

the alliance

the children and young people's
voluntary sector working
together for Hampshire



ebulletin

April 2011

Log on to www.hants-alliance.org.uk

Membership

Membership of The Alliance is free and open to any charity or voluntary organisation that has a service within the area of Hampshire County Council and is currently providing services predominantly for children and/or young people.

Is your organisation a member?

An application form and member outline can be downloaded at <http://www.hants-alliance.org.uk/>

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consultations

- **local**

Hampshire County Council

Closing 6 July

Youth support services

The County Council has begun a public consultation on proposed changes to youth support services in Hampshire.

You will find information about the proposals and how to respond to them on the dedicated website <http://tinyurl.com/3sa76m6>

This website also contains information targeted at young people. If you are working in a setting with young people please can you publicise this information to them through your communication channels and encourage them to respond.

The Alliance is hosting a youth services information event on 16 May, see page 4 for details.

- **national**

Department for Education

Closing 20 May

Financial support for 16 to 19 year olds in education or training

This consultation seeks the views of young people, parents, learning providers and other stakeholders on the government's proposed package for financial support for 16-19 year olds in education or training in England, including the proposed transitional arrangements for 16 to 19 year olds currently receiving Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

<http://tinyurl.com/67yoql7>

Closing 30 June

Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disability Green Paper

The Green Paper proposes 'a new approach to identifying SEN, a single assessment process and 'Education Health and Care Plan; a local offer of all services available; parents to have the option of a personal budget by 2014, giving parents a real choice of school, greater independence to the assessment of children's needs'.

<http://tinyurl.com/3q47kgm>

events

- **local**

Youth services information event

Date: Monday 16 May 2011

Time: 9.50am to 1.30pm
(9.15 onwards for registration and coffee, buffet lunch at 1.30pm)

Venue: The Hub, Eastleigh. Click on the link below for further information about the venue/map.

<http://tinyurl.com/3vyfwze>

Cost: Free

The Alliance is organising an event to provide the latest information about the future of Integrated Youth Support Services in Hampshire and to look at service delivery opportunities for the local voluntary and community sector.

The event will also provide an opportunity to hear about Social Impact Bonds within a broader context of alternative sources of finance for the not-for-profit sector.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

For further details visit <http://tinyurl.com/3v95ukg>

Doing business with Hampshire

Date: Wednesday 18 May 2011

Time: 10.00am to 12 noon (9.30am for registration and coffee)

Venue: Ashburton Hall, The Castle, Winchester. Click on the link below for venue map.

http://www3.hants.gov.uk/low_res_map_only.pdf

Cost: Free

Hampshire County Council is hosting a supplier procurement event specifically aimed at local small businesses and voluntary and community organisations.

The purpose of this initial event is to promote developments in procurement and provide information to assist businesses and voluntary and community organisations seeking business opportunities within Hampshire.

Topics will include:

- Corporate standard Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ)
- Consortium bids
- Doing business with the Council
- Equalities – a training toolkit for suppliers

A section of the morning has been set aside to provide the attendees with an opportunity to discuss and put forward suggestions for topics for future events.

Click on this link to access event booking <http://tinyurl.com/6ccv5h>

Kidz South Exhibition

Date: Thursday 9 June 2011

Time: 9.30am to 4.30pm

Venue: Rivermead Leisure Complex
Richfield Avenue, Caversham, Reading, RG1 8EQ

Cost: Free

One of the largest FREE exhibitions dedicated to children with disabilities and special needs, their families and the professionals who work with them. For visitors' FREE entry tickets or further information call the organiser, Disabled Living Manchester, 0161 214 5959/5962 email info@disabledliving.co.uk www.kidzsouth.co.uk

Disabled Living, Redbank House, 4 St Chad's Street, Cheetham, Manchester M8 8QA

- **national**

Charityfair 2011

Date: Monday 27 & Tuesday 28 June 2011

Time: 9.30am to 5.00pm daily

Venue: The Hotel Russell, 1-8 Russell Square, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 5BE

Cost: Free entry to Charityfair and Free Resource Area. Workshop sessions range from £25 - £50 (The price for each session depends on how many sessions you book overall).

Click on the link below for further details

<http://tinyurl.com/353v6jl>

grants and tenders

- **grants**

Transition Fund boosted

The Government's Transition Fund, to help charities prepare for Big Society opportunities and face current challenges, will have an additional £7 million from the Department of Health, taking the total fund, which is currently closed to applications, to £107 million. For more information, please visit the Cabinet Office website <http://tinyurl.com/4zocbz5>

Communitybuilders

The Communitybuilders Fund, previously owned by the Department of Community and Local Government is now an endowed fund, owned and administered by the Adventure Capital Fund. It supports neighbourhood-based, community-led organisations to become more sustainable through a mixture of loans, grants and business support.

The fund is currently closed to new applications but is expected to be able to reopen within a few months.

<http://tinyurl.com/3lo8l8l>

New Fund for disadvantaged children

The Sutton Trust is to co-manage – with The Impetus Trust - a £125 million Education Endowment Fund.

The fund is backed by the Government and will focus on innovative approaches to improving the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

The fund will invite applications from teachers, charities, local authorities, social enterprises, public sector bodies and co-operatives, and is expected to launch in the early summer with the first awards expected in the autumn.

For the first two years the scheme will only accept applications from, or in partnership with, underperforming primary and secondary schools in England.

<http://tinyurl.com/3n6mfcy>

- **tenders**

'Winning the Contract'

A free online public procurement course designed to help smaller organisations to bid for public sector contracts

'Winning the Contract', shows participants how to identify business opportunities to supply goods and services to the public sector, explains the public procurement process and demonstrates how to submit tenders. It has helpful hints and tips to guide and inform organisations on the bidding process, and where to find public sector contract opportunities.

'Winning the Contract' is a nationally available online training course which all organisations, regardless of size and sector, can access free of charge. It is part of a series of joint initiatives by the Office of Government Commerce and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, aimed at making the procurement market clearer and simpler.

The course takes a maximum of 3 to 4 hours and can be taken section by section as time allows.

You can register to access the 'Winning the Contract' course by clicking through to learndirect on the Business Link website.

<http://tinyurl.com/6f5g2nf>

news

- **local**

Connect – Hampshire Children's Trust newsletter

Spring 2011 issue now available.

<http://tinyurl.com/6kv2x96>

Alliance Forum

There is now a Forum page on The Alliance website, providing an opportunity for interactive discussion.

<http://tinyurl.com/628kbj8>

- **national**

Schools to provide access to careers advice

The Education Bill currently going through parliament places a duty on schools to provide access to impartial and independent careers advice, but removes the requirement on councils to provide Connexions services.

<http://tinyurl.com/3pc9sen>

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) replaced with new benefit

DLA is to be replaced with Personal Independence Payment (PIP), which will be subject to regular reassessments.

<http://tinyurl.com/3lfrt6t>

The Children's Society launches 'Chatability'

Chatability is a virtual communication tool designed as part of The Children's Society's Askability website.

The Children's Society Askability website is the only symbol-supported website of its kind. It gives disabled children and young people access to the latest national news stories, soap storylines and other fun facts. Chatability takes

this a stage further by offering children and young people with disabilities a forum to share their views online.

With the rise of social media and the success of sites such as Twitter and Facebook, Chatability will give disabled children and young people their first taste of 'tweeting' in a safe virtual space. The site uses a finite list of more than 1,000 pre-loaded words and symbols.

Click on the link below to go to the Askability website.

<https://www.askability.org.uk/>

Mileage rates

The HMRC (HM Revenue & Customs) Approved Mileage Allowance Payments (AMAP) rate for passenger payments currently in place for business employees, at 5 pence per passenger per mile, has been extended to volunteers. Therefore, with the 1 April 2011 increase to the AMAP to 45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles, this will mean that volunteers can now be reimbursed up to 50p per mile tax free, when carrying passengers.

Children's Workforce Development Council

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) has confirmed it will carry out a substantial programme of work with the Department for Education (DfE) during 2011/12, with £113.4 million being invested in workforce development.

By March 2012 much of CWDC's work will be transferred to either DfE, a new executive agency or be led by employers. However, CWDC will retain its sector skills responsibilities and has announced that it will continue to support employers and the children's workforce from April 2012 onwards.

<http://tinyurl.com/46rhatv>

Government's child poverty strategy

The child poverty strategy, *A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives*, sets out the government's plan for meeting poverty targets by 2020.

<http://tinyurl.com/65vwxp>

DLA for children in hospital

A total of 68 members of Parliament signed an Early Day Motion expressing concern at the suspension of disability living allowances (DLA) for children spending more than 84 days in hospital. The Motion also congratulates the Contact a Family and The Children's Trust's 'Stop the DLA Takeaway' campaign.

<http://tinyurl.com/3fyg77p>

resources

- **publications**

Disability Living Allowance reform: Public consultation – Government response

This is the government's response to the consultation on proposals to replace Disability Living Allowance with a new benefit, the Personal Independence Payment. <http://tinyurl.com/5tdvogs>

How to make the most of social media

The Campaigning Effectiveness team at NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) have made available a free guide explaining how to successfully build social media into your work.

The Guide includes overviews of tools like Twitter, Facebook, Youtube and concise explanations of techniques like blogging. There are case studies which demonstrate how others have put the theory into practice successfully. Click on the link below to download the guide.

http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/In_focus_social_media.pdf

The Foster Carers' Charter

Published by The Department for Education, The Charter sets out clear principles on how foster carers should be treated, recognises their invaluable work and aims to encourage more people to sign up to be foster carers.

<http://tinyurl.com/3flmpxk>

The Handy Guide to Tendering and Procurement

Guidance from Tendering for Care on the principles which underpin tendering and procurement.

<http://www.tenderingforcare.com/system/files/HandyGuideTandP.pdf>

Outcome and Outcome Indicator Banks: Availability and Use

This guide, published by the Charities Evaluation Service, has links to models of measuring outcomes including the Outcome Star model and NAVCA's (National Association for Voluntary & Community Action) performance standards.

<http://tinyurl.com/43eg2jg>

Right to Challenge briefing

NAVCA has produced a briefing on the Community Right to Challenge. This right is being introduced as part of the coalition government's Localism Bill. The Right to Challenge is intended to give voluntary and community bodies, parish councils and local authority employees the right to bring their proposals for taking on the running of local public services.

<http://www.navca.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/1B9E786C-2AB5-4C9D-8C0C-F5D99662C1A3/0/RighttoChallengebriefing.doc>

- **reports**

Joint strategic needs assessment

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) identifies and describes the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the population of Hampshire over both the shorter term (3-5 years) and longer term (5-10 years). The purpose of the JSNA is to inform future commissioning decisions and investment priorities. This will ensure that decisions about the allocation of resources are made fairly, efficiently and effectively.

<http://tinyurl.com/4xnu6bw>

Improving services for young people – an economic perspective

This Catch22 report suggests that if a more coordinated approach to services for vulnerable young people was adopted the cost benefits to the state, and improved outcomes for young people, would be to the value of £3.2 billion.

<http://tinyurl.com/3vluwkj>

Teenage kicks: The value of sport in tackling youth crime

This New Philanthropy Capital report explores the case for investment in high quality, well-run sports projects, which can often be the 'hook' needed to engage young people in wider programmes of education and support.

<http://tinyurl.com/3vguy83>

- **websites**

BT Community Web Kit

BT is offering this free service aimed at helping charities and not-for-profit community groups to create their own websites.

<http://www.btck.co.uk/>

Parenting video resources

Parenting UK is a charity which supports people who work with parents, keeping them up to date, sharing best practice and representing the views of the sector. Their new parenting website provides information and advice to parents and carers of children between the ages of 5-19. Further details at:

<http://tinyurl.com/697jmmt>

safeguarding

Vetting & Barring Scheme and criminal records checks

In February 2011 the government published the findings of its Review into the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS). You can read the report at <http://tinyurl.com/63hf5oz>

Key recommendations from the VBS Review include:

- the merging of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) to form a streamlined new body providing a proportionate barring and criminal records checking service;
- a reduction of the number of positions requiring checks to just those working most closely and regularly with children and vulnerable adults;
- portability of criminal records checks between jobs to cut down on needless bureaucracy;
- an end to a requirement for those working or volunteering with vulnerable groups to register with the VBS; and
- stopping employers who knowingly request criminal records checks on individuals who are not entitled to them.

Until all the appropriate legislation has been introduced and the new arrangements are established, the existing responsibilities of employers and ISA will remain:

- if your organisation works with children or vulnerable adults and you dismiss or remove a member of staff or a volunteer because they have harmed a child or vulnerable adult (or there is a risk of harm), or you would have done so if they had not left, you must tell the Independent Safeguarding Authority
- a person who is barred by the ISA from working with children or vulnerable adults will be breaking the law if they work or volunteer, or try to work or volunteer with those groups
- an organisation which knowingly employs someone who is barred to work with those groups will also be breaking the law

training/workforce development



Learn Together Work Together

This Hampshire County Council/The Alliance initiative has opened up Hampshire County Council Children's Services training to the voluntary sector.

A minimum of two free places are available to the sector on most Hampshire County Council Children's Services courses. Details of the learning opportunities available, together with booking information, can be found on the Children's Services section of The Learning Zone <http://tinyurl.com/3vjwk3u>

As learning opportunities information is being updated, individual course details may not necessarily reflect that the voluntary sector can access the training. If in doubt, please contact the Children's Services Workforce Development Admin team via email: cs.nominations@hants.gov.uk or call 01962 715669

There may be a charge for non-attendance at training, where no advance notification is given, as this leads to a considerable waste of resources.

The Alliance Bursary Scheme 2011-12

The Alliance Bursary scheme was established in 2009 as a means of providing learning opportunities for managers in the children and young people's voluntary sector.

The Alliance is currently offering subsidised places on CELD's 'Are you Contract Ready?' course. This practical course will help participants understand the processes and procedures of contracting and tendering, and will help them focus on those areas where improvement will give their organisation the best chance of success. More details at <http://tinyurl.com/2efe3yq>