

E- news bulletin N°112 – 23 July 2010.

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to E- news bulletin N°112 – 23 July 2010.

Please let me know if the new format for the e-news bulletin and e-news alerts is working for you - a balancing act of less but more often.

For those interested in funding opportunities there is a commissioning opportunity, that I have just received from the Basis Project National Commissioning Scheme for Refugee Community Organisation, with a very short deadline.

Best Wishes,

Philippa

Philippa Leary

Membership, Information and Communication Officer

Spotlight	3
Who's who in the coalition government?	3
Bromley Compact Champions - your chance to make it work	3
Local news	4
Croydon Council tries to appease VCO anger over £1.2m cut	4
Bromley Women's Design Group	4
Bromley Healthcare access guide launched in partnership with Bromley PCT	5
Local Events	5
Age Concern Bromley participating in the The Big Knit	5
Alzheimer's Society - Speakers Group Programme	5
Bromley Humanists – discussion group meetings 2010	6
National/regional news	6
Boris Johnson seeks more power through devolution proposals	6
More Mayoral plans	6
Public spending cuts	7
The Health White Paper (copy from LVSC Policy bulletin)	8

National/Regional Training	9
Talking about Managing People	9
London based training from ACEVO for September/October 2010	9
National/regional events	11
Register to fundraise for the World's Biggest Coffee Morning	11
Jobs	11
JusB - Volunteer Co-ordinator	11
Bromley Mind – Head of Finance (P/T) and Administrative & Facilities Manager (P/T)	12
Funding News	13
Communitybuilders resumes distribution of funds – 22/7/10	13
Evening Standard Grassroots Grants Campaign Launched	13
Other Grassroots Grants deadlines - August 13th and October 8th -fund to close March 2011	14
City Parochial Foundation and Trust for London join forces	14
Big Lottery Update	14
Drinkaware Grants	16
Comic Relief - UK grants programme for Young People	17
Charity Commission - Updated fundraising activities guidance (CC20)	17
Are you a Refugee Community Organisation (RCO)?	17
Volunteer News	19
Jobcentre Plus and Volunteer Centre working together	19
Supported volunteering project worker places 40 th client	19
Legal news	20
Property and the environment	20
Financial Management News	20
Internal Financial Controls for Charities (CC8) Update	20

Membership	21
Join Community Links Bromley	21
About the email bulletin	22
Contact Details	22
Data protection	22
Disclaimer	22
Subscribe	22
Unsubscribing	22
Production	23
Sources	23

Spotlight

Who's who in the coalition government?

The Cabinet Office has produced a full list of ministers from the cabinet down to junior minister posts, together with their responsibilities and office contact details. This makes it quite a long document - [you can download a copy from](#) the Cabinet Office website.

Stephen Blann has compiled a shorter list of ministers whom voluntary and community groups are likely to have most interest in including their areas of responsibility

- [Download a VCO's who's who in the Coalition Government](#)

Bromley Compact Champions - your chance to make it work

"The Bromley Compact is an agreement between voluntary sector and public bodies in Bromley about how they work together to deliver better results for the people of Bromley.

To put the Compact into practice a Bromley Compact Champions Network with Champions from voluntary and public sectors has been set up. The Bromley Compact Champions Network is growing fast but it still needs more members - especially from voluntary and community sector groups. We have also updated the Compact page on the Community Links Bromley website to include lots of resources and information to help you and others get the most of Bromley compact. Find out what it's all about and [sign up as Compact Champion here](#)

Local news

Croydon Council tries to appease VCO anger over £1.2m cut

Vibeka Mair reports for Civil Society website

Croydon Council has created a £350,000 transition fund to help charities who will lose funding when it starts cutting £1.2m from its voluntary sector budget in October.

Croydon Council ratified a 66 per cent drop in funding for the voluntary sector over the next four years at a town hall meeting. There were scenes of anger outside as more than 120 volunteers protested against the swingeing cuts.

Out of 47 organisations previously funded through the Council's corporate funding budget, only six will get £625,000 worth of council grants through the 'Stronger Community' fund, which has replaced it.

A £350,000 transition fund is planned for those who will lose funding.

Councillor Vidhi Mohan, cabinet member for communities, told the meeting: "This is a radical new approach to the council relationship with the voluntary sector.

"We have been consulting with the voluntary sector for the past few years on this."

However, Councillor Louisa Woodley, shadow cabinet member for the voluntary sector, said: "This transition fund is nothing more than a complete smokescreen to deflect some of the anger people feel.

"It is a sticking plaster to help groups wind up; they are still going ahead with the cuts.

These cuts will have a devastating effect on the community at the time when they most need voluntary services."

Bromley Women's Design Group

Women's Design Service is setting up a Women's Design Group in Bromley and is looking for local women to get involved.

The group will influence planning applications, policies and regeneration projects in Bromley to ensure that women's needs and interests are taken into account.

Women's Design Groups (WDGs) aim to perform for gender what Access Groups delivered for disability, and give local women a voice in major plans, policies and planning applications. WDGs include women from the community who have an interest in shaping their neighbourhoods, and women who are professionally involved in planning and the built environment. A good group reflects the experiences of a diverse range of women of differing ages, disability, ethnicity, sexuality and caring backgrounds.

E- news bulletin N°112 – 23 July 2010.

Different types of training are offered to enable women to participate fully in the group including influencing town planning issues and sustainability.

Contact Georgia Wrighton, Project Worker on gwrighton@wds.org.uk or 020 7490 5210 if you would be interested in getting involved. Also see the Women's Design Service website www.wds.org.uk for more information."

Bromley Healthcare access guide launched in partnership with Bromley PCT

Good access to NHS services is essential to improving people's health. This online guide offers information about Bromley-based health services so the public can make an informed choice. Currently online, there are guides to:

- [Doctors Surgeries](#)
- [Dentists](#)
- [Opticians](#)
- [Pharmacies](#)
- [Transport & Parking](#)
- Community Health Venues - pending

[Back to contents](#)

Local Events

Age Concern Bromley participating in the The Big Knit

Help Age Concern Bromley knit 6000 little bobble hats before September 24th and raise £1,500 for the charity as part of the [Big Knit challenge](#). The Big Knit is a corporate fundraising scheme organised by Innocent Smoothies and Age UK. Every bobble hat you knit means a donation of 25p to the charity. If you are interested in knitting to the target, contact The CVTB team on 020 8315 1883 or email communityvolunteerstf@acbromley.org.uk to receive your pattern.

Alzheimer's Society - Speakers Group Programme

Date: Wednesday 25 August

Topic: Assistive Technology, Carly Fidler, Telecare Development Officer, LBB

Date: Wednesday 22 September

Topic: Consumer Protection, Jon Gurr, LBB

E- news bulletin N°112 – 23 July 2010.

Venue: Community House, South Street, Bromley

Times: 10am – 12pm

Full details, Geraldine Turner on 020 8249 1494 or email csbromley@alzheimers.org.uk

Bromley Humanists – discussion group meetings 2010

Dates:

Tuesday September 1: Pacifism today – humanist attitudes to war

Tuesday October 12: The different faces of Islam – are they different?

Tuesday November 9: Religion in Schools is it a rights issue for parents, children and teachers?

Join stimulating discussion on important issues of the day from a new perspective. Email slhg.adm@freeuk.com or visit the website www.slhg.adm.freeuk.com for meeting times and venues.

[Back to contents](#)

National/regional news

Boris Johnson seeks more power through devolution proposals

The Mayor of London has produced a proposal document on [devolving more power](#) to the Mayor and London assembly.

- [download the proposal](#) [582.86 KB]

More Mayoral plans

The Mayor has also published his Health Inequality strategy. You can download the [strategy](#) and [some background](#) information from the GLA website. LVSC has produced [a briefing](#) on the strategy. Some of these proposals in relation to public health may already be difficult to implement following the new Health White Paper and its proposals on public health. (See separate article)

Being a busy man, the Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority are also consulting on a variety of new plans and strategies. Some of these close within a few weeks, whilst others run over the summer.

Consultations

The following close within the next few weeks:

E- news bulletin N°112 – 23 July 2010.

1. [Air Quality](#) with a [more detailed draft plan](#), a [question and answer factsheet](#) on air quality and [a short online response form](#) (also downloadable as a [PDF](#)), and a [more detailed response form](#) allowing you to give comments (this is [also available as a PDF](#)). **The consultation runs until 13th August 2010**
 2. [Race Equality Scheme](#) this includes [a draft scheme](#), an [outline](#) summary and an [easy-read version](#). There is an [online questionnaire](#) for comments.
 3. [Gender Equality Scheme](#) – which follows the same format with a [Draft scheme](#), [outline](#) and [easy read](#) versions and [consultation form](#)
- Both equality scheme consultations end on the 11th August 2010**

Other consultations closing later are:

1. [Cultural Strategy](#), which runs until 6th September 2010. This includes a lengthy (200+ pages) [full strategy](#), an [executive summary](#) and another [online questionnaire](#)
2. [Disability Equality Scheme](#), which runs until the **15th October 2010**. This is in the same format as the other equality strategies including a draft [strategy](#), a scheme [outline](#), together with an [easy read](#) version, and online [questionnaire](#).

Stephen Blann, Policy & Networks Officer at Community Links Bromley will be including comments as he updates his [policy review](#) on the CLB website within the next few weeks.

Public spending cuts

With so many charities and voluntary groups receiving funding from public bodies there is a real chance that the public spending changes will affect them in real terms- as well as having to take on the burden of additional work.

However, the government is looking for your ideas on where the cuts should fall – they have launched “Spending Challenge” with the strap line “help us get more for less”.

Public sector employees had until the 9th July before the public were allowed to comment. Join the [Spending Challenge](#).

The 'Empowering the Voluntary Sector' joint project of NAVCA, NCVO and others has produced a [special edition of its newsletter](#) on the coming cuts - setting out Compact and public law positions and also highlighting a wide range of resources.

You may also be interested in "[Coping with Cuts](#)" from NCVO.

Both [ACEVO](#) (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations) and the [Guardian newspaper](#) have launched "Cutswatch" sections.

The Health White Paper (copy from LVSC Policy bulletin)

On 12th July, the Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley, launched a White Paper '[Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS](#)'. The white paper proposes the biggest re-structuring of the health service ever seen despite initial coalition government promises that there would be no more top-down re-structuring of the NHS. It also contains policies aimed at achieving £20 billion of efficiency savings over the next four years.

Measures that will have the greatest impact on the voluntary and community sector include:

- A commitment to enable any 'willing provider' to deliver health care along with a commitment to 'payment by results'. This makes a slight change from previous Labour policy, where the NHS was always to be considered the preferred provider and may allow more opportunities for VCS organisations to deliver NHS services.
- A pledge to encourage NHS staff to form social enterprises and mutuals to deliver NHS services. These new organisations may end up competing directly with existing VCS organisations to deliver some services.
- A shift towards preventative healthcare is mentioned throughout the document. This may favour the holistic preventative services delivered by many VCS organisations.
- Abolition of the targets introduced by the Labour government targets are to be replaced by an outcomes framework.
- Consortia of GPs will be given the responsibility for commissioning the majority of NHS services. These will be overseen by a new independent NHS Board
- A commitment to extend personal budgets.
- Phasing out Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities by 2013 with local authorities taking on a range of new responsibilities including promoting

integration of health and social care services, leading joint strategic needs assessments and supporting joint commissioning arrangements where appropriate.

Stephen Blann, Policy & Networks Officer at Community Links Bromley will be preparing a briefing on the white paper - and links to other briefings and commentators shortly.

This will also appear in updates to the [policy review](#) on the CLB website within the next few weeks.

[Back to contents](#)

National/Regional Training

Talking about Managing People

Date: Wednesday 27 October

Venue: The Window, Islington

Conference provides a new opportunity to focus on some of the key employment law and HR issues faced by the voluntary and community sector.

Hot topics this year include:

- Impact of the Coalition Government on employment issues for the voluntary sector
- New Equality Act
- Safeguarding vulnerable people.

Booking opens very soon so register your interest now to make sure you benefit from an early booking discount at this popular learning and networking event.

Email peace@lvsc.org.uk or telephone Clare on 0203 349 8914 or Shirley on 0203 349 8913.

London based training from ACEVO for September/October 2010

Positioning Your Brand Successfully

Come along to learn how your brand can have a positive impact and discover the principles of branding and marketing. Learn how to assess if re-branding is right for your organisation and the challenges you'll face.

Hear from experienced individuals who have recently re-branded their organisation and handled change management.

Using Celebrities to Maximise Your Organisation's Success

Over this lunch event, delegates will learn from charities that work with celebrities to raise their profile. Sue Davie, CEO of the Meningitis Trust and Sian Lloyd, TV weather presenter, will talk about their experiences of working together and how Sian has improved the organisation's image.

Also a chance to hear about how the Trust developed from a small charity to an organisation that raises £millions and withstands the recession.

Are You Doing Well as CEO? Leadership Skills and Organisational Effectiveness

The authors of *The Secrets of CEOs: 150 Global CEOs Lift the Lid on Business, Life and Leadership* will share their insights over lunch. They will explain how CEOs can manage their organisation and enjoy their personal life.

Helen Dent, CEO of Family Action, and winner of Effective Charity Award 2009 will describe how to make your organisation as effective as possible.

Engaging Employees Through Effective Leadership

Andy Street, Managing Director of John Lewis, will talk to delegates over lunch about non-conventional leadership styles for the third sector.

Andy will also illustrate how John Lewis, a highly successful social enterprise, engages its employees to be commercially successful, no matter what the economic climate.

Engaging with Government and Parliament

A hung parliament, a coalition government, political reform, staff cuts to the civil service and public sector, and public spending cuts. All are likely to make influencing public policy more difficult, and more important.

In uncertain times, charities need to be better at effectively engaging with officials and politicians.

Making the Transition to Personal Budgets

The government is committed to rolling out personal budgets across health and social care. The implications for providers will be unprecedented.

Learn how to engage with users and local authorities under the new personal budgets scheme, and how to put self-directed support at the heart of your organisation.

View detailed information on the website – [events>London](#)

[Back to contents](#)

National/regional events

Register to fundraise for the World's Biggest Coffee Morning

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning (WBCM) is one of the largest fundraising events in the country raising funds to support and improve the lives of people who are affected by cancer. We provide practical, emotional, medical and financial help and we push for better cancer care. You can make a huge difference just by getting your friends or colleagues together! Simply hold a coffee morning on 24th September, at work or at home, and raise some money (and a smile) for people affected by cancer. To register please www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee

[Back to contents](#)

Jobs

JusB - Volunteer Co-ordinator

The JusB youth charity serves young people by accompanying them through thick and thin on their journey to independence

Volunteer Co-ordinator

£16,286 pro rata for 18 hours per week (£8,143)

Competitive package of holiday entitlement, pension and flexible working

Our volunteers and paid staff enable young people to develop their self-esteem, help them avoid involvement in anti-social behaviour and crime, foster and develop new skills and talents, and have lots of fun in the process!

Now we have grown, we need someone to recruit, develop, support and retain our volunteers; they are vital to our charity. This is where you come in.....

If you think you have what it takes to manage the volunteering programme for adults at JusB, then give us a call.

Call the JusB office on 020 8464 2722 for an application form

Closing date: 5th August 2010 at 5pm

Interviews: 13th August 2010

Bromley Mind – Head of Finance (P/T) and Administrative & Facilities Manager (P/T)

Head of Finance (part-time)

£18,000 (based on £45k f.t.e.) • 15 hours per week • Based in Orpington

Bromley Mind is looking for an experienced finance manager to provide an effective financial management service to our Charity, including sound financial advice to Trustees and Senior Managers. Duties include contributing to business and strategic plans and budgets, oversight of financial systems, providing financial reports and line management of bookkeeping staff.

You will be a professionally qualified accountant with a proven track record in senior roles, strong IT skills and a passion for applying your experience to further our vital work.

Days and working times are negotiable.

For an application pack, email personnel@bromleymind.org.uk or telephone on 020 8249 5910

Administrative & Facilities Manager (part-time)

£21,000 (based on £31.5k f.t.e.) • 25 hours per week • Based in Beckenham

Bromley Mind is looking for an experienced manager to ensure essential administration systems and facilities underpinning the work of Bromley Mind function efficiently and effectively. Duties include property management, reviewing and negotiating contracts for services and equipment and line management of administrative staff.

You will enjoy a varied workload that requires planning ahead, prioritising, delegating and being hands-on when necessary. You will have strong IT skills and a passion for applying your skills and energy to further our vital work.

Days and working times are negotiable.

For an application pack, email personnel@bromleymind.org.uk or telephone on 020 8249 5910 www.bromleymind.org.uk

Successful applicants will be expected to undergo an Enhanced level Criminal Records Bureau check.

Bromley Mind is committed to equality of opportunity and welcomes applications from candidates with personal experience of mental health needs.

Registered Charity: 1082972

[Back to contents](#)

Funding News

Communitybuilders resumes distribution of funds – 22/7/10

The £70m grant and loan fund was set up by the Communities and Local Government department to support organisations that provide community cohesion services, and is administered by the [Social Investment Business](#).

It has been open to applications but [has not been making payments](#) since the coalition government took power. The £100m Social Enterprise Investment Fund, also run by the SIB, is still not paying out money, but is taking applications.

The other major government fund operated by the SIB, [Futurebuilders England](#), has been closed by the coalition government.

Evening Standard Grassroots Grants Campaign Launched

The Evening Standard (ES) has launched a Grassroots grants campaign (20/7/2010) and supplementary round for groups that strongly fit one of the following themes:-

- Training and educating people who have dropped out of mainstream education
- Getting people into work such as through apprenticeship or mentor schemes
- Fighting gangs, knife and gun crime
- Improving mental and physical health and well-being, such as through sports clubs and helping carers
- Addressing other manifestations of poverty such as homelessness, pensioner poverty or the working poor

If you would like a copy of the guidance notes or to discuss further, please contact Julie Hunt on 020 8315 1915 or email julieh@communitylinksbromley.org.uk. Please note that this is an online application only with a deadline of 13th August 2010. Groups will need to register an interest on the ES website, and will then receive a link to the online application form and a second form that will also need to be completed.

Other Grassroots Grants deadlines - August 13th and October 8th -fund to close March 2011

If your group has been active in Bromley for a year with an annual income of less than £30,000, you could apply for a Grassroots Grant for up to £5,000. The fund will close in March 2011 and there are only two more deadlines left – so if you think your organisation could benefit from up to £5,000 look at the guidelines and complete an application - www.capitalcf.org.uk

For more information and support in completing the form and preparing supporting documents, please contact Julie Hunt, Funding Information and Advice Officer at Community Links Bromley: 020 8315 1915 or email julieh@communitylinksbromley.org.uk

There is also more information to be found in Julie's review of our recent [Grassroots Grants](#) event held in partnership with London Borough of Bromley.

City Parochial Foundation and Trust for London join forces

These related grant makers fully amalgamated on 30 June. The new organisation is now known as Trust for London. The governance of the charity will remain the same, as will the staffing. It will continue to make around 150 grants annually to voluntary and community groups in the capital, under very similar funding priorities, with the core purpose of tackling poverty and inequality in London. The administrative change is intended to make the Trust more efficient and flexible and to end confusion among grant applicants.

The new Trust for London will distribute just as much funding as the two former organisations combined. The next deadline is now 5th October 2010. For further information [click here](#)

Big Lottery Update

New Fund – Youth in Focus

The Big Lottery has launched a new fund call Youth in Focus providing up to £30 million for projects in England that support vulnerable young people through difficult changes in their lives.

The groups it is targeting include:

- **Young carers** - Helping young people between the ages of 10 and 25 to be heard and get better access to practical advice and services, which can support their day to day lives.
- **Young people leaving care** - Supporting young people between the ages of 15 and 25, so they get better access to education, housing, healthcare and employment advice and services.
- **Young people leaving youth offenders' institutions** - Helping young people between the ages of 15 and 25 to develop their life skills and get better access to services, particularly young men with learning difficulties and young women.

For more information and guidance/application form go to: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

New London Wildlife Grants Available

The Big Lottery Fund is calling on groups to protect nature in their community and help others learn more about local London wildlife. Grants of up to £10,000 are available through the new Community Wildlife programme. For more information go to:

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Big Lottery Fund to be reduced in September

Arts, sports and heritage organisations will together get 60 per cent of lottery money, and the voluntary and community sector's share of lottery 'good cause' money will be reduced from 50 per cent to 40 per cent in September, the government has confirmed. A structural reform plan also says the government will tell the Big Lottery Fund by September that it must stop funding "politicised projects", and will ask all lottery distributors to reduce their administrative costs to five percent of their total income. The government will agree cost-cutting plans by December, the document says.

Following the announcement by the government to reduce the Big Lottery Fund's share of lottery good cause funding [from 50 per cent to 40 per cent](#), charities are urged to respond to the [government's consultation on the issue](#), which closes on 21 August.

Big Lottery Fund to launch £200m fund for community groups

The [Big Lottery Fund](#) will launch a new £200m grant fund for neighbourhood-based community groups in the autumn. The fund, called Big Local, will award grants to voluntary groups in 50 geographical areas. The money will go to groups that had been overlooked for funding in the past and that involve local residents in decision-making.

Drinkaware Grants

The Drinkaware grants scheme aims to change the UK's drinking culture for the better. It works to influence public behaviour positively and find innovative ways to raise awareness about the effects of alcohol, to help reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol-related harm.

The funding schemes give local and national projects a chance to change the nation's drinking habits. Grants are available to groups in any part of the UK, working with any population group, through three schemes:

1. Ideas Fund - up to £2,000
2. Awareness Projects - up to £25,000
3. Big Impact Awards - up to £100,000

The funded projects include peer-led education schemes; alcohol education work; awareness raising among disadvantaged people who are at risk of harm from alcohol misuse; pilot projects and innovative work.

To apply for a grant, please read carefully through its grants guidelines on the website below, which describe the kind of projects Drinkaware can fund. The scheme wants to ensure that its funding reaches the right organisations at the right time and has created a rolling grants programme with no application deadlines.

Grants officers are happy to give advice informally over the phone (Tel: 020 7766 9908 or by email to Andy Law Email: alaw@drinkaware.co.uk) before you make an application, or during the application process. You are also encouraged to call before applying to discuss your proposal, particularly if you are planning to apply for a larger grant.

All applications for funding should be made by filling in the application form, which is available to download from their website: www.drinkaware.co.uk or email:

alaw@drinkaware.co.uk

Comic Relief - UK grants programme for Young People

Under the UK Grants Programme 2009-2012, Comic Relief provides grants to charities, social enterprises and community groups in the UK to undertake projects, which support vulnerable young people. Grants vary between £25,000 and £40,000 and are usually for between one and three years.

Priority areas include:

1. Young people suffering domestic and sexual abuse
2. Young people who have been sexually exploited and trafficked
3. Young people with alcohol related problems
4. Young people with mental health problems

Current deadline for applications is 17th September 2010. For more details on Comic Relief's grants go to: www.comicrelief.co.uk

Charity Commission - Updated fundraising activities guidance (CC20)

The Charity Commission has updated guidance to help charities carry out fundraising activities that comply with legal requirements and best practice. The updates include more detail on risk management and advice for trustees on what to consider when choosing fundraising methods and common fundraising issues.

For more [information visit the site](#) or '[Charities and Fundraising](#)' (CC20)

Are you a Refugee Community Organisation (RCO)?

Could your organisation deliver pieces of work that will be useful in helping other RCOs?

The Basis Project National Commissioning Scheme aims to facilitate the vital role RCOs play in supporting the development of other RCOs. Refugee Council is taking forward the National Commissioning Scheme and would like to invite RCOs to apply to deliver pieces of work as part of this in the first 'round' that will be delivered before the end of September 2010.

The first round of the scheme is about commissioning pieces of work around the theme of sustainability and survival: RCOs helping each other to get through difficult times.

Within this theme are the following areas:

- Developing social enterprises (for example a catering service), which generate income for the organisation through trading

E- news bulletin N°112 – 23 July 2010.

- Commissioning: RCOs tendering to deliver services for public agencies such as Local Authorities
- Fundraising alternatives: including an overview of current funding sources and an introduction to the range of non-grant based funding options (e.g. membership structures, community fundraising, events), the possible risks and rewards
- Working together through partnership working, collaboration or mergers
- Building community resilience. Getting the best out of volunteers, building a strong management committee, and making sure people can contribute and have ownership of your organisation whatever their gender, physical disability etc.
- Financial management focusing on internal policies, procedures, roles and responsibilities.

The project wants to commission two types of work for this round:

1. **Resource papers.** This involves desk-based research to explore a particular area, summarising the information you find and making suggestions/ recommendations for RCOs.
2. **Experience papers.** This involves summarising your RCO's experience in a particular area, so that other RCOs can learn from this.

The Basis Project is an England-wide service giving one-to-one support to refugee community organisations (RCOs) to help them manage, develop and sustain their work. A partnership project led by Refugee Council and Refugee Action, the Basis Project is funded by the Big Lottery Fund. We are also working closely with funders and other mainstream bodies to increase their understanding of RCOs. You can find out more at www.thebasisproject.org.uk

Further information and application packs available online at:

www.thebasisproject.org.uk or contact Helen on 020 73461084, helen.todd@refugeecouncil.org.uk.

Deadlines for applications: 9 August 2010; deadline for pieces of work delivered: 27 September 2010.

[Back to contents](#)

Volunteer News

Jobcentre Plus and Volunteer Centre working together

Over the past few months, the Volunteer Centre has been running weekly workshops for individuals who have been out of work for over six months and want to get back into work. These workshops highlight the benefits that volunteering can offer in terms of updating skills, meeting new people, creating a routine and providing a personal reference. Many of the people who come to the workshops are surprised by the range of opportunities available, and more importantly, are inspired to apply for voluntary opportunities.

These workshops are normally run on Tuesday mornings and places need to be booked in advance through the Job Centre referral scheme. We hope to continue providing this service to enable more Bromley borough residents to benefit from volunteering and we hope ultimately to find them offers of paid work.

Supported volunteering project worker places 40th client

CLB's Supported Volunteering Project continues to be very busy and just recently marked up its 40th successful placement in its first year of operation.

Jane Kay, the Supported Volunteering Worker at the Volunteer Centre, has been invited to speak to a number of groups about the benefits of volunteering: For example, recently she attended Bromley College's 'Progression to Employment' event for those completing the Work Preparation course. She also spoke at Bromley Mind's Back to Employment group and this week she is visiting the signposting event held by the Sydenham Garden Project.

If you would like Jane to talk about volunteering at your event or to a group of people who may need support into volunteering as a way to get back into work or positive activity, please give her a call on 020 8315 1920 or email on

janeKay@communitylinksbromley.org.uk

Alternatively, if you want to make your organisation more inclusive and would like to discuss the types of volunteering opportunity you could offer to people who need just that little bit more support, Jane would be very happy to discuss this with you.

[Back to contents](#)

Legal news

Property and the environment

Added or updated on the legal update website for voluntary organisations by Sandy Adirondack.

- Regulations from 1989 require local authorities to give at least one year's notice before reducing or revoking discretionary rate relief, and any change can only take place at the end of a financial year. Keep this in mind if your local authority threatens to reduce or remove discretionary relief.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#discretionaryraterelief
- Water companies will be allowed (but not required) to offer concessionary surface water charges for charities and community groups. Consultation on DEFRA guidance for the water companies opened on 12 July. www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#raintax
- 'Meanwhile' leases and licences for temporary non-commercial use of vacant shops and land by charities, other voluntary organisations, artists, performers etc.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#meanwhile
- Government reconsidering future of community infrastructure levy, which some local authorities are implementing to replace section 106 agreements.
www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#cil

[Back to contents](#)

Financial Management News

Internal Financial Controls for Charities (CC8) Update

The Charity Commission has updated their guidance on Internal Financial Controls for Charities (CC8) in June 2010; this new version replaces the previous version published in December 2003. It is a complete revision, in a different format and addresses new developments including electronic banking arrangements.

The guidance identifies Internal Financial Controls as an essential process, which helps charity trustees:

- meet their legal duties to safeguard the charity's assets;
- administer the charity's finances and assets in a way that identifies and manages risk; and

- ensure the quality of financial reporting, by keeping adequate accounting records and preparing timely and relevant financial information.

The guidance looks at various areas of financial activity and provides examples of internal financial controls that are used commonly to reduce the risk of loss.

It emphasises the importance of financial controls for charities of all sizes. Even small charities with relatively simple structures and low-risk activities need to protect their assets and get the most out of their resources. Not all controls will be relevant for all charities; it is for the trustees to decide which controls are appropriate to their charity. The controls put in place by trustees should be proportionate to the risks involved.

Charities working internationally face additional challenges in transferring funds and operating outside of the UK and should refer to the Charity Commission guidance on [Charities Working Internationally](#).

For more information and support for your group's accounting and financial management, please contact Maroof, your local community accountant on 020 8315 1919 or email: maroofa@communitylinksbromley.org.uk

[Back to contents](#)

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

E- news bulletin N°112 – 23 July 2010.

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 020 8315 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](#).

[Back to contents](#)

About the email bulletin

Contact Details

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

Data protection

You received this email because you are subscribed to Community Links Bromley's fortnightly email bulletin.

Disclaimer

The information in this newsletter comes from a wide variety of sources. Please note opinions or statements within it may not reflect the views held by Community Links Bromley. Information in legal and other updates are not intended as full or definitive statements of the law nor as a substitute for professional legal advice

Subscribe

If you wish to subscribe to this email bulletin mail Philippa Leary at philippal@communitylinksbromley.org.uk

Unsubscribing

If you wish to unsubscribe at any time please reply to this message or send an email to Philippa Leary at philippal@communitylinksbromley.org.uk

Production

This email bulletin is produced by Community Links Bromley, registered office Community House, South Street, Bromley BR1 1RH. Registered Charity N° 1045255 and Company Limited by Guarantee N° 3020127, registered in England.

Sources

The CLB email bulletin is compiled from a wide range of sources including; subscriptions to news services, local and national newspapers; articles prepared by CLB staff, statutory partners and local VCOs. Funding information and governance news is regularly syndicated between ourselves and [Richmond CVS](#). All sources are credited at point of reference. Please keep information coming through. If you would like to submit an article or a feature for inclusion, contact philippal@communitylinksbromley.org.uk.