

# EXPANDING HORIZONS NETWORK NEWS

October / November 2003

## **MERSEYSIDE SOCIAL INCLUSION OBSERVATORY (MSIO) UPDATE**

Most of the key appointments for MSIO have now been made, and staff will take up post at the beginning of 2004. The post of Research Co-ordinator (see below) will be re - advertised in the Education Guardian on the 18 November 2003.

### **RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR**                      **£21,125 - £27,339 pa (under review)**

The post holder will design and undertake research projects and disseminate research findings in conjunction with other members of the team. You will also co-ordinate the input of University staff and postgraduate students to specific research projects.

Educated to degree level, you will have relevant experience in applied research with a policy focus. This post is available for three years in the first instance, beginning in January 2004.

Informal enquiries to Professor Peter Batey on 0151-794-3811, email:

[pwbatey@liv.ac.uk](mailto:pwbatey@liv.ac.uk) or Barbara Burgess on 0151-330-0552, email:

[barbara\\_burgess@ehorizons.org.uk](mailto:barbara_burgess@ehorizons.org.uk)

**quote ref: A/529**

**Closing Date: 5 December 2003**

**For further particulars contact: Personnel Office, University of Liverpool, on 0151-794-2210 (24 hr answerphone), email: [jobs@liv.ac.uk](mailto:jobs@liv.ac.uk) or download from:**

**<http://www.liv.ac.uk/university/jobs.html>**

## **SINGLE BODY FOR EQUALITY ISSUES**

A new single Equality Commission announced recently is to replace the three different bodies that deal with equality issues. The new body is the result of the biggest review of equality institutions in twenty-five years. The Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) will bring together the work of three existing equality commissions - the Commission for Racial Equality, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Disability Rights Commission. It will take responsibility for new laws outlawing workplace discrimination on age, religion or belief and sexual orientation, and continue to enforce anti-discrimination

legislation in race, gender, and disability. It will also support the Government in the promotion of human rights. A task force will be established to advise on the new body ahead of a White Paper next spring. Membership of the group will reflect the different equality interests such as religion, race, age and sexual orientation. Further information at:

<http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/page4740.asp>

### **£6 MILLION BUSINESS BOOST FOR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES**

Trade and Industry Secretary Patricia Hewitt announced more than £6 million to develop enterprise among disadvantaged communities and under-represented groups recently. The money is being awarded under the Phoenix Fund. The funding comes on top of £100 million allocated under the Fund since 1999. The Phoenix Fund is designed to encourage entrepreneurship in disadvantaged areas. Due to a lack of support, advice and access to finance, entrepreneurs in disadvantaged areas experience even greater difficulties in launching their ideas than someone starting a new enterprise generally faces. The Phoenix Fund helps these new businesses by providing assistance to business support providers and finance to Community Development Finance Institutions. Further information at:

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/gnn/national.nsf/TI/37EBCCBEC76D795E80256DBE00264998?opendocument>

Public Enquiries +44 (0)20 7215 5000

Textphone +44 (0)20 7215 6740 (for those with hearing impairment)

[www.dti.gov.uk](http://www.dti.gov.uk)

### **PUBLIC SQUARE TO BE CREATED IN HOPE STREET.**

A Public square is to be created in front of the Philharmonic Hall as part of a £2m transformation of Hope Street Liverpool. Developers are due to start work on the project, aimed to make the area more attractive to visitors, existing businesses and potential investors, in April. Commissioned by Liverpool City Council and Liverpool Vision, the scheme aims to create a high quality, safe public realm in the area. Further information at:

[http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/content\\_objectid=13513008\\_method=full\\_siteid=50061\\_headline=%2D%2DxA3%2D2m%2Dpublic%2Dsquare%2Dplanned%2Dfor%2DPhilharmonic%2DHall-name\\_page.html](http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/content_objectid=13513008_method=full_siteid=50061_headline=%2D%2DxA3%2D2m%2Dpublic%2Dsquare%2Dplanned%2Dfor%2DPhilharmonic%2DHall-name_page.html)

### **YEAR WILL CELEBRATE FAITHS IN HARMONY**

Twelve months of festivals celebrating Liverpool's multi-faith society will take place in the city next year. The Faith in One City themed year will include a parade of light and a visit by the Queen. Culture chiefs have recently unveiled the programme of events that will take place throughout 2004 - the second of five themed years in the build-up to European Capital of Culture in 2008. The year

will aim to celebrate Liverpool's diverse religious communities, individual and personal beliefs and confidence in the city and its future. Further information at: [http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/content\\_objectid=13513021\\_method=full\\_siteid=50061\\_headline=-Year%2Dwill%2Dcelebrate%2Dfaiths%2Din%2Dharmony-name\\_page.html](http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/content_objectid=13513021_method=full_siteid=50061_headline=-Year%2Dwill%2Dcelebrate%2Dfaiths%2Din%2Dharmony-name_page.html)

### **CABINET SPLIT RISKS END OF DEPRIVED AREAS' FUNDS**

Hundreds of schemes designed to curb crime, raise school standards and improve houses in poor areas face the axe as ministers grapple with the cost of programmes to turn round the country's most deprived communities. The cabinet appears split on whether to continue the neighbourhood renewal fund, a programme worth almost £1bn that has provided street wardens in 200 areas and led to other initiatives to improve estates and run-down areas.

Further information at:

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/regeneration/story/0,7940,1060110,00.html>

### **NEW STRATEGIES UNVEILED TO BOOST INNER-CITY GROWTH**

A series of groundbreaking proposals developed to revitalize deprived urban areas was launched recently. Seven inner-city areas around the country were selected to pilot 'City Growth Strategies' last year and recently unveiled their proposals at a Small Business Service (SBS)-led event at London's Café Royal. The strategies, which place enterprise at the heart of urban regeneration, will focus on the economic benefits rather than the social disadvantages of each pilot area making them more attractive to business. The concept of the 'City Growth' Strategy is based on ideas developed by Professor Michael Porter and his Boston-based, Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC), which has already made a significant impact in the US, Nottingham, Plymouth, St Helens and London. Further information at:

<http://www.wired-gov.net/EDP8203R7W/WGArticle.asp?WCI=htmArticleView&WCU=ARTCL%5FPKEY%3D20140>

### **DIRECT CASH TO AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY, SAYS REPORT**

Regeneration cash should be directed into areas of economic opportunity rather than just the UK's most deprived wards. That is the finding of key research on the UK's City Growth Strategies – the brainchild of world economic development guru Professor Michael Porter – which warns that too much money is flowing into areas that top the poverty league. An opportunity index made up of underused areas of economic potential should be devised to go alongside the existing deprivation index, to make a case for sending regeneration cash to districts where the public sector can create the most wealth for its money, the report says.

Further information at:

[http://www.regenerationmagazine.com/news\\_story.cfm?ID=3118](http://www.regenerationmagazine.com/news_story.cfm?ID=3118)

### **DEPRIVED COMMUNITIES BENEFIT FROM GOOD COMPANY**

Business brains joined forces with the Government today to help revitalize England's most deprived communities. The Neighbourhood Renewal Private Sector Panel, launched by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, will advise on ways to encourage business investment in deprived neighbourhoods. Members from the 15-strong panel of business leaders will identify opportunities for private sector activity in disadvantaged areas, and suggest how to overcome any barriers. They will also visit deprived neighbourhoods across the country, offering their skills and expertise to Local Strategic Partnerships seeking to work better with business' to regenerate their areas. Further information at: [http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2003\\_0207](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2003_0207)

### **END OF SRB LEAVES £60M HOLE IN PROJECTS' FUNDING**

Dozens of community empowerment and capacity building projects could face closure as the single regeneration budget comes to an end, Regeneration Charity Urban Forum has claimed. It says social regeneration projects face a funding gap of up to £60m because money from regional development agencies' 'single pot' is focused on economic improvement. Voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations could find it difficult to access funds because they are not sufficiently engaged with RDAs and are not involved in strategies drawn up at a sub-regional level, Urban Forum says in a report published this week. Further information at: <http://www.newstartmag.co.uk/news555.html>

### **FACELIFT FOR SEFTON PARK**

A BID is being made for almost £5m of heritage Lottery cash to regenerate what was once one of Liverpool's most beautiful green spaces. The aim is to restore Sefton Park to its original grandeur as part of an initiative to revamp all the city's Victorian parks. Council chiefs are applying for the grant which would provide 75pc of the £6.5m funding required. The authority would have to find match funding of 25pc, a total of £1,469,591 and is looking for other funding options to make up this sum. Further information at: [http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/content\\_objectid=13520689\\_method=full\\_siteid=50061\\_headline=-Facelift%2Dfor%2DSefton%2DPark-name\\_page.html](http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/content_objectid=13520689_method=full_siteid=50061_headline=-Facelift%2Dfor%2DSefton%2DPark-name_page.html)

### **GRANTS WEBSITE ONE-STOP SHOP**

Voluntary and community organisations now have a single portal to access £182 million of Government funding, Home Office Minister Fiona Mactaggart said recently as she formally launched the Government's funding website: [www.governmentfunding.org.uk](http://www.governmentfunding.org.uk) . Speaking at the ACEVO/Third Sector "Funding

The Future" conference, Ms Mactaggart also gave an update on the results of projects funded under the Capital Modernisation Fund (CMF). The grants portal can be found at [www.governmentfunding.org.uk](http://www.governmentfunding.org.uk)

[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n\\_story.asp?item\\_id=648](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n_story.asp?item_id=648)

### **GARDEN FESTIVAL SITE ULTIMATUM**

PROPERTY developers Wiggins were recently given six months to bring Liverpool's derelict Garden Festival site up to scratch or face losing the land. Liverpool City Council served the Wiggins Group with a dilapidation order demanding the troubled company spends £250,000 on repairs. The order stipulates that Wiggins must refurbish the Japanese and Chinese gardens, which were created in 1984 for the city's famous festival, and make improvements to the perimeter fence. Now the city council has taken the bold step of issuing the dilapidation order that means that if work is not started on the 100- acre site within six months, the council will take the company to court. A judge could either fine the company thousands of pounds or order the site to be returned to the council, which owns the freehold. Further information at:

[http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/content\\_objectid=13488364\\_method=full\\_siteid=50061\\_headline=-Garden%2Dfestival%2Dsite%2Dultimatum-name\\_page.html](http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/content_objectid=13488364_method=full_siteid=50061_headline=-Garden%2Dfestival%2Dsite%2Dultimatum-name_page.html)

### **CARING BECAUSE YOU CARE**

More than 70 carers heard about a package of help and support at a special event at St. Helens Town Hall. Following a welcome and introduction from Jane Dearden, Chair of Carers UK Carole Swift, Service Manager (Performance Management), gave an overview of carers developments over the past few years and then outlined the commitment to carers strategy 2002-05. There were presentations from a number of key agencies spotlighting help and support carers should and could expect. Topics included carer breaks, training, grants and health services. In the afternoon carers discussed the feasibility of developing a carers forum. For further details contact the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, St. Helens Carers Centre, Millennium House, Bickerstaffe Street WA10 1DH (01744) 675615.

Hard copies can be obtained by contacting Claire Hammond on 024 7684 7113 or by emailing [claire.hammond@becta.org.uk](mailto:claire.hammond@becta.org.uk).

<http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/news/cbrief.nsf/881e22f5d5a41ecc80256a410049e81e/a07dd91e1379d45f80256db0003bb4cb?OpenDocument>

### **NEW SERVICES TO TACKLE DRUG CRIME BY YOUNG PEOPLE**

Young people committing crimes to fund their drug habits are to be the focus of a new Government drive to get them off drugs and stop their offending behaviour at an early age, the Home Office announced recently. Arrest referral schemes, which target drug-using offenders in custody with advice on how to get treatment,

are to be extended to under-18s in ten pilot areas. The scheme is currently available nationally for drug using offenders over the age of 18. Copies of the Drug Strategy are available from [www.drugs.gov.uk](http://www.drugs.gov.uk).

### **NEW COMPANY FORM FOR SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY BUSINESSES**

The Community Interest Company (CIC) will be a new company form designed specifically for enterprises that use their profits and assets for the benefit of the local community and / or the wider public. They will combine entrepreneurial spirit with a sense of social purpose to deliver new opportunities and services where they are most needed. Publishing the report Jacqui Smith, Company Law Minister, confirmed that the Government would press ahead with legislation to create Community Interest Companies as soon as Parliamentary time allows. The concept of the Community Interest Company (CIC) was originally outlined in the Cabinet Office Strategy Unit report "Private Action, Public Benefit", published in September 2002. The consultation paper and the report on the results of the consultation can be found at <http://www.dti.gov.uk/cics>

'Social Enterprise: a strategy for success' can be found at <http://www.dti.gov.uk/socialenterprise> Public Enquiries +44 (0)20 7215 5000  
Textphone +44 (0)20 7215 6740 (for those with hearing impairment)  
[www.dti.gov.uk](http://www.dti.gov.uk)

### **BOSSES ARE BEGINNING TO TACKLE AGEISM**

Britain's bosses are beginning to take ageism in the workplace seriously according a survey published recently. Results show that employers are introducing policies to tackle ageism. Thirty-one percent of employers already have a policy in place and a further 38 percent percent say they will introduce policies in the future. Sixty-six percent of people surveyed believe their Board or senior managers are committed to eliminating ageism. The survey was carried out by Cranfield School of Management. For more information on Age Positive see the website at: [www.agepositive.gov.uk](http://www.agepositive.gov.uk) For a copy of the voluntary code of practice on age in the workplace 'Age Diversity at Work - A practical Guide for Business' contact 08457 330 360. Public enquiries 020 7712 2171

Website [www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk) <http://www.gnn.gov.uk/gnn/national.nsf>

### **PLANNING MUST PUT THE COMMUNITY FIRST**

Two new guides explaining how the planning system will benefit local communities were launched at the LGA planning recently. From summer 2004 authorities will, as part of the Government's Planning Reform agenda, have to prepare Local Development Frameworks for the future of their areas, and identify where future development will occur. The guides will explain how these are prepared and how people can get involved.

For copies of both documents e-mail: [odpm@twoten.press.net](mailto:odpm@twoten.press.net) Further Information: [http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2003\\_0238](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2003_0238)

## **Are you able to answer the important legal questions surrounding your Social Enterprise?**

- *Do you have employment and contracting issues that need addressing?*
- *Are you worried about your liability for volunteers?*
- *Are you concerned about the constitution and legal set up of your business?*

***We all know that ignoring these types of legal issues does not make them go away. Many social enterprises have legal questions that they just never have the time or finances to get cleared up.***

***The Merseyside Social Enterprise Initiative (MSEI) offers a free online legal service for social enterprises in partnership with Mace and Jones Solicitors.***

To use the service log on to [www.msei.org.uk](http://www.msei.org.uk) and follow the links to Legal Support. The online service is free, and if it leads to a need for more detailed casework, that could qualify for financial support from MSEI as well. So why not use the online quick response service today, and clear up uncertainties in the way that your business runs?

***To use the service you must be an authorised user. This automatically includes all SEN members, but can also include others. To become an authorised user contact Edward Highfield, MSEI programme manager on 0151 242 1116 or [msei@nwda.org.uk](mailto:msei@nwda.org.uk)***



## LINKS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

### MERSEYSIDE SOCIAL INCLUSION OBSERVATORY (MSIO) UPDATE

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