

## WELCOME!

Welcome to the quarterly edition of the East London CVS Network [ELN E-News

### Special Interest Article

- Changing Lives, Shaping Communities
- ELN Website Updated

### Individual Highlights:

#### Boroughs/ Partners News

- Volunteer Centre Hackney Launch 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010
- City.comm – Publicity Film
- Hackney CVS AGM and Future Fair

#### Equality and Diversity

- New Equality and Diversity webpage
- Inclusion London update
- 'In Our Name' - Launch of Almanac questionnaire

### Free Publication about Volunteering in East London

#### Download your copy today

Funded through Changeup and produced in partnership with 8 of the sub regions volunteer centres, the East London CVS Network has produced *Changing Lives Shaping Communities'*. This electronic publication illustrates the positive impact and benefits of volunteering both for the volunteer and the volunteering involving organisation.

With so much emphasis on The Big Society, with an expectation that we should all become community volunteers, this publication also provides some useful factual information on volunteer demographics. This is a free publication,

### ChangeUp page

An area of the East London CVS Network website has been dedicated to the ChangeUp East London Partnership. The page has been revamped and now includes information on recent collaboration and partnership work. Visit the page to see what's new.

<http://www.elcvnetwork.org.uk/change/>

Some of the new content includes:

- Local and sub-regional activities
- East London ChangeUp Resources Directory
- Latest updates

If you require any further information contact Maneesha Sharma:  
[maneesha.sharma@elcvnetwork.org.uk](mailto:maneesha.sharma@elcvnetwork.org.uk) / 020 8519 9500 option 2 for ELN.

### ICT support in the sub-region

This page has also been recently updated providing up to date information on ICT

## Changing Lives, Shaping Communities'

so please download a **copy** and pass it on:  
[http://www.elcvnetwork.org.uk/areas\\_of\\_work/volunteering/documents/ELCVSpromofinal.pdf](http://www.elcvnetwork.org.uk/areas_of_work/volunteering/documents/ELCVSpromofinal.pdf)



## ELN WEBSITE UPDATED

resources and support. Content includes:

- Funding for ICT
- ICT support services resources
- Knowledgebase
- London ICT E-bulletin

To find out more please visit the website:  
<http://www.elcvnetwork.org.uk/support/ict/>

### Resources

This section on the website has been also revamped and now provides information on:

- Community/Premises
- Directories
- Newsletters
- Toolkits & Factsheets
- Research documents

To find out more please visit the website:  
<http://www.elcvnetwork.org.uk/resources/>

**London/National**

- National Coalition for Independent Action
- DWP Framework Agreement for the provision of employment related support services
- The Big Society

**Olympics/  
Volunteering**

- London 2012 – Sector Makes Inroads
- Institute of Volunteering Research launches free research database

**Updates**

- Lasa Computanews ICT Guides
- Are you an environmentally responsible organization? Concerned about reducing your carbon footprint?

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, Volunteer Centre Hackney officially re-launched with a new name and new offices in Tyssen Street Hackney. Although the weather outside was miserable, the atmosphere inside was vibrant and exciting. In attendance were a mixture of Hackney based organisations and individuals, VCH staff, volunteers, trustees, friends and family. Attending the event was Mayor of Hackney, Jules Pipe, who gave a positive account of the impact that volunteering has, and is making in the borough of Hackney.



Other speeches were made by Charlie Forman, Director of Hackney's 2012 Unit, Chair of the VCH Board, Eric Smart and Mark Kass (VCH Trustee) who spoke about VCH's plans for the upcoming Olympics. Three Hackney volunteers also gave heart warming accounts sharing with guests the positive impact that volunteering has made in their own lives.

One of the highlights of the day was the cutting of the cake which was beautifully crafted by Cakes by Candy - [www.cakesbycandy.co.uk/](http://www.cakesbycandy.co.uk/) / [oobidipe@aol.com](mailto:oobidipe@aol.com) - The cake showcased VCH's new strap line '**Giving is Receiving**' which means that

**CITY.COMM – Publicity Film**

Award winning directors in the making, City.comm have produced a short publicity film about their work. A video of it is now up on the front page of their website: To view visit [www.citycomm.org.uk](http://www.citycomm.org.uk)

**HACKNEY CVS AGM**

HCVS is holding its AGM and this year it is combined with a Futures Fair. For details on the event and how to book click on the links:

<http://www.hcvs.org.uk/en/pages/fair09.aspx>

Download a flyer for this event [here](#):

[http://www.hcvs.org.uk/EN/store/hcvs/2010/AGM\\_2010.pdf](http://www.hcvs.org.uk/EN/store/hcvs/2010/AGM_2010.pdf)

**Volunteer Centre  
Hackney Launch,  
1<sup>st</sup> June 2010**

volunteering benefits not just the recipients but the volunteer as well. VCH would like to thank all those who attended the launch and they look forward to many more great years of working within the community to make volunteering a force to be reckoned with.

**New Website**

To go with their new name and new address VCH now also have a brand new website. You can take a look at: [www.vchackney.org](http://www.vchackney.org).

New address is Unit 13 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street London, E8 2LY



## NEW EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY WEBPAGE

Formerly the BME Network page, we have now changed this page and it now dedicated Equalities & Diversity.

The new refreshed page includes information on and a link to our recently developed Anti Discrimination Charter. Our Charter has been produced in order to clearly demonstrate the anti discriminatory approach and ethos adopted and exemplified by member CVS' in the east London sub region. The beliefs and values that the Charter expresses are important to uphold and it is our hope that our members will show their support through displaying and publicizing the Charter to their respective members.

We have also listed the various equal opportunities legislation that organisations need to be aware of and adhering to in order to maintain and achieve best practice. There are links for further support and information.

The new page also has a resources section which we will populate with reports, findings and best practice documents which we hope you will find useful. If there is a particular document that you think we should add to this section, please let us know by contacting

Josephine Mason in the first instance. We have included links to our equalities partners and their websites, these comprise of organisations that support the following groups through for example: delivering infrastructure support, advocacy, raising awareness and lobbying and campaigning. Our partners currently include:

- BNRRN
- BTEG
- Consortium of LGBT voluntary and community organisations
- HEAR
- Inclusion London
- Kairos in Soho
- Minet
- ROTA

If you are an equalities focused 2<sup>nd</sup> tier organisation and would like to engage with the East London CVS Network or highlight any important, news, information or programmes, please contact Maneesha at [maneesha.sharma@elcvsnetwork.org.uk](mailto:maneesha.sharma@elcvsnetwork.org.uk)

Alternatively, if you have any comments or suggestions, we would also welcome these. Please direct any comments to Maneesha (email address as above).



The last few months have been a busy time for Inclusion London: The launch of our website has been a fantastic achievement and we have been thrilled with the positive feedback we've been getting. We are always keen to improve the site so please send us your feedback.

As always we have been watching the political changes very closely and have put together a number of information papers, arranged events and challenged the powers that be in order to make sure that the issues facing Deaf and disabled people are heard and acted upon.  
Upcoming event:

**Disability in the Equality Act: What the**

## INCLUSION LONDON UPDATE

**Equality Act 2010 means for Deaf and disabled people and public authorities. About the Seminar**

This is a half day seminar, presented by Caroline Gooding and Natalie Salmon (both formerly with the Disability Rights Commission).

The new Equality Act will replace the Disability Discrimination Act, including the disability equality duties, beginning from October 2010. There has been a great deal of concern about what this might mean for Deaf and disabled people.

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This seminar provides an exciting opportunity for London's disability organisations and disability and equality officers to explore with experts the practical effect of these changes.

The seminar will examine:

- How disability rights will be strengthened by the Equality Act, including the new restrictions on pre-employment health screening and new duties on schools;
- How disability will be addressed by the new equality duties;
- How disabled people in London can get the most out of the legislation;
- What public authorities need to do?

**When:** 23 September 2010

**Time:** 10:00 - 13:00

**How to Book:**

Please either email or visit our website:

**E:** [Libby.oakley@inclusionlondon.co.uk](mailto:Libby.oakley@inclusionlondon.co.uk)

**Visit:** <http://www.inclusionlondon.co.uk>

**Examination in Public – Mayor of London's Draft Replacement London Plan**

Inclusion London has been successful in securing representation at the Examination in Public of the London Plan to be held in September. Here, we will present the views of disabled people on a number of aspects of the mayor's plans including transport, lifetime neighbourhoods Equal Life chances for all, life time homes.

**Visit our website** for more information & news from Inclusion London including information papers on the How the Budget impacts on Deaf and disabled people; The GLA's Disability Equality Scheme; the London Assembly Transport Committee investigation and much more...

[www.inclusionlondon.co.uk](http://www.inclusionlondon.co.uk)



## 'IN OUR NAME' – LAUNCH OF ALMANAC QUESTIONNAIRE

Kairos in Soho (KiS) and the In Our Name project partners, London Friend, PACE and the Metro Centre, are excited to announce the launch of the 'In Our Name Almanac Questionnaire'.

**al-ma-nac**

1. an annual book about LGBT activism in London
2. a good thing

The information produced from the survey will form the basis of the **2010 London LGBT Voluntary and Community Sector Almanac**. The Almanac will provide up-to-date statistical and strategic information about the diverse LGBT voluntary and community sector in London, so that LGBT voluntary and community organisations can access information base for planning and development, and envision their strategic context. The Almanac will give organisations the opportunity to showcase their work to others in the sector, and all LGBT organisations will receive a free printed copy of the Almanac.

We are at a critical moment to capture the experience of LGBT organisations in a changing political and economic climate, consistently through the long-term production of a year on year report. This will be the first comprehensive mapping since the publication of the PiP Report - the influential first mapping of London's LGBT sector in 2006/7 conducted by KiS.

Each organisation that completes the Almanac Questionnaire will receive two free tickets to the Historical Guided Tour of LGBT Soho and entry into a prize draw.

If you would prefer to complete the survey over the telephone, or would like a hard copy, please ring Kairos in Soho on 020 7437 6063.

**Important Survey of London LGBT Activism**

Available at:

<http://www.kairosinsoho.org.uk/almanac.asp>

## National Coalition for Independent Action

The National Coalition of Independent Action [NCIA] is an alliance of organisations and individuals who believe there is a crisis in the voluntary sectors ability to act independently from government and other powerful interests. On July 9<sup>th</sup> the NCIA in partnership with LVSC's Second Tier Advisors' Network held an open space event entitled 'what next for the voluntary and community sector?' There were a vast number of concerns about the future of the sector but here is a snap shot:

**The 'Big Society'** - 'need to develop a collective voluntary and community sector voice to shape it.'

**'Managerialism' in the voluntary sector** - 'having to focus on quality assurance, PR and collecting data has taken away the time we have to think and be active in communities....'

**Cuts** - 'don't agonise – organise!'

**Commissioning** – is it right for the sector? The NCIA is developing projects in these areas covering these areas and If anything strikes a chord with you, they are inviting you to get in touch, even just to find others to have a moan with!

**The four project areas:**

**Supporting activism:** NCIA wants to work with second tier organisations to support activism for social change, like linking people and groups to mobilise around a local issue.

**'Managerialism':** Including hierarchies, undemocratic management practices, managers who don't understand the frontline work, restrictive quality assurance and monitoring systems. They are setting up a group to explore suggesting alternative practices in your workplace.

**Recession and cuts:** Working with other organisations such as trade unions to challenge the idea that cuts are inevitable and question decisions about where cuts are made.

**Commissioning:** NCIA are seeking your ideas about challenging current policy on the role of the voluntary sector in the provision of public services, exposing and questioning privatisation, demanding fairer commissioning, lobbying funders and/or saying no to public money.

**For more information contact:**

Rachael McGill or Melaina Barnes on 020 8536 3828 or visit at [www.independentaction.net](http://www.independentaction.net) or email: [rachael@independentaction.net/melaina@independentaction.net](mailto:rachael@independentaction.net/melaina@independentaction.net)

## DWP Framework Agreement for the Provision of Employment Related Support Services

At the beginning of July, Employment Minister Chris Grayling announced a series of policy reforms to radically shake up the current welfare system. Included in the bundle of reforms is the Department of Work and Pensions [DWP] 'Framework Agreement for the Provision of Employment Related Support Services. The new framework will include a new Work Programme aimed at getting people back into work and make it easier for people to 'select, train for, obtain and retain employment suitable for their ages and capacities', and 'simplify' current arrangements aimed reducing the number of contracts.

The Framework Agreement is divided into 11 lots with the DWP expecting to appoint between 3 – 8 organisations per lot. This means that contracts will be out of reach for many smaller third sector providers. However, some larger third sector organisations are now setting up consortia large enough to bid for contracts that may come up under the framework.

**For more information see the links below:**

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/framework-eoi.pdf>  
<http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/lcp/news/frameworkagreement.htm>  
[http://ingeus.co.uk/pages/partners/256/framework\\_agreements\\_and\\_the\\_work\\_programme.html](http://ingeus.co.uk/pages/partners/256/framework_agreements_and_the_work_programme.html)

## THE BIG SOCIETY

A term with which we are all now familiar – 'The Big Society' is the government's policy set to redistribute power from central to local government and from local government to citizens by empowering communities to help themselves and encourage social action.

*"...this coalition has the potential for era challenging, radical reform," David Cameron and Nick Clegg May 2010*

The key components of the policy include:

1. Giving communities more powers
2. Encouraging people to take an active role in their communities
3. Transferring power from central to local government
4. Supporting co-ops, mutuals, charities and social enterprises
5. Greater access to government data
6. Implementing a national 'Big Society Day'
7. A National Citizens Service

Research states that only:

- 40% of people feel that they can influence local decisions
- 25% people feel that they can influence change
- 35% of people participate in informal volunteering at least once a month
- 26% of people participate in formal volunteering at least once a month and only

- 3% people attend local or regional public meetings
- 2008-09 Citizenship Survey - Volunteering and Charitable Giving Topic Report/**  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1547056.pdf>

However, there is concern amongst many in the voluntary sector that the Big Society ethos is being driven by financial pressure to reduce the national deficit, with the voluntary sector being seen as the cheaper and more cost effective option to deliver public services.

But what is your opinion? Is the Big Society a positive step towards a better future, or are you concerned about what is in store for our new, 'Big Society'?

For more information on The Big Society and related research see below:

The Big Society Network -  
<http://www.thebigsociety.co.uk/index.html>

A new bank holiday for Britain's communities  
<http://www.communityday.org.uk/>

NCVO – Encouraging Participation –  
<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/big-society-evidence/encourage-participation>

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/407789/building-big-society.pdf>

## Cast your Vote Now

Is the Big Society a positive initiative to redistribute power from the state to ordinary people, giving individuals a voice and the power to influence change that will encourage people to take an active role in their communities through volunteering, social action and philanthropy?

OR

Is it an initiative that legitimises sweeping cuts in public spending, laying the burden of responsibility for public services at the door step of ordinary people, the third sector?

OR

What is your opinion?

**Cast your vote and make your comments**

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YGM6DYW>

## London 2012 – Sector Makes Inroads

It has been a busy few months for The Big Opportunity. The Big Opportunity, London Civic Forum and LVSC have joined forces to create an e-bulletin dedicated to highlighting London 2012 related jobs, grants, promotional and cultural opportunities for the voluntary and community sector. To see the first edition go to <http://www.londoncivicforum.org.uk/events/article/big-opportunity-bulletin/>

To register to receive future editions directly to your in-box please register at: [www.lvsc.org.uk/tbo](http://www.lvsc.org.uk/tbo)

As part of The Big Opportunity initiative London Civic Forum provides an e-mail service for VCS organisations that have queries on the London 2012 and the legacy. Questions or requests should go to [thebigopportunity@londoncivicforum.org.uk](mailto:thebigopportunity@londoncivicforum.org.uk). Future editions of the e-bulletin will also be posted on The Big Opportunity website.

### The Big Opportunity Manifesto

The Big Opportunity steering group which includes 21 leading VCS organisations has finalised its manifesto which can be found at: [http://www.thebigopportunity.org.uk/uploads/4/0/0/1/4001782/thebigopportunitymanifesto\\_short.pdf](http://www.thebigopportunity.org.uk/uploads/4/0/0/1/4001782/thebigopportunitymanifesto_short.pdf)

The work plan and objectives will follow in the autumn. The work of steering group

members will focus on Economic Development, Sport Health & Wellbeing, Volunteering, Build Environment Legacy, Culture and Equalities.

### London 2012 VCS Advocates Group

In addition to this work with The Big Opportunity, Programme Manager Paul Bower is now seconded one day per week to the Community Relations team of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games [LOCOG]. His principle task is to convene and manage the London 2012 VCS Advocates Group. Distinct and separate from The Big Opportunity this group will act as a sounding board for community related Olympic initiatives and also give leaders of VCS organisations the opportunity to talk directly to LOCOG managers and learn about opportunities as soon as they become available.

The group [which had its first exploratory meeting in July] is a tactical information forum for decisions makers in VCS organisations who are enthusiastic about the Games. The group will meet quarterly. Membership is unpaid and subject to signing a volunteering and a non-disclosure agreement. For more information contact Paul Bower on: [paul.bower@london2012.com](mailto:paul.bower@london2012.com)

## Institute of Volunteering Research launches free research database

### Evidence Bank, with 200 entries, set up by research arm of Volunteering England

A database of volunteering research has been launched by the [Institute for Volunteering Research](#), the research arm of [Volunteering England](#).

According to the institute, its free [Evidence Bank](#) contains 200 entries, including all public reports produced by the research organisation since 1997. It plans eventually to extend the database to list third party work as well.

Nick Ockenden, the director of the institute, said: "We are pleased to have developed a landmark resource that makes all our research into volunteering accessible. Over the past 13 years we have accumulated a wealth of knowledge about volunteering, which we are keen to share with others".

*Extract taken from Third Sector Online, 12 August 2010 and was written by David Ainsworth,*

## LASA COMPUTANEWS ICT GUIDES

Lasa's magazine **Computanews** provides straight-forward, clear information on the use of ICT for staff in small to medium-sized voluntary organisations.

The Lasa Computanews Guides offer practical guidance on specific ICT issues and help answer common queries. Guides are available as a FREE PDF download. Guides currently available are:

- ICT Security
- Managing ICT
- Data Protection
- Project Management
- Circuit Riders

Download from the [Lasa Computanews Guides webpage](#)

Computanews is published quarterly as a free Acrobat pdf file [download](#). You will need [Acrobat Reader](#) or similar free application (Lasa like [Foxit](#)) in order to read Computanews.

## ARE YOU AN ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATION? CONCERNED ABOUT REDUCING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT?

The City Bridge Trust is undertaking a programme of **free eco-audits** of third sector organisations and London – based organisations (including HQs and regional offices) are invited to apply. The Trust will cover the cost of an eco-audit provided by approved environmental consultants who will undertake a survey of energy use, waste, travel patterns, purchasing practice and associated policies. Organisations must be willing to spread the resulting impact amongst their stakeholders.

### Some feedback from others who have had eco-audits:

*"The report was extremely helpful. It was also realistic and made practical, feasible*

*recommendations. It gave me the push I needed to make changes*

*The majority of recommendations turned out not to cost anything – we have actually saved money!"*

**How to apply:** Simply send a short proposal (not more than two pages) explaining how you will benefit from an eco audit and how you can help to spread good practice; by e-mail to [ecoaudits@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:ecoaudits@cityoflondon.gov.uk) or by post to Eco Audits, The City Bridge Trust, City of London, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ.

Further details are available on our website [www.citybridgetrust.org.uk](http://www.citybridgetrust.org.uk)

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W: [www.elcvsnetwork.org.uk](http://www.elcvsnetwork.org.uk)

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