

Issue 4 / October 2006

Welcome to the fourth East London CVS Network Newsletter. Our aim is to inform you of the many projects that ELN are currently involved with as well as keeping you up to date with news and information relevant to the sector.

Commissioning and Procurement: Fit for Purpose?

The first ELN conference was held on 24th May at the Forum in Greenwich. Over 60 delegates attended the event from a wide range of voluntary and public sectors including local VCS infrastructure organisations, Local Authority officers and Primary Care Trust personnel. The delegates represented a cross section of the nine boroughs supported by the network.

The day started with keynote speeches from the Outgoing Mayor of Greenwich – Cllr Dr Paul Tyler, Alan Riddell (Department for Communities and Local Government) and Nick Aldridge (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations), followed by questions from the audience.

The rest of the day consisted of workshops debating the value of the voluntary sector within the commissioning agenda and also whether the sector was 'Fit for Purpose'. The day ended on a massive high with GB Paralympic Athlete and BBC personality, Ade Adepitan, giving a very motivating speech.

After the success of the conference, ELN are planning to roll out a programme of activity around the commissioning and procurement agenda. We are currently in talks with external training organisations around appropriate opportunities for the sector to learn and develop. All new initiatives will be posted on the ELN website.

To view the full conference report visit: www.elcvsnetwork.org.uk/news



Delegates at the Conference in May

Commissioning and Procurement: Fit for Purpose Toolkit

A pilot project is currently underway to trial ELN's new Commissioning and Procurement toolkit which aims to support trustees make strategic decisions about delivering public services. The toolkit gives practical solutions to negotiating the complex agenda of tendering for services including:

- Key Governance Considerations
- Getting Fit for Purpose
- Financial Requirements
- Monitoring and Evaluation

We hope to roll the service out to a wider audience in the New Year when the pilot has been completed and the draft document has been finalised.

To register your interest in this product please contact Josephine Mason on 01708 778060 or email: josephine.mason@elcvsnetwork.org.uk

C & P local events

As part of a joint initiative with Age Concern London and a follow up to the May conference, East London CVS Network provided three CVS's with funding to hold a variety of Commissioning and Procurement events locally.

The events were a great success and included a procurement breakfast in Havering and a World Café event in Barking and Dagenham. The aim was to bring people together from PCT, LA and VCS to discuss issues and solutions in the commissioning of public services to the VCS. The reports from these events will be available soon on the East London CVS Network website.

Thames Gateway Action Research

The Thames Gateway London Partnership Third Sector Steering Group commissioned Rocket Science to collaborate with stakeholders on the development of a Third Sector Strategy for the sub-region.

This will identify how partners can enhance the sector's capacity to contribute to the economic development, social inclusion and long-term sustainability of the London Thames Gateway. One of the initial stages in this process was a consultative launch event held on 5th July. A total of 98 representatives from the public, private and third sector (22%, 9% and 69%, respectively) attended the event to share and develop their vision for a world class third sector in the Thames Gateway.

The London Thames Gateway area is expected to undergo substantial change over the next 10 years. By 2016 the area is expected to incorporate an extra 90,000 new homes (35% affordable) with 150,000 new jobs created. Moreover 53,000 Ha of land will be protected and enhanced. The event examined the roles of the third sector in this social and economic growth, and how third sector organisations can be supported and enabled to take advantage of the opportunities it brings. In devising a Third Sector Strategy

for the Thames Gateway, the roles of the third sector have been divided into five broad categories:

- Strategic advisor and participant in local and sub-regional decision making
- Managing Agent and coordinator of partnerships
- Agent of service design, delivery and appraisal
- Route to those who are most at risk of social and economic exclusion
- Part of and contributor to a vibrant civil society

Much of the consultative work examined these roles, the opportunities they present and the support required in more detail.

A launch event for the strategy will be held on 20th November 2006 at London Museum Docklands.

Sue Lloyd-Evelyn at Thames Gateway London Partnership:
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Free HR Software Still Available

If your organisation would benefit from a free software package to use for your Human Resource needs then ELN have the solution.

The software which is currently being used by over 100 VCO's in East London will be installed free and all we ask is that you submit your staff training and development needs to a central database where we will endeavour to match your needs to providers in the sector.

For further information please visit www.elcvsnetwork.org.uk/publications

or contact WfD@elcvsnetwork.org.uk

HR & Legal support

The findings of the ELN research into the HR and legal requirements of the sector across the sub-region have led to a bid being submitted to Capacity Builders for a sub-regional HR qualified member of staff.

If the bid is successful, the HR co-ordinator will be employed initially for 18 months to provide a variety of services to the East London VCS including:

- Delivering cross borough training and surgeries
- Delivering sub-regional training to CVS key staff
- Offering one to one advice/support to a number of groups
- Developing HR resources
- Sharing good practice
- Identifying future needs in line with a changing environment
- Identifying future funding to support, develop and sustain the project

If successful, we hope to have this new resource up and running early in 2007.

Keep up to date with current information by visiting our website.

CRB and Payroll Information now available on the ELN website

Two new information documents are now available on the ELN Website.

Criminal Records Bureau checks are an essential document for all staff and volunteers working with children or vulnerable adults. A list of umbrella bodies in each of the ELN boroughs can be found at www.elcvnetwork.org.uk/activities/

Payroll can be complex, time consuming and costly for a small organisation and it can be more economical to enlist the services of an external agency. A list of providers in each of the ELN boroughs can be found at www.elcvnetwork.org.uk/activities/

If you are a provider of either of the above services and would like to be added to the list please contact Josephine Mason at josephine.mason@elcvnetwork.org.uk or Tel 01708 778060

ICT Update

Affordable ICT Support: Do you struggle with ICT management but cannot afford an external ICT support contract? The ICT Project, in partnership with Moving IT Forward, are developing a pilot ICT support service package for community groups in Newham, Hackney and Tower Hamlets. *Please contact the ICT Development Worker below for more information and to register your interest.* The ICT Hub Website is now live. **Visit www.ictHub.org.uk**

ICT DDA Compliance Review your organisation's systems and software for DDA compliance. **Contact Ability UK www.abilitynet.org.uk**

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Access to Learning Fund for organisations like schools providing free internet access. Deadline 31st December 2006. More info: <http://www.inasp.info/ldp/awards>

BME VCS SUB-REGIONAL NETWORK

Policy networking events

The first in our series of networking events for the sub-regional infrastructure network members takes place on Wednesday 4th October. The event aims to facilitate a better understanding of how key public sector policy institutions work in London and how the BME voluntary and community sector can work in partnership with these institutions in policy development.

For further information about future events, please contact Nwadi Okereke on 020 7729 1310 or nwadi@rota.org.uk

The Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) Workforce Development Strategy for East London

The East London VCS Workforce Development Strategy, being undertaken by 4Children is now in its final stages, with key findings and draft recommendations out for consultation.

Commissioned by Thames Gateway London Partnership (TGLP) on behalf of the East London Third Sector Workforce Development Coalition, the strategy highlights :

- How the diversity, flexibility and responsiveness of the VCS workforce contributes to community cohesion
- The need for more leaders and managers to be developed in the East London VCS
- A shift in the sector to endorsing the development and adoption of National Occupational Standards
- The urgency of developing a strategic and informed approach in preparation for procurement and commissioning of services

The strategy is to be launched, together with the 'Building a World Class Third Sector in the London Thames Gateway' report on Monday November 20th at London Museum Docklands, with a ministerial presence. For more details about the study/ launch details contact:

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FREE VOLUNTARY SECTOR MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, Greenwich, Hackney, Havering,
Lewisham, Newham, Redbridge and Tower Hamlets

HAVCO are able to offer free management training in Stratford which will enable you to be able to:

- Motivate staff by improving leadership techniques
- Apply planning and organisational skills to performance management

Training will be delivered locally by qualified voluntary sector trainers and will lead to the: **ASET Level 3 Management Qualification in Leading People and Managing Resources**

This qualification focuses on the skills, theories and techniques of leadership and provides an opportunity to gain practical experience in managing tasks whilst building teams and developing individuals. The emphasis is on the potential performance and conflict issues that may be experienced by leaders.

For more information, please contact either Michelle Mack or Lisa Franklin on **01708 742281** or alternatively email either michelle.mack@havco.org.uk or lisa.franklin@havco.org.uk



VCS 2012 Project Update

The VCS 2012 project supported by The London Civic Forum, East London CVS Network and London Voluntary Service Council, has taken a new turn in its development.

The project has been awarded Capacity Builders funding as well as a Bridge House Trust grant to continue and further develop its work over the next three years.

The project's mission to engage the Voluntary and Community Sector in the opportunities of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games can now start to take shape and really stimulate enthusiasm in 'the greatest show on earth' as well as the four year Cultural Olympiad and the bid winning legacy for London.

The project is in the process of producing an e-bulletin for the sector as well as launching the programme of work, a dedicated website and its new branding. *More information on the December launch will be available soon on the ELN website.*

East London CVS Network

The East London CVS Network covers the London boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, Greenwich, Hackney, Havering, Lewisham, Newham, Redbridge and Tower Hamlets.

ELN aims to encourage the development of Infrastructure Support which will enable a strong and vibrant Voluntary and Community Sector to have a positive impact on those who live, work, learn and play in East London.

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