

Interesting opportunities ahead...



Message from
Cllr Peter Thompson
Leader of the Council

Welcome to the New Year and welcome to the latest issue of the Voluntary Times. 2007 could prove to be an exciting time for all those working in the voluntary and community sector. A number of opportunities and challenges are starting to present themselves to organisations, whether the sector in Hounslow

is able to take full advantage, of these opportunities depends on everyone involved to engage and participate.

The biggest opportunity presented so far has been the Local Government White Paper- Strong and Prosperous Communities. The White Paper sets out a range of proposals designed to strengthen local communities, devolving more responsibility to local authorities, whilst placing a duty on them to co-operate with other statutory partners at the local level. A strong role for the voluntary and community sector as a legitimate partner is outlined and in particular the importance of increased community and voluntary sector engagement and involvement is highlighted.

The review into the future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration has published an interim report. In this report is the commitment to increase focus on building the capacity of local community groups and to help strengthen the voice of the local third sector within the Safer and Stronger Communities fund in Local Area Agreements

The Partnership in Public Services action plan, from the Office of the Third Sector, sets out a clear framework for removing barriers to voluntary and community organisations in delivering public services.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is reviewing how to improve opportunities for community management and ownership of assets. The review will produce an action plan setting out workable proposals for early implementation. The Government has announced a community assets fund of £30m to support this.

In order to ensure that Hounslow is in the best position to take advantage of the opportunities highlighted above, we need to ensure that working relations between the statutory and voluntary sectors are effective. As part of this, the Hounslow Compact will undergo a fundamental review. We want to move the Compact away from being a static document and towards it being a living framework for improving ways of joint working and partnership between the sectors. Initial the review will be led jointly by the council and HVSF with a full consultation happening early in 2007 to ensure that this is got right.

There are plenty of opportunities, and some challenges here, but by working together through 2007 and beyond I hope that we are able to get the best results for Hounslow.

Inside you can find more about the issues raised in the leaders welcome, details of how to book onto the 2007 Information Event and details of free training opportunities.

GENERAL NEWS

Free Training

The Community Development and Regeneration Unit are putting on 6 free training sessions for voluntary and community organisations across Hounslow. The sessions being run are:

- Business Planning, 9 February
- Promoting your organisation, 15 February
- Writing Better Fundraising Applications, 28 February
- Starting a Social Enterprise, 7 March

- Managing your community building, 21 March
- Your responsibilities as a Management Committee, 28 March

The booking form is enclosed with this issue of the Voluntary Times, hurry with your bookings time is running out. All training sessions will be held at the Civic Centre in Hounslow.

Hounslow's Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Information Event 2007

On Tuesday 6 March, Hounslow Voluntary Sector Forum and the Community Development and Regeneration Unit are hosting the Annual Information Event giving you the chance to meet 6 different funders of organisations in Hounslow.

This half day event, is a great way for you to network with other organisations across the borough, find out about new funding opportunities and ask some questions directly to the funders about their work.

This year the event, to be held at Horizons Bar and Banqueting, will give you the opportunity to meet representatives from:

- 1 Big Lottery Fund
- 2 Thames Community Foundation (Local Network Fund)
- 3 City Parochial Foundation and Trust For London
- 4 Bridge House Trust

- 5 GSK Health Awards
- 6 Hounslow Council Voluntary Sector Grants

As well as this there will be several workshops that will enable you to make the most of any fundraising opportunities available.

- 1 Identifying Needs
- 2 Commercial Awareness - Getting ready for commissioning
- 3 Setting, Measuring and Monitoring Outcomes
- 4 Answering the right questions - what makes a good bid
- 5 Understanding your Accounts

Numbers are limited for this event so ensure that you book your place early, using the booking form included with this newsletter, as they will be allocated on first come first served basis.

Links from the Leaders Welcome

The Strong and Prosperous Communities White Paper can be downloaded from here:
www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1503999

The future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration- Interim report can be downloaded from here:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/53E/94/pbr06_3rd_sector_428.pdf

The Partnership in Public Services action plan, from the Office of the Third Sector can be downloaded from here:
www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/public_service_delivery/

Charity Commission encourages organisations to adopt a reserves policy

A recent Charity Commission report is encouraging organisations to adopt a reserves policy. Charities without a reserves policy currently hold £3.6 billion in reserves.

The full report including details of the benefits of a reserves policy is available for download from:
www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/rs13.asp

Destination 2014

The overall vision for the Change Up programme is to see a transformed voluntary and community sector. Capacitybuilders wants to hear the views of the third sector, particularly on the priorities it should adopt to meet its vision and strategic objectives for 2014.

Consultation is based around a document titled Destination 2014, this and details of the full consultation programme are available from: www.destination2014.org.uk

Office of the Third Sector newsletter

The Office of the Third Sector has started to publish an electronic newsletter, the first issue and details of how to subscribe can be found on their website:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/newsletter/issue_1/index.asp



FUNDING NEWS

London Councils Funding for the Voluntary Sector

London Councils (formerly the Association of London Government (ALG)) has announced the funding priorities for its new commissioning based approach to funding services across London.

The new priorities will be commissioned in rounds, the first round of funding opportunities are-

- Enhance Londoners' involvement in the delivery of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games by supporting cultural activities to ensure that communities across London benefit from the Games
- Enhance Londoners' involvement in the delivery of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games by supporting volunteering activities to ensure that communities across London benefit from the Games
- Improve health and well-being of victims of crime through the provision of better co-ordination for local victim support services
- Provide sub-regional co-ordination and network management of the London network of local CVSs, and regional coordination and network management of the wider voluntary and community sector infrastructure.

- Reduce homelessness through the provision of specialist support and access to permanent or temporary accommodation
- Support a helpline for children and young people to provide support, advice and signposting to children and young people in crisis in London.
- Support and develop existing and emerging social enterprises focusing on:
 - Working with the boroughs to develop the social enterprise sector;
 - Training social entrepreneurs;
 - Building the capacity of existing social enterprises;
 - Working with voluntary and community organisations to develop social enterprise services;
 - Providing advice and guidance on financial issues and property assets.

These are currently being consulted on and will be advertised in February 2007.

The full list of the priorities for funding can be found at: www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/doc.asp?docId=18767

Area Committee Grants

£25,000 has been allocated in 2006/7 for the five Area Committees as part of the Council's commitment to local decision making for purely local projects. Each Area Committee therefore has decision-making powers over

a budget of £5,000. These are for grants of up to £500 for projects working locally in the area. The next deadline is 5 February. Application forms available from sara.lindsay@hounslow.gov.uk 020 8583 2450

Strengthening the Voluntary Sector (STVS) Grants Programme - Baring Foundation

This year the programme has focused on supporting organisational development that will help organisations to maintain their independence from government. Trustees have now awarded grants to 22 organisations,

from an extremely high number of applications. One significant point to note is that at their meeting the Trustees decided to spend the 2006 AND 2007 budgets. This means that there will not be a round of this fund in 2007.

Comic Relief Young Carers Grants Programme - Small Grants (supplied by fit4funding)

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers has been contracted by Comic Relief to distribute grants to voluntary sector services for young carers during 2006 and 2007

Application forms and guidelines are now available to download on the Small Grants and Large Grants pages of their website. Large grants programme has now closed. Small Grants - Round 3 (the last round) opens 8 January 2007 and closes 9 March 2007.

The decision-making process would take just over a month, with grants awarded mid April 2007 The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, 142 Minorities, London EC3N 1LB Tel: 020 7480 7788 Fax: 020 7481 4729. e-mail: help@carers.org Website: www.carers.org/articles/comic-relief-young-carers-grantsprogramme,663,CA.html

British Airways Community Investment Fund for Hounslow Youth Development

We are seeking applications for this Fund that will support groups who work with young people or those with disabilities or those who may be marginalised in any way, to raise their level of personal development especially through education and training.

Projects that can show demonstrable results and the improvements made to the lives of their client group will be given priority.

For an application form please go to: www.thamescommunityfoundation.org.uk and click on the green 'For Charities' button at the left hand side of the front page. Alternatively call 020 8943 5525.

Fundraising Search

Any organisations that need help with finding funding can e-mail Bob Holt: bob.holt@hounslow.gov.uk or phone: 020 8583 2454 with a project proposal. A profile of potential funders can be pulled together for groups.

Your project proposal should contain basic information about your organisation, a description of the project you wish to fund, and a basic budget for the project.

THE NEXT EDITION

The next edition of this newsletter will be available in April 2007. If you have any articles you would like to submit please contact Sara Lindsay at the Civic Centre by 22 March. Tel: 020 8583 2450 or e-mail: communitydevelopment@hounslow.gov.uk