminal Justice Interventions Programme, which targets offenders who commit crimes to fund their drug habit. It is receiving £447m funding over three years. The Home Secretary also highlighted the importance of police reform and modernising the workforce.

<http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/page5785.asp>

MAKING THE TRANSITION: ADDRESSING BARRIERS IN SERVICES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

A new report published by the Department for Work and Pensions presents findings from research examining how and why disabled people experience discontinuity in service provision when making structural transitions in their lives, and how barriers to making smooth transitions might be addressed. The report is

based on qualitative research with service users making different types of transition, and with local service providers and central government policymakers responsible for providing services to disabled people in a range of sectors, including health, social services, education, employment, transport and housing.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2004/may/iad200405-rr-no204.asp>

MINISTER ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL £16M FOR LOCAL PROBATION AREAS

Local Probation Areas will be given an extra £16.1m to strengthen their role in managing offenders and protecting the public, Correctional Services Minister Paul Goggins has announced. In addition, areas will receive funding to recruit up to 780 trainee probation officers and 365 probation service officers so that the Probation Service is equipped to deliver new community sentences that will be brought in as part of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n_story.asp?item_id=958

HOME OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT AND CORPORATE PLAN: SHAPING POLICY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO PEOPLE'S LIVES AND COMMUNITIES

An ambitious and demanding programme of work for the Home Office and its delivery partners is detailed in the Annual Report and the Group Corporate Plan published by the Home Office today. The Annual Report looks back at the department's commitment to its stated purpose 'to build a safe, just and tolerant society', whilst focusing on active citizenship and cohesive communities, alongside effective enforcement of our laws and borders. It shows a solid record of success across the whole of our work with the majority of the Department's targets on course for delivery. The Corporate Plan sets out our vision of strong, active and empowered communities, in which there is equality of opportunity and in which people are respected, regardless of race or religion.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n_story.asp?item_id=934

AREA TOPS THE LEAGUE IN POVERTY SCALE

Knowsley and Liverpool are the two most deprived areas of England, government figures have revealed. The Indices of Deprivation 2004 are billed as the most comprehensive mapping of deprivation in England. Its 37 different categories take into account unemployment, low income, crime and poor access to education and health services. Knowsley tops the rankings for the overall

average score and for concentration of deprivation. Liverpool is placed second out of 50 areas overall, and is second in concentration, income scale and employment scale rankings.

<http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/page.cfm?objectid=14193983&method=full&siteid=50061>

CHILDREN AT CENTRE OF VIOLENCE TO GET A VOICE

Merseyside Police has confirmed that any child at the scene of a violent domestic incident will now be offered an interview as a matter of procedure. Detectives hope the measure will help toughen up evidence to secure more convictions against wife-beaters. It means police are more likely to get first-hand accounts by taking statements from youngsters in situations when their mothers are often too distraught to speak about their ordeal.

http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/tm_objectid=14292402%26method=full%26siteid=50061%26headline=children%2dat%2dcentre%2dof%2dvioleence%2dto%2dget%2da%2dvoice-name_page.html

LINKS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

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