

Welcome to the east London CVS Network [ELN] E-news.

Our aim is to inform you of the project[s] that ELN are currently involved with as well as keeping you up to date with news and information relevant to the sector.

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Special Interest Articles

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Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year

from all at ELN

Reaching Vulnerable people through you - London TV Goes Digital

Small Grants

Are you able to spread the message about London TV going Digital in April 2012?

Well if you can, then you could also be eligible to apply for a small grant of around £250 to help you tell your members and spread the word.

Why we need your help

London is the last TV region to switch from an analogue TV signal to a digital TV signal. This type of information can be confusing to some people, others might think it is too complicated and some might just ignore the London wide media campaign that has already started.

Research from the other TV regions that have already switched from analogue to digital has shown that some people do not respond to television, radio or poster campaigns but they do listen to trusted community voices like yours... and that's where you come in.

If you work with:

- Older people
- People that are socially isolated
- People who have English as their second language
- People living with mental ill health or a learning disability
- People who are deaf, blind, partially sighted or have problems with their mobility
- Or people who you think just might need a bit of support then these are the people we want to reach though you

If you have any events coming up in the

next 3 -4 months and can spare one hour of that event to tell you member about London going digital then that means people won't wake up one day in April and not have TV ... and for some people TV plays an important part of their lives. Alternatively, if you run an advice service and can spend 10/15 minutes during the session telling people about what they should do you can still be eligible for the grant.

How to Apply for the Grant

To be eligible to apply for the grant you should attend one of the information session taking places in your borough. The information session will provide you with all the information you need to know and explains how you can get your own leaflets and resources to give to your members, what the grant can be used for and how to apply.

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Receiving Royal Assent on November 15th, The Localism Bill, became The Localism Act

Containing a number of measures enabling the decentralisation of power from central and local government to local people, The Localism Act should make it easier for people to take control of local public services and have a greater say on issues such as proposed developments, planning, and housing.

The Localism Act Summary:

'Key measures to increase the power of local government through the Act include:

- A new general power of competence, giving councils freedom to work together to improve services and lower costs.
- Opening the door for the transfer of power to our major cities to develop their areas, improve local services, and boost local economies
- Abolition of the Standards Board that oversees the behaviour of councillors
- Clarifying the rules on predetermination in order to free up councillors to express their opinions on issues of local importance without the fear of legal challenge
- Enabling councils to return to the committee system of governance, if they wish, regardless of their size. Centrally set rules interfering in how councils set up their own affairs are being scrapped
- councils will have greater control over business rates. Councils will have the power to offer business rate discounts, which could help attract firms, investment and jobs. The Act cancels unfair backdated business rates, which threatened to cripple key businesses. It stops plans to impose a business rate supplement on firms if a simple majority of those affected do not give their consent, and simplifies the process for claiming small business rate relief
- Introducing new planning enforcement rules, giving councils the ability to take action against people who deliberately conceal unauthorised development
- Increasing powers for councils to remove illegal advertisements and graffiti and prevent fly-posting, and giving planning authorities stronger powers to tackle abuses of the planning system
- Reforming homelessness legislation to enable councils to provide private rented homes where appropriate, freeing up social homes for people in need on the waiting list
- Allowing councils to keep the rent they collect and use it locally to maintain social homes through the abolition of the housing revenue account

- Passing greater powers over housing and regeneration to local democratically elected representatives in London.

Key measures to increase the power of local communities include:

- Introducing a new Right to Bid, which will give residents the opportunity to take over local assets
- The new Right to Challenge, making it easier for local groups with good ideas to put them forward and drive improvements in local services
- Removing the ability of councils to charge families for overflowing their bin and to introduce extra tariffs for taking away household waste
- Increasing transparency on local pay, by requiring councils to publish the salaries of senior officials working in local authorities,
- Giving communities the right to veto excess council tax rises.
- a neighbourhood plan, giving local people a voice to say where they think new houses, businesses and shops should go - and what they should look like
- Enabling communities to bring forward proposals for development they want - such as homes, shops, playgrounds or meeting halls, through the Community Right to Build
- Freeing home sellers and buyers from red tape through the abolition of Home Information Packs. The Act removes HIPs once and for all from the statute books
- Enabling people to swap their social home, for example because they wish to move jobs. A national home swap scheme will give access to details of all other tenants who may be a match
- Giving social tenants stronger tools to hold their landlords to account. Landlords will be expected to support tenant panels - or similar bodies - so tenants can carefully examine the services being offered. The Tenant Services Authority will be abolished
- Requiring developers to consult local communities before submitting certain applications. This gives people a chance to comment while there is still scope to make changes
- Ending decision making by unaccountable officials on important infrastructure projects such as train lines and power stations. The Act abolishes the Infrastructure Planning Commission, and restores responsibility for taking decisions to elected, accountable Ministers. [\[1\]](#)

For more information visit: [DCLG](#) | [Third Sector](#)

Government Outlines Reforms to Employment Laws to Cut Demands on Business

Business Secretary Vince Cable announced in November radical reforms to the employment law system as part of the Government's '[Plan for Growth](#)'.

Of the 159 regulations examined in the employment theme of the Red Tape Challenge more than 70 regulations, over 40%, are to be merged, simplified or scrapped.

Changes include the following:

- Publication of a call for evidence on proposals to simplify the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) - TUPE - rules which many businesses say are too complex and bureaucratic.
- Closure of a whistleblowing case law loophole which allows employees to blow the whistle about their own personal work contract.
- Merge 17 National Minimum Wage regulations into one set which will simplify the current regime, making it easier for employers to navigate the law, to complement the work the Low Pay Commission is doing on how best to streamline the system.
- A consultation in the spring to streamline the current regulatory regime for the recruitment sector.
- Creation of a universally portable CRB check that can be viewed by employers instantly online, from early 2013. These policy changes are being led by the Home Office.

Response to the Resolving Workplace Disputes consultation:

- Requiring all employment disputes to go to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) to be offered pre-claim conciliation before going to a tribunal and from April 2012 increasing the qualification period for unfair dismissal from one to

two years;

- Publishing a consultation in the new year on 'protected conversations' which allows employers to discuss issues like retirement or poor performance in an open manner with staff - without this being used in any subsequent tribunal claims;
- Appointing Mr Justice Underhill to lead an independent review of the existing rules of procedure governing employment tribunals. This review will look to address concerns that they have become increasingly complex and inefficient over time and are no longer fit for purpose;
- A further consultation on measures to simplify compromise agreements, which will be renamed 'settlement agreements'. A compromise agreement is a type of employment contract, which means when the working relationship has broken down to an irretrievable status, employees receive a negotiated financial sum to end their contract, and agree to not bring further claims against their employer;
- Announcing plans to consider how and whether to develop a 'rapid resolution' scheme which will offer a quicker and cheaper alternative to determination at an employment tribunal. Any proposals would be the subject of a consultation;
- Modifying the formulae for up-rating employment tribunal awards and statutory redundancy payments to round to the nearest pound. The Government anticipates that the reduction in redundancy pay and subsequent reduction in associated compensation payments made in employment tribunals will have a direct net saving to business of £5.4 million each year.

To find out more information please follow the links below:

[Plan for Growth](#) | [Press Notice](#)

ELN website resources

[Community / Premises](#) | [Directories](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Toolkits & Factsheets](#) | [Research](#) | [Useful website links](#)

Commissioning and Procurement Fit for Purpose Toolkit

The ELN Toolkit to support Trustees to make Strategic Decisions about Delivering Public Services is now available on a CD-ROM for you to amend and adapt to suit your local need.

For additional information: T: 020 8519 9500 | E: info@elcvnetwork.org.uk | W: <http://www.elcvnetwork.org.uk/>

If you have any comments or queries about the content of this e-news, please email: info@elcvnetwork.org.uk