

“Priorities”

September 2008



THE PRIORY CENTRE

The Council for Voluntary Service in Wycombe District
Registered Charity Number 280766

THE PRIORY CENTRE

11 Priory Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 6SL

The Priory Centre is an independent, registered charity, set up to promote, support and develop voluntary action and community self-help.

General Manager	Andrew Long
Deputy Manager	Mary Walter
Administrator	Lindsey Jefferies
Library, Priorities & Website	Stefan Archer
Bookkeeper	Sabine Bolier-Carp
Housekeeper	Amy Drew
Evening Receptionists	Sally Hunt
	Gill True

The Priory Centre exists to provide:

A meeting place for voluntary organisations and self-help groups.

Use of office facilities and equipment.

Support for existing groups and help with the development of new ones.

Up-to-date information for individuals and groups about sources of funding.

A base for Volunteer Centre - Wycombe District,
Bromford Housing Association, Connection and LIFE.

If you are disabled and cannot get to the Centre we would be happy to come to you.

OPENING HOURS

9.00am – 5.00pm

Monday to Friday

Telephone Number	01494 523440
Fax Number	01494 523247
E-mail	wyccvs@nascr.net
Website	www.priorycentre.org.uk

Answerphone when office is closed

Please let us know of any changes of contact or address within your organisation and please circulate this newsletter among your committee members; additional copies available on request.

Any items for inclusion in future newsletters, ideas or comments gratefully received.

Copy Deadline for the next issue is 15th November 2008

*Notification of publications, events and services included in this newsletter on behalf of other organisations do not necessarily carry an endorsement by **The Priory Centre**.*

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*The opinions of our correspondents are not necessarily those of **The Priory Centre**.*

PRIORITY VIEWS

Welcome to our newsletter campaign for a plain English, jargon-free sector.

Having been here six months I have just about mastered the worst of the jargon and acronyms which litter the everyday life of the voluntary sector, but I am still sometimes stunned into silence by some piece of gobbledegook I come across. To wit, here is a quote from the CapacityBuilders Modernisation Project Proposal-

'Further to this the Sub Sectoral Report completed in 2007 highlights the success of the Network Capacity Building Scheme in improving access to support for sub sectors in the region. Building on this past success it recommends the sub sectors are supported in networking and networks to enable them to network internally and develop links and routes to specialist sub-sectoral support. The report further stresses that support for sub sectoral networking arrangements will ensure that sub-sectoral and underrepresented groups are able to actively engage with, and benefit from, regional level infrastructure support'.

Now read on....

I hope you enjoy the selection of clichés scattered about this edition.

Don't forget to book your place at our funding information event on October 15th - details on the back cover.

EMAIL OR SNAILMAIL?

Would you like to receive 'Priorities' by email?

If so, please let us know what your email address is and we'll make sure that's how you get your copy. If you would prefer to continue to have it posted that's fine – just tell us. If you know of others who would like a copy please ask them to contact us.

We are endeavouring to become 'greener' so any savings we can make in getting 'Priorities' to you would be good.

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY!

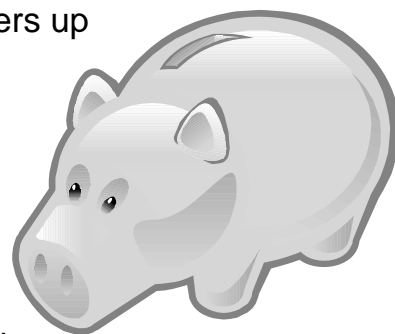
GlaxoSmithKline Community Health IMPACT Awards

Closing date for applications is Friday, 26th September, 2008

These awards are open to registered charities that are at least three years old, working in a health-related field in the UK, with a total annual income between £10,000 and £1 million. Up to 20 awards of unrestricted funding will be made, with an overall winner receiving £35,000 and nine other winners receiving £25,000. Up to five highly commended awards of £5,000 and up to five runners up awards of £3,000 will also be made.

You do not need to present a new project. The awards are designed to recognise success and achievements for existing work.

The IMPACT Awards' application form and guidelines are available at: www.kingsfund.org.uk/gskimpactawards where you can also download information and short films on last year's winners.



and more money – this time for FOOD (sounds good to me)

The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation is providing funding to 'prioritise the enjoyment and experience of food'.

Food – what we eat, how we eat it, where it's come from and where we're going to get it from in the future – has become a national preoccupation – and the Foundation is making available money to look at food more generally.

Esmée Fairbairn's food strand, which has a budget of £3m over three years, has the unusual aim of prioritising the enjoyment and experience of food. "There is a much broader issue about the role of food in our society, which encompasses sustainability, but goes beyond that," says Dawn Austwick, Chief Executive of the charity. "For example, we've decided that we now want to focus on the whole issue of food as a social and cultural force."

In practice, it's easier to work out what isn't going to get any money (such as work in schools, city farms and projects that are primarily environmental) than what is, because the parameters are pretty broad. The main emphasis is "on proposals that will be about influencing policy and practice, not simply delivery". At the same time, though, work intended to scale up existing practical projects is explicitly included in the guidelines. So, for instance, the Allotments Regeneration Initiative, which Esmée Fairbairn has previously funded (and which, arguably, has contributed to the dramatic rise in the popularity of allotments) would be likely to qualify.

"It is an important topic to explore and it will be fascinating to see which parts of the sector manage to change the way we think about food in the future.

For further information:: www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

£1.14 MILLION FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE!

The Buckinghamshire Foundation (TBF) has been successful with its application to manage the Grassroots Grants Programme in Buckinghamshire on behalf of the Office of the Third Sector (OTS). This programme will run from July 2008 until March 2011. There are two elements: the endowment match challenge and the small grants programme. Further information as follows:

Grant Guidelines Information

Eligibility

Voluntary and community groups (or your project) must be operating within Buckinghamshire. Two grant programmes are available, Small Grants and Grassroots.

Small Grants

This on-going programme provides grants of up to **£1,000**

What kind of projects will be considered?

- to assist the disadvantaged
- to support community care for the elderly and disabled
- to tackle isolation
- to invest in young people to encourage education, training and self-development

The overall priority is to support organisations and groups whose work is aiming to tackle poverty and social exclusion

Grassroots Grants

Grants are available from **£250 - £5000**

Who can apply?

- You must be a voluntary or community group that has been operating for not less than **12** months
- Your group **must** have an evidenced income of **less than £20,000** per annum, taken as an average turnover for the last 3 financial years (or over the life of the group if it is less than 3 years old)

What kind of projects will be considered?

- The purchase of equipment
- The cost of putting on or attending a local event, workshop or conference
- Staff costs to enable the employment of individuals
- Contribution to rent costs (related to activities/service delivery)



- Training for volunteers
- Additional activities to expand an existing project
- Activities that support community activity or meet an identified need
- Funding to support an organisation to achieve a quality or other standard relevant to their activities

This list is not exhaustive. Grassroots grants are intended to respond to the diverse needs of community organisations and local communities.

The maximum amount your organisation can apply for during the life of the grant scheme (2008 – 2011) is £5000. You can either:

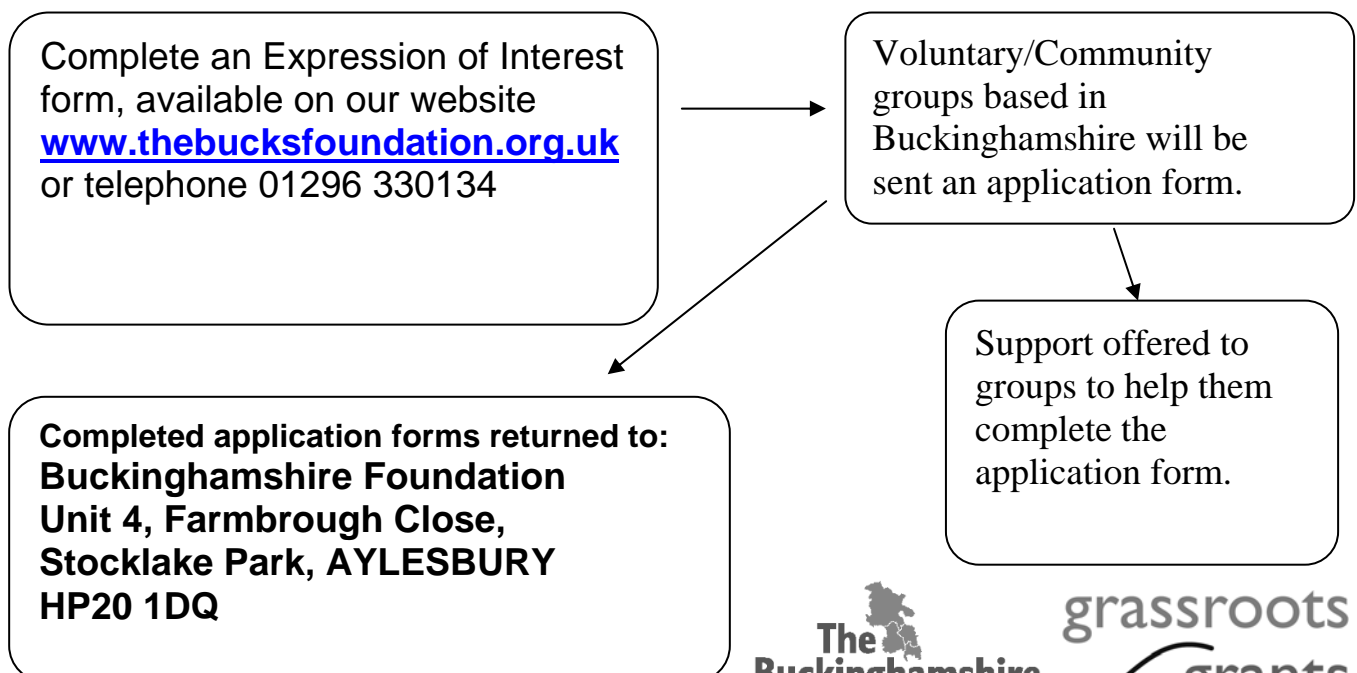
- Submit one application for the maximum amount or;
- Make multiple applications between 2008-2011 as long as the total awarded is no more than £5000

The Buckinghamshire Foundation is not able to offer funds to:

- Statutory organisations (such as Local Authorities, schools)
- Any party political activity
- Commercial ventures
- Organisations that are for the sole benefit or relief of animals or plants
- Individuals
- Activities where the primary purpose is to promote religious beliefs

How to apply?

Whether you are applying for a Grassroots Grant or a TBF Small Grant, the process of application is the same:



WANT TO GET TOUGH ON JARGON?

Someone's had an idea to make a few pence in the office, rather like a swear box but using jargon as the scapegoat instead. He suggests that, every time anyone in the office uses jargon, they pay into a jargon box, say, 50p, which could regularly buy the staff a treat or be given to a good cause – whatever people want. So, there might be no more 'benchmarking' or 'capacity building', 'performance hubs' or 'delivery mechanisms'. We could become articulate and everyone would understand everyone else. Now that'd be good, wouldn't it?



Cliché

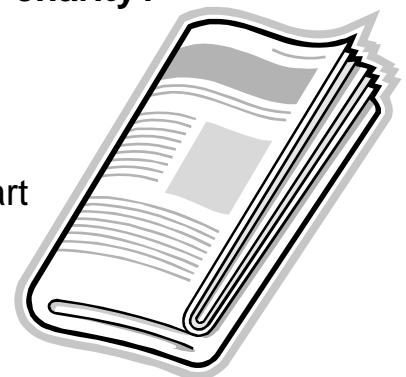
Ball park – 'Ballpark figure' has now been shortened to 'ballpark' and has scuttled out of business jargon into general use. 'I'd like to get a second-hand car for about six grand – but that's ballpark.' Substitute the words 'football pitch', 'hockey stadium' or 'velodrome' for 'ballpark' and it makes you realise just what a strange phrase this is.

Would you like to make more people aware of your charity?

Do you need volunteers?

Have you got an event coming up?

If so, The South Bucks Star (the free paper which is part of the Bucks Free Press group) is happy to have it publicised, free, in '**Voluntary Voice**'. To find out more please get in touch with The Priory Centre.



LEARNING DISABILITY – TRAINING

Buckinghamshire Learning Disability Service – part of Bucks County Council – is offering an Introduction to Communication, specifically for learning disability – the workshop is designed to cover basic skills, knowledge and concepts related to communicating effectively with adults who have a learning disability.

This is an introductory workshop which is aimed at people who have had limited experience interacting with adults who have a learning disability.

The course will enable participants to improve their knowledge and skills of basic communication strategies.

The workshop will be a fun and enjoyable session which gives participants a chance to practice and improve their communication skills in a relaxed setting.

Date: Wednesday, 19th November
Time: 1 - 4pm
Venue: Amersham
How to book: Ring the Private & Voluntary Sector Training Team on **01296 382205** or email pvtraining@buckscc.gov.uk
Cost: FREE

VOLUNTARY SECTOR UPDATE AND NETWORKING FORUM

FRIDAY, 19th SEPTEMBER, 2008 - 10am – 1pm followed by lunch

For BME, Faith, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, Refugee and Asylum seeker voluntary groups

Organised by The Additional Support Programme Group

With Bucks Community Action, Chiltern & South Bucks Volunteer Centre, Youth Focus, Aylesbury Vale District Council Diversity Officer

Location: The White Hill Centre, White Hill, Chesham HP5 1AG

If you'd like to go please ring **01494 786398** or email: admin@chilternrec.org.uk

Cliché

‘Basically’ – this is far from new but it refuses to go away. Listen out for it today and you are almost guaranteed to hear it once, if not several times – perhaps even in the same conversation. Some clichés stick around because they’re useful: they can encapsulate a thought in a few words. But ‘basically’ is meaningless. All it does is sit at the beginning of a sentence, usually a reply, and give the thinker a bit of extra thinking time.

What to do when a trustee doesn’t fit

(from Third Sector)

The problem of underperforming trustees can prove tricky – especially when the individuals are not only providing their services for free, but also representing the company that just happens to be your most significant donor.

I know of one trustee who never attended any meetings but the chair was reluctant to take action because the organisation was dependent on donations from the trustee’s employer. The decision was made to sit it out until the individual’s term of office expired. It did, however, act as a catalyst for change, forcing a proper evaluation process to take place when his successor was selected.

Too little, too much

Given that most charitable organisations are already tight ships, with little capacity to carry passengers, trustees who consistently fail to attend meetings, turn up unprepared or obviously lose interest midway through a term of office, can present a big problem. Even more challenging is the trustee who comes with impressive skills that no longer meet the particular needs of the organisation. Typically, this person won’t recognise the fact for themselves.

To tackle these issues, the chair needs to be honest and say ‘We have a problem. We need your help to solve it’. It is even more difficult, of course, if the chair is the source of the difficulties – in which case the chief executive should liaise with the next most senior trustee before one of them speaks to the chair. All conversations should be well documented.

Where possible, the chair should work with the person in question to help her or him to meet the organisation’s needs, perhaps by offering training. It’s always preferable to try first to resolve the issue while keeping the person on the board. But if people prefer to go, let them bow out gracefully. They often know there is a problem but it takes such a conversation to help them face up to it.

Far more complicated is the unconsciously incompetent trustee who is blissfully unaware there is any issue. But even these people usually recognise there is a problem when it is brought to their attention. Only as a last resort should boards elect to remove a trustee – and this is very unusual. Whatever happens, use the experience to take stock – perhaps with a formal, independent board evaluation.

CHANGING A CULTURE OF LATENESS

(from Third Sector)

How do I, as a new manager, tackle a widespread culture of people arriving late for work (or any other staff concern)?

It's often the case that a new manager arrives to find that his or her predecessor has let things slip: staff arrive when it suits them, not you. You can't afford to let matters carry on in the same vein, especially if you've been appointed to do things differently in future.

First, just take stock. However detailed a briefing you've been given and however clear your targets are, you need to understand the situation for yourself. So become familiar with the organisation's real requirements – mission statements, policies and performance targets – before you start to make changes.

Quickly evaluate the extent of the concern around the lateness, what is happening on the ground and how far this is from expectations. You then need to act promptly or there's a risk you'll be seen to be condoning what's gone on before and will lose any authority to make changes.

Get your message across in whatever way is most appropriate for your team and your organisation. State clearly what the new expectations are and, even more importantly, why, relating performance to the employer's reasonable requirements. Lay out clear targets and say when you want them to be met. Don't expect changes to happen immediately and irrevocably – people need time to adjust to change. But don't set the targets too far in the future either or they won't be taken seriously.

Be prepared to face resistance. There will be those who argue that things have always been fine, so there's no need to change. These are the easiest to deal with because, as the new manager, you can simply put your foot down, even at the risk of courting short-term unpopularity. You have every right to make your mark in this way; in the long run you will be respected for it.

Then there are those with special circumstances, which mean they have personal reasons for erratic attendance. Treat each of these individually – if their cases are genuine you'll find a way of accommodating them without upsetting their colleagues.

Finally, there are the passive resisters who don't take you seriously and just ignore your strictures. This is the most dangerous group and you can deal effectively with them only by monitoring the situation closely and taking tough action if needed. They'll soon fall into line.

Do you know someone over 50 who needs special care or someone who is a Carer who needs support? If so, read on.....

There are various projects supported by Adult Social Care, Buckinghamshire County Council to help older people live fulfilling lives as independently as possible. Some of them are:

MIND Befriending Service aims to improve the quality of life for people with mild to moderate mental health problems who experience difficulties with their mental and emotional wellbeing and who are not receiving care or low-level support from Social Services. Buckinghamshire Mind places strong emphasis on independence by working *with* clients rather than *for* them. Each client has different needs and aims so befrienders and clients work together to identify the steps necessary to achieve these.

Volunteer befrienders usually meet clients for two to three hours weekly, for up to six months, to help the client regain independence.

Referrals can be from clients, care management, GPs, carers, etc.

For further information contact Louise Paine at louise.paine@bucksmind.org.uk

Alzheimer's Cafes is held every first Thursday of the month at the Fairford Leys Community Centre, from 2-4. The café is open to all. For more information please call Julie or Nicole on 01296 331722.

Affordable Warmth – a project committed to raise awareness of fuel poverty, its links to ill health and how the fuel poor can be helped. For more information contact Karen Weber, Affordable Warmth Co-ordinator for Buckinghamshire on 01908 699925 or email: Karen.weber@usea.org.uk

Bereavement – Cruse provides a range of support services, including one-to-one counselling and access to dedicated social groups, to those seeking assistance with the effects of bereavement, which can often lead to depression and social isolation. For more information contact: highwycombe@cruse.org.uk

Carers Bucks Support Worker at hospitals – the project aims to ensure that carers are getting the support they need at the point of discharge of the person they are caring for. Referrals can be made by phone directly to Carers Bucks or by completing their standard referral form by Care Managers, health professionals, clients or carers. Email gill.aikens@carersbucks.org – tel: 01494 463536.

GET THE BEST OUT OF YOUR VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISERS

(from Third Sector)

The 1997 National Survey of Volunteering estimated that two-thirds of the 22 million people who volunteer in the UK every year do so as fundraisers. So how can charities make the most of this valuable resource?

1. Know your volunteers

Volunteers will all be motivated to support the cause, but not all of them will have the same skills and ambitions. Some volunteers might respond well to targets but others might be put off by the pressure and fear of not hitting them.

2. Provide training in fundraising techniques

All charities should set aside time to train volunteers with a general introduction to the charity and specific training for the job. Volunteer fundraisers are all too often trained as events managers and can sometimes be shy about asking people to donate.

Plenty of techniques are proven to increase donations such as making sure that the first donation at the top of a sponsorship form is a large one because it sets a precedent, or using a script that conveys the idea that the volunteer is trying to achieve a goal – for instance, by using the phrase “will you join me in....”

These techniques will help to ensure that charities maximise the outcome of their fundraising efforts. It is also important that the training is relevant and that the time spent is appropriate to the fundraising activity and a volunteer’s level of engagement.

3. Show them their achievements

Saying ‘thank you’ seems so obvious that it is sometimes overlooked. Showing volunteer fundraisers what their contribution has helped to achieve – for instance, by going on a tour of a new facility or visiting a new project – can be a powerful way to forge long-term relationships with them.

This is not always possible, of course, but keeping volunteers informed about what the charity is up to and getting them involved in several ways is essential to making them feel like they are part of the cause.

4. Give volunteers ownership of the job

Charities must find the right balance between providing individuals with clear job descriptions and letting them use their initiative.

Looking at the volunteer’s skills and what they would like to do will maximise the benefit of the partnership.

5. Ensure that volunteers learn from the charity and from each other

Learning from people who have done it all before is probably the best way to pick up good tips about getting the job done effectively. Volunteer days or inductions can be good opportunities for volunteers to meet and share their experiences.

Charities should also harness the power of the internet by using websites such as www.how2fundraise.org which allows people to post their comments, ideas and stories.

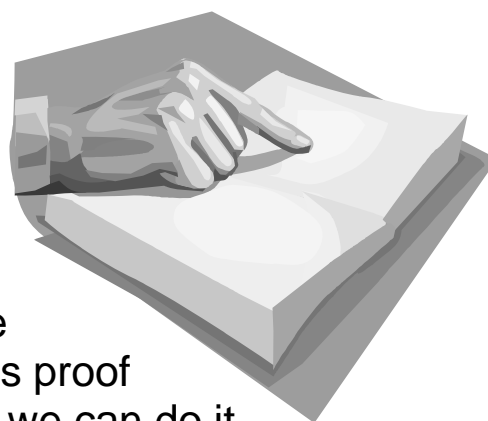
Developing a buddy scheme could work – if a volunteer wants to start fundraising in an area where there hasn't been much activity they could be put in touch with someone in another area so that they could get a feel of what can be done.

Cliché

'Have a good one' – a slightly mysterious expression of well wishing often said by one work colleague to another as they are about to go home. But what does it refer to exactly? What sort of good one is it that you are being advised to go off and have? Evening? Bus journey? Do-it-yourself vasectomy?

PRUFREEDING

Do YOU send out leaflets, articles, letters which may not always be grammatically correct or may have inappropriate 'punctuation'!!!?



We now offer a proof reading service at the Priory Centre. Just bring in whatever needs proof reading and, for a very reasonable charge, we can do it for you. No longer will your readers be unable to understand what you're trying to say; no longer will they be irritated by the bad use of English. They will *enjoy* reading the important information you're trying to communicate to them and thank you for it.

FUND FOR CHARITIES CHAMPIONING WOMEN AND GIRLS

The first UK-wide fund devoted exclusively to championing and investing in charities working with women and girls has been launched. Rosa will be the only fund of its kind, devoted to investing solely in women and women's initiatives across the UK. Rosa will tackle key issues – safety, economic justice, health and well-being and equal representation – by giving small grants to enable positive change at the grassroots and strategic level and tackle women's inequality at its source. Rosa launches with £750,000 funding already secured and a further £750,000 in the pipeline. It will begin making grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 in 2009 and will be developing its funding criteria and grant application procedure over the next few months. To find out more or to arrange an interview with Maggie Baxter, call Ian MacQuillin at TurnerPR on: 0208 659 1158, 07977 422278 or email: ian@turnerpr.co.uk

Cliché

Executive Decision – When someone says they have made an 'executive decision' what they mean is they have just had to make a decision to take a particular course of action all on their own. The reason they have had to do this is probably that no one was willing to speak to them at the time. The phrase 'executive decision' therefore means roughly the same as 'lonely person's decision'. The word 'executive' does, however, give the phrase an air of luxury and opulence. This is probably quite appropriate, since the decision in question was probably crap and is therefore going to result in a large amount of money being wasted.

MINIBUS DRIVERS' TRAINING COURSE

The Thames Valley PHAB Club will be running a MiDAS training Course (Minibus Drivers Awareness Scheme), a nationally recognised minibus driver training designed to give the driver awareness of the requirements needed to safely and comfortably transport disabled and able-bodied passengers in a specially adapted vehicle.

The course will be held on **SATURDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER**, 2008 from 9am to 4.30pm with a short driving session on **Sunday, 21st September**.

We welcome any groups that would like to train their own minibus driver as well as looking for volunteer drivers to drive for the PHAB Club on a rota once a month.

For further enquiries about this course please contact the Minibus Administrator, Pat Harris, on **01494 711786**.

ARE YOU DEAF AWARE?

(from navca Circulation)

Attitudes to disability have been transformed in the last ten years and organisations encouraged to consider the needs of customers and staff with accessibility requirements. Yet people with sensory disabilities are often still overlooked. One of the main reasons identified for this is a lack of deaf awareness.

A significant minority

With over nine million people in the UK who are deaf or hard of hearing (that's one out of every seven people) overlooking the communication needs of this significant minority can raise several issues for organisations including non-compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act and communication barriers that lead to misunderstanding and frustration for both deaf and hearing people. A direct effect of difficulties accessing organisations is that deaf and hard of hearing people may be excluded from many aspects of day-to-day life.

This can easily be avoided, often at very low cost by improving the deaf awareness of staff. Thinking about the different types of communication tactics available improves confidence when approaching and responding to requests from deaf and hard of hearing customers. It is important that the deaf person feels comfortable and at ease. The type of things to consider include appropriate use of facial expressions and gestures, ensuring voice levels are kept at a normal level and remembering to face the person you are speaking to so they can read your lips. Environmental factors such as room layout, knowing how to use hearing loops and where they are located also play an important part in improving accessibility for deaf and hard of hearing people.

RNID Communication tips

- Even if someone is wearing a hearing aid always ask if they need to lip read you.
- Make sure you have the person's attention before you start speaking.
- Speak clearly, not too slowly and use normal lip movements.
- Use natural facial expressions and gestures.
- Keep your voice at a normal level. It's uncomfortable for a hearing aid user if you shout and it looks aggressive.
- Turn your face towards a deaf person.
- Use plain language and don't waffle.
- Find a suitable place to talk with good lighting, away from noise and distractions.

Communication support

Another important aspect of improving accessibility is knowledge about the different types of communication support services available. These can include British Sign Language Interpreters, note takers and RNID's TypeTalk Service. TypeTalk is a free to use and totally confidential relay service that allows deaf and hard of hearing people to contact call centres, receptionists and admin staff by telephone. Users of the service are only charged normal call rates by use of the special prefix 18002.

To find out more please contact RNID Training Services on 0161 276 2311/2; email training.services@rnid.org.uk or visit www.rnid.org.uk/ddat

To find out more about RNID TypeTalk telephone 0800 7311 888 or visit www.typetalk.org

This appeared on the navca message site and I feel it sums up what a lot of us think

“Wednesday morning grumble...how did we manage life without all these policies and procedures that somebody without a life has decided we need (and, more sadly, that the rest of us sheep agree to draw up!).”

Is it just me who feels that there seems to be an escalation of nannies/litigation neurotics who are doing their best to drive out any initiative, common sense, can-do/will-do/will-at-least-try attitude in the vast majority of us who, because we're busy DOING, leave the pen-pushers to pretend they're doing – before discovering that we've also empowered them (somewhere along the way) to tell us that we have to have their bits of paper!”

Somebody replied to her message, thus

“Well said, that woman! That was really heartfelt, wasn't it? Brilliant. I feel exactly the same. I am leaving my post tomorrow after seven years of wondering similar things and I would like to thank you for giving me almost last-minute renewed confidence in the ability of the voluntary sector to see through the crap”

YOUTH FOCUS TRAINING DAY

Saturday, 15th November

9am – 4.30pm

Green Park Centre, Aston Clinton, Bucks HP22 5NE

Full Day courses on:

Emergency Aid (certificated)

Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (certificated)

Disabled Young People, Integration and the Development of Good Practice

All £15 per head, including lunch

Half-day morning workshop on:

Child Protection for those working with Children and Young People

£5.00 per head including coffee

The Training Day is aimed at adult leaders of voluntary youth organisations and adult volunteers who work with children and young people.

Early booking is necessary to secure places, particularly on the Emergency Aid and Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering courses. **Forms need to be returned, with booking fee, by Friday, 31st October.**

For more information and a booking form please telephone Youth Focus on 01296 631911; email: office@youthfocus.org.uk or see www.youthfocus.org.uk



COULD YOUR ORGANISATION DO WITH AN INSURANCE HEALTH CHECK?

(from NAVCA Circulation)

Insurance health checks could identify savings for 62% of participants – so says Michelle Emerson, NAVCA's Business Development Manager.

Tennyson is working with Zurich Insurance and NAVCA to bring insurance services to local infrastructure organisations and local groups. The intention is to save money and/or reduce your risk. To date, insurance health checks have been carried out for 127 local infrastructure organisations, with another 55 going through in the next few months.

This has resulted in approx £100,000 of savings in insurance cost for the sector (whether organisations have taken out a new policy or used the information to source a better deal from their current supplier).

One NAVCA member was so pleased with the Tennyson service that they signed a five-year agreement, saving over £1,500. Another saved £600 a year on train fares by getting cover for prisoners to drive a car so that they could help in the community as part of their rehabilitation.

The insurance health check (www.tennysoninsurance.co.uk/html/health.htm) will provide you with information on how well your current insurance is equipped to protect you from the risks that your organisation may encounter and, if necessary, will recommend additions or alterations. This service is provided free of charge. All that is asked in return is that you allow Tennyson to quote for your business.

The health check process is quick and straightforward and should take no more than an hour. Any money saved on your insurance premium could be channelled directly into achieving your core objectives. Tennyson is confident that they can beat your current price but if they can't you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have a very good deal.

The offer is open to all NAVCA members, local infrastructure organisations and local groups.

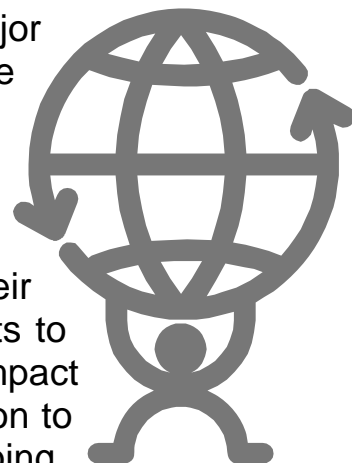
To find out more or to begin the process contact Tennyson on 08450 822 446 or www.tennysoninsurance.co.uk or enquiries@tennysoninsurance.co.uk

If you have something to say that would be of benefit to other readers of 'Priorities' or if you have any comment to make on anything in this issue we'd love to hear from you. Please send it to us - by hand, post or email.

FUNDERS GO GREEN

(by Mark Walton, Every Action Counts)

It has become clear in recent months that many of the major funders are actively considering if and how they should be responding to the issues of sustainable development and climate change. The Big Lottery Fund and the Baring Foundation nationally and the City Bridge Trust in London, have all been running pilot projects with some of their funded organisations. These projects have provided some of their funded groups with consultancy advice or environmental audits to help them identify how they can reduce their environmental impact or reduce carbon dioxide emissions. They are now in a position to consider the impact of these pilot projects and how they are going to take this agenda forward.



Moving to a low carbon world

Whilst it is true to say that none have yet decided on the way forward, the general sense from these organisations is that they are now acutely aware of the need for charities and the voluntary and community sector to seriously consider our environmental performance and how we link this to our social and economic missions. Funders are now actively considering the extent to which they may require applicants to demonstrate how they are addressing these linked issues in their applications. They are also thinking about what sort of support, advice and funding they can provide to applicants to help us make the changes that are required if we are to successfully make the move to a 'low carbon' world.

Not only funders

And it's not just funders. The Charity Commission now includes on its website a section on environmental performance which considers how and why charities which do not have explicitly environmental objects can consider using some of their resources to address these issues and invest in improving their performance. See www.charitycommission.gov.uk/enhancingcharities/environ.asp.

So what does this mean for voluntary and community organisations? It is clear that we will start to see changes in the way that funders approach issues in the very near future, with a much greater emphasis on the extent to which applicants are considering environmental issues in their activities and what actions they are taking to improve their performance.

For help and advice have a look at Every Action Counts, which is there to help you take the easy actions to become more sustainable. You can register, free, with EAC to find lots of useful information: www.navca.org.uk/eac or www.everyactioncounts.org.uk

Please help us celebrate our 30th Anniversary and secure our future....

MPF Counselling

Serving the local community for thirty years offering affordable counselling to adults

Small ways you can helpcan make a big difference!

30 days: could you give something up for 30 days, feel good and donate the money you saved to help others?

30 Pounds: could you make a one-off donation of £30 or set up a standing order for 30 months?

30 People: could you be one of thirty people hosting a coffee morning at home inviting guests to contribute £3 each?

30 Lunches: could you reward your children to help you with your chores, then encourage them to donate 30% to MPF?

30 Favours: could you ask your company if they would like to support us with a £30 or £300 donation?

If you would like to support us in any of the above ways please contact our office for further information:

The Hub, Easton Street, High Wycombe HPO11 1NJ

01494 440199

www.mpfcounselling.org

Registered Charity No: 1095554

**MPF
COUNSELLING**





Volunteer Centre

Wycombe District

Volunteer Focus

Volunteer Centre for Wycombe District
is holding its **Annual General Meeting**

at 12 noon on
Wednesday 17th September 2008
at The Environment Centre, Holywell Mead,
High Wycombe

Anyone who is interested in the voluntary sector and
volunteering is cordially invited to attend.

Please let them know on **01494 451700**
if you'd like to go.

Cliché

BED OF....Food is now something we must think of as a bit sultry or sexy. Gastronomic delights are served on a bed of lettuce or a bed of rice as though in readiness for some strange culinary sex act to be performed upon them. In such cases 'on a bed of....' means 'on some', as in the expression, 'Would you like some salt and vinegar on a bed of chips?'

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS

Wycombe District Council has informed us that applications are now being sought for Annual Revenue Grants for 2009/10. The type of application you complete will depend on the amount requested. Awards are based on:

- Eligibility criteria and all qualifying information being submitted
- The project or service contributing to the priorities of the District Council. These can be found on the Council website on www.wycombe.gov.uk

Please note that, although your organisation may have been funded in the past, the District Council may not automatically award a grant. There are a number of different levels of grant as detailed below:

1. Up to £1,500 - we now accept applications all year round. These will be processed within six weeks.
 - These are awards for community activities such as playschemes, community projects and summer activities
 - Short feedback is required at the end of the activity
2. Over £1,500 but less than £10,000 for projects which meet local needs
 - These are awards for community projects, activities and services
 - One funding round per year - closing date 3rd November 2008
 - End of project report and quarterly monitoring is required
3. Over £10,000
 - These may be for a contribution towards core services
 - Funds can be offered for more than one year - based on a clear business plan
 - One funding round per year - closing date 3rd November 2008
 - All grants will be provided through a Service Level Agreement
4. £50,000 and over

Awards to the voluntary sector for grants over £50,000 will only be considered as part of a commissioning process. These cannot be applied for but could be part of a tendering process.

In summary:

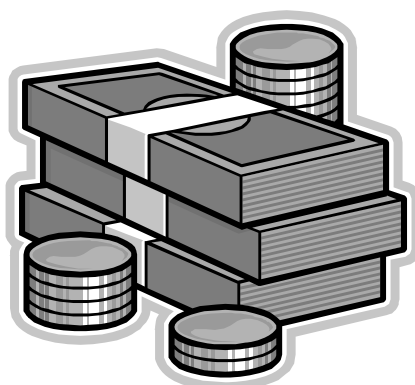
Grant	Application	Major Requirements
Under £1,500	Any time – 6 weeks before activity starts	Completed application form for up to £1,500
£1,501 – £10,000	Closing date – noon on Monday 3 rd Nov 2008	Completed application form for over £1,500
£10,001 up to £50,000	Closing date – noon on Monday 3 rd Nov 2008	Completed application form for over £1,500 Business Plan
£50,000 and over	By invitation only	

Application forms are available from www.wycombe.gov.uk on the Community Grants page or from:

Commissioning and Grants Officer
Council Offices
Queen Victoria Road
High Wycombe
Bucks HP11 1BB

Support in developing community and voluntary organisations is available from The Priory Centre.

If you would like more information about the priorities for funding or the application process please contact the Commissioning and Grants Office at the address above, by email on communitydevelopment@wycombe.gov.uk or by telephone on 01494 421956.





The Priory Centre

Wycombe & District Council for Voluntary Service

A partner in



Invites you to

THE 'f' WORD

FUNDING INFORMATION EVENT



Introduction by Cllr. Mrs Lesley Clarke Leader of Wycombe District Council

An opportunity to meet and quiz the experts in funding for voluntary and community organisations in Wycombe and District. There will be a limited number of one-to-one appointments available on the day.

Please call to make a booking, first come first served.

We will also offer free-of-charge facilities to meet the experts at a later date to discuss funding for your organisation or project. We hope the new Commissioning & Grants officer for Wycombe District Council will be in post by this date and available to meet you.

Speakers:

- Beverley Trevitt of The Bucks Foundation
- Laurie Johnson from Bucks Community Action
- Paul Hodson, Cohesion Manager at Wycombe District Council

Date: Wednesday
15th October 2008

Time: 13.45 - 16.00

Venue:
The Environment Centre
Holywell Mead
High Wycombe
HP11 1QX

Parking only 20p

If you'd like to attend, please contact Mary, Lindsey or Andrew at the Priory Centre:

Phone: 01494 523440

Fax: 01494 523247

Email: wycvcs@nascr.net