



Working together to strengthen London's voluntary and community sector

London Funders e-bulletin March 2009

Editorial

London Funders - news and activity

News from us

Change happens: the two-person team at our Secretariat office is 50% different this year. Yvonne Schwartz started as our new Membership and Communications Officer (a maternity locum post). Her email address is yvonne@londonfunders.org.uk and her direct line 020 7255 4488. She is quickly getting to know our members but if you have not yet had a chance to meet her, do ring and introduce yourself.

Participants agreed that our big event last month, *The recession: we're all in it together*, which we jointly ran with other partners, was a step in the right direction in getting funders thinking together about responses to tough times and creating an opportunity for funders and VCS to communicate well about their challenges and constructive solutions. See our [website](#) for more detail. The full report will be published in a week or so. By the end of March, London Funders will launch a website hub of information helpful to funders concerned to "recession-proof" their resources.

New look for e-bulletin

The structure of the e-bulletin's contents is almost unchanged and we hope that our categories such as member news and publications and resources continue to be useful for you. Feedback is always welcome. We have, inevitably, added a section called "recession-proofing" as a quick reference point to some key pieces of information - please take a look at it for a brief report on *The recession: we're all in it together*, and the government's Action Plan on helping the third sector cope with the downturn - and more.

What we have changed is the layout to better meet our readers' needs. This pdf document enables you to print the whole e-bulletin easily if you prefer to read it on paper. If your choice is the screen and a chance to skim and find what's useful for you, the bookmarks will let you see at a glance what is in each issue. For quick reference please also see the Contents list on the next page. Do take a moment to email yvonne@londonfunders.org.uk to tell us if this works for you.

Personalia

Our colleague, Belinda Birch, away on maternity leave for a year, had a baby boy, Adam, on 24 January. They are both doing fine.

Do read on for London Funders' March meetings.

With all best wishes from the London Funders Secretariat,

Gaynor Humphreys and Yvonne Schwartz

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What's going on in London Funders

Joint meeting and project groups

We have some interesting meetings coming up: members are encouraged to take a look at the project groups' plans below if they have not already signed up to specific groups. Please look, too, at a meeting that is a bit unusual - taking advantage of a flying visit to the UK by an experienced foundation director from California who has helped change the philanthropic landscape of celebrated Silicon Valley. Details below.

A conversation with Peter de Courcy Hero

In conjunction with Community Foundation Network



Monday, 23 March at London Funders

Central House, 14 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AE

9.15 am Coffee, tea, pastries and networking time

9.45 - 11.15 Presentation by Peter Hero and time for questions and discussion

Peter Hero was until recently the President and CEO of Community Foundation Silicon Valley where he helped set a style and standard for giving that changed hearts and minds in this economic hothouse in California which previously had a very limited philanthropic giving culture. The Foundation's assets grew from \$7 million in 1989 when he started to \$1.1 billion in 2007, with \$150+ million grantmaking.

He encouraged many people new to philanthropy to work with the community foundation in supporting voluntary and community organisations. Young entrepreneurs and leaders of Silicon Valley's major industries helped create the concept of engaged donors.

Peter has retired from the Foundation but is still active in teaching Strategic Philanthropy and Civil Society at Stanford University's Graduate Business School and working as a consultant in many parts of the world.

Peter will talk about recent trends in giving in his part of the world and share some of his experience in switching people on to becoming significant and strategic philanthropists. He will also share some thoughts on how American foundations are responding to the current economic crisis. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

This is a joint meeting with Community Foundation Network and it is free to members of London Funders. To book your place or to find out more please email Yvonne Schwartz at yvonne@londonfunders.org.uk as soon as possible or at latest by Thursday, 19 March.

Our project groups are open to all members and provide opportunities to explore topics in depth. Groups meet three or four times a year and members set the agenda and style of work. As well as particular topics planned for discussion at these meetings there is always time for group members to update each other and raise current issues for discussion.

Current groups and their next meetings:

* **Asylum, Refugee and Migration**

The group will be meeting in April, time and venue tbc.

* **Good Practice in Grantmaking: issues in efficiency and effectiveness in commissioning and grantmaking.**

Next meeting: 10 am - 12 noon, Friday, 13 March at London Funders. One of the topics will be follow up from *The recession: we're all in it together* (11 February) when there were many ideas and proposals about good practice in commissioning and grantmaking and how funders might take forward work on helping to “recession-proof” the voluntary and community sector

- * Olympics/Paralympics: meetings of this group have covered plans for the Games themselves, sports issues, regeneration, legacy and impact on London, especially the Olympic boroughs

Next meeting: 3 - 5 pm, Wednesday, 25 March, at City Parochial Foundation

- * Research and Evaluation

Next meeting: 2 - 4 pm, Monday, 9 March at London Funders when the group will pick up some detailed discussion of joint approaches to monitoring and evaluation of funded groups and the development of principles for proportionate monitoring. Mia Spreadbury, Office of the Third Sector, will share OTS plans for government sign-up to good practice principles in monitoring and evaluation.

- * Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Development

Next meeting: 2 - 4 pm, Monday, 1 June at London Funders

For more information, to be added to any of the groups' mailing lists or to book your place for one of these meetings, please contact yvonne@londonfunders.org.uk or on 020 7255 4488.

Welcome to new members

Newest recruits to London Funders' membership are Futurebuilders and Rosa. Links to their websites can be found on our [website](#).

Member news



Professor Gerald Manners, OBE

We note with sadness the news of the death on 16 February of Professor Gerald Manners. He was a trustee of City Parochial Foundation for over 25 years, and Chairman of the Foundation's Central Governing Body from 1996 to 2004. He was Emeritus Professor of Geography at University College London and his academic interests were in urban and regional development and later in energy-related issues, including fuel poverty. He served as Chairman of the Association of Charitable Foundations and in 2004 he was awarded an OBE for his services to CPF and ACF. All who worked with him know that he will be very much missed.

Awards for All: a change of format from 1 April 2009

Arts Council England, Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England

It will be helpful if other funders can help spread the word on this change to their contacts in smaller grant-seeking organisations. Small grants funding from the Lottery distributors is not ending but delivery will be very different.

Awards for All is currently funded jointly by Arts Council England, Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England. From 1 April 2009 each of the Lottery distributors supporting the scheme will have their own small grants programmes up and running as follows:

The Big Lottery Fund will run its own, new version of Awards for All - retaining that name - awarding grants of £300 to £10,000 to local communities for 2009-10. Not-for-profit and community groups, schools and health organisations, and parish and town councils can apply. The programme will retain its current broad eligibility with a simpler and speedier application process. It will cover a very wide variety of projects, but applicants must meet at least one of these four outcomes:

- People have better chances in life, with better access to training and development to improve their life skills
- Stronger communities, with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems
- Improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to enjoy
- Healthier and more active people and communities.

Projects with a specific art, sport or heritage outcome need to direct their applications to other funders' small grants programmes.

Arts Council England will be offering grants for the arts for individuals, arts organisations and other people who use the arts in their work. They are for activities carried out over a set period and which engage people in England in arts activities, and help artists and arts organisations in England carry out their work.

Grants to individuals normally range from £1,000 up to £30,000. Grants to organisations range from £1,000 up to £100,000. Both can cover activities lasting up to three years.

This programme is open now: www.artscouncil.org.uk or call 0845 300 6200 for further details.

Heritage Lottery Fund already runs two small grant schemes and these will continue

- Young Roots provides grants of between £3,000 and £25,000 and aims to involve 13-25 year-olds in finding out about their heritage, developing skills, building confidence and promoting community involvement.
- Your Heritage provides grants of between £3,000 and £50,000 to support projects that relate to the local, regional or national heritage of the UK, and that help people to learn about, look after, and take an active part in heritage.

For both the Young Roots Scheme and Your Heritage, HLF offers advice and help before applicants start the process and can offer mentoring if help is needed with delivering a project. For more information, www.hlf.org.uk or call 020 7591 6042

Sport England's small grants scheme will provide funding for activities that help more people to become involved in sport, sustain participation by ensuring people have a good quality sporting experience or help people to improve their performance in their chosen sport.

Grants of between £300 and £10,000 will be available for revenue and small capital projects. There will be a single-stage online application form, and advice and support for potential applicants. The whole process, from receipt of application to decision, will take no longer than six weeks. The scheme will be open from April to not-for-profit sports clubs, voluntary or community organisations as well as local authorities and education establishments. Information from www.sportengland.org or 08458 508508.

NB Applications under the current merged system have to be received before 31 March. Queries 0845 600 2040, or visit www.awardsforall.org.uk.

For all the future programmes, visit www.lotteryfunding.org.uk for more information about these programmes as and when it becomes available.

Capacitybuilders - funding for third sector recession proofing

Capacitybuilders has announced details of £1 million of investment to be distributed to local support organisations as an immediate response to the impact of the recession so funded groups can support front line organisations to build resilience, ensure the third sector is represented in local partnerships, respond to the recession and strengthen the skills of development workers and advisers in responding to the changing needs of the front line. To find out more click here: http://capacitybuilders.org.uk/detail/Capacitybuilders_confirm_details_of_immediate_1m_funding_package_for_third_sector_recession_proofing_measures/99/255.aspx

Capacitybuilders - research on support services

Capacitybuilders has commissioned a partnership between the newly established Third Sector Research Centre, BMG Research, GuideStar Data Services and Sustain Consultancy to undertake the largest evaluation ever of the impact of the government's investment in third sector support services.

The independent evaluation will assess what has happened to support services during central government's recent investment in them - starting with a look back at achievements from the first two phases of investment, April 2004 to March 2008. The focus will then shift to 'real-time' tracking of progress up to March 2011. The evaluation team will seek to quantify and track the impact of capacity building activity across the country and assess the effectiveness of the ChangeUp model.

The project will explore what has happened to support services and measure the extent of the impact this has had on frontline organisations, to inform the case for future investment. A summary report will be published by the Third Sector Research Centre soon and will provide interim findings about the progress made during the first two phases of investment.

Capital Community Foundation

A donation of £2 million has kick-started the Lambeth Community Fund within the Foundation. The money comes from Lambeth Council, through the transfer of an ancient charitable trust. Its income will be available to support local Lambeth projects and services. Katharine Barber, Director of CCF, who has been working with several boroughs to create community funds also says, "The goal is to encourage a range of donors to contribute to each borough Fund to increase its impact. Individuals and companies making gifts to the Fund are eligible for a 100% match from the Government as part of the Grassroots Endowment Challenge".

The Diana Fund - Insider Knowledge

The last (for the time being) in a series of talks organised by the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, aimed at sharing learning with foundations and other interested parties on how to bring about social change, is to be given by HelpAge International on its poverty reduction and reconciliation work with older people in Rwanda, which was supported by the Fund from 2000-03. Their work included a sustainable, revolving loan scheme, giving loans to 100 groups; training in micro-credit and shop management; and lobbying and advocacy, all aiming to achieve better collaboration with groups of older people. This is the last talk in the series, but a new series will start soon.

8 April 2009, 11.30 am - 12.30 pm followed by a light lunch. Places at the talk are limited: contact Emily Wilson to reserve a place: emily.wilson@memfund.org.uk or 020 7902 5512.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

The Commission is hosting the inaugural Muslim Women Power List on 24 March 2009 at The Lowry in Manchester. The list commends the achievements of Muslim women in business, the arts and the voluntary and community sector.

For more information and to put forward a nomination, click [here](#) or email info@thelist2009.com.

Football Foundation

Congratulations to the Foundation on winning the 2008 Third Sector Excellence Award for Best Annual Report "for the annual report that best communicates the organisation's mission, operations and achievements". Foundation Chief Executive Paul Thorogood accepted the award from Paul Ross, saying: "Foundation staff work very hard to ensure that we fund projects of an exceptional quality that make a real difference to people in communities across the country".

Click www.footballfoundation.org.uk/media-centre/annual-review to read the award winning report.

Futurebuilders

Two new funds are headlined as a response to the recession.

The Modernisation Fund is part of the Government's action plan for the third sector (see page 9 for more detail of the plan). The Fund aims to improve organisations' strength and resilience and is a mix of interest free loans and grants for larger third sector organisations (a turnover of £750,000 and over), for mergers, to help with and related to the financial and capacity issues. The Fund will open in early April 2009. For more detail visit their [website](#).

Another new development is the [Small Organisation Tender Fund](#) offering grants to small third sector organisations (turnover under £250,000) to help with tendering for specific public sector contracts. Grants can be up to 10% of the contract in view, with a maximum investment of £15,000. There is a limited pot of £220,000 for this Fund. Grants can be used for legal costs, advice from procurement specialists, financial expertise, bidding staff costs or backfill and related items. To begin the application process an organisation can [submit an enquiry](#), call the enquiry line on 0191 261 5200 or email info@futurebuilders-england.org.uk

Heritage Lottery Fund

One of the Fund's streams of grantmaking is Parks for People, which aims to regenerate existing public parks (parks, gardens, squares, walks and promenades) of national, regional or local heritage value for the enjoyment and recreation of local people. Funding will be available for local authorities or other not-for-profit organisations that own or manage a public park. Grants can range between £250,000 and £5,000,000 and need additional resources from the applicant and other partners. Costs can be for capital and revenue. For information and application material, go to the [HLF website](#). The next application round has a deadline of 31 August.

London Office, Heritage Lottery Fund, 7 Holbein Place, London SW1W 8NR. 020 7591 6000 or enquire@hlf.org.uk

London Councils - Capital Ambition

London's improvement and efficiency partnership Capital Ambition has launched a new website to bring together information from Capital Ambition's predecessor bodies: London Connects, the London Centre of Excellence, and the Improvement and Employment networks of London Councils. For more information visit www.capitalambition.gov.uk.

London Councils - continues the fight on London's population statistics

London Councils has renewed its campaign to challenge centralised statistics on London. A 2007 change to the way the Office for National Statistics (ONS) calculates population led to London's population projection being cut by over 100,000 - in contradiction to London boroughs' estimates of their own local population. Because population data play a key role in determining council funding, this revision saw some £130 million being cut from London's public services allocation.

While the ONS has now recognised that its population data are not fit for purpose, it does not plan to address the change in methodology which led to London's loss of funding. In September 2008, the government responded to a Treasury Select Committee report on population statistics to accept that the ONS population estimates were flawed. It committed itself to work with local government to improve migration and population statistics, but there are as yet no plans to address the change to the methodology that led to the loss of funding the capital.

For more information please see London Councils [website](#) or contact the press office on 020 7934 9842 or email pressoffice@londoncouncils.gov.uk.

New Philanthropy Capital

Members of London Funders are invited to a conference on 19 May, **Valuing impact: building an association of nonprofit analysts**, organised by New Philanthropy Capital (NPC) and the Bertelsmann Foundation. Fuller details in this e-bulletin under Events.

Recession-proofing - funders' resources and the voluntary and community sector



The recession: we're all in it together

All kinds of funders and a broad cross-section of the voluntary and community sector concerned with London took part in this event on 11 February 2009 organised by London Funders, London Regional ChangeUp Consortium, London Voluntary Service Council and The Young Foundation. The question that brought them together was: "Can we develop shared strategies and practices for these tough economic times?" Messages about the economy and the impact on the VCS and on communities were stark and worrying but participants agreed that by working together and planning for a changed future, there is plenty that can be done which at least limits damage and may in the long run protect the sector against future shocks.

The Young Foundation is preparing a report of the day for wide circulation: it will be ready in a couple of weeks' time. Meanwhile, on London Funders' website you can find a [two-page summary](#) of the day, including some of the recommendations for further action, and some of the speeches and presentations.

What next for London Funders?

Our members made many suggestions on 11 February about the help and support they need to survive the downturn and continue to fund the VCS in the best possible way. London Funders has just had news of a small grant to help us with this, firstly by creating a section on our website where we can share ideas, strategies, technical information and any other material that will help with this process.

We will be in touch with members about this but in the meantime we welcome any suggestions about content for this website - either your information, strategies, policies and publications to be shared with others struggling with how to stretch resources or just your wish-list - both really helpful at this stage! yvonne@londonfunders.org.uk

"Real Help Now"

At the recession conference on 11 February, the speech by Kevin Brennan, MP, Minister for the Third Sector, was substantially about the government's action plan to support voluntary and community organisations "right now". That report was published just a day or so before our meeting as [*Real Help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises*](#)

The plan emerged from a promise made at the "summit" between the Minister and the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) and representatives of key VCS networks and organisations, followed by consultation on modernisation of the third sector, building social capital, tackling worklessness and encouraging volunteering, protecting sector income, meeting demand for services in disadvantaged communities, improvements in the quality of contracting and commissioning, and promoting social enterprise.

Stated principles say implementation will:

- Help achieve economic growth, equality and social mobility
- Deliver real help now and in the future for individuals, families and communities
- Ensure as many resources as possible are directed into frontline services

- Encourage third sector organisations to work together to provide help now and in the future
- Provide a rapid response to current and emerging needs

On that basis, the Plan offers specific programmes of investment:

- 1 A £15.5 million Community Resilience Fund which will be used for:
 - a grants programme for small/medium service providers in local authority areas considered most at risk of increasing deprivation as a result of the recession. Priority to organisations offering services that relate to needs resulting from the recession (eg debt advice, family breakdown services, skills development). Grants available from April 2009.
 - stronger commissioner engagement with small/medium providers in these local areas. This is an extension of OTS's existing National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning, running from June 2009.
- 2 Investment of up to £10 million in a volunteering initiative for 40,000 jobseekers to gain access to work-focussed volunteering opportunities, from April 2009, without their benefits being affected.
- 3 A £16.5 million modernisation fund for grants or loans for specialist services to selected voluntary organisations to restructure and become more resilient and efficient in the recession - through mergers or collaboration. A detailed process is set out in the report. Diagnostic support available from April 2009, funding from the summer.
- 4 £500,000 goes to the School for Social Entrepreneurs to double the number of social entrepreneurs supported.

At the 11 February event there was some controversy about whether these pledges are of new money as the Minister suggested. The answer is mixed: a high proportion is being taken from existing Whitehall spending programmes, some already announced. Some, however, is from "budget re-prioritisation" in the OTS, the Department of Health and Cabinet Office efficiency savings, ie new to the sector.

Inevitably the sector had been asking for more help but even so most responses so far have welcomed the nature of the support being offered. There will be great emphasis from government and the VCS on efficiency and effectiveness in its delivery and use.

See [Capacitybuilders](#) and [Futurebuilders](#) in member news for more detail of some of these funds.

Update from "The Big Squeeze" campaign



London Voluntary Service Council is running a campaign to ensure that there is a solid level of understanding of how the recession is affecting voluntary and community organisations in London at every level - frontline and second tier, local, borough-wide, regional, etc.

All voluntary and community organisations are encouraged to complete a short survey (on LVSC's website) and are then promised regular updates on results.

Here are the latest statistics

- Is the recession affecting the communities you work with? **Yes - 95%**
- Has your workload increased as a direct result of the recession? **Yes - 70%**
- Are you confident that you will be able to meet any increases in demand for your services now and in the future? **No - 85%**
- Is your organisation already taking action to help you and your services survive a recession? **Yes - 78%**

The website contains many up-to-date short reports of the pressures experienced by voluntary organisations, eg

London Play feel that as the cost of living rises and more people find themselves out of work, there will be less money available in families for children's entertainment, holidays etc. Therefore access to free play opportunities and spaces in the capital is becoming more important than ever. It is harder to raise funds for play, and existing funding does not keep up with rising costs. London Play are continuing to look for possible savings and may have to make redundancies. They are putting more resources into fundraising but this has an impact on some of the services they aim to deliver.

Harrow Carers say that carers are finding it more difficult to keep their jobs and to afford the essentials they need on the benefits they receive. They say there has been around 10-15% increase in people contacting them to ask for advice and emotional support, both about the general depression that a downturn causes and practical difficulties with finances, banks etc. They feel that pressure on local authority and PCT budgets due to economic pressures means that they are clawing back money from the VCS.

Ealing CVS have experienced an increase in volunteer enquiries as a result of redundancies. They are looking at income generation and to see where they may be able to make savings. They feel that there is a good opportunity to promote volunteering when people have time on their hands and want to keep their skills up to date.

Croydon Neighbourhood Care Association says older people are becoming more worried about the future of council-run day centres and Meals on Wheels as well as increases in heating bills. They are putting together a new funding and services strategy and looking at the possibility of negotiations with their local council to deal with the funding shortfall they expect to experience.

For further information visit LVSC's [website](#).

Arts Council event

Maximising the importance of arts and culture throughout the economic downturn

Friday 24 April 2009

Royal Commonwealth Society, London

Contributors include: Dame Liz Forgan, Chair, Arts Council England; Sir John Tusa, Chair, University of the Arts; Cllr Warren Bradley, Leader, Liverpool City Council.

Issues covered:

How do we continue to achieve world class arts and culture throughout the downturn?

How do we ensure culture and arts are seen as essential in a recession?

How do we sustain a mixed economy of private and public funding?

How can culture and arts help revive the economy and underpin regeneration?

This seminar is being supported by Arts Council England and the attendance fee is £100. To see the full programme, speaker biographies, venue information and booking details click [here](#) or contact Louise Rushworth on 01422 845004 or email louise@cppseminars.org.uk

Futurebuilders' offer of training to the third sector

Weathering the recession: a workshop to advise finance directors on how better to manage in the recession. Free event on 25 March, as an introduction to a series of events. This workshop covers cash management and forecasting, business planning, evaluation, guidance on how to manage in a downturn and a chance to sign up for a one-to-one session with a financial consultant. To register online click [here](#).

External news



Policy

Cohesion Guidance for funders withdrawn

Just before Christmas, Communities and Local Government published a summary of responses to the consultation exercise on Cohesion Guidance for Funders. It can be found at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/cohesionguidancesummary> (it is only available in this format).

The Guidance had aimed to steer funders towards work that specifically aimed to achieve cohesion through involving multiple ethnic or religious groups and thus was also being interpreted as steering funders away from supporting single groups. The period of consultation was marked by much controversy and a high level of responses to the consultation argued the continuing importance of single group funding to build equality, trust, confidence and skills without which progress towards cohesion can be blocked.

The summary of responses has a Foreword by the Secretary of State for Communities, Hazel Blears, which explains that CLG will not be issuing Cohesion Guidance for Funders, instead recommending that local funders, who are experts on the communities they serve, use a measured approach to single group funding requests, recognising the value of this type of funding for capacity building. The publication at the same time acknowledges the need to promote cohesion by encouraging 'bridging activity' and ensuring that funding decisions are adequately communicated to local people.

The withdrawal of the draft Guidance has been widely welcomed as allowing locally knowledgeable funders to make locally appropriate decisions.

For some background on this debate, see the [report](#) of London Funders meeting on Equalities in London: what next for funders?

Funding Commission

NCVO has invited eleven people to form a Funding Commission to look at future funding of the voluntary and community sector. They started work in February and are due to report back in a year. They have started a first round of consultation with the sector, running until 13 May. A key purpose is to help the voluntary and community sector move towards a more securely funded longer-term future.

The Chair is Rachel Lomax, former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England (2003-08). NCVO's website lists the other commissioners. An [online questionnaire](#) solicits the views of funded organisations as part of their consultation exercise - seeking views on the themes that it should consider and any big ideas on how to secure a sustainable future for the VCS.

There is also a [background paper](#) by David Carrington.

Contact the Commission: c/o Louisa Darian, NCVO, Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London N1 9RL, Louisa Darian, louisa.darian@ncvo-vol.org.uk or telephone: 020 7520 2475.

Measuring Social Value

The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) has awarded a contract for the Measuring Social Value project to a consortium led by the SROI Network, with New Philanthropy Capital, New Economics Foundation, Charities Evaluation Services and the National Council of Voluntary Organisations as members.

Social Return on Investment is an impact measurement tool used to place a financial worth on the social value that an organisation creates through its activities, outputs and outcomes. The OTS project will be taken forward over 2008-11 and will build on current work around impact measurement. It aims to:

- standardise the approach to using SROI
- increase the accessibility of SROI for social investors and third sector organisations
- develop a network of practitioners who will raise awareness of SROI and social reporting
- increase the evidence base of the impact of the third sector
- enable social enterprises and other third sector organisations to prove the social value they create, and
- support social investors and commissioners of public services to make more intelligent investment or purchasing decisions

The project also aims to encourage wider use of SROI, through making it more accessible and more cost effective for organisations and more attractive to investors, funders and commissioners.

Funding

More matched funding and more eligible groups for Grassroots Grants

Ten funders in London are making grants through the Grassroots Grants programme and in all the boroughs there is work going on to build a long-term endowed fund for future grantmaking once the first three-year grants programme is over. There is some welcome news from the Office of the Third Sector about detailed changes to criteria

Firstly, on the fund development side, all donations can be matched pound for pound (whereas up to now the match was 50 pence per donated pound). The overall figure being offered for England by government is £50 million, so between them the local delivery bodies will have at least £100 million in assets for small grantmaking in the long term. Donors who are also taxpayers will see Gift Aid reclaims added to their donation as well, giving very good gearing to their contributions.

On the grants side, the aim of the fund is to get small grants (£250 to £5,000) to the smallest local groups. The maximum annual income for eligible groups was £20,000 but has now been raised to £30,000, a figure generally seen as a more appropriate threshold for London-based groups. This is an opportunity other funders may be pleased to publicise to the voluntary and community sector. Full details including local contacts for grant applications can be found on Community Development Foundation's website.

Home Office Community Fund

In December 2008, the Home Secretary outlined a new £4.5 million fund for local community groups to run activities for young people in 13 priority areas, including the Metropolitan Police area. This will fund intensive work with young people through mentoring and outreach work. Organisations can apply for grant funding of up to £10,000 per annum for three years for work with under 25s.

Applications are invited from registered charities, social enterprises, unincorporated associations, community groups and companies limited by guarantee (with charitable aims) located in the Tackling Knives Action Programme police force areas. The deadline for submission of applications is 3 April 2009.

For further information and to download applications forms: see their [website](#)

Gypsies and travellers - money to improve registered sites

A new source of funding from the Homes and Communities Agency, The Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant provides funding for local authorities and registered social landlords to create new sites and refurbish existing sites, to increase the number and quality of authorised sites throughout England with a total of £97 million available from 2008-11. Local authorities, ALMOs, and RSLs can apply for allocations from the £32 million available. The closing date for bids is 30 June 2009. The [guidance document](#) gives full information on how to apply. The contact for London is Nick Taylor, nick.taylor@hcs.gsx.gov.uk.

Charity very close to home

News of a brand new benevolent fund. Industry benevolent funds may seem to occupy the old-fashioned end of charity but those involved know what a lifeline their grants and services can be for individuals and families in difficult or desperate circumstances. This very new initiative is aiming to fill a rather unexpected gap, looking after the interests of people who have been employed by charities in England and Wales and their close family. Following a survey by NCVO it was recognised how useful this would be since salaries in the sector have always been on average less than counterparts in other sectors and charities generally do not offer much in the way of staff benefits.

A number of leading national charities and corporates have already come together to start to fund the new body, including exploring the idea of a payroll deduction scheme and the Chairman, David Prescott (formerly of BEN) would be happy to provide more information to anyone interested.

Charity Employees Benevolent Fund, www.cebf.org.uk, info@cebf.org.uk

Services

If anyone is replacing old computers

Computer Aid International, based in London, can put unwanted PCs, laptops and monitors to good use by professionally refurbishing them for use in educational institutions and not-for-profit organisations in developing countries.

Computer Aid offers a removal and professional decommissioning service to UK organisations which donate equipment, refurbishing each PC to a standard that will allow at least three further years of use in a developing country. All donated equipment is data-wiped to a military standard using Blancco data removal software.

If anyone has equipment to dispose of contact anja@computeraid.org or essie@computeraid.org for further information, visit their website on www.computeraid.org or call on 020 8361 5540.

What price quality?

For advance notice of a seminar on 13 May for funders on some of the controversies in quality standards for advice services in London, see the *Publications and Resources* section of this e-bulletin.

Training internships in the third sector

Charity Works is run by a consortium of national charities interesting in strengthening the leadership capacity of the third sector. A particular concern is how the sector can do better at attracting and retaining high calibre graduates. Their first project is a shared graduate training and development programme built around internships that rotate around the partner agencies (eg Children's Society, Terrence Higgins Trust). The pilot is due to start in September and work is going on to ensure it is accredited by an external academic partner.

For more information on Charity Works' purpose, structure (a social enterprise model, perhaps based partly on franchising) and the funding model they are developing, as well as the pilot training programme, see their website.

Charity Awards 2009 open for entries

These Awards recognise excellence in the leadership and management of charities. Nominations are invited under ten broad areas of charitable activity, including grantmaking. See the [website](#) for more information and to download an entry form. The closing date for entries is Monday 9 March 2009.

Research and consultations



Point of No Return research project into executive relationships that have broken down
Consultant James Barrett is working on research on the experience of people in executive roles who feel they were forced out of their organisations by processes that bypassed the usual disciplinary or competency procedures. Examples would be where someone has been totally marginalised, been pressured to sign a contract of separation, or jumped before they were pushed. He is interested in making contact with people who held executive roles in any sector in Britain who “left their jobs under a huge cloud”. This is a genuine effort to capture learning in order to support people going through the experience and help organisations avoid getting into such situations. James guarantees confidentiality and anonymity (and does not need to know the name of any organisation involved). If you know of anyone who might be interested to help with this project, please look at the flyer and forward it to them. If anyone is interested in the other side of such issues - the organisational perspective - there is an additional flyer and contacts are also sought from this side.

Ending Child Poverty

At the end of January a government consultation started as preparation for the introduction of a child poverty Bill in Parliament in 2009. The closing date for responses is 11 March 2009. Details of the consultation can be found at [Ending Child Poverty: Making it happen - Consultation](#)

The Government's ambitious pledge in 1999 to end child poverty by 2020 has achieved a lot outside London but we are all aware of the intractability of child poverty in the capital, as well as the worsening situation generally as the recession bites. Legislation is intended to require the Government to be accountable to Parliament on progress to end child poverty and to provide a framework to strengthen approaches locally to accelerate progress.

Publications and resources



London Refugee Voice

Strengthening the Voice of Refugee Community Organisations within London's Second-tier Voluntary Sector: Barriers and Opportunities by Neil Amas and Jonathan Price, Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees, City University, London

This report was commissioned by London Refugee Voice (LRV), a pan-London consortium of over 170 RCOs, to examine the barriers which obstruct and the opportunities which enable the representation and presence of refugees and asylum seekers in London.

To download the publication click [here](#).

Radical report

AdviceUK's report *It's the System Stupid! Radically Rethinking Advice*, funded by the Baring Foundation, shows the perverse effects of some legal advice reform and the way public services operate. The report's key findings are:

- Advice agencies struggle to cope with demand yet a very high proportion of decisions (eg involving Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs and Housing Benefit Offices) are overturned on procedural grounds.
- Advice services are hampered by contractual restrictions. For example, Legal Aid reforms have led advice organisations to restrict what they can do for clients in order to meet targets.

One of the main recommendations from the report is to reconsider top-down initiatives such as Legal Aid reforms and plans for jointly commissioned "super-centres".

For more information and to download the report please visit their [website](#).

Central government news wrapped up

The government has launched a new portal www.info4local.gov.uk for quick and easy access to information, eg news, consultations, policy documents, guidance, events etc., from more than 65 government departments and agencies.

For more information and to register for free emails visit www.info4local.gov.uk.

The UK Civil Society Almanac 2009

This updated edition of annual reference material has just been published by NCVO, with the most recent available information on the status and funding of charities, eg that the sector in 2006-07:

- had an income of £33.2 billion (£17 billion being earned income - 51% of the total - and £13.6 voluntary income)
- derived 36% (£12 billion) of its income from statutory sources, including £586 million from the National Lottery
- had operating expenditure of £31.2 billion
- had total assets of £91.3 billion
- employed 634,000 people, with 37% working part-time.

Among much interesting detail, the Almanac reports that three quarters of the UK's 171,000 charities receive no funding from the government. There is a statement that, "A number of indicators suggest that the sector approached the downturn in a stronger position than previous recessions". An

assumed contributor to this was an increase in individual donations, with an estimate of 56% of adults giving to charity each month in 2007-08 and average donation of £33 per donor (while the median gift by donors each month was £11).

For the first time, this edition includes a broader definition of civil society, beyond the more traditional concept of the voluntary and community sector: it covers universities, co-operatives, housing associations, independent schools, industrial and provident societies, faith groups, sports clubs and many more. The Almanac found that:

- there are 870,000 civil society organisations (including charities)
- these organisations have a combined income of £116 billion, and a workforce of over 1.3 million people.

The Almanac costs £30 to NCVO members and £125 to non-members, and can be ordered from the [NCVO website](#).

Backing Communities: local solutions

The Local Government Association and NCVO have jointly published *Backing Communities: local solutions*, to highlight some of the positive ways in which local authorities are working with voluntary and community organisations in response to the recession. The publication can be downloaded free from NCVO's website.

Partnership in public services

Two documents about partnerships were published by the Office of the Third Sector in December.

1. Public Services Action Plan: Two Years On

A progress update on the Public Services Action Plan published in 2006, illustrating the Government's achievements, including:

- Impact on the commissioning landscape from their support and encouragement of public sector commissioners to work more closely with the sector
- Establishment of the Innovation Exchange which encourages innovators across the third sector, and works to make this innovation sustainable

[Partnership in public services action plan: two years on](#)

2. Working in a Consortium guidance

One of the commitments in the Action Plan was to explore the Government's approach to consortia and their effect on third sector involvement in public services, and to develop models for establishing effective consortia. This new guidance provides advice and information for smaller organisations which may wish to work together in order to bid for public service contracts.

[Working in a consortium](#)

Big Lottery Fund

An evaluation summary of the People's Millions programme is available to download from the Fund's website (www.biglotteryfund.org.uk). The programme gives ITV audiences a say in how Lottery money is spent by providing an opportunity to vote for local projects which could win a grant from the Big Lottery Fund. London winners from the 2008 programme included a mobile farm project, to introduce farming skills and animals to schools in London, Caribbean steel pan classes for disadvantaged young people and the transformation of a school playground into a Woodland Oasis.

Tackling environmental responsibility

The Charity Commission has published findings from research into the ways in which charities are fulfilling environmental responsibility. "Going Green: Charities and Environmental Responsibility" shows how 21 charities interested in environmental sustainability (many of them not specifically environmental charities) are tackling the challenge, from basic steps to fundamental changes in their

delivery of services, and contains ideas that may be adapted and adopted. Click here to see the [report](#).

Commissioning: Possible

Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation has published this report to give an insight into the experiences of public sector commissioning among third sector organisations, based on detailed research with 20 organisations working in the field of health care. Their findings include that there is a tension between legal requirements to put contracts out to tender and the desire to maintain working relationships that have proved successful. Access [*Commissioning: Possible*](#) through the GMCVO [website](#).

Publications from even farther afield

We have gathered up several US publications this time which may be of interest to London-based funders. We strongly recommend a regular look at GrantCraft's website, which always has new and excellent publications of interest to grantmakers - www.grantcraft.org The legal framework of the grantmaking they explore is different from ours but the principles and examples always provide food for thought.

Their most recent publication may smack of the fashion to create a link with the new President but is nonetheless a very thorough review of issues for grantmakers in supporting different forms of community work and community development, including some exploration of ways to assess the impact of such work not only in hard outcomes like changes in crime rates or access to health care but in harder to measure ones such as community leadership and confidence. Their publications can be bought on-line but most can also be downloaded - including this one: [*Funding Community Organizing: Social Change through Civic Participation*](#)

Finding a way to measure "social value": [*Measuring and/or Estimating Social Value Creation: Insights into Eight Integrated Cost Approaches*](#) published December 2008. Prepared by Melinda T Tuan for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Responding to the impetus to apply "business principles" and "investment analyses" to decisions about funding the voluntary sector, this major US foundation commissioned a report to explore the validity and usefulness of different approaches to integrating cost in measuring and estimating social value creation. These include two classic methodologies (cost-effectiveness analysis and cost-benefit analysis) and six promising approaches that have been developed by philanthropic and nonprofit organisations in the last decade.

On the Foundation's website there is an accompanying cover letter from the Foundation's Chief Financial Officer, and its Director of Impact Planning and Improvement for the foundation, describing how social value calculations inform the foundation's approach and thinking. Appendices detail the approaches and there is a very helpful glossary of terms!

Two further US publications:

Community Foundations and Social Enterprise

Communities on the Move: Community Philanthropy, Immigrants and Giving

Another source of interesting material, a project called The Future of Community Philanthropy, has been developed specifically for community foundations and other forms of community-based philanthropy but their publications always have a broader interest. The latest Future Matters report, *Community Foundations and Social Enterprise*, looks at the many ways US community foundations are supporting social enterprise development in their communities.

Communities on the Move: Community Philanthropy, Immigrants and Giving, looks at varied examples of community foundations working with immigrant communities.

Visit www.communityphilanthropy.org and click on updates to find these reports.

Outsourcing, yes. Insourcing, however....?

Amidst all the debate about good commissioning of services from the voluntary sector, comes this perhaps controversial contribution to discussion, arguing that some public services outsourced to charities or the private sector could be improved if they were brought back under local authority control. *Insourcing: A Guide To Bringing Local Authority Services Back In-house*, is published by the Association for Public Service Excellence at £20 for members and £40 for non-members and can be ordered through the website www.apse.org.uk.

The report, based on case studies of about 55 local authorities, suggest the benefits to councils of bringing services back under their control include improved cost-efficiency, better-performing and higher-quality services, as well as enhanced community wellbeing.

Recruitment



London Civic Forum

Community Development Work - Learning and Qualifications Pilot

London Civic Forum is inviting applicants for a position to deliver a Learning and Qualifications Pilot for community development work, from both consultants and those interested in a short term contract. This pilot aims to improve the take up of existing learning and qualification programmes and to develop new opportunities for community development workers.

Click [here](#) for project brief, an application form, equalities statement and equal opportunities form.

Deadline for applications, Monday 16 March 2009; interviews in the week of 23rd March; the post-holder to start at the beginning of April 2009.

For more information: Hannah Peaker, hannah@londoncivicforum.org.uk or 020 8709 9775

External events and training



Exhibition on London Health Commission 2008 Awards

Photographs, film and art from the Award winners are on display until 9 March in the public area of City Hall's lower ground floor.

Risk Management

NCVO

Thursday, 12 March 2009, 09.45 - 16.30

NCVO Conference Suite, London N1

How voluntary organisations can manage risk more effectively. Presentations, an interactive workshop and practical examples in the form of case studies. A key element will be to explore a new approach to risk - the concept of uncertainty. Speakers: Richard Piper, Head of Strategy and Impact, NCVO; Peter Mitchell, CEO, CAF Bank; Mark Freeman, CEO, Charity Business; Nick Rudnai, CaSE Insurance and Bernard Milford-Cottam, Underwriting Manager, Brit Insurance; Phillip Anthony, CEO, Co-Operative Systems.

Cost: from £70 - £150

[Book online](#) or contact Lauren Baker on 020 7520 2597 or Lauren.baker@ncvo-vol.org.uk

At the Heart

Children England

Thursday, 19 March 2009, 09.30 - 16.00

Abbey Centre, 34 Gray Smith Street, Westminster, SW1P 3BU

A national conference to promote small organisations' contribution to building communities fit for children. Intended for small organisations to share and learn from examples of best practice; local

and national commissioners to increase their understanding of the contribution small organisations can make to delivering local priorities; and regional and central government policymakers and influencers for greater appreciation of how a thriving small third sector can help improve outcomes for local children and young people.

Registration is free. For a registration form and more detail contact Jodie Hopkins at jodie@childrenengland.org.uk

Stepping it up: marketing, branding and selling social enterprise

Tuesday, 24 March 2009, 13.30 - 18.30

Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington Green, London N1 0QH

A panel of some of the most successful and innovative marketers and social entrepreneurs in the country will share their expertise and experience, through a programme of interactive workshops, plenary and panel sessions and networking.

The event is aimed at social enterprises, business support agencies, PR, marketing, branding and design agencies - and the focus is on providing with information and advice of real commercial value.

Attendance is free. For more information www.sel.org.uk/stepping_it_up.html

There will also be a social enterprise market place: queries on hiring exhibition space (at a cost of £50) to events@sel.org.uk or 020 7022 1920.

The power of networking with Network 2012

Social Enterprise London

Wednesday, 25 March 2009 18.00 - 20.00

House of St Barnabas, 1 Greek Street, Soho Square, London W1D 4NQ

In a time of recession and scarce resources this seminar will look at how to make the best use of staff time and budgets. One way to create new business opportunities and to find new contacts is through networking. Martin Murphy from Network 2012 will lead the networking and share his experience of running Network 2012

To book a place email nicola@sel.org.uk

Trustee Exchange Conference 2009

Organised by governance magazine

26 March 2009

Radisson SAS Portman Hotel, London W1

This conference aims to bring together trustees and senior staff interested in effective governance of their charities and provide an opportunity for trustees from a variety of organisations to network face-to-face. Among the sessions will be workshops by Julia Unwin on lessons she has learned as chief executive, trustee, non-executive director and chair in the private, public and third sectors; and Sir Roger Singleton on "Dealing with board disharmony and other sensitive issues".

£228 - £516, depending on type of organisation

For information and a booking form, www.plazapublishing.co.uk/home/catlimg.php?pg=3&cat=56 (promo code EM2)

Let's make it a life worth living - human rights and learning disabilities

Joint conference organised by The British Institute of Learning Disabilities and the British Institute of Human Rights

27 March 2009

Oxford Hotel, Oxford

Intended to provide practical ways to illustrate how human rights principles and standards can be used to secure a better quality of life for people with learning disabilities. It will also link legislation to best practice, demonstrating how human rights can be used to obtain better support, services and decision-making for people with learning disabilities and their families and carers.

Cost: from £57.50 - £212 depending on type and size of organisation

For further details and to book: www.bild.org.uk

Shaping PCT provider services - the future of primary and community services

Organised by The King's Fund

31 March 2009 09.30 - 16.15

Venue: The King's Fund, W1

This conference will explore the strategic challenges facing community health services and share the latest thinking on system reform. Keynote speaker: Bob Ricketts, Director of System Management and New Enterprise, Department of Health. Chair: Dr Anna Dixon, Director of Policy, The King's Fund

Public sector: £322.00; voluntary sector: £258.75

To download programme and booking form and for further information about the event visit their website www.kingsfund.org.uk.

What price quality? Seminar on quality standards for advice services in London

An invitation to London Funders members from Advice UK

13 May 2009, 14.00 - 17.00

Central London venue tbc

Advice UK is offering a seminar for London local authority and other public sector staff, any other interested funders and second tier agencies on changes to the Quality Mark, and the new sector-led quality system nearing the piloting stage.

Following the outsourcing by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) of the administration of the General Help Quality Mark (GHQM), advice agencies wishing to retain this quality standard must pay a fee for audit and accreditation. Meanwhile, with the support of the LSC, advice networks are collaborating to design a new quality standard which will replace the GHQM within the next two years. Advice services wishing to acquire this standard will also incur fees for audit and accreditation.

Many not-for-profit advice agencies succeed in reaching clients who are reluctant to use "mainstream" advice services. Quality accreditation is of vital importance to these agencies - but it now comes at a price. Where do local authorities and other funding bodies stand on the quality issue?

To find out more and contribute to the debate, come to the seminar. To confirm your interest and receive final details of timing and venue, contact Michael Murray, London Region Manager, Advice UK Michael.Murray@adviceuk.org.uk, telephone 020 7469 5700.

Valuing impact: building an association of nonprofit analysts

A joint conference organised by New Philanthropy Capital (NPC) and the Bertelsmann Foundation

Tuesday 19 May 2009

Central London venue (tbc)

The conference will draw together professionals from a range of fields to. It is an event for anyone interested in assessing charities and other nonprofits and looking at their effectiveness. It aims to create excitement and energy around the analysis of nonprofits as a discipline. The organisers hope that it will give rise to a network of individuals from all over the world who will become the core of a new association.

For more detail: Esther Paterson, Conference Organiser, epaterson@philanthropycapital.org New Philanthropy Capital, 3 Downstream, 1 London Bridge, London, SE1 9BG
www.philanthropycapital.org