



EXPANDING HORIZONS e-NETWORK NEWS MARCH 2005

REGIONAL NEWS

Business Leaders Urged to Tackle Social Issues

Hundreds of influential business leaders have been urged to give business support to organisations across Merseyside to help tackle social issues. In January, Business in the Community (BITC) launched a new initiative aimed at brokering business support to community groups across Merseyside. Guest speakers at the Launch which was held at the Merseyside Maritime Museum included Loyd Grossman, chair designate of National Museum's Liverpool and Julia Cleverdon, CEO, Business in the Community (BITC).

Liverpool Cares for Culture will provide businesses with a tailor made strategy for tackling key social issues in Merseyside via its three programmes; Liverpool Cares, Merseyside ProHelp and Seeing is Believing. Liverpool Cares encourages employee volunteering in the community while ProHelp offers free professional help to charitable organisations. Seeing is Believing gives business leaders the opportunity to see for themselves how business can play a role in tackling Britain's most pressing social issues. By 2008, Business in the Community expects to have generated one million pounds of in-kind business support through the Liverpool Cares for Culture initiative, directly benefiting the people of Merseyside.

<http://www.nwda.co.uk/SimpleContent.aspx?news=1&area=72&subarea=73&item=20053082904638749>

Disability Magazine All Together Now! Carries on the Success of I Can Do That!

All Together Now! is the newly revamped free magazine, successor to *I Can Do That!* which ceased publication last year due to lack of funding. The content of *All Together Now!* will be similar to before - servicing the needs of those people whose lives are affected by disability, but the magazine will have extra pages and the print run will more than double with an initial figure of 50,000 copies per edition. It will contain more news articles and features surrounding disability issues in the UK

Tom Dowling, Editor of *I Can Do That!* has help set up a new registered charity which will produce the free magazine and website.

The website will be live at the end of March, followed by the launch of the print publication in May. The magazine will then appear every two months.

For more information contact *All Together Now!* on telephone: 0151 230 0307 or email: news@alltogethernow.org.uk

City Stores aim for Diverse Workforce

Liverpool city council is supporting a programme to ensure city centre stores and hotels reflect the diversity of the city's residents by the time it is European Capital of Culture in 2008.

A long-standing concern has been the under representation of people from a black or other racial minority background employed in city centre businesses. A recent city council survey found that only 4% of the city centre workforce is from a black or other racial minority background. While this is much better than many expected, it is acknowledged that there is more work to be done.

The City Council with the People Pool, JET South Central and Jobcentre Plus have been working on a positive action programme with centre stores and hotels to improve the diversity of their workforce. They will continue to work closely with the stores and will run a further eight programmes for customer service assistants and four management programmes.

http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/News/newsdetail_1077.asp

Train 2000 Launches Training Course Business Enterprise Training

Train 2000 - who provide enterprise and employment services for women have launched a new online training course, *Business Enterprise Training*. This modular online course is free of charge and interactive, specifically designed for individuals of all levels. Trained tutors will also be on hand to offer support and advice. For more information about this course visit

<http://www.train2000.org.uk/distance-learning/index.html>

Liverpool Neighbourhood Renewal Awards 2005

Projects which are making a real difference to local neighbourhoods were recognised at a new awards ceremony held at the city centre Marriott Hotel on 4 February. The Liverpool Neighbourhood Renewal Awards 2005 were jointly hosted by the Liverpool First Board, the Liverpool Partnership Group and Liverpool City Council. These awards celebrated the achievements of projects involved in improving services and regenerating neighbourhoods in some of the most deprived areas of Liverpool.

There were eight awards categories: Improving Community Safety and Road Safety, Improving Health, Improving Educational Attainment, Housing and Environment, Reducing Unemployment, Partnership Working, Outstanding Contribution to Neighbourhood Renewal and the Capital of Culture Creative Communities Award.

Projects funded through Liverpool's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) were all eligible for an award. NRF is a grant to improve the quality of life in the most deprived neighbourhoods, in relation to education, employment, crime, health and housing and other issues. Between 2001 and 2006, Liverpool will have received £105m from NRF and it has been announced that they will continue to receive NRF funding until 2008. There are over 100 projects in the city's current year's programme.

For a full list of the winning organisations visit www.liverpoolfirst.org/News.asp

New Information Service to Support Drug Prevention Agencies

A new national information service established by the National Collaborating Centre for Drug Prevention (NCCDP), a research partnership between the Health Development agency and the Centre for Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University has been launched. It is a dedicated service for the wide range of professionals who are involved in designing, planning or working on drug prevention interventions. The service is not just for drug specialists but is available for individuals ranging from teachers, GPs and youth workers to commissioners, academics and government officials. The service provides evidence-based information on aspects of drug misuse prevention to help support the future development of interventions, policies and strategies.

To find out more about the information service, telephone: 0151 231 4315 or email: NCCDPinfo@livjm.ac.uk

Stronger Safer Communities

In December 2004 the Home Office and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) published the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund Implementation Guidance. The fund draws together monies and programmes from both bodies. Included are Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders, Neighbourhood Wardens and the single Community Programme. The fund is aimed at tackling crime, reducing the harm caused by illegal drugs, addressing anti-social behaviour, improving the poor condition of streets and other public spaces; in particular for deprived neighbourhoods where these issues are often more prevalent.

In addition to addressing these issues, the Government will work with local partners to support the increase in the capacity of local communities and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), so that they are empowered to participate in local decision-making and are able to influence and deliver services and help build more cohesive communities.

During 2005/06, the Government will pilot the introduction of Local Area Agreements (LAAs) in 21 local authority areas (with a further 40 due to start in 2006-7). Knowsley has been selected to be one of the local authority areas. To find out more and for a copy of the ODPM's Safer Stronger Communities Implementation guidance, visit <http://www.urbanforum.org.uk/new/index.html>.

Award to Recognise work of Community Volunteers

Volunteers in Liverpool are set to walk down the red carpet as the city rewards them with an Oscar-style ceremony.

Around seventeen different trophies will be given out to individuals and groups who have helped make their areas a safer or healthier place to live.

All of the pioneering projects form part of the Expanding Futures for Communities programme, funded through Liverpool CitySafe.

Projects vary from helping the elderly feel secure in their Netherley homes to art-based initiatives working with young people in Norris Green.

Liverpool's executive member for Community Safety, Councillor Richard Marbrow, will be handing out the awards on 21 March.

Brian Dowds, who runs the Expanding Futures programme, says: *"We have been working with local people and the city council's neighbourhood management service to deliver projects to reduce crime and improve the health of local people. These awards recognise the hard work and achievements of all these selfless community workers."*

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/merseyside/4344885.stm>

NATIONAL NEWS

Lone Parents Get the Full Deal from New Booklet

A new booklet full of handy information for lone parents was launched today by Minister for Work Jane Kennedy.

For the first time A Guide for Lone Parents brings together key national information and contacts for lone parents, covering a range of issues, from finding childcare to getting a job, and from housing to healthcare.

The guide is available from Jobcentre Plus offices, Jobcentres and social security offices and from the New Deal helpline on 0800 868 868 (textphone 0808 100 8680). Information can also be accessed via the Jobcentre Plus website at www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2005/mar/ndlp-1403.asp>

Directory of Social Change (DSC) Launch New Websites

Directory of Social Change's long standing publications A Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need, The Educational Grants Directory and A Guide to UK Company Giving are being adapted and incorporated into two new websites, due for launch at Charityfair 2005 in April. This will be accompanied by the release of an updated version of the www.trustfunding.org.uk site. This will hold new features including an improved search facility and a user profile that will enable users to receive tailor-made updates on grant-making trusts that are of interest.

The new sites, www.grantsforindividuals.org.uk and www.companygiving.org.uk will offer a fully searchable database of available funding updated regularly, as well as email updates tailored to your specific interests, an online forum for sharing ideas, tips and experiences, and a range of help and advice to assist you in making applications for funding.

For more information visit, <http://www.dsc.org.uk/online/index.html>

Excluded Older People

The Social Exclusion Unit has launched *Excluded Older People* - an interim report that focuses on tackling isolation and social exclusion among older people.

The report shows that although the government has made significant progress in tackling pensioner poverty and breaking the link between old age and vulnerability, considerable problems still face older people who are on the lowest incomes and at greatest risk of social exclusion.

Produced after consultation with older people, service providers, and academics, the report identifies three main areas for more detailed consideration by the Unit in the next phase of its work:

- early support and preventative services, rather than crisis interventions when action could be too late;
- greater control and choice for older people to avoid untimely dependency;
- more 'joined up' services linking support from benefits to housing to health to provide greater flexibility, tailoring and seamless access to services.

In the first phase of this work the SEU's team have heard from older people themselves, those who work with them and have visited projects and organisations across England. They will be continuing this in the second phase leading to a final report. If you have details of projects that the SEU team may be interested in hearing about please e-mail olderpeople@odpm.gsi.gov.uk . For a copy of the report, please visit the download section on our website www.expandinghorizons.co.uk

Exclusion Report Calls for Change in Approach for Troubled Young Adults

Assisting troubled young adults escape the spiral of disadvantage is the focus of a new report, '*Transitions*' from the Social Exclusion Unit. The project looks to help young adults (age 16-25) with severe or multiple problems become independent adults. '*Transitions*' is the Social Exclusion Unit's interim report looking at 16 - 25 year-olds with severe or multiple problems. It sets out the project team's interim findings and three areas of future work. (The final report will be published winter 2005)

The *Young Adults with Troubled Lives* project is now moving into its second phase, which will involve consultation with young adults aged 16-25. The Social Exclusion Unit would be interested to hear about projects working to help disadvantaged young people make the transition to adulthood, particularly those showing evidence of joined-up working, working across age boundaries or engaging with the person as an individual.

For a copy of '*Transitions: a Social Exclusion Unit Interim Report on Young Adults*' visit the download section our website www.expandinghorizons.co.uk. To find out more about any of the Unit's projects or to get in touch with the SEU team, please visit the Social Exclusion Unit website at <http://www.socialexclusion.gov.uk/page.asp?id=497>

Broker Catalysts Successful in Bringing Business and Public Sector Closer Together

A new report, *Brokering Business Connections – Engaging Business Support for Neighbourhood Renewal*, has found that Business Broker pilots – catalysts to bring the private sector and public sector organisations closer together in regeneration – have been a success. The Business Broker pilots were launched in 2002 as a three year programme, funded by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister with DTI, Home Office and local contributions. The Brokers work have led to significant increases in business engagement overall and benefits to the community organisations, companies and partner agencies with whom they have worked.

Key findings include:

- Overall there has been a threefold increase in the number of businesses actively supporting neighbourhood renewal projects in pilot areas;
- The pilot programme has developed innovative ways for business to engage with LSPs and other local neighbourhood renewal initiatives.

For a copy of the summary evaluation report of the Business Brokers Pilot programme visit the ODPM website, www.odpm.gov.uk. The full report of the final evaluation will be published shortly.

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2005_0053

Communities to Have Their Say in Local Decision-Making

Communities across the country will be given more say in the decisions making a difference to their lives under wide-reaching new plans announced by Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott.

The five year plan from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister – *Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity* – shows how Government working with local authorities, will help people improve their quality of life and create communities they feel proud of. It also outlines proposals to strengthen local leadership.

To download a copy of *People, Places and Prosperity* visit www.odpm.gov.uk
http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2005_0021

Right to Vote!

In anticipation of the General Election in May, The Disability Rights Commission's Learning Disability Action Group, in partnership with the Valuing People Support Team has put together a 'Right to Vote' Pack to support people with learning disabilities in the voting process.

The Disability Rights Commission argues that many people with learning disabilities don't get a chance to vote. The 'Right to Vote' pack tells people how to register to vote and what to do at the polling station. There is also a fact sheet for people who support voters with learning difficulties.

To request a copy of the 'Right to Vote' pack contact the Disability Rights Commission Helpline on: telephone 08457 622 633 or textphone: 08457 622 644. Or visit www.drc-gb.org/righttovote.

Government Sets Out New Strategy to Ensure Refugees Integration

Integration Matters, the Home Office's Refugee Integration Strategy and working to Rebuild DWP refugee employment strategy, set out the rights and responsibilities of refugee status and put an emphasis on gaining the skills to give something back to the community.

Key elements of the Government's plans include:

- Helping refugees towards employment, enabling them to feel economically and socially included;
- Replacing automatic back payments of income support to all refugees with a loan system targeted at helping integration;
- Encouraging more refugees to use Jobcentre Plus services. Research suggests that around half of unemployed refugees do not use these facilities; and
- Building stronger partnerships with the voluntary and community sectors, and other stakeholders, to plan and deliver the support that refugees need.

The Government's Five Year Plan on Immigration and Asylum published last month set out tighter restrictions on permanent settlement in the UK including granting refugees permanent status only after five years, if the situation in their home country has not improved. It also set out a new requirement that all those seeking to stay in the UK, as refugees or skilled migrants, will be required to pass tests on the English language and knowledge of the UK, not just those applying for citizenship.

Copies of the Home Office's refugee integration strategy, *Integration Matters* are available at;
http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/ind/en/home/laws_policy/refugee_integration/a_national_strategy.html.

Positive Futures Programme Proving a Success for the Community

Tens of thousands of young people are making a real impact in their local community with the support of Positive Futures according to the second report into the schemes published by the Home Office today. Positive Futures helps young people in deprived areas and the report highlights some of the considerable successes that Positive Futures has achieved to date.

According to a survey of project partners:

- 72 per cent believe that anti-social behaviour has fallen as a direct result of Positive Futures
- 80 per cent believe that sports based activities are more available as a result of Positive Futures
- 63 per cent believe that local crime has fallen as a result of Positive Futures

Since the launch of Positive Futures in 2000 there has been a significant expansion in the number of projects, range of activity and numbers of young people attending – with over 35,000 young people becoming engaged in regular sport and physical activities at 108 projects since October 2003.

Positive Futures projects are marked by their collaborative approach and each project is delivered in partnership with up to 15 local agencies including; Youth Offending Teams, Youth Services, local authorities, Police, Drug Action Teams, Connexions, Community Safety Partnerships, social services, Pupil Referral Units, and sports clubs.

For more information, contact Amanda Duffy, Christina Bell or George Ames on telephone: 020 7403 2230, or email: amandaduffy@forster.co.uk christina@forster.co.uk or george@forster.co.uk

New Report to Examine Social Exclusion is Published

The Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) has published a report, *A More Equal Society? New Labour, Poverty, Inequality and Exclusion*. The report looks at the Government's record on social exclusion since 1997 the Social Exclusions Unit's work up until 2003 and the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit Programmes.

More information on the report is available from www.lse.ac.uk or <http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case/>

FUNDING NEWS

Big Lottery Fund Update

Flexible demand-led and customer friendly grant programmes will be at the heart of the new Big Lottery Fund's priorities following the results of phase one of a major UK-wide public consultation published in January 2005.

The fund has announced it will adopt a mixed portfolio approach to funding, with no less than one third of its income distributed via demand-led, lightly-prescribed, accessible programmes, including an expanded Awards for All scheme.

In response to the consultation, the fund also announced it will:

- Introduce more flexibility in the length of funding.
- Adopt the principle of full cost recovery by allowing all legitimate overhead costs to be recovered by voluntary and community organisations.
- Strengthen its regional offices to increase the emphasis on policy development, outreach, partnerships and external relations.
- Establish two operational centres in Newcastle and Birmingham to make it easier to access funding and to ensure a strong, unified funding policy.

The results of phase one of public consultation are available in PDF at, www.biglotteryfund.org.uk.

Y Speak Consultation Fund

The Y Speak Consultation Fund gives children and young people the chance to have their say about policies and services which affect them. Consultation activities are intended to allow children to contribute directly to decision making at local, regional national and international levels. The goal is to give children and young people a voice on issues and the ability to 'make a difference', with the benefit of achieving better outcomes for decision-making at all levels. There will be three funding rounds for this scheme between April 2005 and March 2006. The maximum grant amount is £10,000. The next application deadline is 14 April 2005. Access the application form on

www.governmentfunding.org.uk.

<http://www.governmentfunding.org.uk/VCSSearch.aspx?WCI=htmSchemeList&WCU=DS%3dDSCVCS%2cOI%3d%2215%22>

Millions more Funding for Learning Disabilities Services

Stephen Ladyman, Minister with responsibility for community has recently announced that Services for people with learning disabilities are set to receive over £41 million in Government funding.

This boost in funding has been allocated to Primary Care Trusts to provide services through the Learning Disabilities Development Fund (LDDF) and is almost double the amount received last year. The LDDF is an important mechanism for ensuring that the NHS funding which would have supported residents in long stay hospitals under earlier regimes is used to achieve the objectives of Government white paper '*Valuing People*'

These funds are intended to support the implementation of '*Valuing People*', which sets out a wide ranging programme of action to improve services for people with learning disabilities based on four key principles – rights, independence, choice and inclusion.

The third annual report on the progress Government departments have made in implementing '*Valuing People*' and ensuring that people with learning disabilities are more fully included in society will be published later this year

The white paper is available on the Department of Health website at http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4009153&chk=UdWF1u

Challenge Fund

The Challenge Fund supports the Home Office's commitment to the integration of refugees within the United Kingdom and aims to promote innovative projects that address specific social needs amongst refugee communities. Projects must be for the benefit of those residing in the UK who have been recognised as refugees (under the 1951 UN Convention) or those with Humanitarian Protection, Discretionary Leave or Exceptional Leave leading to settlement. The maximum grant amount is £50,000. Applications for funding larger than the maximum amount are likely to be successful only in exceptional circumstances. The next application deadline is 5 May 2005. For more information, and to request an application pack visit www.governmentfunding.org.uk.

£100 Citizenship Grants for the Young

Young people will be offered grants of up to £100 to encourage them to set up a citizenship project in their community.

The grant scheme has been launched by Community Service Volunteers (CVS), which will be aimed at young people in England and Scotland. It is part of CVS' programme for the 'citizenship and community month' during the year of the volunteer 2005.

Groups of five or more people up to the age of 18 will be eligible to apply for the grant. Successful applicants will have until the end of August to work on their project and will be eligible for a prize, to be awarded to five groups in October 2005.

Application forms are available from, www.cvscommunitypartnership.org.uk.

Purposeful Activities Fund

The Purposeful Activities Fund supports projects that enable asylum seekers to interact with, and make a positive contribution to, the communities in which they reside. Priority is given to applications that build basic skills which will be useful to asylum seekers in the longer term, whether they stay in the UK or return to their country of origin. The maximum grant amount is £40,000. Applications for funding larger than the maximum amount are likely to be successful only in exceptional circumstances. The next application deadline is 5 May 2005. For more information, and to request an application pack visit www.governmentfunding.org.uk.

NEW ROLES

Directory of Social Change (DSC)

Meena Varma, the Deputy Chief Executive of Directory of Social Change (DSC) will leave the organisation at the end of April 2005. Meena Varma who has been at DSC for more than nine years will leave to dedicate some time to her family in India.

<http://www.dsc.org.uk/news.html>

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



Merseyside Gets Heard!

Merseyside Expanding Horizons (MEH) is working with Merseyside Social Inclusion Observatory (MSIO), Communities Against Poverty (CAPT) and Merseyside Network for Europe (MNfE) to encourage participation in the next **UK National Action Plan for Social Inclusion**.

There will be information sessions to tell you more about the NAP and the opportunity to lead or take part in local workshops. MSIO will host an event in September to showcase findings from the workshops to Merseyside policy makers.

So if you want to make sure that your point of view is heard, or that members of your group/project get the chance to have their say, please call Merseyside Expanding Horizons on 0151 330 0552 or email: info@expandinghorizons.co.uk for further details.

Urban Health by Design

The World Health Organisation (WHO) European Network of Healthy Cities is now in its fourth phase of development. Each City is working towards achieving the WHO ten qualities of a healthy city by developing and sharing work on the theme of Healthy Urban Planning.

Inviting Liverpool to share the learning from Europe, UK the region and local level, Urban Health by Design is a one-day conference held on 4 May 2005 in Liverpool to raise awareness of the connections between urban planning and health.

Guest speakers at the event include Professor John Ashworth, Director of Public Health, Government Office North West, Dr Lewis Dijkstra, Urban Unit, Directorate-General Regional Policy, European Commission and Dr Agis D. Tsouros, Head, Centre for Urban World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe.

For more information contact, Shirley Naden-Lamb at Bearhunt on 01625 584448 or email: s.naden-lamb@bearhunt.org.uk.

INTERCHANGE: Community Forum Workshop

The University of Liverpool are delivering a Forum Workshop that aims to bring people who are working within a community setting together to know more about how their organisation could benefit through research with university students.

The event will provide an opportunity to discuss the benefits of developing university partnership in terms of gaining access to free research, and developing research-training workshops.

The Forum will look at how:

- Other groups have benefited from having student research projects?
- To gain access to student researches
- To access community research training
- To develop a research brief to benefit your own organisation?

The forum workshop is to be held at Blackburne House, Liverpool on 28 April, 5.00pm – 8.00pm. It is primarily for voluntary and community sector workers who are keen to develop their organisation through 'evidence based' practise and academics from the three HEI's interested in community based research.

Admission is free and includes buffet and refreshments. Places are limited, so places must be reserved prior to the event.

To register contact Sharon Lockley, The University of Liverpool, Dept of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work Studies on telephone: 0151 794 2984 or email: slockley@liverpool.ac.uk.

Knowsley CVS Volunteer Award Ceromony

Knowsley CVS will be holding the Volunteer Award Ceremony on 30th March 2005 at Nutgrove Villa, Huyton. This will be a chance for volunteer-using organisations and volunteer co-ordinators to make sure that volunteers are recognised for the work they do. All volunteers qualifying for the 100 hour award will be presented with their 100 hour certificate by the Mayor of Knowsley, Councillor Tommy Quirk. The event is also open to people on the Merseyside Open College Network accredited courses whose achievements will also be recognised.

For more details and to register your volunteer, contact Carol Lea on 0151 489 1222.

www.knowsley.gov.uk