

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to Community Links Bromley's email bulletin number 94
Email bulletin N° 94– 30 June 2009

Publishing dates:

- Wednesday 15 July
- Tuesday 28 July

Copy deadline: Thursday before publication

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Spotlight

Influence Health Partnerships

Bromley Health Social Care & Housing Partnership Board is seeking three generic voluntary sector representatives. To be one of them or be involved in choosing them, read more in our [local news section](#).

Local news

Election of voluntary sector representatives to the Health Social Care & Housing Partnership Board

The Health Social Care and Housing Partnership Board (one of the thematic groups of the LSP – [more below](#)) is seeking nominations for voluntary sector representatives – do you want to be one of them?

You need to have:

- A good knowledge of health and social care issues
- An understanding of needs and communities in Bromley
- An ability to work in a partnership

- A good knowledge of and experience of working within the voluntary sector in Bromley
- Effective analytical and communication skills (training is available)

There are three places to represent the voluntary sector generally - you will have to speak for the whole voluntary sector not your organisation, forum or client group.

- Read more about the [election process](#) and what you will be required to do.

If you want to be a representative you need to fill in the [nomination form](#) and have it signed by one of the forum chairs listed.

Nominations must be received by Stephen Blann, Policy & Networks Officer Community Links Bromley by 10 am on 14th July.

How do you get your say on who is chosen?

Elections will take place at the following voluntary sector forum meetings:

- Bromley Council on Aging (BCOA)
- Bromley Learning Disability Forum (BLDF)
- Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum (CFF)
- Disability Voice Bromley (DVB)
- Mental Health Forum (MHF)

You will need to attend the next meeting at whichever forum you are a member of in order to vote. A list of who has been nominated and their supporting statements will be available, together with ballot papers.

Votes taken will be recorded and the forum's choice of candidates announced. The final decision will be made at the [Voluntary Sector Reference Group](#) on 15th September where all forum chairs or their representative will vote according to the mandate of their forum meeting.

About the Health Social Care & Housing Partnership Board

The Health Social Care and Housing Partnership Board is part of the Local Strategic Partnership. It has members from LB Bromley Adult and Community Services, the PCT and other NHS bodies as well as voluntary sector and other interested parties. It is responsible for overseeing the work of health and social care partnership boards (like mental health or older people) and also achieving Local Area Agreement and Building a Better Bromley targets. Visit the CLB website [for more information](#).

- [Download details of the election process](#)
- [Download a nomination form](#)

If you want any more information or have any questions email [Stephen Blann](#) or phone 020 8315 1907.

Carers Week 2009

This year's Carers Week was held between the 8th and 14th June and the theme was 'Carers...the UK's Secret Service'. Carers Week is an annual awareness raising event organised by ten national charities including Carers UK, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, MS Society and Macmillan Cancer Support, to highlight the impact being a carer can have on your career, your finances, your social life and your health. Carers Week also allows the opportunity to campaign for better recognition and support, and make sure carers are aware of the help to which they are entitled.

Here in Bromley, Carers Bromley arranged for approximately 80 carers to attend a special 'thank you' event to celebrate their outstanding contribution to the community.

This took place at The Old Palace, Bromley Civic Centre on the 8th June 2009, in the presence of the Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Douglas Auld. [\[See photo on Flickr\]](#). Bromley Council organised events in the libraries throughout the borough to raise awareness of Carers Week. Library staff joined with volunteers from Adult and Community Services to display information covering the range of local services in Bromley for carers as well as information on national organisations. The volunteers, together with carers, were at the larger libraries on Friday 12 June to advise carers, as well as their friends and relatives, on the different kinds of support available. The people involved at the libraries enjoyed the chance to meet carers and other members of the public. A number of people came especially to their local library on the day to find out more about help they could receive.

Carers Bromley also arranged a further two information events helping carers to obtain advice about benefits, emotional support, respite breaks, employment advice and looking after their own health. Both events were held on 11th June. The first took place in the foyer of the Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough Common. The second was held at Green Parks House where staff from Carers Bromley and Oxleas NHS Trust were able to provide carers with helpful advice, information and support. Stress busting 'taster' sessions were also available at this event, which proved very popular.

The new 'Supporting Carers in Bromley' leaflet, which contains information about carer assessments, was also launched in Carers Week. It is available from Bromley Social Services Direct on 020 8461 7777.

(Thanks to Graham Skingley, Respite Services Manager, Carers Bromley and Denise Mantell, Commissioning Officer, LBB for jointly providing this review of activities)

Welcome to our new members

Community Links Bromley is delighted to welcome our new members to the e-news bulletin. We hope to meet you at our AGM on Wednesday 23rd September when your application to join becomes formally ratified.

Future Challenges	Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground is a local organisation based in Beckenham whose aims & objectives are "the advancement of training and the preservation and protection of good health among BME young/adult people, resident in Penge/Anerley/Beckenham – Bromley Borough".
Pathways Community Centre	The organisation is an incorporated voluntary organisation established with an educational focus, to identify and maximise opportunities for young people to gain knowledge, skills and experience which will benefit them in their current and future roles in life. Services include a range of training programmes covering information and communication technology, skills for life, basic skills training, music and drama, fashion and design, arts and culture, support for work and workshops on staying healthy and safe.
Change Africa Foundation	The Foundation is a local voluntary organisation in Orpington established to relieve poverty and sickness, preserve and protect good health and promote education for the public benefit. It offers relief and assistance to people who have been displaced from their country due to

	war or natural disaster.
Conquest Swimming Club	Conquest provides voluntary instruction in swimming and related water recreation. All ages and disabilities acceptable with doctor's certificate. Membership required.
CentrePoint Corporation	Provides access to clients needing a range of locally determined activities and services, shaped by the needs and demands of the community. These activities, often outside normal school hours are to help, support and meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs, their families/carers and the wider community.
BYPASS	A local organisation based in Bromley which is a branch of KCA (Kent County Addiction). BYPASS is funded by the Bromley Drug Action Team and they work with young people, their parents and professionals, offering advice, support and information to young people who live, work or access services in Bromley. Their services include free confidential drug treatment/counselling, in addition to a helpline and outreach service using creative and innovative methods in order to help alleviate initial concerns in accessing the service e.g. music, video workshops and sporting activities. They also offer training for professionals and referrals to other agencies for those with complex needs to ensure that there is co-ordinated care.
Penge Partners	To offer support and coordination for voluntary groups in Penge with organising events; to promote greater understanding, partnership and integration between the diverse communities; to improve community safety and the wellbeing of the area as a whole. Can offer advice and 'hands on' help in establishing committees, steering groups, residents associations and friends groups.
Bromley Lions Club	Voluntary service organisation raising funds for, and assisting, those who need help in Bromley and elsewhere. Assisting organisations that provide help to disabled and/or vulnerable people.
Biggin Hill & Westerham Lions Club	This club is part of Lions Clubs International, one of the world's largest community service organisations. Activities concentrate on the needs of the local community and can be divided into three main areas, fund raising, welfare activities and social activities.
ACCTION-LED	Organisation for children and young people with learning disabilities/difficulties from black and other ethnic minority community groups. Offers help by providing advice, support, after school clubs/activities, information and skills training.
Keniston Housing Association	We aim to meet housing needs, provide good quality well managed affordable homes and give the service that tenants want. Our core values are openness, integrity and fairness. Keniston has homes In Islington, Lambeth,

	Southwark, Croydon, Bexley, Bromley and Crawley. Most of the properties are flats, but there are houses in Bromley, Lambeth, Southwark and Crawley. Some of the flats are “sheltered”; these are for older people with extra support services provided, usually through a scheme manager. For further information see the properties page.
23rd Bromley(St Augustine’s) Scout Group	The 23rd Bromley comprises two Beaver Colonies (boys and girls 6-8), two Cub-Scout Packs (boys and girls 8-10 1/2), one Scout Troop (boys and girls 10 ½-14 ½) and one Explorer Scout Unit (boys and girls 14 ½-18) and Network (boys and girls 18 -25)

Bexley and Bromley Advocacy launches ‘easy read site’

We are delighted to announce the launch of our easy read health website and signposting resource www.advocate4health.org.uk .The website contains simple health information and feedback tools for people with a learning disability. BBA is also planning to run workshops with learning disability groups to help them access the site and other health information.

The website contains local pages where organisations are invited to promote their services, company details and events. Please contact Naomi, BBA, Healthy Lifestyles Worker. For more information, telephone 020 8300 9666.

Bromley PCT decides on “externalising” its community provider unit

Bromley PCT board met on 25th June to decide on the model for its community services after April 2010. All PCTs must have their community services run by a legally separate body from 2010, and this year run them as a separate arm of the PCT from commissioners. Two sizeable reports were produced which set out the two options for the PCT.

The first option was for a new Community Interest Company – a social enterprise - to be formed by existing staff and GP practices. It will be called Bromley Healthcare. It would be a private company, making profit, which it will be obliged to re-invest in services. The paper implies that the control will be with member GP practices and will be profit focussed and explicitly sees the council, voluntary sector and other NHS bodies, and also GP practices who are not members, as competition, but will want to build partnerships to deliver services on a case by case basis. There is very little on patient involvement.

The other option was essentially a takeover of community services by Oxleas (currently mental health and some learning disability services in Bromley). This paper deals much more with track record in terms of regulators assessments and financial management and references to existing partnership working. It also highlights its status as a foundation trust – having staff, patient and resident ‘members’ and governors. There is much less about its vision for delivering specific services.

Whilst people may have opinions as to which model is best and indeed of the organisations concerned, there were strengths and weaknesses in both. The main issue for voluntary and community sector is the ability to influence service delivery and service development in accordance with the needs of our members, and that voluntary organisations have the ability to freely choose to enter partnership with providers on suitable terms.

The following is taken from the PCT press release “Following lengthy consideration and debate the Board reached a decision to ask the leadership of Bromley Healthcare and Bromley General Practitioners to work in partnership with the PCT to define more precisely how the new organisation would work to improve health and the delivery of health and social care services in Bromley.

“The Board requested that a clear project plan be developed to clarify the service, financial, structural and governance arrangements as well as the implications for staff currently employed by the PCT. In doing so it indicated that the plan should be capable of forming the basis of a full business case for its consideration later in the year.”

Care Quality Commission (CQC) – Bromley inspection

CQC is the new body replacing Commission for Social Care Inspection and Healthcare Commission. They will be inspecting London Borough of Bromley Adult Social Care Services, the focus of which will be Safeguarding Adults and choice and control for older people. The main inspection will be between the 4th and 11th August when there will be open and one to one meetings with a range of voluntary sector organisations as part of the inspection. They have also asked a number of organisations to submit comments on relations with the council.

Community House cafe

Why not invite your members to lunch in the cafe at Community House?

The cafe opens at 10 for morning tea or coffee with a selection of biscuits, chocolate and chilled drinks. We serve hot lunches between 12 and 2pm every day. All food is prepared on the day, on the premises, by our chef and her team and costs as little as £3 with an extra 60p for a pudding.

Or if you feel like a lighter snack option, why not try some of our freshly prepared sandwiches, summer salads or jacket potatoes with filling of your choice? The Community House cafe is especially nice on a hot summer day, when you can eat al fresco in our cool courtyard patio.

Please bring the cafe to the attention of your colleagues and members.

Bromley Women’s Aid launch

The new community helpline & outreach service launched on a summer’s day in Bromley High Street writes Jo Withy

Held in the lovely sunshine outside the Churchill Theatre last Friday, BWA’s residents, staff and Link Partners welcomed the general public to an afternoon of speeches, dance and performance to celebrate our new community helpline and outreach service.

We were very pleased to have Cllr. Colin Bloom, Portfolio Holder for Public Safety to open the proceedings. Other key speakers included Natalie Collins, who talked about her experiences of domestic violence and is a regular speaker at the Freedom Programme; and Debbie Laughton, a local Bromley solicitor. The lovely Lucy performed a very powerful poem and Jane Ward, Chair of Bromley Women’s Aid Management Committee, closed the afternoon’s event. Her message was clear. Whilst music, speeches and face painting were the entertainment order of the celebrations ahead of us today – the underlying serious and clear message was that “domestic violence will not be tolerated and Bromley Women’s Aid offers support for all women”.

Inside the theatre’s foyer there were information stalls detailing BWA and Bromley

services; a screening of an educational video called 'Spiralling', created by the Bristol Safer Partnership. There was also an area set aside with tea & cakes for people to come and take a breather.

Many women approached our staff with concerns and queries for their loved ones, some of whom were themselves had or were suffering domestic violence.

We were proud to launch our new community helpline and outreach services in such a way. We were also delighted with the support we received from the Churchill Theatre, the Sony Shop, our MC and all the performers who donated their time and services free to BWA. We will continue to deliver high quality services that empower women to control their future lives and to parent their children free from domestic violence. For information about the project, please contact Jo Withy on 07989 407 343.

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Local events

Dare to Dance Competition - 2009

Date: Saturday 25th July

Venue: Southbank Centre

The Dare2Dance competition is back, and we are asking you to support this fantastic initiative to get more girls and young women active, by circulating this e-alert to your network of contacts.

After the huge success of last years Dare2Dance competition, it is back again this year to find London's best female Hip Hop dancers. Following last years event, the 8 winning groups spent the summer training with the Nike D-Clash dancers, which is a fantastic opportunity for any young aspiring dancers.

This year's competition is taking place on Saturday 25th July at the Southbank Centre. It is open to females aged 13-22yrs and groups must be between 3-10 girls. Click here to see the event flyer.

To find out more information and to register a group online go to:

www.londonyouthdance.com/dare2dance.

For more information email jessica.hemming@southbankcentre.co.uk.

Charity night - Age Concern Bromley's theatre preview night

Date: Thursday 10 September 2009

Venue: Bromley Little Theatre

Time: 7.45pm

Tickets £8.00

Join us for a preview evening to raise some money for Age Concern Bromley. See the thriller Ira Levin's "Deathtrap" in two acts. Bar and tea/coffee are available. Tickets includes lucky seat number draw for 3 free seats! Contact Pat Harrison (shopping Service) on 020 8315 1859 for tickets. Cheques should be made payable to Age Concern Bromley - Tickets will be sent two weeks before the performance

Bookings now open for the Great Sunday Lunch

Date: Sunday 18th October

Age Concern Bromley is inviting everyone in the Borough to join them for another Great Sunday Lunch. Sunday lunch is often the most socially significant event of the week, where millions of people gather with friends and family to catch up, relax, have fun and

make plans – Sunday lunch is about communication and getting together. Sadly, this doesn't apply to everyone and Sunday lunch can be a lonely and difficult time for many older people in Bromley. Over 40 per cent of older people aged 75 + live alone and whilst living alone does not automatically mean older people are socially isolated, we do know that social isolation is prevalent in Bromley and that it is very likely to predispose people to depression and a lower quality of life and health.

Last year over 40 restaurants, pubs and residents celebrated this national institution, and helped Age Concern raise over £1400 towards a telephone befriending service.

How you can help:

Once again Age Concern is asking restaurants, pubs and local residents to host fund-raising events on Sunday 18th October. You can help by

- Hosting a Sunday lunch and charge a small fee for family and friends to attend
- Having a special event at your community group or housing scheme
- If you are a restaurant or pub, asking your customers to donate £1 for each Sunday lunch bought on the day

If you would like to be part of the Great Sunday Lunch then please contact Paul Goulden on 020 8315 1850.

Local training

Mottingham Community and Learning Shop - July

The Mottingham Community and Learning Shop will continue to provide course during the month of July. But as you may know, this academic year ends on Wednesday 22nd July, so after that date the Shop does not have any new courses planned until mid September. Read more about the programme for July under [local training](#).

Cotmandene – July-August

Read more about the programme for July under [local training](#).

National/regional news

Invitation to join the HEAR steering group

HEAR is London's only regional equalities and human rights VCS network. The network aims to place equality and human rights issues at the heart of the work of London's voluntary and community sector (VCS). The organisation is looking to recruit to the steering group, which provides overall direction to the network, as well as equalities and human rights knowledge and expertise in response to developments impacting on the VCS. Applications are invited from VCS organisations and networks working to address the inequality experienced by London's:

- Black, Asian and minority ethnic people
- Children and young people
- Lesbian, gay and bi-sexual people
- Refugees, migrants and asylum seekers
- Transgender people
- Women.

Applications also welcome from mainstream VCS organisations; those with specialist expertise in the areas of human rights and environmental sustainability; frontline and second-tier organisations. Deadline for applications is 5pm on the 8th July.

To find out more about HEAR please visit [ROTA's website](#). Click here for details of [how to apply](#).

Parkinson's sufferers and carers participate in parliamentary inquiry

Over 350 people with Parkinson's and their carers have told the Parliamentary Inquiry about their experiences of trying to access health and social care services. The All party Parliamentary Group of MPs and Peers will publish a report in July 2009, which will outline the key findings and recommendations to the Government and Assemblies on how to improve access to services for people affected. Following the publication of the Inquiry report PDS will be launching a new UK wide campaign to ensure that all people with Parkinson's and their carers get fair access to the health and social care they need. (Reproduced from the Parkinson's Disease Society – June newsletter)

Olympic legacy survey

A survey commissioned by London Councils has found Londoners remain positive about the benefits of hosting the London 2012 Olympics, but feel they lack information about many aspects of the Games such as venues and legacy plans. London Councils is now calling for a campaign to ensure Londoners are better informed of plans for the Games and are able to get involved across all parts of the capital. [Read London Councils' press release](#).

Equality Bill - proposed specific duties

The Equality Bill which will bring together and extend existing anti-discriminatory legislation is proceeding through parliament at the moment. (There was an article in the e-news bulletin 93). Recently a clause has been added allowing volunteers to take organisations to tribunal in cases of discrimination.

The bill proposes some specific new duties on public bodies and the government has issued a consultation on what those specific duties may be and how they would work. The deadline for comments is 30th September. [Download the consultation](#).

Disability – consultation on the “right to control”

The Government Office for Disability Issues has published a consultation of Right to Control for disabled people. Their aim is “to shift the balance of power from the State to the individual; assisting disabled people to achieve better outcomes from the support and services they currently receive”. It is strongly linked to the Welfare Reform Bill, which is currently going through Parliament. The consultation asks about options for funding, how Right to Control would operate in practice and how to overcome barriers. [Download the consultation](#) and [other related materials](#).

Child poverty bill – overview

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has produced an overview of its aims and achievements in relation to the Child Poverty Bill, also proceeding through Parliament. [Download a copy.](#)

Increase benefit take up to overcome child poverty

The Government's Child Poverty Unit has published a document on how public bodies and their partners can work together to develop services to encourage benefit take up. Many families still do not claim what they are entitled to and live in poverty as a result. [Download a copy of the report.](#)

Impact of recession on social groups

The Equality & Human Rights Commission and the Department for Work & Pensions have produced an informative document analysing the impact of the recession in terms of employment, unemployment and redundancy rates for various groups - age, gender, ethnic minorities, disabled people, lone parents, lowest qualified and deprived areas. The greatest impact has been on the young, the least qualified and those in deprived areas - and compounded if you have more than one of these characteristics. [Download the report.](#)

Legal advice at a local level – study

The Ministry of Justice has published a survey of legal advice, particularly 'social welfare law' (debt housing and welfare benefits). It looks at the Impact of the Recession (an increase in demand); impact of Civil Legal Advice Fixed Fees - difficult to manage with client with complex need, that is not just legal but wider social needs; and the operation of Community Legal Advice Centres / Networks in those parts of the country that have them. There are some suggestions as to how to support voluntary organisations whose work is wider than just advice. [Download the report.](#)

Practice based commissioning for GPs

The Department of Health has published guidance for GPs on the operation of practice based commissioning. This allows GPs or groups of GPs to purchase directly specific services for their patients, rather than through the PCT. All primary care trust areas will have to adopt practice based commissioning. Although designed for GPs, it will help local groups understand what GPs will be doing with practice based commissioning. Download the guidance for [practice based commissioning.](#)

Joint commissioning framework for dementia

Following the publication of its dementia strategy earlier, the Department of Health has now produced a commissioning framework. Its aspiration is to provide best practice guidance for commissioning dementia services and includes a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment template and summary of NICE and SCIE evidence for dementia services. [Download a copy of the framework.](#)

Young carers – Ofsted survey

Ofsted has published a survey on how effectively young carers were identified by councils and their partners. It also examined the assessment and delivery of services for young carers and their families. [Download a copy](#).

National Indicators 8, 9, 10 and 11: sport and arts participation

The Department of Culture Media & Sport has produced a range of information in the form of maps and tables showing the relative performance of local authority areas in

[NI 8: Participation in sport and active recreation 2008/09](#)

[NI 9: Use of public libraries 2008/09](#) PDF (259kb)

[NI 10: Visits to museums and galleries, 2008/09](#) PDF (264kb)

[NI 11: Engagement in the arts 2008/09](#) PDF (258kb)

Download the full range of [Information and resources](#).

Public benefit - reporting guide for arts charities

The Charity Commission has issued new guidance for arts organisations covering the new requirement to report on public benefit. It includes practical examples and guidance on how draw up annual report and accounts incorporating public benefit reporting. You can download the news item at [Download the news item](#) or go to the public [reporting benefit page](#) of the Charity Commission website.

Digital Britain

The Government has produced its report into future developments and aspirations for digital and ICT technology. This includes universal access to broadband and the recently announced proposal to “switch off” of analogue radio in 2015. [Download the full report](#) or in [chunks of separate chapters](#).

Public attitudes to mental illness

The Department of Health has published its annual survey of public attitudes to mental illness. Attitudes are generally becoming more tolerant and this year’s survey shows some significant changes since 2008.

- Opinions are more in favour of integrating people with mental illness into the community
- Opinions on the causes of mental illness and the need for special services became less favourable
- Opinions on people with mental illness having the same rights to a job as everyone else became more favourable.

[Download the full survey](#).

Department of Health – Single Equality Scheme 2009-12

All public bodies have been required to produce race, gender and disability equality schemes and are now required to produce single equality schemes. Download the [Department of Health’s scheme](#).

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National/regional events

Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities programme annual conference

Date: 20 July, London.

[Race Equality Foundation](#).

'See the Difference' Project – learn how to make video to impact on your donors

See the Difference is a charity which aims to help you showcase projects or workstreams to show your donors, through the medium of online video.

As a charity, it's always a struggle to fundraise particularly in this economic climate. Many donors want to know exactly where their money has gone, to which specific project and when. With free help and training from See the Difference, you will be supported to produce some low budget videos for the website illustrating a particular project. The See the Difference web service will do the rest. Potential donors use a search engine on the site to choose:

- the level of spend
- what kind of charity
- what kind of theme
- what location and
- the end date of the project

The search engine matches the donor's requests and returns results on projects that are a match. As the chosen charity, it will be your responsibility to keep your donor fully informed of progress.

Cost: All it will cost you is 5 per cent of the money raised for running costs, and a one off payment of £100 to have your charity screened.

The first briefing session is on 6th July at 11 am at The Triangles Community Centre, Poulton Close Dover, Kent, CT17 0HR. Contact Helena Noifeld, CSV Community Outreach Manager for the South East on 0189 2675 607 to sign up for the event

NCVO Summer Marketing Conference

Date: Tuesday 7 July 2009

Venue: London

Sharpen your marketing theory and practice. [Book now](#)

Playday 2009

The annual celebration of children's right to play takes place on 5 August. On this day and throughout the summer of 2009, thousands of children, young people and communities will get out to play at hundreds of locally organised events across the UK.

The 2009 campaign theme, *Make time!* calls for everyone to make time for play. From parents, carers and teachers, to policy makers and planners - everyone should make time to support children's right to play in whatever way they can. Read [more information from www.playday.org.uk](#) and register any event you are running.

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National/ regional training

Free training and network events for DPOs

This summer 'Building our Futures' project aims to find solutions for employment issues that arise in Disabled People's Organisations (DPO). Places are still available for some London network events, particularly for Chairs and Workers in DPOs. For more information visit www.toosh.co.uk.

Community Sector Trading Project – residential training to support social enterprise projects

The Community Sector Trading project is aimed at development staff from support providers and staff from front line organisations who are currently developing a social enterprise project. It aims to help organisations, especially community groups, understand how they can grow and diversify income, by exploring trading activities to generate new income streams.

The initial 24 hour face-to-face residential at the beginning of the programme helps to get to know one another and become familiar with the technology you will be using. A deposit of £100 is payable from all participants on joining the 'Action Learning Set'. This is refundable on completion of the programme. Dates for Autumn 09 are:

Residential: 5/6 October*
Session 1: 22nd October
Session 2: 5th November
Session 3: 17th November
Session 4: 1st December
Final face-to-face: 15th December

*15:00pm – 15.00pm (24 hour residential) to be held at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine, in London. Want to find out more? For more information and to apply, contact Vicki Papworth on 07525 236 796 or V.Papworth@dta.org.uk

LVSC short courses – July 2009

Wide range of LVSC training courses including:

13-14 July - [Managing for the first time](#)
13-14 July - [Assertiveness for women](#)
15 July - [Managing volunteers](#)
15-16 July - [Effective writing skills](#)
16-17 July - [Introduction to staff supervision](#)
20-21 July - [Project management](#)
21 July - [Understanding financial systems in voluntary organisations](#)
22-23 July - [Newsletters: writing for print](#)
23 July - [Effective time management](#)
24 July - [Health & safety reps](#)

For detailed information check the website: www.lvsc.org.uk/courses or call the Learning Team on 020 7700 8113. LVSC operates a sliding scale of course fees to encourage participation from a wide range of VCS organisations. Please see the price grid for courses September 2008 - July 2009. It also offers 25 per cent discount to organisations

that are LVSC members and to other organisations that are eligible through the benefits and discount scheme.

Media Trust Courses

Up and coming courses include:

Introduction to media law - 2 July, 10am-1pm, Central London. £95+VAT

Crisis PR - 2 July, 2pm-5pm, Central London. £95+VAT

Craft Successful Case Studies - 2 July, 2pm-5pm, Central London. £95+VAT

Write a Marketing Strategy - 7 July, 10am-4pm, Central London. £195+VAT

[Download the latest Media Trust training calendar](#) from their website.

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Local voluntary sector jobs

Community Drugs Project

As a result of a review of services in Bromley, we are now developing a new and exciting service. This will build on the successes we have already had in Aftercare. Bromley Community Drugs Project is currently recruiting for an Aftercare Worker. Flexibility of hours including evenings, will be required for the position.

Aftercare worker, Bromley Community Drug Project

£25,871 - £27,666 per annum includes Outer London Weighting
17.5 hours per week

The successful candidate will have at least two years experience of substance and alcohol misuse, be competent and familiar in facilitating group work/ providing psycho social interventions using models such as CBT, Motivational Interviewing, Relapse Prevention techniques and training volunteers. You will be a good team player, but also have the ability to work alone; and have the skills to manage and supervise peer mentors and volunteers.

Closing date: 15 July.

For more information please contact Rebecca Walker on 07738 997224 or visit www.cri.org.uk

Croydon Voluntary Action – LINK co-ordinator and Supported Volunteer Broker

Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA) is the main umbrella organisation for voluntary and community activity in Croydon. CVA with the local BME Forum is the host for the Local Involvement Network (LINK). Croydon Volunteer Centre is part of CVA.

LINK Co-ordinator

SP 36, £31,987.20 incl OLW – Full Time for 36 hours a week

Real People, Real Power: Croydon Communities In Control. Join our established Community Involvement team to strengthen and support Croydon's Local Involvement Network for health and social care.

You will have experience of community involvement and/or community development, with experience of using online e-democracy solutions. You will be a strong communicator, a skilled facilitator and can demonstrate excellent person and project management.

Supported Volunteer Broker

SP 25 21,306 + 1738 outer London waiting pro rota 28 hours Temporary for 8 months with a possible review.

Encouraging Volunteering for All. Join our established volunteer centre team to strengthen and support people into volunteering.

Croydon Voluntary Action is recruiting a Support Worker to increase the number of mental health service users taking up voluntary placements. Based in the Volunteer Centre team you will be providing support to individuals. Previous experience with mental health services is essential.

This post is funded by the South London and Maudsley Trust (SLaM).

Closing date: Friday 3rd July at 5 pm. Interviews in: the 3rd or 4th week in July.

Application packs can be downloaded from www.cvalive.org.uk or contact CVA on 020 8684 3862 or cva@cvalive.org.uk Submit separate applications for each CVA post.

CVA is an equal opportunities employer and encourages applications from black minority, ethnic communities and disabled people.

Bromley Mind - Various Posts

Bromley Mind provides services for people with mental health needs and dementia living in the London Borough of Bromley.

Support Worker - (Mental Health Day Services)

Hours: 18 per week Salary: £9227 p.a.

We are looking for a motivator and enabler, with an ability to support people to achieve their personal goals. With previous experience of working with people with mental health needs, the successful candidate will be committed to social inclusion and will demonstrate an understanding of, and be expected to deliver, individual support and structured courses.

Senior Day Centre Worker (MindCare Dementia Services)

Hours: 35 per week Salary: £18,189 p.a.

We are seeking an enthusiastic and experienced person for an exciting opportunity running our new day centre in St Paul's Wood.

Initially, this post will require you to assist the Day Centres Manager in marketing this new service and carrying out assessments, as well as leading and motivating a new team.

The successful applicant will hold an NVQ3 in Health & Social Care (or equivalent), have a good understanding of dementia and its presenting problems, and will have worked with older people in a similar setting. You must also have use of a vehicle, as you will be expected to travel across the borough regularly.

Interview date: 17th July 2009

Bank Minibus Drivers (MindCare Dementia Services)

Hours: Variable Salary: Up to £9.34 per hour

Minibus Drivers are required to transport our service users to and from our day centres for a maximum of five hours per day, over a split shift. You must be in possession of a

full, clean driving licence with the entitlement to drive D1 category vehicles and have previous experience of transporting people in a similar setting. We are particularly looking for candidates who are able to work in the Orpington area.
Interview date: 17th July 2009

Bank Day Centre Workers (MindCare Dementia Services)
Hours: Variable Salary: Up to £7.88 per hour

To provide cover for annual leave and sickness across all of our day centres. Successful candidates will have previous caring experience, sensitivity, patience and good communication skills. We are particularly looking for candidates who are able to work in the Orpington area.
Interview date: 17th July 2009

Excellent training, supervision and support are available for all posts.
For an application pack, telephone 020 8249 5910 or visit our website at www.bromleymind.org.uk.

The closing date for all posts is 1pm on Wednesday 8th July 2009.
Successful applicants will be expected to undergo an Enhanced 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.

HVA is the Volunteer Centre for Hackney, member of Volunteering England and Greater London Volunteering.

We are looking for an energetic, determined and innovative person with in-depth experience and knowledge of the Third Sector to join our senior management team.

Quality and Development Manager

Please quote reference: QDM
£33,000 - £35,000 p.a. Plus 5% Pension contribution
Depending on Experience

This challenging and varied role requires excellent organisational, fundraising and strategic skills. The successful applicant must be a resourceful manager with the ability to establish and maintain good working relationships with all stakeholders and deputise for the Managing Director.

This post would suit someone with confidence in giving advice, training and support on effective volunteer management, good practice procedures and quality standards, background in project management, training, fundraising and event management.
Closing date: Wednesday 15th July 2009.

For Application pack contact: Bisi Ojuri on 020 7241 4443 ext 21 or email: managingdirector@hackneyvoluntaryaction.org.uk

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Funding news

The Big Lottery Fund

The [Big Lottery Fund](#) is providing an extra £45m to help charities through the recession and has pledged to give at least 80 per cent of its funds to voluntary and community groups rather than the current 60 to 70 per cent.

The funding strategy for the for the next six years was announced last week (Wednesday 24th June), following its Big Thinking consultation, which asked stakeholders and the public how its budget for new funding programmes should be spent.

The extra £45m, which will be distributed in the current financial year, includes an extra £20m for the [Reaching Communities](#) scheme in England, £7m for its [Basis](#) programme, which works to increase capacity in the sector, £5m for its [Awards for All](#), which gives grants of between £300 and £10,000 to grassroots groups, and between £1m and £3m each for programmes in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

33 groups funded so far by Grassroots fund in Bromley

Grassroots grants funding is a wonderful way of supporting activities which make a difference to the lives of people who live in Bromley. It is a broad funding programme with the following themes:

- Strengthening communities – Encouraging people be active in making their neighbourhood a better place to live
- Bringing people from different backgrounds together - Working to build positive relationships; understanding, valuing & celebrating people's diverse backgrounds
- Responding to Local Needs - Addressing a specific identified problem or need
- Strengthening organisational capacity and ability - Addressing training; development needs of groups; volunteering and enabling users be more active.

So far 33 groups have been funded in Bromley providing a wide range of services including:

- Sports provision - training e.g. trampolining, table tennis, football, Tai Chi, yoga
- Providing creative activities for older people, music, percussion art and craft for the youth
- ESOL classes for refugees and asylum seekers
- Providing staff, volunteer training and running costs for organisations
- Support for parents/carers of children with special needs
- Capital costs e.g. towards a mini bus, repairs and equipment for community buildings
- Running holiday schemes
- Providing support and meals for isolated, vulnerable people.

Through these projects lives have been changed for both the younger and older members of our community, new skills learnt, horizons widened, feelings of loneliness and depression reduced, opportunities provided for people from different ethnic backgrounds and histories. CCF has mapped the Bromley projects to the borough's areas of multiple deprivation based on the 2007 indicators.

[Click here to download from the CLB website.](#)

Grassroots grant funding is open to all organisations that have been running or have been working towards being operational for one year and with an annual income of less than £30,000. It is well worth applying for this funding, of up to £5,000; it is a

straightforward process. For details, and support to complete the form, contact Julie Hunt, Funding Information and Advice Officer @ Community Links Bromley: 020 8315 1915 julieh@communitylinksbromley.org.uk

To download a form and the guidance go to Capital Community Foundation's website www.capitalcf.org.uk or call 020 7582 5117.

The scheme is open to projects ending no later than March 2011.

Big Challenge

UnLtd, has announced that the year 2 of the Big Challenge competition will be launched on the 4th July 2009. The Big Challenge is a competition for young people funded by Vodafone and youth charity "V", along with social enterprise foundation and competition organisers UnLtd.

The contest offers either groups of young people or those working on their own aged between 16 and 25 the chance to win a share of £60,000 funding to carry out projects that use volunteering to help tackle the problems facing people in the 21st century. Individuals can apply on their own or in a group with other young people. Applications can be submitted in any creative format and will be shortlisted by UnLtd Youth Leadership Team before a final vote by the public. Successful applicants will get part of the Challenge Fund. They will have their project costs paid for and support and mentoring over the rest of the Challenge year to make their ideas a reality.

On the 4th July the Youth Leadership Team will make their decision about this year's most pressing issue for the Big Challenge to address.

To find out more please go to www.bigchallenge.org.uk.

Beacon Radio Youth Volunteering Fund

Beacon Radio has teamed up with the v Charity to fund young volunteering opportunities in the community. £50,000 is available to fund activities / projects that can put forward proposals to engage young people, aged 16-25 to volunteer in new and creative projects that will benefit the community.

Not for profit and non state funded organisations can apply for up to £10,000. The aim is to inspire a new generation of young volunteers to get involved in volunteering and community action. Projects can be taster or short-term sessions that enable young people to get a flavour of volunteering and a sense of its potential value to themselves and their local community. Applications can be submitted at any time.

Find out more www.beaconradiowestmids.co.uk

Grants not limited to £10,000 says BBC Children in Need

Organisations applying for the [Children in Need](#) summer grant's round will not be restricted to awards of £10,000. Applicants working with children and disadvantaged young people have until 15 July to apply for grants at any level in the charity's first summer application round.

Statements last week by a representative of the charity that awards would be [limited to £10,000](#) were incorrect as grants vary from small sums to larger amounts over one, two and three years.

The spokeswoman said it was not possible to say how much would be distributed in total in the July round. The next Children in Need appeal will be in November.

For more information about applying, email pudsey@bbc.co.uk or call 020 8008 3174.

Criteria for the new £16.7m Hardship Fund

This year's Budget saw the announcement of a £16.7m Hardship Fund for the sector, building on the £42.5m Real Help for Communities action plan. The Hardship Fund will provide grant support to third sector organisations delivering front-line services to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in society who have been affected by the recession.

Grants of between £50,000 and £250,000 will be available to organisations that are in financial hardship which is impacting on their ability to deliver services in the following areas:

- Health and Social Care
- Housing Support
- Education and Training
- Information, Advice and Guidance

More information about the delivery partner, when the Hardship Fund will open for applications and how to apply will be available on this website shortly.

Visit www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Bank pledges £9.5m to help charities merge and collaborate, but will lend on a commercial basis

[Barclays](#) has agreed to loan voluntary organisations £9.5m to match the amount being loaned by the Government's [Modernisation Fund](#), but the bank will not offer the same interest-free deals.

The £16.5m fund, comprising loans and grants, was announced as part of the government's £42.5m sector action plan published in February. Delivery of the fund is being shared by Capacitybuilders (£7m) and Futurebuilders (£9.5m), with the former handing grants to smaller organisations and Futurebuilders administering loans for larger bodies.

Barclays will work with Futurebuilders, on a case-by-case basis, to provide loans to sector organisations. If charities require more than the Modernisation Fund's £500,000 loan limit, Barclays will look to loan the additional funding required.

Its allocation will bring the total loan fund to £19m. The bank will also offer professional support to lenders on how best to structure their finances and it will help to organise and jointly run seminars designed to give charity finance teams guidance, support and the financial understanding to support their borrowing.

The funding will help in two main ways:

- Bursaries of £1,000 for organisations to pay for initial advice on how they can become more resilient and work more closely with others to increase their impact, and grants of up to £10,000 to help pay costs involved in moving towards collaboration or merger
- Interest-free loans of between £30,000 and £500,000 for third sector organisations with existing plans for mergers and collaboration or other activities to help them prepare for difficult times.

For more information see www.modernisationfund.org.uk or call 0191 269 2277.

Futurebuilders - Small Organisation Tender Fund - half gone

Futurebuilders England is a unique £215m fund offering support and investment to help third sector organisations win contracts to deliver public services. It is funded by the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.

Futurebuilders England has made its tenth grant from its new Small Organisation Tender Fund, leaving only a further £110,000 up for grabs.

The Small Organisation Tender Fund - which was officially launched on January 23 this year with an initial pot of £220,000 - provides grants of up to £15,000 to help small third sector organisations win specific public sector contracts.

The grants, which are offered for up to 10 per cent of a contract value, are intended to help with tendering or capacity building costs - such as advice from procurement specialists, financial expertise, and legal and bidding staff costs.

The Small Organisation Tender Fund is just one way Futurebuilders can help develop market power and help more third sector organisations win public sector contracts.

For the purposes of the Small Organisation Tender Fund, a 'small organisation' is defined as one with an annual turnover of less than £250,000. Applicants must also have been trading for a minimum of one year.

There is a limited pot of up to £220,000 for this fund, £150,000 of which was contributed by the National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning (NPTSC). Grants are distributed on a case-by-case basis to organisations able to demonstrate that they stand a good chance of success of winning the contract.

Much of the application assessment is conducted by phone and there is no closing date for applications.

For more information about the Fund visit www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk or contact the enquiry line Tel: 0191 261 5200 Email: info@futurebuilders-england.org.uk.

Please note that their London office has recently relocated to 5th Floor, 6 St Andrew Street, London, EC4A 3AE. The new phone number is Tel: 020 7842 7700.

London Councils Grants – London

London Councils' members invest £28m a year funding over 300 voluntary organisations. All of the grants they make seek to improve the lives of people who live in, work in and visit London.

Commissioning Themes - Grants are awarded for 69 priority areas (services) across 12 themes:

- Children & Young People (13)
- Crime Reduction (5)
- Culture, Tourism & London 2012 (10)
- Environment, Transport, Planning & Sustainability (5)
- Generic Second Tier (4)
- Health & Safety (1)
- Health & Social Care (5)
- Homelessness (5)
- Legal & Advice (4)
- Policy & Voice (8)
- Poverty/ESF (2)
- Violent Crime (7)

You can find more about the grants in Bromley on the website:

www.grants.londoncouncils.gov.uk

Community Foundation Network - Comic Relief

Community Foundation Network have been invited by Comic Relief to distribute some of the funds raised through Red Nose Day and Sport Relief through their network of local community foundations. Community foundations across the UK are inviting applications for grants up to £10,000 from a fund of over £5 million that they are distributing on behalf of Comic Relief, using money raised from Red Nose Day and Sport Relief - up to 31 March 2011.

Comic Relief grants of up to £10,000 support community groups who are using a range of activities, including sport, to:

- Increase access to sport and exercise for people who face social exclusion and isolation
- Help people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives to regain their confidence and self-esteem
- Build skills of local people
- Increase community cohesion
- Respond to local economic needs.

Groups need to:

- Be working in a disadvantaged or deprived area
- Be small, locally based groups or organisations who have a clear understanding of the needs of their community
- Have limited access to other sources of income.

The kinds of groups that can apply are:

- Community groups
- Resident associations
- Community centres
- Social enterprises / Community Interest Companies/Credit Unions.

They will not give grants to:

- Individuals
- Statutory organisations, including schools
- Fund trips abroad
- Fund buses, mini buses or other community transport schemes (other than transport costs forming part of a project)
- Fund building costs, including access adaptations to buildings.

A list of participating Community Foundations is on website below. For more information please contact your local Community Foundation. Follow link for details of all local [Community Foundations](#).

If you have problems contacting them contact Rebecca Wood at Community Foundation Network Tel: 020 7713 9326 Email: office@communityfoundations.org.uk .[Website](#).

Comic Relief - UK Grants

Comic Relief usually makes grants for between one and three years. They can give grants for running costs and capital costs.

However, they give building costs a very low priority, and only fund these in exceptional circumstances. They do not fund capital costs where they are part of a much larger appeal.

They usually make grants to cover project costs, but they recognise that you may wish to include a contribution towards your organisational costs so that it reflects the true cost of running your project. This is sometimes known as full cost recovery. They are happy for you to do this, but you will need to show them how you have worked out these additional organisational costs.

They can pay for all or some of your project costs, but they encourage you to get some of your funding from other sources if you can.

There is no minimum or maximum grant in most of their programmes, but where there are limits, these are clearly stated in the programme guidelines.

Their grants on average vary between £25,000 and £40,000 per year, and rarely exceed this upper limit.

They are unlikely to make large grants to very small organisations, and they will not usually fund all the costs of an application made by charities with an annual income over £10 million. These charities will be expected to make a contribution themselves or secure other income towards the costs of the project.

If your work is regional, national or provides a model that could be widely replicated, they may be able to fund at a higher level. Please call them to discuss this before you submit an application.

They receive many more applications than they are able to fund and they usually only support work which fits their current priorities, so before you apply for funding, please read through all the Essential Information on their website below carefully.

For projects in the UK, they currently have the following programmes:

- Mental Health
- Domestic and Sexual Abuse - There are two strands to the open programme: Crisis Support; Young Voices
- Refugee and Asylum Seeking Women - There are two strands to the open programme: Direct support to women; Training.
- Sport for Change - This programme aims to fund projects that are using sport as a tool for social change. The maximum grant size in this programme is £100,000 in total
- Young People aged 11-25:
 - Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Young People
 - Young People and Alcohol
 - Young People with Mental Health Problems -There are two strands to the programme: Services for young people; Training
- Local Communities - Comic Relief has made a longstanding pledge to place funding into disadvantaged communities. The funding for their communities programme is devolved to the Community Foundation Network. Please contact them directly for details of their funding application procedures. Website: www.communityfoundations.org.uk

Coming Soon:

- Young Carers (managed by the Princess Royal Trust for Carers)
- Older People.

The deadlines for their first three grant making cycles are: Cycle 1 - 24 July 2009; Cycle 2 - 13 November 2009; Cycle 3 - 5 March 2010.

There is further information on their website which needs to be read carefully. Please contact them if you have any other queries about the application process: UK Grants Team, Comic Relief, 5th Floor, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP Tel: 020 7820 5555 Email: ukgrants@comicrelief.com. Website: www.comicrelief.com

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Volunteer news

The new Vetting and Barring Scheme

Diane Diamond attended a Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) Information Roadshow on Friday 26th June, hosted by the Home Office. There were speakers from the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and the Home Office. These are just a few of the points that were made during the roadshow:

- The new scheme will be launched on 12th October and individuals (including volunteers) will be able to register from July 2010
- As with a CRB check, there will be no charge for volunteers registering
- The 3 current barring lists (POVA, POCA and List99) will be replaced by two new barred lists administered just by the ISA and barring decisions will be made by independent experts
- If your organisation is working with children or vulnerable adults the Home Office is encouraging your organisation to fact ISA-registration into future plans.

There is a great deal more information on the website www.isa.gov.org.uk and there is a dedicated helpline on 0300 123 1111. If you want to discuss the roadshow with Diane please call her on 020 8315 1930.

South London Volunteer Centres Network update

Greater London Volunteering has been awarded Big Lottery BASIS 2 funding to deliver a pan London [Good Practice Development project](#). GLV has recently recruited a Best Practice Worker for the project. Marzena Zoladz started work at the beginning of June; she will be based at the Volunteer Centre Merton to deliver the project in the South London Sub Region, including Bromley. As this project is still in its early days, if you would like more information about best practice work with your volunteers, contact [Diane Diamond, Bromley Volunteer Centre Manager](#).

Graduate talent pool

Voluntary sector employers are being encouraged to offer placements to graduates from September 2009, as part of the Government's [Graduate Talent Pool initiative](#).

Call for debate on volunteer brokerage code

Third Sector magazine reports that conservation charity BTCV has called for a debate on an industry standard for volunteer brokerage. Those involved in the activity, such as BTCV, CSV and volunteer centres, should debate whether a code would be useful. This could have guidelines on the cost of brokerage and the extent to which brokers should be obliged to inspect volunteering workplaces. More at www.thirdsector.co.uk where registration is required. [Reproduced from VolResource]

Do you want to be paid to work overseas for a UK charity?

The Vodafone Foundation's World of Difference campaign is looking for people with passion, drive and commitment to apply for a chance to work overseas for the (registered) UK charity of their choice, for a year. Eight UK residents will be given the chance to work for a charity overseas for a whole year, whilst earning a salary of up to £25,000 plus £20,000 in related expenses. The online application form is at vodafone.co.uk, deadline 30th July.

Spotlight on volunteering on BBC Radio 4

The role of volunteers will be celebrated on 12 July on BBC Radio 4 in the programme In Something Understood.

In the company of Glyn Roberts, whose own voluntary organisation [Tools for Self-Reliance](#) has sent more than two million reconditioned tools for the poor to help craftsmen and women in Africa and Asia help themselves, Mike Wooldridge explores both the appeal and the challenges of volunteering, how to work with volunteers, how to work with governments and maintain your original vision and how to look beyond the attraction of a practical project to the underlying causes of poverty and injustice. The programme focuses on the volunteers at the Tools for Self-Reliance workshop in a former greyhound kennels near Southampton, and finds out what motivates them to give up their time for such a cause. You will also hear from founder Glyn Roberts about how he has turned his vision into reality and the difficulties and dilemmas that marked the journey. Please check the radio schedules nearer the time to find out the precise time of broadcast. [Reproduced from Volunteering England bulletin]

Volunteers' expenses in the spotlight

In its latest report, the [Low Income Tax Reform Group](#) (LITRG) highlights the inconsistency of the tax and benefits treatment of volunteers' expenses, and makes recommendations for a simple and coherent approach across Government. [Download the report](#)
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Legal News

[First Aid](#)

From 1 October 2009 the arrangements for training workplace first aiders are changing so that first aiders must have a certificate of competence in either first aid at work (FAW) or emergency first aid at work (EFAW).

[Discrimination](#)

Stonewall has issued guidance entitled "[Religion and sexual orientation](#) - how to manage relations in the workplace(2009) " aimed at addressing the conflict which may arise when simultaneously upholding gay and lesbian rights (on the one hand) and those of people who hold strong religious beliefs (on the other).
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Best practice, resources and offers

Looking for royalty - free images of sports and activities?

450 new, high resolution free sport and activity photos have just been added to the new and improved Promoting Activity photo library. This takes the total number of photos to over 650, [follow this link to view](#).

Workbook: using ICT to improve your monitoring and evaluation

Your computer systems can make a huge difference to the effectiveness of your monitoring and evaluation. This workbook covers the steps and issues you need to consider in developing appropriate computer systems that will help you monitor and evaluate your work.

Download a [free worksheet](#) (53kb), featured in the workbook, to help you develop an ICT system to support your monitoring and evaluation.

Cost: Price £12 plus 10 per cent p&p. [How to order](#).

How to set up a framework for SROI (Social Return on Investment)

Social Return on Investment (SROI) is a framework for understanding, measuring and managing the outcomes of an organisation's activities. It is a way to measure and account for the value your organisation creates.

Office of the Third Sector (OTS) is currently funding an SROI information and support programme, which is being delivered by a consortium of the SROI Network, nef (the new economics foundation), Charities Evaluation Services, New Philanthropy Capital and NCVO. The SROI Guide 2009, [a guide to Social Return on Investment](#), has been produced for the OTS programme. It is available as a digital 'flip book' and as PDF versions for screen viewing and downloading on the [SROI Network website](#).

Free fact sheets to help you plan events

A host of free fact sheets on all aspects of event planning and implementation are available from event training specialists [RJA](#). Individual topics cover finding venues, service charges, working with celebrities, guidance to your public speakers to help them understand your audience – setting cancellation charges and how to plan and 'manage your time'. Until such time as they are available via the RJA website, you can contact [Philippa Leary](#) for copies.

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Financial Management

Take yourself through this financial health checklist

The [Charity Commission](#) has teamed up with the [Confederation of British Industry](#) to urge charity boards to ask themselves 15 key questions about how well placed they are to cope during the recession. One of the topics covered by [`Big Board Talk: The Conversation All Charities Need to Have`](#), is financial health.

Your answers to the following questions determine whether your organisation is financially strong enough to sustain its operations, especially in this current economic downturn:

1. Do you have up to date information about your charity's finances, cash flow and debts/obligations?
2. Do you have access to the right type of financial advice?
3. Based on the information you have:
 - a. Do you know what might happen to your future income?
 - b. Can you protect (or increase) your current income?

- c. Can you continue your programme of activities for the foreseeable future?
- d. Can you make your money go further, for example by identifying costs you can cut?
- e. Can you fulfill your contractual obligations?
- f. Can you meet your financial commitments as they fall due?
- g. Are you financially solvent?

4. Are you clear about the core activities you want to sustain under any circumstances?

5. Are you clear about the prospects for the longer term?

For further information on 'Big Board Talk' on guidance to survive recession, contact Charity Commission and Confederation of British Industry (CBI). However, if you have answered "No" to any of the above questions, contact Maroof, your local Community Accountant for FREE INFORMATION and SUPPORT for your group's accounting and financial management, on 020 8315 1919 or e-mail:maroofa@communitylinksbromley.org.uk.

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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

Contact Details

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