

Email bulletin N° 101 – 9 December 2009

Dear Colleague,

Warm seasons greetings to all as we prepare our final e news bulletin for 2009.

In the frantic run up to Christmas preparations I felt it was timely to take a look back at some of the wonderful successes we have all had over the past year. You can see from the spotlight in this edition that Bromley is up on top in terms of championing the Refreshed Compact and indeed in terms of our volunteering initiatives. I look forward to the setting up of the Compact Champions network and hope to see many of you at our [meeting on the 15th January](#).

As I reflect on some of our events over the year, I'm delighted to see from your evaluations the very real differences we have made to organisations and individuals throughout the year. Our Meet the Funders, funding training sessions, and our Annual Conference in September have all exceeded your expectations and the issues arising from these will shape our work programme for the coming year.

Our partnership event on the 16th November with the LBB Commissioning and Partnerships team was felt to be a great success and has set the scene for continued partnership working between LBB and the voluntary sector. I'm very pleased to be able to give you a date for your new diaries for the second Commissioning Conference which we will host in partnership with LBB and Children & Families Voluntary Sector Forum.

[Click here to find out more information and a booking form](#).

As we look ahead to 2010 and the plans for our work with the voluntary and community sector I very much look forward to developing and delivering a robust package of support. In addition, we will be strengthening our partnerships with our statutory organisations in the coming year.

Just a final reminder that the next e news bulletin is due on the 13th January, but of course if you have anything urgent to circulate then do please contact our editor to see if there is anything she can do to help. May I also take the opportunity to thank those who have responded to our 100th e-news bulletin survey and I ask those of you yet to do so, please take the few minutes needed as we value your feedback and input.

Our offices will be closed at lunchtime on the 24th December and we will reopen on the 4th January to what I hope is the start of another successful and exciting New Year. On that note I wish I all a great Christmas break, enjoy a peaceful festive holiday and a very Happy New Year!

Best Wishes,

Eithne

Eithne Rynne,

Director, Community Links Bromley

Next publishing dates:

- Wednesday 13 January 2009
- Wednesday 23 January 2009
- Copy deadline: Thursday before publication

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Spotlight

Bromley is the first South London borough to embrace London's Volunteer Management charter

Last Saturday marked the launch of London's Volunteer Management Charter, the first of its kind in the UK. Diane Diamond, Bromley's Volunteer Centre manager is delighted that the Abbeyfield Orpington Society is leading the way in South London.

She explains, "Over the past year, 90 percent of Volunteer Centres in the UK have experienced an increase in volunteering enquiries – here in Bromley we have experienced a 100 percent increase. Our aim is to ensure that these new volunteers find relevant, interesting and valuable opportunities. Supporting our local groups to sign up to the Charter will help ensure those experiences."

Greater London Volunteering developed the Charter in close consultation with the London Volunteer Centre network. The Charter provides clear guidance to what makes an excellent volunteering experience, and provides an assurance for volunteers, who are looking to get involved and support London's communities.

Anne Dungan, Honorary Secretary of the Abbeyfield Orpington Society said, "I am very pleased to have the support of Bromley's Volunteer centre with ensuring we have good systems for managing our volunteers. We are looking forward to working with Diane and Marzena from GLV's Experts in Volunteering team over the next three years."

Abbeyfield Orpington Society is a non-profit organisation run by volunteers and professional staff, who provide sheltered housing for the elderly in four houses in Orpington. It has over 45 years experience in providing companionship and residential care for the elderly.

If you are interested in working towards this exciting initiative to improve volunteering experiences in our borough, contact Diane on 020 8315 1930.

Compact Voice recognises Bromley's initiative

The Compact is an agreement between government and voluntary and community sector on mutual respect and partnership working. A [Bromley Compact](#) was agreed in 2007. In 2009, Community Links Bromley took the opportunity of the recent consultation on the "refreshed" compact to breathe new life into the 2007 Compact [[read previous article](#) online]. As a result, Bromley was recognised by Compact Voice as being one of the first in the country to do so.

A paper went to the Local Strategic Partnership to re-establish a Compact Steering Group that will report to the LSP executive [[Read this paper](#)]. The group will be made up of senior officers within the council, PCT, Police and voluntary sector and is due to meet in December. The Compact Steering Group will be responsible for an action plan to see that the Bromley Compact is reviewed and strengthened. It will particularly look at equalities and commissioning.

As a demonstration of Compact working, one of Bromley Council's management trainees, Claire Driffield, is on a placement with Community Links Bromley until mid January to work with us on developing the Compact.

A report on progress so far has gone to the Local Strategic Partnership for their meeting on 14th December. A [copy of the paper](#) that will be presented is available from our website.

As well as setting up the Compact Steering Group, we are hoping to recruit many Compact Champions from voluntary and community sector organisations and from officers in public sector. Read how you can play your part as a [Compact Champion](#).

Local news

Compact Champions – play your part in success

To make a revived Compact truly successful we are looking to recruit “Compact Champions”. They will come from both the voluntary and community sector and public bodies and their role is to promote the Compact to others. You do not have to be an “expert” on all aspects of the Compact, nor are you there to act as judge. Your role is to see that your organisation complies with the Compact and be willing to advise or answer queries to the best of your ability. The beauty of the role is that because champions come from different organisations and all have different jobs there is no “identikit” champion. We are looking for as many champions as possible and there will be a simple “role description” and support available through CLB if you need it.

There will be an open event on the 15th January at Community House. To book a place and find out more contact Claire Driffield claire.driffield@bromley.gov.uk or Stephen Blann stephenb@communitylinksbromley.org.uk 020 8315 1907

Read [Paul Rideout's presentation](#) from the Compact workshops at the CLB Conference to get a feel for the role.

FREE help for Bromley Residents who want to lose weight

Bromley PCT and Bromley Mytime are offering vouchers to Bromley residents to attend 'Slimming World Group' meetings for a three-month period free of charge.

To be eligible applicants must meet a few simple criteria. These are:

- a BMI (Body Mass Index) of 27 or above
- aged 18 or over
- well motivated to lose weight
- and currently not part of a weight loss group programme

Group meetings take place in community locations across Bromley and provide a great opportunity for anyone who wants to lose weight, but particularly for those who would not usually be able to afford a weight loss group. Once slimmers have completed the course, their progress will continue to be monitored for a further three months.

If you would like to be involved in this project contact the Community Dietetic Service – Public Health Team on 01689 866214 as soon as possible. The offer closes on 31 December 2009.

If you have any queries regarding this initiative or would like posters etc to promote it more widely, contact the dieticians on 01689 866214 or Catherine Perry at the Health Improvement Service on 020 8662 6695.

Update on new disabled access guide to services in the Borough

This new web-based information service for people with a disability or a sensory impairment is being developed for LBB by a commercial specialist company www.disabledgo.info.

The website is due to be launched in February 2010.

Rebecca Jarvis, LBB's Joint Strategic Commissioner, who is managing the project from the Borough's side, would like you to know that there is currently a team of surveyors out assessing accessibility information on shops, bars, cafes and public buildings for inclusion in the directory. Where possible, they will make contact to fix an appointment in advance. However, in some instances if a surveyor is working in your area they may just arrive. Surveyors should provide a letter from Rebecca to prove their identity.

There is no charge to promote your services in the disability access guide and it is voluntary. Apart from the benefit to the wider community that mapping the borough's disabled access services will bring, you will receive advice on how to provide a good service to disabled customers.

For further information email Rebecca.jarvis@bromley.gov.uk or phone 020 8313 4198 or contact Victoria Taylor at DisabledGo on 01438 842710.

Opportunities to tender for an evaluation of the BESPOKE project

The South London CVS Partnership (SLCVSP) funded from the Big Lottery Fund's BASIS 2 programme will manage this tender process.

South London CVS Partnership (SLCVSP) wants to engage an independent consultant or agency to evaluate the success of the BESPOKE project for the duration of its three-year funding.

In particular, the evaluation will target how the project is progressing against the milestones and outcomes from the original application form and the project business plan. The business plan contains a detailed work plan and budget that acts as a road map as to how the project should progress.

Please contact Flavia Gapper, Business Development Manager (BESPOKE project), South London CVS Partnership, email bdm@slcvspartnership.org.uk, 020 8288 7715, mobile 07503 079456

Free Swimming for over 60's petition to close tomorrow 10th December

Have you been collecting signatures for this petition or would you like to sign up?

Evelyn Collington, Co-ordinator Bromley Council on Ageing, would like to have any petitions that you may have in your possession by tomorrow. The Council on Ageing Bromley will hand over the petition to Councillor Julian Benington before Christmas and will keep you informed of any developments.

Phone Evelyn Collington, Bromley Council on Ageing on 020 8325 9788.

Swine Flu – update from DoH for third sector organisations

[Fourth update published](#) with the latest news about the prevention and management of seasonal and pandemic flu. It is aimed at both employees and those people who access your services.

JusB charity achieves volunteer quality standard

JusB, the independent Bromley-based youth charity has been awarded the accolade of Investors in Volunteers quality standard. Only three charities in the London Borough of

Bromley have achieved this award (the others are Community Links Bromley and Bromley's Age Concern).

Investing in Volunteers aims to improve the quality of the volunteer experience for all volunteers, and acknowledges the enormous contribution they make. JusB provides eleven different projects, which include advice and guidance, support, mentoring, music, half-term projects and a schools' programme for the young people of Bromley. To achieve the award the organisation had to demonstrate best practice and commitment to the continuous support, training and development of their volunteers.

"Completing the quality standard was a great achievement for JusB", says Tammy Blaikie-Gould, Volunteer Co-ordinator. "It significantly helped me to review the volunteer programme as we worked through the process to ensure that we are delivering best practice in all areas."

To celebrate JusB's success, staff are hosting a Christmas party combined with a Volunteer Awards Ceremony on Wednesday 9th December at 7.45pm at the centre. A member of the Investing in Volunteers team will be there to present the award.

"JusB's Volunteers offer and bring not only their time, but also their energy, skills, individual perspectives and talents" said Tammy. "At the awards ceremony, we want to recognise and celebrate individuals who have given exceptional service and contributed to the ongoing needs of the charity. It goes without saying that, although we are recognising a number of individuals, we are ever grateful to all of our volunteers who demonstrate a tireless commitment to the young people who access JusB's 11 projects." Recently appointed Chief Executive George Ruston has just announced a new range of volunteer opportunities, which include event team planners and an assistant volunteer coordinator.

For further information contact Tammy Blaikie-Gould on 020 8464 2722, email: tammy.jusb@btconnect.com or visit the website: www.jusb.org.uk

Community House at Christmas

The building will be open until lunchtime on Thursday 24th December. It will close for the Christmas period and reopen on Monday 4th January. Please note that the Community Cafe will shut earlier the week before as from Friday 18 December.

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Local events

Commissioning Conference

Date: Thursday 25 February 2010

Venue: Community House, South Street, Bromley

Time: 10 – 4pm

In partnership with London Borough of Bromley's Children and Young People and Adult and Community Services Teams, Community Links Bromley and Children & Families Voluntary Sector Forum . Lunch provided.

Click here to download the [agenda and the booking form](#).

JusB's Christmas party and Volunteer Awards Ceremony

Date: Wednesday 9 December

Time: 7.45pm

Venue: JusB, 51 College Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 3PU

Come and help JusB celebrate Christmas and winning [Investors in Volunteers Quality Standards](#). Join the staff, volunteers and trustees' get-together for a celebration with tasty treats, festive music and a welcoming atmosphere.

Contact Tammy Blaikie-Gould on 020 8464 2722, or email: tammy.jusb@btconnect.com to let the team know you are coming.

Christmas at Cotmandene

Date: Tuesday 15 December 2009

Time: 3 - 4.30pm

Venue: Cotmandene Community, Resource Centre, 64 Cotmandene Crescent, St Paul's Cray

A family event - free present for all children under 11. Mr Bonkers the Clown will be here from 3.30. Come along and join in the fun.

Contact Christine Cross for a full programme of festive events in the area on 020 8402 0123.

Compact - a new beginning

Date: Friday 15 January 2010

Venue: Community House,

Time: 9.30 – 1pm

Information and Networking event for prospective Compact Champions. Representatives from across the statutory and voluntary sector are invited to contribute to the refreshing of Bromley's Compact.

More information will be circulated in the next week.

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Local training

Up-coming courses at Mottingham Community Learning Shop

- Strengthening Families – 12 weeks, Thursday mornings 9.15 – 12.15
- English for Work – 10 weeks, Monday afternoon 12.45 – 2.45pm
- Basic First Aid – British Red Cross – 2 days, Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30 – 2:30pm
- Be Enterprising – 4 week course, Wednesday morning, 9.30 – 11.30am
- Beginners Excel – Tuesday 2 February, 9.30 – 3.30pm
- Food safety Tuesday 2 February and Wednesday 3 February 9.30 -3pm
- Crafty Oldies 6 week course Fri mornings 9.30-11.30 am (dates to be arranged)
- Telephone Skills for the Workplace Tuesday 26 January 9.30am-2pm
- Stop Procrastinating Tuesday 9 Feb 9.30-2.30pm
- Crafts for Families during Half Term week (Monday 15 & Wednesday 17th February) 9.30-11.30am
- Silver snappers 6 week course - Thursday afternoons (dates to be arranged)

Venue: Mottingham Community and Learning Shop, 1-2 Cranley Parade, Beaconsfield Road, Mottingham, London, SE9 4DZ

Contact: Stan Booth, Deputy Manager on 020 8860 1150 for more information about courses.

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National/regional news

Consultation on Mayoral strategies

A number of mayoral strategies (see previous bulletins) are being consulted on with closing dates just after the New Year on January 12th 2010. They are:

- the [London Plan](#)
- London [Transport Strategy](#)
- London [Economic Development Strategy](#)
- London [Health Inequalities Strategy](#) deadline is 2 days earlier - 10th January.

LVSC organised a consultation event on 17th November to look at these. You can download a [range of information and briefings](#) from the website.

LVSC has produced two briefing papers summarising some of the issues it wishes to raise about the [draft Economic Development Strategy](#) and the [draft Health Inequalities Strategy](#). If you have any comments on these, or would like to contribute to LVSC's response, please e-mail policy@lvsc.org.uk

Queen's Speech 2009

The Queen's Speech sets out the Government's programme for new laws in the current session of parliament. This year it is shorter than usual, as there must be an election before June. It is unlikely that there will be time for all of this legislation to be passed.

The titles of the bills proposed are:

- [Bribery](#)
- [Child Poverty](#)
- [Children, Schools and Families](#)
- [Cluster Munitions \(Prohibitions\)](#)
- [Constitutional Reform and Governance](#)
- [Crime and Security](#)
- [Digital Economy](#)
- [Energy](#)
- [Equality](#)
- [Financial Services](#)
- [Fiscal Responsibility](#)

- [Flood and Water Management](#)
- [Northern Ireland Assembly](#)
- [Personal Care at Home](#)

Some of the proposed bills in more detail

Some of these bills will be discussed in Stephen Blann's (Policy & Networks Officer at Community Links Bromley) Policy Review due later in December. In the meantime, visit www.number10.gov.uk for more information. Some of the most relevant legislation is summarised by [Regen.daily](#)

New laws passed in November

To make way for the new session, thirteen Bills were passed into law at the end of the previous parliamentary session in November. These were:

- Coroners and Justice Bill
- Policing and Crime Act
- Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) Act (private member's bill)
- Marine and Coastal Access Act
- Driving Instruction (Suspension and Exemption Powers) Act (private member's bill)
- Law Commission Act 2009
- The Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 2009
- Green Energy (Definition and Promotion) Act (private member's bill)
- Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act
- Health Act
- Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act
- Welfare Reform Act
- Autism Act (private members bill)

You can read a full [summary of these at ePolitix](#)

The Future of Social Care

The Government consulted on its proposals for the future of Social Care over the summer. The [Personal Care at Home Bill](#) (mentioned in the Queen's Speech) is one of

the next steps. NAVCA and Regional Voices, the network of regional voluntary and community sector organisations, submitted [a response](#) to the consultation. Briefly, the response is supportive of the Government's proposals to produce a better system to provide preventative universal social care services. Those highlighted areas to be strengthened are:

- the need for greater emphasis on quality and equality
- the importance of the voluntary and community sector as a partner in delivering and designing social care services
- the importance of support for carers and families
- the need for better joined-up care across health, social care and housing services

Consultation on council's duties to respond to petitions

The Department for Communities & Local Government has published guidance for consultation on how councils should respond to all petitions, especially in four key areas:

1. under-performing schools
2. alcohol related crime and disorder
3. under-performing hospitals – using council's scrutiny functions
4. anti-social behaviour

[Read the document](#). The deadline for responses is 24th February 2010.

Survey of third sector employers working in the Justice sector

An article on the 'Guardian Public' website discusses volunteering issues arising from a recent skills survey in the justice sector, www.guardianpublic.co.uk. Read more on '[Skills in the Justice Sector: a survey of third sector employers 2009](#)'.

Cancellation of Campaign Research Programme – a Compact breach?

The recent announcement that the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) has decided to re-allocate money, it had already offered under its Campaign Research Programme to the Hardship Fund instead, has drawn a strong reaction.

Many consider this a breach of the Compact - as the Office for the Third sector is the part of the government responsible for the Compact. ([Third Sector](#)). Read the [official news item](#) on the OTS website.

Compact Voice has asked for an [independent investigation](#) into the decision. You can read the responses from [NAVCA](#) and [NCVO](#) website, where you can add your voice to a petition.

How London Health Commission works

The [London Health Commission](#) is cross-sector partnership that works to reduce health inequalities and promote health in London by working in partnership. It does not just work on improving health and social care services, but also looks at wider [determinants](#) of health, such as people's work, income and networks of friends and family.

GLA Health & Public Services Committee investigates the Mayor's draft Health Inequalities Strategy

The [London Assembly's Health & Public Services Committee](#) considered a report on the draft London Health Inequalities Strategy.

Peter Lewis, LVSC's Chief Executive spoke to the committee. Issues he raised included:

- the need for more detail on how the Strategy is to be delivered
- the need for the Mayor to encourage and promote active voluntary and community sector (VCS) engagement in commissioning at a local level
- the threat of larger contracts to smaller VCS groups involved in service delivery
- the need to include the VCS in the monitoring of the successful delivery of the Strategy, for example by looking at the number of VCS groups engaged

[Read the report](#) [PDF format].

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National/regional events

Nominations for the 2010 Adult Learners' Week Awards are now open

Adult Learners' week 2010 is going to be celebrated from 15th to 21st May. If you know an inspiring individual, group, family or project whose remarkable learning achievements have transformed people's lives, nominate them for an Adult Learners' Week award. Closing date for nominations is 5pm on Friday, 29th January 2010. For more information, please go to the [Adult Learners' Week Awards webpage](#).

NCVO Annual Conference 2010

The Good Society – a time for action

Date: Tuesday 23 February 2010

Venue: London

This annual event is one of the largest gatherings in the voluntary and community sector calendar where you can join with 650 voluntary sector colleagues.

- Learn from the practical workshops on topics including mergers, governance, measuring social value, climate change, funding and more. See the website for an up to date list of expert speakers.
- Hear from high-profile and influential keynote speakers and sector experts including Diana Aviv of Independent Sector (USA) and Greg Clark MP who can help you to see how your organisation can be involved in bringing about lasting change.
- Build relationships through networking and the post conference drinks reception with new and existing contacts.

Climate change continues to be one of the most serious challenges facing us and action needs to be taken urgently by all to address the problems it poses. Civil society organisations play a crucial role in this and we will explore how we can work with government and partners to ensure our sector takes a lead on climate change.

Information and booking.

Visit www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/annualconference2010 or call Matt on 020 7520 3160. Early bird discounts until 8 January 2010.

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National/regional training

IT Apprenticeships: fully funded training & certification for 19-24 year olds

Do you have young colleagues, aged 19-24, who would like a comprehensive set of IT training to build their confidence in using the computer? This is on offer, fully funded by the Learning & Skills Council if they qualify.

Email Henry@happy.co.uk for more information.

HR Master Class for Voluntary and Community Organisations

Date: Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 December 2009

Venue: NCVO, London, N1 9RL

The HR Master class consists of practical learning to help you implement practices that keep you on the right side of employment legislation. The training will also develop your skills of managing good as well as poor performance.

The training will cover:

- Day one: Redundancy and restructuring
- Day two: Managing staff performance

Who should attend?

- HR officers and HR managers
- Line managers / those with people management responsibilities
- Chief executives or trustees
- Those wishing to get a refresher on their HR knowledge

Availability is strictly limited to 20 places.

For more information and to book your place, visit the [NCVO website](#)

Comedy sketch show course designed for older people

Venue: Oval House Theatre (52-54 Kennington Oval, London, SE11 5SW; nearest tube: Oval, Northern Line)

Dates: every Monday afternoon from 11 January

Time: 1pm - 4pm.

Capital Age Festival and Silver Comedy are delighted to announce a new FREE comedy sketch-show course designed for older people. The course will run for 10 weeks, finishing with a live recording session at City Hall as part of a special Capital Age Festival event on 1st March.

If you would like to know more, or are interested in booking a place on this free course, contact Capital Age Festival on 01895 675 389 or email chris.head@yahoo.co.uk

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Local Jobs

Croydon Voluntary Action - Community Enterprise Officer X2

Salary: Full time, 36 hours. SCP 36-38 £31,452 - £33,177 inc OLW plus pension

Part time, 22 hours. SCP 36-38 PRO RATA, £19,220.67 - £20,274.83 inc OLW plus pension

Two highly skilled and motivated officers are invited to join CVA's successful Community Enterprise & Support Service (Commense) team, based at the CVA Resource Centre, 82 London Road, Croydon, CR0 2TB.

Community Enterprise officers are responsible for raising awareness of community and social enterprise amongst the voluntary and community sector in Croydon, and developing an enterprise culture amongst voluntary and community organisations. The post holders should have a background in community development work and strong awareness of social enterprise or business support. The post is currently funded by Croydon Enterprise until March 2010 but there is a strong likelihood of continuation funding for the post until March 2011.

For more information and an application pack, please contact Central Services on 020 8684 3862 or email cva@cvalive.org.uk.

Closing date for completed applications is 12 noon Friday 18th December 2010.

Interview date is Monday 11th January 2010.

Croydon Voluntary Action is working towards equalities in employment and service delivery and welcomes applications from all people representative of our diverse community.

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Funding News

Children's workforce development funding

The National Council Voluntary Youth Service has produced an updated 'Funding Guide to Workforce Development' for the children, young people and families voluntary and community sector. The rather large pdf (5.32MB) can be [downloaded from the website](#).

(Source: Skills Third Sector)

Guide to local government funding

Want to know how the amount of funding that local council's get is decided? The Department of Communities & Local Government has just published a guide that explains what the local government finance settlement is. [Download the guide](#)

Unlimited Funding

Unlimited will celebrate disability, arts, culture and sport as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad:

The programme has four pillars:

- Unlimited Commissions: a £1.5million commission fund to support the production of quality work by disabled and Deaf artists, and disabled and Deaf led arts organisations.
- Unlimited Talent: bespoke training and mentoring programme for successful applicants to support the realisation of their commission.
- Unlimited Presents: work created through Unlimited Commissions will have the opportunity to be showcased in London and across the UK.
- Unlimited International: supporting collaboration between artists in the UK and other countries, and highlighting new work around the world. This pillar of the programme is being led by the British Council and is still in development, full details will be announced in 2010.

Deadline for applications: 4th January 2010. For more details, visit the [Arts Council](#) website.

Bursaries fund for volunteer managers

The [Office of the Third Sector](#) has announced that £1m in bursaries for volunteer managers will be available from April next year.

The bursary fund is the latest part of the OTS's £3m volunteer management fund, announced in May, which will be made available to charities and volunteering organisations.

The £1m fund will support training for volunteer managers who coordinate day-to-day volunteering activities as well as for people involved in volunteer management strategy. Infrastructure body [Capacitybuilders](#), which is distributing grants from the fund, has invited expressions of interest.

Hardship Funds to help you continue.

Grants of up to £30k are available for local resource centres, such as Volunteer Centres – but applications have to be in by Xmas Eve. Visit the [Capacitybuilders website](#).

4th Round of the Youth Sector Development Fund Launched

Schools Minister Iain Wright has invited third sector organisations to bid for a share of up to £10m to raise the aspirations of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The fourth round of the Youth Sector Development Fund (YSDF) will focus on supporting the aims of the Government's Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Strategy published last month.

Bids should demonstrate how young people would be imaginatively shown the full range of options open to them in education and work, such as through "taster sessions" at universities or real experience of different careers.

Around 25 third-sector organisations are expected to benefit from the fund, through a mixture of grants and business support, from April 2010 to March 2011.

Read further [information and an application pack](#) for the 4th Round.

Read the [full press release](#)

A pre-application workshop to give further information on the programme and guidance on completing the application form will be held in London on 15th December 2009.

Attendance at one of the workshops is strongly recommended. One place per organisation is available. To book yours, please email ysdf@ecotec.com, stating clearly the date and location of the session, you wish to attend and any special access requirements you may have. Presentations and any clarifications raised will be posted on the programme website: ysdf.ecotec.com

FRSB launches two Christmas campaigns for charity donors

The Office of the Third Sector will support two separate Christmas charity campaigns being run by the Fundraising Standards Board this year: one called Give with Care, the other [Give with Confidence](#).

Through Give with Care, the OTS will encourage members of the public to look out for fake charity clothing collection sacks. It will produce leaflets that will be distributed to households alongside genuine clothing collection bags from charities.

The Give with Confidence campaign has been set up to increase charitable giving at Christmas by encouraging MPs to ask their constituents to donate. Angela Smith, Minister for the Third Sector, has signed a letter that will be sent to all MPs asking them to use the local press to increase support for charities.

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Volunteer News

News on the Volunteer Rights Inquiry

Volunteering England's (VE) inquiry will be a short, focused exploration of the issues and potential solutions around the subject of volunteer rights.

The Inquiry sets out to examine a broad range of issues including, but not limited to, the legal rights of volunteers, and to consider potential options for redress when things go wrong. VE is pleased to confirm that a panel of experienced people will be bringing together a wealth of information and views from the legal, public and voluntary & community sectors.

New Charter aims to strengthen ties between volunteers and staff

The TUC and Volunteering England have signed a Volunteers' Charter to strengthen ties between paid staff and volunteers.

The Charter sets out a series of principles for employers to follow to encourage a good working relationship between volunteers, employers and paid staff.

The Charter principles include:

- all volunteering is undertaken by choice, and all individuals should have the right to volunteer, or not to volunteer
- while volunteers should not normally receive or expect rewards for their activities, they should receive reasonable out of pocket expenses
- the involvement of volunteers should complement and supplement the work of paid staff, and should not be used to displace paid staff or undercut their pay and conditions of service
- all paid workers and volunteers should have access to training and development

The Charter recognises the value that the UK's 22 million volunteers make to the economy and wider society, which is estimated to be worth £23 billion every year.

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Legal News

Guidance for local authorities on applying for forced marriage protection orders and information for other agencies

Anyone threatened with forced marriage or forced to marry against their will can apply for a 'Forced Marriage Protection' order. Third parties, such as relatives, friends, voluntary workers and police officers can also, with the leave of the court, apply for a protection order. Fifteen County Courts deal with applications and make orders to prevent forced marriages.

The guidance explains how LAs can apply for protection orders and provides information for other agencies.

[Visit the website for more information](#) or [download the guidance](#) in PDF.

Principles of Data Protection explained

From the Cranfield Trust's HRNet update

The Information Commissioner has issued new guidance entitled "The principles of the Data Protection Act in detail" (November 2009). This is probably the best guidance available on this complex subject, and demystifies this complex area.

It looks at:

- Basics of data protection
- Role of the Information Commissioner's Office
- Data protection principles
- Processing personal data fairly and lawfully (Principle 1)
- Processing personal data for specified purposes (Principle 2)
- Information standards (Principles 3, 4 and 5)
- The rights of individuals (Principle 6)
- Information security (Principle 7)
- Sending personal data outside the European Economic Area (Principle 8)
- The conditions for processing
- The rights of individuals
- Exemptions

View [the guidance](#)

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Best practice, resources and offers

Trade union safety pointers on lone working

The TUC issued a brief new guide 'Lone Working: a guide for safety representatives', with links to further resources. The voluntary sector was one area identified where working alone was considered a major hazard in a 2008 survey.

[Download the new Lone Working: a guide for safety representatives](#)

World-class Commissioning for the Health and Well-being of People with Learning Disabilities

The Department of Health has published a guide for commissioners as part of its World Class Commissioning programme. This intends to make spending health money more focused on outcomes and change. The department says recent inquiries have demonstrated the health inequalities faced by people with learning disabilities. This is a practical guide to support commissioners to meet the needs of this group, and ensure they are fulfilling their duty to promote equality.

[Download the guide](#) in PDF.

Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls: a strategy

You may recall earlier e-bulletin articles about this consultation. Following the consultation the Home Office has now published their strategy. It sets out a coordinated approach to ending violence against women and girls and includes a range of actions for the police, councils, and the NHS and government departments across the three areas of prevention, provision and protection. You can download a [copy of the strategy](#) (this is a large file). Annexes setting out action to be taken and issues raised in consultation are available [from this link](#).

On a related topic, the London Safeguarding Children Board has produced a strategy to tackle Female Genital Mutilation. They have published a resource pack.

[Download](#) the PDF.

Pan London Common Assessment Framework Protocol Training

The pan London CAF Protocol was developed to address the challenges of child mobility in London and to improve the way services respond to children and young people receiving support in more than one borough. Visit the site and its [resources bank](#).

The Guided Historical Walks of Shortlands - 2009

If you missed the historical tour, you can download the complete description compiled and delivered by Mike Ricketts of the Shortlands Residents' Association. The Association celebrates its 75th Anniversary this year. The tour provides a bit of history and information about Shortlands' local landmarks and its local famous men and women both past and present.

The actual walk lasts around two hours and is about a mile and a half long...both uphill and down. Visit [the website](#) to read the guide online or visit the CLB library to read a paper copy.

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Financial Management

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Membership

Join Community Links Bromley

Benefits of becoming a member of Community Links Bromley are many. Here are a few:

- Membership is free
- Specialist advice and support services
- Inclusion in the Directory of Local Voluntary Organisations
- Community library with over 500 titles
- Specialist funding information service
- Networking events
- Forum events
- Benefit from CLB's strong relationship with statutory authorities
- Opportunity to elect CLB trustees and attend the AGM
- Free or discounted prices on members' events
- Advertising job adverts and events on our website and e-bulletin free
- Volunteering brokerage and representation.

Membership of Community Links Bromley (CLB) is open to charities, voluntary organisations and community groups operating for the benefit of Bromley people and

those groups whose aims are compatible with those of CLB. To become a member your organisation needs to fulfil these criteria.

Please note that CLB is a company limited by guarantee. Therefore all members are liable for the sum of £1 if CLB should be wound up.

To apply or to check the full criteria, download the [membership form and criteria](#). Or contact Sue Lee on 0208 315 1902.

If you aren't sure whether or not your organisation is a member, follow this link to the full [membership list of Community Links Bromley](#).

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About the email bulletin

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The editor is Philippa Leary, Membership, Information & Communications Officer, Community Links Bromley. Our website is at www.communitylinksbromley.org.uk

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