



EXPANDING HORIZONS

e-NETWORK NEWS

MAY 2005

STOP PRESS!

MEH Needs Your Email Addresses!

Over the past few months we have been updating our database to ensure the service we provide to our network is efficient and up-to-date.

e-Network News will no longer be available in paper format, instead it will be emailed directly to you. We need YOUR email addresses to carry this out. Don't miss out! Please inform us of your email address ASAP by contacting Rosina Ndukwe on telephone 0151 330 0552, fax 0151 284 2674 or email, rosinandukwe@expandinghorizons.co.uk.

Regional News

ChangeUp Greater Merseyside Launches New Website

Back in 2002, HM Treasury published its cross cutting review and recommended that the voluntary and community sector and central and local government develop a shared strategy to underpin the capacity of the sector.

Summer 2004 saw the arrival of ChangeUp – the Home Office Capacity Building and Infrastructure for the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Since ChangeUp began, people from voluntary and community organisations, spanning grass roots volunteer led groups to sub-regional charities and branches of national organisations, have attended events across the six boroughs to explore, debate and suggest ways of getting the best out of this unprecedented investment opportunity.

Now, ChangeUp Greater Merseyside has launched a new website www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk providing information, latest news, downloads and useful links about ChangeUp.

The ChangeUp Merseyside Project Management Team Office is also now open. To contact the team telephone: 0151 920 0726 (Ext. 305), fax: 0151 920 1036 or email: info@changeupmerseyside.org.uk.

Green Machine Campaign is Launched at Palm House, Liverpool

The Green Machine's official launch took place at Palm House, Sefton Park, Liverpool, on 21 April 2005. The event was held by the Community Foundation for Merseyside, who are responsible for launching the initiative that aims to bring together industry and local communities in a bid to address the region's pressing environmental issues. The launch event showcased local musical acts and also introduced Barclays Bank as Green Machine's major sponsor.

Barclays Bank is backing more than £16,000 for the pioneering campaign to 'Greenup Merseyside'.

The bank's funding will help further raise the profile of the campaign that has so far attracted financial backing from Unilever, CPUK, Hemby Trust and HD Wills Charitable Trust. The Barclays cash has been earmarked to fund awareness raising literature and a special awards night during which local community groups and businesses will be recognised for their commitment to local environmental issues

During the next 3 years, The Green Machine initiative, with the help of local businesses, will help fund various projects across Merseyside designed to improve the environment within local communities.

To speak to the Green Machine grant officers, telephone 0151 966 4604.

For more information about The Green Machine visit, www.greenmachine.org.uk.

Mosaic of Culture Unveiled

Youngsters from a Liverpool children's home have created a poignant mosaic that depicts their views of the city's culture.

The award of the £48,200 to Liverpool SAFE Productions from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) encouraged the children living at Gladstone House, to explore Liverpool's heritage.

Initially the group focused on Liverpool's architecture, but they have also looked at the legacy of immigrants arriving in the city and their contribution to the vibrant history and culture of the city.

The project culminated in the creation of a mosaic depicting aspects of Liverpool's heritage that are important to them.

The mosaic will be displayed as part of the Capital of Culture events. Two local hospitals have also pledged to display the work together with National Museums Liverpool.

The project was a collaboration between 'Brian Dawe SAFE Productions', which works to open up the arts to community groups, and the staff from the home.

http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/News/newsdetail_1143.asp

Sefton Tackles Drugs Misuse

An initiative which tackles drugs misuse and associated problems is to be launched at Aintree Racecourse in May 2005.

Sefton Council's Drug Action Team (DAT) will unveil its Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) on Tuesday May 17.

(DIP) is an initiative which gets drug offenders into treatment and away from crime.

Partner agencies will come together with community groups and stakeholders to learn about the progress Sefton is making to deliver the National Drug Strategy.

National and regional keynote speakers will stress how the DIP programme will have an impact on reducing crime, and have a wider positive affect on communities. Speakers include Peter Wheelhouse from the Home Office and Rod Thomson, Deputy Regional Director for Public Health for the North West.

Former drug users will also put on a short drama piece called "Madhouse" which explores issues around drug addiction.

<http://www.sefton.gov.uk/content-4857>

Liverpool Council Winners Celebrate

A team who help the families of autistic children, home carers and handymen were among the winners at the city council's annual 'oscar' ceremony. They were among the record 180 entries for the 2005 'Be Proud' awards, which celebrate the excellent work and achievements of city council staff.

The Autistic Spectrum Disorders team walked off with the 'Rising Star' award for their pioneering work developing training courses for parents of youngsters who suffer from the condition.

This unique project has included teaching almost 300 families how to handle issues such as sex education and changes in the behaviour of their child as they get older. It has been praised by the National Autistic Society and the team have been asked to develop training across the North West.

The 'Hero' award went to Margaret Murphy - a social worker at Royal Liverpool Broadgreen Hospital. She was nominated for her work in reviewing the amount of home care people receive and redirecting it away from people who no longer need it to those who do. As a result, an extra 1400 hours of care have been recycled back into the system.

The Handyperson service, which helps older and vulnerable people by doing 'odd jobs' around their homes won the 'Top Team' award.

http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/News/newsdetail_1179.asp

National News

Minister Announces new Valuing People Report and Winning Bids for £2.3m of the Extra Care Housing Fund

Health Minister Stephen Ladyman has announced the publication of the National Director's review of *Valuing People* together with £700,000 to benefit people with learning disabilities. The £700,000 cash boost for people with learning disabilities will be used to further work on four areas of concern,

including increasing employment opportunities and preventing people being sent to live away from home

The 10 successful bids for £2.3m of the Extra Care Housing Fund, which has been earmarked for schemes supporting adults with a learning disability, will promote independent living and increase choice by providing people with their own homes, together with care and support that meets their individual needs.

Each of the winning bids provide clear evidence of innovation, partnership working, value for money, deliverability and good practice that would be transferable to other Local Authority partnerships.

For more information about the winning bids for the Extra Care Housing Fund and about the 'Valuing People' report visit www.valuingpeople.gov.uk and <http://www.changeagentteam.org.uk/index.cfm?pid=191>

Young Volunteers Asked to Make Renewal Contribution

Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds will be targeted under government plans to create a new £100m national community service scheme. It is hoped the initiative, which will aim to recruit one million 16-25 year olds over the next five years, will help young people become involved in regenerating their communities.

The scheme builds on proposals drawn up by the Russell Commission to attract more young people into volunteering through a co-ordinated programme.

The government has also announced new measures to encourage more teenagers to remain in education and training until they are at least 18 years old. A two-year £60m pilot scheme for jobless 16 and 17 year-olds not in education or training will offer an allowance for those who agree to return to formal learning. The government is also investing £20m in pilot areas to boost work-based training for 14-16 year olds.

Meanwhile, an £80m scheme will be trialled across eight areas offering 16 and 17 year olds who are in work but receive no training the chance to gain qualifications or take on apprenticeships, by providing financial incentives to employers.

www.odpm.gov.uk

£300m for Firms in Deprived Areas

Local authorities in deprived areas will battle for £100 million a year to boost enterprise in their communities.

Chancellor Gordon Brown launched the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI), a £300 million, three-year package to boost business in deprived areas, which starts in 2006/07.

Councils could use the money to fund a variety of initiatives, such as paying for specialist school workshops to ready students to work in niche industries, financing the remediation of brownfield land or improving business' access to loans offered by financial service providers which specialise in working in deprived areas.

Only the 88 most deprived local authorities in England will be allowed to bid for the cash.

Successful bidders will have to fit in with the regional economic strategies, and will have to prove to the Treasury that their schemes are likely to overcome barriers to enterprise such as poor access to finance and business support or a lack of enterprise skills.

The consultation document that accompanies the budget announcement says around 30 local authorities will win LEGI funding. Typical awards will be between £2 million and £10 million per council over five to ten years, assuming that funding for the scheme is later extended beyond the initial three years.

An additional £10 million will be shared amongst the 88 most deprived authorities this summer, to help them to prepare their bids.

The full report, 'Enterprise and Economic Opportunity in Deprived Areas: a Consultation on Proposals for a Local Enterprise Growth Initiative' is available to download on http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/budget_05/assoc_docs/bud_bud05_enterprise.cfm

Areas to set Local Health Priorities

The government has announced 21 health partnerships to test new ways to tackle health inequalities. The Communities for Health pilots will promote action across the voluntary sector, NHS, local authorities, business and industry on locally chosen priorities.

These will be in line with the aims of the public health white paper: reducing health inequalities, smoking and obesity, and promoting sexual health, mental health and sensible alcohol consumption.

The Department of Health has committed £1.2m to the pilots this year with the promise of more to come in the next financial year.

A public health delivery plan released in March 2005 highlighted a range of actions, including a network of health champions; pedometers to encourage school children to think about how far they walk; and the potential use of formal agreements on local priorities for health and wellbeing.

A copy of 'Delivering Choosing Health: Making Healthier Choices Easier' is available at www.dh.gov.uk.

Voluntary and Community Sector Helps Shape the Future of Local Government

Local and Regional Government Minister Nick Raynsford has offered to the voluntary and community sector the chance to help shape the future of local government. In support of the Governments 'Local:Vision' debate, Mr Raynsford called for the sector to use its position to drive forward decision making at a local level and help the effective delivery of services.

'Local:Vision' is the Government's debate on a ten year strategy for the future of local government, considering issues such as the community leadership role of local government and how involvement and participation in neighbourhoods can be increased. This approach recognises the effective engagement between local councils and the communities they serve is vital to the future of democracy and efficient delivery of services.

The call for contributions to the 'Local:Vision' debate reflects the discussion already underway in the voluntary and community sector facilitated by NCVO, NACVS and other national and local organisations, all of which seek to achieve better outcomes, tailored to the specific needs of local communities.

For more information on 'Local:Vision', visit http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_localgov/documents/divisionhomepage/029981.hcsp.

Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) Seeks Views on New Code to help Eliminate Discrimination in Housing

The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) called on housing specialists across Britain to take part in a consultation on its revised code of practice on racial equality in housing.

The three-month public consultation has been launched to gain feedback on the updated code which sets standards for achieving racial equality in housing and housing-related services.

The code replaces the two existing codes of practice in rented and non-rented housing, published at the beginning of the 1990s. Since then, there have been several important amendments to the Race Relations Act 1976 and significant changes made to housing and related legislation.

Along with providing an accurate reflection of current legislation, the code aims to give practical guidance to providers of housing and related services on how to meet their obligations under the Race Relations Act.

Three separate versions have been produced for England, Scotland and Wales. The draft code together with a feedback questionnaire can be downloaded at www.cre.gov.uk. For further information contact on 020 7939 0064 / 0106 / 0072.

The deadline for submissions is Monday 15 August 2005
<http://www.cre.gov.uk/Default.aspx.LoCID-OhgnewO6d.RefLoCID-Ohg00900c001001>

The Compact Code of Good Practice on Funding and Procurement is Launched

Published in March 2005, this welcome agreement between the government and the voluntary sector breaks new ground. Contracting and procurement is bought under the Compact Code for the first time and is consistent with Treasury rules on all aspects of funding.

The aims of the Code are not only getting relationships right, but also keeping them right. The Code covers the whole funding lifecycle - from the principles of a good funding relationship, programme design and application process, agreeing monitoring and reporting on the conclusion of a financial relationship.

The government undertakes to:

- Provide whenever possible an opportunity for the voluntary and community sector to contribute to programme design;
- Ask for information on application forms which is relevant to deciding who will receive funding or be awarded the contract;
- Implement longer term funding arrangements where these represent good value for money;
- Consider joining-up or standardising monitoring requirements;
- Give enough notice of the end of grants or contracts.

Using the Code, voluntary and community organisations and Government can reduce the cost of doing business together so that time and resources are focused on frontline delivery. The Compact and the Funding Code sets out a framework for public service delivery by government, together with voluntary and community organisations.

The full document can be downloaded from www.thecompact.org.uk. Hard copies are unavailable from NCVO and from the Active communities Unit at the Home Office.

<http://www.thecompact.org.uk/C2B/PressOffice/display.asp?ID=122&Type=1>

Urban Forum Manifesto Looks to Close Rhetoric Gap

Urban Forum has launched a manifesto calling for community involvement and development to be embedded in policy to ensure a consistent approach across government. It also said urban regeneration programmes would fail unless communities were given genuine ownership and the need to shape initiatives to local needs.

The Community Manifesto said national floor targets were undermining work on the ground and should be abolished in favour of locally set priorities.

Other proposals include making social regeneration a statutory function of regional development agencies, using regeneration funding to help develop capital endowments for needy neighbourhoods and establishing funding for community activities with both social and environmental goals.

'Community Manifesto' can be read at, www.urbanforum.org.uk/new/index.html.

A Bright Future for the Voluntary and Community Sector

Plans to enhance the role of voluntary and community organisations at the cornerstone of a healthy society and a partner in delivering world class public services have been set out by Home Secretary Charles Clarke, who paid tribute to the ability of the sector to meet community needs, tackle social exclusion and build cohesion.

The initiatives to help CVS reach their full potential are:
'Compact Plus' – a proposed new opt-in scheme which will shorten and simplify the commitments between Government and voluntary and community organisations to work together;

Capacity Builders – a new sector-led agency to manage the ChangeUp fund. A further £90 million investment over the years 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 for the Futurebuilders fund which will enable further development in the capacity of voluntary and community organisations to deliver public services; and
There has also been an investment of £4 million in the Capital Programme to provide 'incubator' space for embryonic community-based organisations and enterprises.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n_story.asp/item_id=1276

Further Government Support for Increasing Ethnic Minority Employment

The Government has welcomed the publication of the National Employment Panel report on increasing the employment and business growth of ethnic minority and faith groups.

Enterprising People, Enterprising Places makes 10 main recommendations to improve ethnic minority employment rates, including:

- Better targeting of resources to five cities, where two thirds of ethnic minorities live – London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leicester, Leeds and Birmingham.
- An integrated, employer-led employment and skills framework in each of the five cities;
- Outreach support focused on those ethnic minority people currently excluded from the labour market.

The Government will now work to develop proposals for implementing the report's main recommendations, building on existing progress of over £155,000 ethnic minority people helped into work through New Deals, Employment Zones and Action Teams as well as targeted interventions introduced by DWP.

Welcoming the report on behalf of the Government, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown said:

“The NEP’s report and its recommendations will help to increase ethnic minority employment, ensuring that valuable talent is not wasted and that all communities benefit from our economic progress.”

The review document can be found at www.nationalemploymentpanel.org.uk/http://www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2005/may/employment130505.asp

EOC Report Claims Vocational Education and Training System is Failing Girls from Lower Socio-economic Groups

Britain is failing to provide real opportunity and choice for young people entering training and work, in particular girls from lower socio-economic groups, according to a report published by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC).

The ‘Free to Choose’ report reveals that young people – particularly girls from lower socio-economic groups – are not being given the access to careers advice, work-experience placements and training opportunities that would give them true freedom to fulfil their ambitions and potential and gain higher pay. Instead, too many are being channelled into jobs traditional to their sex. By contrast, girls who have entered work through higher education have

broken into new, higher paid jobs in areas like medicine and law and now form more than half of entrants.

'Free to Choose' is the final report from the EOC's groundbreaking investigation into sex segregation in training and work.

The EOC has launched a new interactive website, www.works4me.org.uk to help young people find out more about the full range of career options.

Press copies of the 'Free to Choose' report and further information can be found at www.eoc.org.uk/segregation

Government Will Miss Child Poverty Targets

An analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) of the Department for Work and Pensions' low income households data published in April 2005, tells how the government will be hard pressed to achieve its annual child poverty reduction target following a smaller than expected fall in the numbers living in low income households last year. The study shows the numbers of children living in poor households fell last year by 100,000 to 3.5m once housing costs had been taken into account.

IFS researcher Jonathan Shaw said, "The government will have been disappointed by the latest child poverty figures, which do not show the big drop that we and they were expecting. To meet the government's short term target [child poverty] will now have to fall by 300,000 before housing costs in 2004/05. The former still looks likely to be achieved but the latter does not."

The study also found that the average incomes of the richest 20% of households dropped by 1%; that of the poorest fifth rose by a slightly larger level, contributing to the third annual fall in a row for income inequality.

'Poverty and Inequality Britain': 2005 can be found at, www.ifs.org.uk.

Ministers Blind to Ethnic Policy Impact

A lack of monitoring means ministers have little idea how benefits policies affect ethnic minority groups, MP's have warned.

A report by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) select committee has called for urgent action to be taken to ensure those living in deprived areas are not to be disadvantaged further by their ethnic background.

The 'cultural gap' between ethnic minority clients and DWP staff is such that better and more regular training is needed, it said.

MPs argued progress by the DWP on compiling data on its ethnic minority clients and monitoring the impact of its policies and services are far too slow.

They also called for DWP agencies to work more closely with community-based organisations to make services more relevant and sensitive.

'Delivery of Services to Ethnic Minority Clients' is available at, www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmworpen.htm.

New Roles

BBC Sport Chief Joins Culture Board

BBC Director of Sports Peter Salmon has been appointed to the board of the Liverpool Culture Company. In his current role Salmon is overseeing BBC plans to make Manchester the largest broadcasting city outside London. Salmon says, "The BBC along with the independent sector can be at the forefront of some dramatic and important changes. The Liverpool Capital of Culture Board can help spearhead them. I look forward very much to joining the team."

<http://www.southportreporter.com/180/southportreporter180-8.shtml>

LSC National Council Welcome Three New Members

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) have announced the appointment of three people to LSC's National Council, the LSC's governing body that works on behalf of business and the six million learners it funds.

The new people joining are:

Claire Ighodaro - until recently, the Finance Director, Broadband, BT Group.

Mary Marsh - Director and Chief Executive of the NSPCC.

John Taylor - Chief Executive of Sheffield College and Chair of the Sheffield First for Learning & Work Partnership.

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/National/Media/PressReleases/New_National_Council_Memebers.htm

Conferences & Events

Social Enterprise: Ask the Expert

Merseyside Expanding Horizons are holding a “question time” event for those interested in setting up a social enterprise. A panel of Social Enterprise practitioners and funding experts will take your questions about setting up, running a social enterprise, getting your organisation “enterprise ready” or any other aspect of social enterprise you want to ask about.

The event is to be held on 1 June 2005 at Blackburne House, Liverpool at 6:00pm – 8.00pm. The content of the evening will be completely led by your questions and will include refreshments.

This event is absolutely free to community and voluntary organisations, and social enterprises in Merseyside, but places are strictly limited so book you place ASAP.

For further information or to book a place onto this event, contact Maurice McCracken at MEH on 0151 330 0552 or email mauricemccracken@expandinghorizons.co.uk.

Merseyside “Getting Heard!”

Get Heard and the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (NAPSI) 2006

Completed your NAPSI Toolkit Workshop? Come Along To...

Merseyside “Getting Heard!” This event will:

- Review the “Get Heard!” toolkit process
- Feedback key issues emerging from the workshops which have taken place across Merseyside.
- Tell you what happens next!

This event will provide a great opportunity for you to have your say about what is most important and to see how your views compare with others on Merseyside.

The event is to be held at **Local Solutions, Hall Lane, Liverpool, 10am - 2pm** (free lunch at 1pm).

The event is free and volunteer expenses will also be made available. Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. For further details and to request a booking form please contact Merseyside Social Inclusion Observatory (MSIO) on telephone 0151 330 2025 or email: jennifer.cross@liverpool.ac.uk.

Year of the Volunteer Awards

The Year of the Volunteer is a year-long celebration of the amazing work of volunteers. A joint campaign between CSV, Volunteering England and the Home Office, the Year aims to give more people the opportunity to try volunteering, learn new skills and contribute to their communities.

The Year of the Volunteer Awards has been created to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution of Volunteers. Volunteers can be nominated in one of 5 categories and 2005 will be rewarded with a HM Mint Volunteer Medal.

Regional volunteer Awards ceremonies will take place in **October 2005** leading to a national Awards Ceremony, supported by Ministers and celebrities in **January 2006**.

Application forms are now available for the Year of the Volunteer Awards 2005. Visit www.yearofthevolunteer.org for nomination forms or telephone 020 7812 0034. You can also register your events on the Year of the Volunteer website.

<http://www.connexions.gov.uk/partnerships/index.cfm?CategoryID=2>

'Securing Community Prosperity' – Symposium

The Development Trust Association is holding a national symposium for national, regional and local government, policy makers, funders and practitioners. **This event is to take place on 14 July 2005 at Local Government House, Smith Square London.**

Across the country, a revitalisation of the community sector is underway. In the last two years government has acted on asset transfer, clawback and investment. Community-led enterprise, through development trusts and other community organisations, is growing fast, and achieving profound transformation where others have failed.

This symposium is an opportunity to examine recent developments and identify how, at national, regional and local levels, we can maintain momentum.

To request a booking form, please email f.watts@dta.org.uk. The event has limited availability so book early to avoid disappointment.

Centre for Economic & Social Inclusion (CESI)
Welfare to Work Convention

How can we achieve an 80% employment rate?

Are skills and advancement the keys to sustainable employment?

Does the Department for Work and Pensions five-year plan go far enough?

Is a diverse workforce achievable?

What should a reformed Incapacity Benefit look like?

This year's Welfare to Work Convention will be at the beginning of a new Government. It will be a key opportunity for the new Government to set out its vision for welfare, and the best opportunity for practitioners and policymakers to understand the agenda for the next five years.

The conference is to be held at Birmingham International Convention Centre on 20 June 2005 - 21 June 2005.

There are still fundamental questions to be answered and much more to do - the Convention is the annual debating point and forum for best practice.

With employment already at a record high, the present Government is now aspiring to an employment rate of 80%. The focus will be finding employment for those people and places that have high unemployment or economic inactivity. Reform of Incapacity Benefit is top of the agenda for all politicians, and changes to New Deal will inevitably come over the coming year. The Department for Work and Pensions' new five-year plan sets out the challenges for any new Government, especially for disabled people, lone parents, ethnic minorities and the unskilled.

With delegates including front-line practitioners, Jobcentre Plus, voluntary sector, Learning and Skills Council staff, Local Authorities and partnerships, academics, trade unionists and policy staff, the Convention is the ideal place to promote new ideas and influence policy.

With over 100 breakout sessions, the Convention provides the ideal opportunity for everyone concerned with welfare to work to catch up with best practice and policy. It is enthusiastic delegates with great ideas that make the Convention a success year after year.

To book a place on the convention, visit the event section on our website www.expandinghorizons.co.uk for further information and a copy of the booking form.