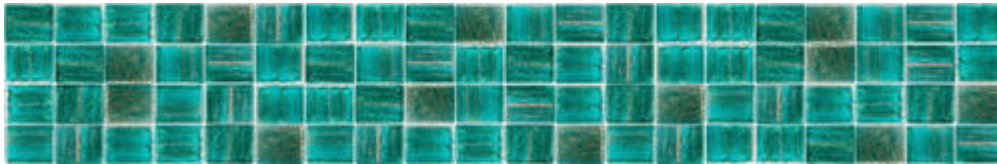




Improving support
for a stronger third sector

Capacitybuilders' Newsletter 22 May 2009



Welcome to Capacitybuilders' News Update

Top story: Capacitybuilders develop new £3m programme to boost volunteering support

Other stories:

- * Consortia help get Modernisation Fund Grants Programme up and running
- * Survey to understand impact of the economic downturn on third sector support providers
- * Tender notice for Improving Support Magazine
- * Office of the Third Sector to attend Collaborate|2009
- * Equality and Human Rights Commission announce £10m funding programme

Capacitybuilders develop new £3m programme to boost volunteering support



Capacitybuilders is developing a new £3m programme to boost the support available to people managing volunteers. The programme, to be launched in June, is part of a **£6.6m boost for volunteering** announced by the Office of the Third Sector on 6th May.

The programme has three key strands including grant funded local projects to further increase the reach and quality of support for local people managing volunteers, work to raise the profile of volunteer management at a national level and bursaries to increase access to training relevant to the management and co-ordination of volunteers. To find out more about the programme, please visit [our website](#).

Members of Consortia help get Modernisation Fund Grants Programme up and running



Around 50 members of local Consortia across England will act as Local Delivery Agents for the Modernisation Fund Grants Programme; playing a crucial role in raising awareness locally amongst frontline organisations about the impact of the recession and the range of resources available to them.

They will also promote Phase One of the Modernisation Fund Grants Programme - bursaries of £1000 - open for application from June. The bursaries will enable successful applicants to engage with local advisers who will help them

assess their organisation's specific options in light of the economic downturn, including how working more closely with others can help. To find out more about the Modernisation Fund Grants Programme and your Local Delivery Agent, please visit the [Modernisation Fund website](#).

Survey to understand the impact of the economic downturn on third sector support providers



Over the next 12 to 18 months Capacitybuilders will be conducting a series of surveys looking at the impact of the economic downturn on the third sector and those providing it with support. The information provided will enable Capacitybuilders to build a national picture of how the economic downturn is affecting the sector and to track its effects over time, informing its delivery priorities.

The data gathered will also be shared to help support providers to better plan to meet the needs of the organisations they work with. If you provide support to other third sector organisations and would like to participate in the survey, please e-mail [Katy Snelgrove](#).

Tender notice for Improving Support Magazine



Following the successful pilot edition of the Improving Support magazine, Capacitybuilders is looking to appoint a supplier to lead on the publication of future editions, with plans to publish the next issue towards the end of this year.

To find out more about this exciting piece of work, please visit [our website](#).

Office of Third Sector to attend Collaborate|2009



Helen Stephenson, Deputy Director Third Sector Support at the Office of the Third Sector is set to address ruralnet|uk's Collaborate|2009 on 25 June in Rugby. She will outline the initiatives put in place by her department to support the sector during the current recession and answer questions from the audience.

The day will consist of a number of parallel workshops and demonstrations and includes built in networking time. For further information about the event, please visit the [ruralnet website](#).

Equality and Human Rights Commission announces £10 million funding programme



The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has announced a new £10.2 million Strategic Funding Programme, providing multi-year funding of up to £450,000 for community and voluntary sector organisations.

Funding priorities for the new programme have been developed from the Commission's three year strategy and will cover the provision of guidance, advice and advocacy services, infrastructure development and capacity building and good relations. To find out more, please visit the [EHRC website](#).

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