



EXPANDING HORIZONS

e-NETWORK NEWS

JANUARY 2006

LOCAL NEWS

Free Access to Details of Grants/Charitable Trusts/Funding Schemes

The Knowsley Business website has launched a free service which provides users with free and unrestricted access to a comprehensive database of government, lottery and charitable trust funding as well as local support information. Users can search for FUNDING for Business, Community and Social Enterprise under the following criteria:

Business Funding Search

- Local Support read details of specific business support available in Knowsley
- Funding Search Find all local and national funding schemes currently available to help your own unique business
- Grants Browse all national and local grant schemes by category
- Loans Businesses can sometimes obtain soft or special loans with preferential terms.
- Awards Discover awards that provide a cash prize as well as prestige for business.

Community Funding Search

- Local Support: Read details of specific community support available in Knowsley
- Funding Search: Discover all current government, Lottery and trust funding relevant to your own unique organisation
- Government: Browse all local, regional and national government, and EU funding
- Lottery: Browse all National Lottery funding
- Trust Funds: Find out how to efficiently explore funding from thousands of charitable trusts

Social Enterprise Search

- Local Support: read details of specific community support available in Knowsley
- Funding Search: Discover all current government, Lottery and trust funding relevant to your own unique organisation
- Government: Browse all local, regional and national government, and EU funding
- Lottery: Browse all National Lottery funding
- Trust Funds: Find out how to efficiently explore funding from thousands of charitable trusts

To access this information please visit [www.knowsleybusiness.com](http://www.knowsleybusiness.com/business_help/finance_and_grants/index_finance.html)
http://www.knowsleybusiness.com/business_help/finance_and_grants/index_finance.html

North West Awards Recognise £3 Billion European Funding Success

North West's European-funded projects were recognised at an awards ceremony in Liverpool in December 2005.

Seven organisations from across the region won *Success North West* awards last night, for projects funded through the European Objective One, Two and Three programmes. Awards were made in six categories - business development, diversity and inclusion, information and communication technology, environmental excellence, training and skills, and voluntary and community.

The celebration event - hosted by Government Office for the North West and supported by the Northwest Regional Development Agency – was designed to spotlight European funding which has brought around £3 billion into the region over the past decade.

Merseyside winners and their projects are:

Business Development	MerseyBIO – Business Incubator University of Liverpool, Crown Street, Liverpool Objective One
Diversity and Inclusion	The Big Life Company – Big Life Employment Big Life Employment, 135-141 Oldham Street, Manchester Objective Three
Training and Skills	Learning and Skills Council – The SkillWorks Learning and Skills Council Greater Merseyside Tithebarn House, Tithebarn Street, Liverpool Objective One
Voluntary and Community (joint winners)	Energywise Recycling - Energywise 51 Jordan Street, Liverpool Objective One Green Apprentices - Team North Huyton ILM Programme Admin Road, Knowsley Industrial Park Objective One http://www.odpm.gov.uk

Large Subsidies available for Training & Business Support through the Blackburne House Group

Blackburne House, now a SkillWorks provider and an approved supplier under the Greater Merseyside Enterprise (GME), Best Practice Framework can provide a highly subsidised, bespoke, Training and/or Business Support package, to develop your business.

SkillWorks is a demand led programme developed by Greater Merseyside Learning & Skills Council and has already helped an incredible number of Small to Medium Enterprises. As an eligible organisation you can access subsidies, up to 60%, for training. This is arranged to meet your specific needs and requirements.

Blackburne House provides a wide range of training provision including Management, IT and Professional Development Courses.

GME Best Practice Framework – How can you benefit?

Blackburne House can supply services to develop your business in a wide range of areas including:

- Website design and design of promotional materials

- Marketing strategy
- Management consultancy - based on practical experience
- Governance & Board development
- Feasibility studies

Eligible businesses can access subsidies of 40% for business development. An additional 50% is available to Social Enterprises through the Merseyside Social Enterprise Initiative (MSEI) Best Practice Framework.

Contact Blackburne House for more information.

In order to benefit from the above subsidies, or to obtain further details, contact Martine Keegan on 0151 709 4356 or email martinekeegan@blackburnehouse.co.uk.

Alternatively, view www.blackburnehouse.co.uk to see the full range of services available.

Knowsley Praised by New Action to Tackle Social Exclusion and Link Services for Older People

One-stop shops' for older people based on the Sure Start family services model are to be introduced by the Government.

This pioneering £10 million programme to help deliver key services to disadvantaged people aged 50 plus, is part of a 30-point cross-government action plan published in a report from the highly influential Social Exclusion Unit in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

A programme called Link-Age Plus will test out the Sure Start approach in eight local authority areas in England. Funded by the Department for Work and Pensions, Link-Age Plus aims to provide a single gateway to services provided in the community - ranging from housing matters, social care and financial benefits to transport, health and volunteering opportunities.

A case study in the report features Knowsley Community Older Persons Team whose approach integrates social services and NHS professionals – including physiotherapists, a pharmacist, a podiatrist, district nurses, a social worker and an accident prevention team.

In Knowsley there is a single point of access to services for older people including for intermediate care. This is a borough wide service with the team located on one site except for the district nurses who are located alongside area social work teams for older people. This approach has delivered joined-up preventative, low level and intermediate services and substantial reductions in falls.

The Sure Start principles of independence, choice and prevention will be adapted in a renewed effort to tackle poverty, social exclusion, disadvantage and deprivation facing some older people.

A Sure Start to Later Life: Ending Inequalities for Older People – a final report from the Social Exclusion Unit, published by ODPM, ISBN 1-85112812-3, is priced £15, and available from tel: 0870 1226 236, or the ODPM/SEU website: www.socialexclusion.gov.uk
<http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2063>

The North West Regional Housing Strategy

A new strategy for improving housing in the North West to help economic growth and social inclusion was published in November 2005

The Regional Housing Strategy (RHS) provides an analysis of the North West housing markets. It identifies the strategic housing issues facing the region and sets out a framework for delivering the necessary changes.

It will be used to guide funding allocations from the Regional Housing Pot (RHP) to local authorities and to the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme.

The RHS says that the housing market in the North West is generally robust and capable of meeting the diverse needs of the majority of those living in our region.

However, demand in increasing parts of the region is now pushing up prices to create severe problems of affordability. At the same time there still remain too many areas where the housing stock is unpopular, socially or physically obsolete and unable to meet the modern day needs of communities. Although the reasons are different, the outcome is the same - housing is holding back the economy and contributing to social exclusion.

To address these issues, the RHS sets the following priorities:

- Priority 1: delivering urban renaissance. This means to maximise the positive impact of the four Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders in their broader housing markets; maximise the positive impact of the emerging market restructuring work in West Cumbria and Furness; support cohesive strategic activity to tackle the inappropriate supply of housing in Blackpool and Morecambe currently acting as a drag on local economic regeneration; support cohesive strategic activity to prevent low-demand, tackle inappropriate supply and support Neighbourhood Renewal in other areas at risk of market failure, applying and adapting lessons from the Pathfinders.
- Priority 2: providing affordable homes to maintain balanced communities.

- Priority 3: delivering decent homes in thriving neighbourhoods by improving the condition of housing stock with a sustainable future, as part of broadly based regeneration strategies, particularly in areas of concentrated unfitness and disrepair.
- Priority 4: meeting the needs of communities and providing support for those who need it, by ensuring that action under priorities 1 to 3 contributes to meeting the housing needs of the North West's diverse communities and those individuals needing support, and by encouraging and supporting specialist housing provision to meet community and individual needs via targeted action at a local level.

www.nwrhb.org.uk/draft.asp

Improving the quality of life for the people within Merseyside through sport & physical activity

Over 150 guests from the public, private and voluntary sector celebrated the launch of the 'Merseyside Sports Partnership Strategy' – a strategy that has a vision “to improve the quality of life for the people within Merseyside through sport & physical activity”.

The launch took place on Thursday 26th January 2006 at Halewood Leisure Centre, Knowsley. Guest Speakers included: -

- Leader of Liverpool City Council – Councillor Warren Bradley
- Chair of Knowsley Primary Care Trust, High Sheriff of Merseyside – Rosemary Hawley
- Director, Quality and Strategic Developments, LJMU – Patricia Shenton
- Olympic Bronze medallist High Jumper - Steve Smith
- Chair of North West Sports Board – Andy Worthington, MBE
- Dance displays from LJMU students & Young People from Parklands High School
- John Bell, Chair of Merseyside Sports Partnership Board

For further information contact the Merseyside Sports Partnership Core Support Team on Tel: 0151 231 5239 or Email:

admin@merseysidesport.com

www.merseysidesport.com

Lottery Xmas Gift For Merseyside Charities

Big Lottery Fund is delivering a Xmas package of funding for 41 North West groups today with over £5.8 million for a range of community development initiatives that will improve job prospects and create more opportunities for young people.

Among the organisations receiving grants in Merseyside are The Crime Concern Trust, Opportunities Shop and Unity Community Association Liverpool.

The Crime Concern Trust has been awarded £85,687 for a project to support at-risk young teenagers in Sefton.

Opportunities Shop Ltd in Bootle will receive £281,574 for a project that helps people to increase their employability by providing personal help in finding suitable education and training and help with interpersonal and social skills.

A grant of £279,440 to Unity Community Association Liverpool will fund a project to develop its youth and community centre. The centre will offer a range of activities, such as a crèche, an IT suite and a luncheon club with the aim to promote community cohesion, reduce isolation among older members of the community and improve opportunities for young people.

A full list of your region's grants is at:
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/newsroom/vcs.htm

NATIONAL NEWS

Disabled Workers More Likely to be hired than 10 years ago

Employers are more likely to hire disabled people than they were 10 years ago, according to Remploy, the largest recruiter of disabled workers. Bob Warner, Remploy's chief executive, says that a decade after the Disability and Discrimination Act was introduced, employers "are more ready to accept that they have a social responsibility, as well as a duty to shareholders, as well as recognising the value that disabled employees can bring.

www.remploy.co.uk

Digital Solutions to Social Exclusion

A new report from the Government's Social Exclusion Unit published in November 2005 challenges the traditional view that new technology will widen inequality in the future. The report shows how technology is already improving life chances and public service delivery, and is being embraced by excluded groups.

The report, *Inclusion Through innovation: Tackling Social Exclusion Through New Technologies* published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, says that excluded people already use technology extensively and that we need to build on this enthusiasm. The digital divide needs to be bridged, and with it

e-government public services delivered, in away that excluded people will use that suits their experience. For example the telephone can be as significant as a computer. The services provided by a 'phone are identical whether an individual is calling from a castle or a caravan.

The report sets out a number of proposals and actions for government including:

- Setting out the action for Government to develop information sharing about excluded groups while building protocols and safeguarding privacy;
- Proposing the expansion of access to ICT facilities in hostels for the homeless and proposing that community centres in deprived areas be wired with broadband services. The report also recommends that local authorities should explore the potential of bundling in internet capabilities, such as e-mail and other local information feeds, when telecare systems are installed in an individual's home.
- Proposing the setting up by government of an independent unit to consolidate and promote the most efficient and effective practices using technology which are otherwise seldom evaluated.

<http://www.socialexclusion.gov.uk/page.asp?id=583>

Jobs Fail to Lift Poor out of Low Income and Social Exclusion

The Government's drive to increase the number of people in work will not tackle poverty and could increase social exclusion, a new publication has warned.

The book, *Poverty and social exclusion in Britain: the millennium survey*, found that many working people do not earn enough to escape poverty.

Pressure to work longer hours in order to boost income was increasing social exclusion because it made it more difficult for people to participate in social activities, especially if they had caring responsibilities.

The study found that a quarter of adults are poor - a slight increase since 1999. A third of British children have to go without one of the things they need, such as three meals a day, toys, out of school activities or adequate clothing.

Almost ten million adults and one million children are too poor to engage in common social activities such as visiting friends and family, having celebrations on special occasions or attending weddings and funerals.

The authors urged the Government to massively redistribute wealth and improve public services in order to meet its pledge of ending child poverty within a generation. Returning to the distribution of income and power that existed in the mid-1970s would halve poverty and social exclusion. However, the study found there had been a decline in use of public services over the 1990s and warned that this could lead to a drop in political and

financial support for services mostly used by the poor, such as buses, if they cease to be seen as mainstream.

The book, priced £19.99, can be ordered at www.policypress.org.uk

National Community Safety Plan

The national Community Safety Plan was launched in November 2005 and sets out the Government's key priorities for improving the safety of our communities in the next three years.

The aims of the Community Safety Plan:

Over the next three years, we intend concentrating on key priorities under the following five themes:

- Making communities stronger and more effective
- Further reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
- Creating safer environments
- Protecting the public and building confidence
- Improving people's lives so they are less likely to commit offences or re-offend

We hope to achieve these goals through recognising that:

- Much closer collaboration between central and local government is essential
- community safety cannot be achieved by the police and other agencies working alone – we must all be involved
- Voluntary and community groups make a vital contribution to community safety
- Without you to help us identify the community safety priorities in your community, and without your involvement in tackling them, we won't be able to achieve our goal of safer communities.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/reducing-crime/community-safety/>

Securing Social Enterprise's Place in the Economy

The Minister for Industry has stated that securing social enterprise's place in the business landscape is key for the continued prosperity of the economy. Alun Michael outlined some of the main areas that will be focused on in the Government's new social enterprise action plan to be launched in the spring at the annual social enterprise conference.

The four key themes covered in the Government's new social enterprise action plan are:

- Confirming the value and credibility of social enterprise through new research into the impact of social enterprise
- Embedding social enterprise as a recognised business model by ensuring that the publicly funded business support provided by RDAs is readily available and applicable to social enterprise
- Helping to open markets to social enterprise by working with other government departments and local authority purchasers to remove barriers within the procurement process for third sector organisations
- Encouraging new entrants to social enterprise by raising awareness of social enterprise among new entrepreneurs, working with Enterprise Insight, National Council of Graduate Entrepreneurship and the Social Enterprise Coalition.

The new action plan will build on the Government's strategy for social enterprise that was launched in 2002 and has helped to raise the sector's profile. Key achievements from this strategy include: - The successful launch of Community Interest Companies, the legal structure designed specifically for social enterprise - all of which use their activity, profits and assets to help local communities; and - The first national social enterprise day - part of a successful enterprise week which involved over a quarter of a million young people taking part in over 4,000 events. DTI research has showed that there are approximately 15,000 social enterprises in the UK with a combined turnover of 18 billion pounds. This represents a contribution to national GDP of over 5 billion pounds a year.

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

FUNDING NEWS

Community Enterprise Boosted By £4m Home Office Funding

Community organisations wishing to let out workspaces for start-up social enterprises have an opportunity to do so, thanks to a new scheme announced by the Home Office. The Capital Programme Fund is to receive £4 million and will support the provision of low-cost work space and will assist small front-line organisations that need help to start up and become self-sufficient in the community. Administered by the Adventure Capital Fund (ACF), the programme will boost the ACF's existing £5 million equity investment fund from community projects and social enterprise, which run until 2008.

www.adventurecapitalfund.org.uk/

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Keys to Survival: Moving Towards Self-Sufficiency for the Voluntary & Community Sector

Blackburne House is holding a **FREE** workshop for Voluntary and Community Organisations based in Liverpool

Wednesday 15th February 2006, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm at Blackburne House, off Hope Street Liverpool. Lunch will be provided.

The day will include sessions on:

Defining Social Enterprise

With guest speaker Claire Dove MBE, Chief Executive of the Blackburne House Group of Companies

Successful Social Enterprise

With guest speakers Kate Harding, Business Manager, Brava Design and Rosemary Kay, Operations Director, Blackburne House

Assessing the Opportunities for your Organisations

Facilitated Workshops

Action Planning for the Future

Sources of Information and guidance with guest speaker Martine Keegan, SkillWorks Project Manager

To book your FREE place on the Keys to Survival Seminar contact Blackburne House on 0151 709 4356 ext 2240 / 2238

Silver Entrepreneur Seminars

- Are you over 50?
- Ever wanted to start your own business or become self employed?
- Do you have a business idea?
- Would you like to start your own business?
- Would you like to expand your business?

Knowsley Economic Forum and Ideopolis International are searching for people aged over 50 who are currently running; starting up or thinking about beginning their own business. We will be holding a series of workshops throughout Knowsley starting on 4th October. Aimed at giving recognition to this exciting and growing area of business, especially the opportunities,

challenges, barriers and attitudes facing these mature business builders – especially at a time when so much attention is paid to youth enterprise.

Join us for a series of FREE workshops! You may attend as many as you wish. Excellent opportunities to gain advice, seek out new sources of funding and network with others in a similar situation to yourself.

Workshops available are:

Tues 21/02/2006 5pm to 7:30pm

Prescot Guild Hall, 57 St Helens Road, Prescot. L34 6HW

Tues 07/03/2006 10:30am to 1pm

Southdene Community Centre, Broad Lane, Kirkby. L32 6QS

Tues 04/04/2006 12pm to 2:30pm

Huyton Civic Suite, Poplar Bank,
Huyton. L36 9UX

Visit www.silverentrepreneurs.co.uk.

Local Government Association (LGA) Delivering Sustainable Communities Conference 13-15 February 2006

The large attendance at the recent ODPM Sustainable Communities Summit in Manchester showed the high level of interest in this subject among practitioners and decision-makers from all sectors and the LGA anticipate that this Delivering Sustainable Communities event will have the same impact.

Underlying this event is the principle that sustainable communities are about more than housing. Their needs encapsulate the range of ingredients of vibrant and viable communities – high quality education provision, health provision, cultural facilities, jobs, local environment - as well as quality homes.

This will be an event not to be missed by all grappling with the sustainable community's agenda – members and officers of local authorities, colleagues in national, regional and local agencies, private sector representatives as well as those working in community and voluntary organisations. The sessions will range from high-level plenaries featuring internationally renowned speakers to small practical problem-solving workshops.

Workshops will identify how stakeholders can start to deliver on the vision and will showcase the commitment to joined-up thinking between national, regional and local government – plus the private and voluntary sectors and community groups. Practical examples of good practice will be included.

**For more information contact The LGA Conference Department on
Tel: 020 7664 3131 or email: info@lga.gov.uk.**