

Email bulletin N° 97– 14 October 2009

Dear Colleague,

Hello and welcome back to the e-news bulletin, which has returned to its regular twice-monthly publishing slot after a two-month break. I hope you found our e-news alert service kept you sufficiently up-to-date during that period.

We have an exciting range of features and articles for you this week; all are linked to our website. To read an article use the underlined text links to take you straight to an article.

Don't forget to send any local news stories, events and training for [inclusion to me](#). The copy deadline is four days before publication.

Best Wishes,

Philippa

**Philippa Leary, Membership, Information and Communication Officer**

**Publishing dates:**

- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October
- Copy deadline: Thursday before publication

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## Spotlight

### Evaluation Feedback from CLB's Conference

Dear Colleague,

The main aim of our conference 'Building on skills, acting with confidence, getting results' was to afford delegates opportunities to diversify their skills base and to learn more about areas which can protect their organisation through these difficult financial times.

However, it was also an opportunity to gather some feedback from delegates not only about the conference and the workshops, but also about the value placed on the services provided by Community Links Bromley.

This will help us in planning our services and ensure we are tailoring the right services to the level of need identified by our members.

We asked delegates to tell us about the services they currently use from CLB and asked for information on service that you would like to see CLB deliver.

I was pleased to note that 61 percent of those present have accessed our regular e-news bulletin or e-alerts and of those who haven't accessed it, only a very small percentage [3] felt they would not have a need to.

Similarly, 45 percent of those surveyed about their involvement in forums and partnership work have indicated that they would like to increase their participation and we can support groups to do this through the work of our Policy and Networks Officer. Some very rewarding comments were made by those who have attended the Volunteer Co-ordinators' Forum such as, 'Extremely useful and enjoyable' and 'Good to meet other people and discuss similar situations.' We were surprised to note that only 35 percent of respondents have accessed the services provided by the Volunteer Centre, although over 40 percent indicated that it is an important service to their organisation. The Volunteer Centre Manager will be looking at ways of engaging those volunteer involving organisations not yet accessing these services.

From the responses of the delegates completing the interactive ICT survey on the day, we found out that more than one in three do not have broadband. This is extremely worrying as so much information is sent or requested through IT. This has sparked an internal debate as to what we can do to support those groups with IT needs.

With over 100 delegates present, including a significant number of colleagues from the statutory sector, I feel we have gained valuable insight about where we as a sector stand

at this moment in time and what direction we need to take to move forward to sustain this very varied and vibrant voluntary sector in our borough.

We are always willing to learn more about how we can improve our services. If you have not had the opportunity to tell us what services you might like from CLB please let us know.

Our Impact Report, which covers the services we delivered during 08/09 is available to you to download now from the website so you can see the very varied support and advice on offer to members. A hard copy will be sent to all members shortly.

I was delighted with delegate's comments regarding the organisation and co-ordination of our conference. 87 percent said they hoped we would co-ordinate a similar event and over 80 percent felt the conference was either 'good' or 'very good'. You can read more of these comments on the delegate's feedback page.

I would like to commend the CLB staff team for their efforts in ensuring that the conference was as successful as it turned out to be. I'm sure you will appreciate how much "behind the scenes" planning work that has to be done.

And finally many thanks to all who attended on the day and who gave willingly of their time to fill out our evaluation forms.

With warm regards,

Eithne

Eithne Rynne,

CLB Director

[Download the Impact Report 08/09 \[713 kb\]](#)

Read comments on the conference by [visiting the delegate's feedback page](#).

For those who could not make the event, I'm very pleased that we captured some of the workshops on video - available on You Tube in the near future.

All the [speaker support presentations](#) are already on the website for your reference, as is a [collection of photos](#) taken on the day.

## Local news

### **Trained Enablers - new Bromley Family Link scheme**

This scheme provides support for 13 to 19 year olds with a physical disability, enabling them to access mainstream leisure activities after school, Saturday or during the holidays.

The scheme works in a number of ways. LBB could provide an experienced member of staff to support a young person to attend a 'mainstream' leisure club/activity such as leisure centres, recreational settings, holiday clubs, youth group or scout group. LBB could offer help, even if this help is for a one-off event. The scheme also allows Bromley Family Link advisers to support your staff and volunteers, to ensure they can in turn continue to support to an individual's needs. For more information, please contact us on [Family-link@btconnect.com](mailto:Family-link@btconnect.com) or phone 020 8466 6644.

### **Homeless in Bromley – '5000 Project'**

The 5000 Project helps people who are homeless or in vulnerable housing situations in the Borough. The project provides:

- Dinner with friends – a two-course meal every two weeks on a Monday at 7.30pm
- Practical help – food parcels, small welfare payments to help with the cost of heating, eating and transport
- Advice and guidance – on benefits, housing, legal system
- Cold weather soup kitchen and shelter.

For more information contact: Sandy Greenfield, Case Worker, Bromley United Reformed Church, 20 Widmore Road, Bromley BR1 1RY. Mobile: 0787 900 8523 email [bromleyurhomelessproject@googlemail.com](mailto:bromleyurhomelessproject@googlemail.com)

### **New initiative to keep sheds safe**

'Mark your high value gardening equipment' is the message from the Safer Bromley Partnership as it launches a new initiative following a spate of shed and garage burglaries in the Darwin and Biggin Hill areas of the borough.

The Safer Shed Scheme is the Darwin Safer Neighbourhood Team's latest project to reduce crime in the area and reassure the local community. The scheme enables the team to mark mowers, and other higher value gardening equipment with a [Selectamark](#)

tamper proof sticker. The MPS and Safer Bromley Partnership logos are on the sticker and DARWIN SNT picked out in small dots. An acid daubed over the sticker permeates through the holes of the stencil into the item, leaving a permanent record of ownership. The team provides you with stickers to advertise the marking in order to deter thieves. If your machine is stolen, police will be able to narrow the search and contact you. Anyone who wishes to have their equipment marked should contact the team on 020 8721 2603 or 07920 233859.

### **Have your say on programme content for new Bromley local radio station**

Smile, the new radio station for Bromley is asking local people to spare a few minutes to complete a Smile Listener Survey, and tell the team what type of programmes you want to hear on a local radio station broadcasting specifically for Bromley.

At the end of the survey, you will be asked if you want to get involved with Smile, from presenting the programmes and acting as Citizen and Cadet Reporters through to providing technical support, fundraising, programme production and research.

David Owens, Managing Director at Smile, says, "Now's your chance to get involved and have a say in what we do. Simply select the 'Listener Survey' icon on our website [www.smileradio.co.uk/survey.htm](http://www.smileradio.co.uk/survey.htm) by Saturday October 31. If you tell us you want to help, you'll be asked to enter your email address and we will get back to you."

Smile will go to air on Saturday October 31 for its one-day RSL, (restricted Service licence), radio broadcast from their studios in Bromley Central Library.

### **Charity Christmas Card Shop**

Once again, Community House is hosting the sale of Christmas Cards by 24 local charities in the Community Cafe.

The card shop opens on Monday 19th October and will continue through to Friday 18th December. Opening hours are weekdays from 10am - 4.00 pm.

Thanks to the sponsorship of Thackray Williams, solicitors, 100 per cent of sale proceeds will be returned to the participating charities.

Please encourage your members to purchase their cards at Community House where they will be entitled to a free drink, they can also partake of the cooked lunch and daily refreshments available in the Cafe. Thank you for your support.

## **New technology targets thieves carrying stolen property in Bromley**

Thieves in Bromley are facing instant detection thanks to the introduction of technology, which can detect whether a mobile phone is registered as stolen, immediately on the street.

Bromley Police have taken delivery of a brand new piece of kit that is a handheld scanning device which allows officers to check mobile phones, laptops, iPods , Sat-Navs and bikes within seconds to establish whether they have been stolen.

The software instantly scans the IMEI barcode inside the back of a mobile phone and then checks it against the National Property Register. Officers will be carrying out operations on the Borough's buses and targeting shops believed to be involved in selling stolen mobile phones over the coming weeks.

To register with the secure National Property Register and record your identifiable, valuable items visit [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com). This will help the police to identify them and return to you should they became lost or stolen.

## **Health Social Care and Housing Partnership Board (HSCHPB)**

The HSCHPB is part of the Local Strategic Partnership (see more on [CLB website](#)).

Three voluntary sector representatives were recently elected to represent the voluntary sector on this board, which includes the council, PCT and many others interested in health, care and wellbeing. The representatives produce a report for the meetings they attend. You can read these on [our website](#) alongside a forward plan for the board.

The most recent board meeting included:

- A report from the Children and Young People's trust
- The current position with the merged South London NHS trust whose main priorities were Quality and Safety, Performance and Financial viability
- A Transport Review –a general review of local transport for vulnerable sections of the population (rather than the council's own transport service). A report will be produced by 15th January 2010
- A report on Learning Disability Health Needs Assessment – which it was agreed needed to be revised and refined, to be more focused and more Bromley specific
- A request for comments on the End of Life Care by mid October

For more information or to raise issues for representatives to take forward, email [Stephen Blann](#) Policy and Networks Officer at Community Links Bromley or phone 020 8315 1907.

## **Bromley Mental Health Forum – design a logo competition**

The forum would like to update their letter heading and would like to receive entries for a new logo.

Entries should be submitted on A4 paper, using whatever medium preferred. It should be noted however that the logo will be photocopied, so it should still be outstanding in black and white.

Send your entry to the BMH forum, C/o Community House, South Street, Bromley BR1 1RH.

Closing date for entries is 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009. There will be a £25 voucher prize for the winning entry.

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## **Local events**

### **Public consultation on the new online disabled access guide to Bromley**

**Date:** Wednesday 21 October 2009

**Times and Venues** –various see below

LBB and DisabledGo are working together to compile an online disabled access guide to Bromley and its surrounding area, due for launch in early 2010. This consultation event will enable you to have your say on the venues to be included in the guide. To give you a feel for the range of venues the guide will cover, review the published guides for

[Tunbridge Wells](#) and [Lewisham](#).

- **Venue 1:** Bromley United Reformed Church, 20 Windmore Road, Bromley, BR1 1RY  
Time: 11am – 12.30pm
- **Venue 2:** Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, BR6 9JH  
Time: 2pm – 3.30pm
- **Venue 3:** Anerley Town Hall , Anerley Road, SE20 8BD  
Time: 2.30pm – 4.00pm

To attend RSVP as soon as possible with any other specific requirements you may have. Contact David Sims - DisabledGo, Ardent House, Gates Way, Stevenage, SG1 3HG. Tel: 01438 842710 E: [david.sims@disabledgo.com](mailto:david.sims@disabledgo.com)

## **The Mayor's Draft London Plan – Roadshow events**

The draft replacement London Plan has been published for consultation. The Mayor announced a series of roadshows in order to inform the public of this new policy document. The link below outlines precisely where and when these [roadshows are being held](#). The date for Bromley is 30<sup>th</sup> October at the Bromley Central Library.

## **LBB's Cultural Diversity Day**

Date: Tuesday 20 October 2009

Venue: the Great Hall, Bromley Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH

Time: 10.30am - 2.30pm

Cost: Free

Come and celebrate at this special event. There will be live music, dance, ethnic food, readings, poetry and displays.

Contact Lulu Pearce on 020 8676 5650 for more information.

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## **Local training**

### **Volunteer Co-ordinators' Forum**

This Forum is an opportunity for individuals who recruit, supervise or manage volunteers to get together and share information and support with one another.

The next meeting will take place on

Date: Wednesday 18th November

Venue: Community House, South Street, Bromley

Time: 11 am – 1 pm (to include networking lunch)

Presentation: Marzena Zoldaz, Greater London Volunteering Marzena will be presenting the Greater London Volunteering Charter and volunteering management health check.

Discussion and approval: Principles of Volunteering The Greater London Volunteering Principles of Volunteering to be discussed, adjusted where appropriate and adopted by this Forum.

Further meetings are provisionally booked for: Friday 22nd January 2010

To book your place please contact Diane Diamond on 020 8315 1930.

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## National/regional news

### South London BME Partnership conference

The South London BME (black & minority ethnic) Partnership in collaboration with KnowHow NonProfit is holding a major conference on Thursday 22nd October 2009 to focus on the future of the BME Voluntary and Community Sector. The conference, entitled 'BMELINKS...the future of the sector' will be held at the Croydon Hilton Hotel, 101 Waddon Way, Purley Way Croydon CR9 4HH from 9.30am to 4.30pm. The conference is expected to bring together some 250 delegates and include representatives from BME national and local infrastructure organisations, Community Voluntary Sector, Councillors, Third Sector leads from Local Authorities and other Third Sector organisations and Funders. For more information, see the e-news events section. The partnership will also launch its new website [www.bmelinks.org](http://www.bmelinks.org).

### The Big Care Debate

You will remember that the government launched the Adult Care Green Paper in the summer. It set out three options for funding adult social care in the future –

- a partnership scheme where everyone needing care will get a set contribution from the state - but would need to meet additional costs themselves
- private insurance where there will be a state contribution but everyone will have to purchase insurance to cover any shortfall
- a state insurance scheme with compulsory contributions

There are also ideas (and questions) about how a “National Care Service” might work in practice and the role of local and central government.

The consultation is still open but closes on 19<sup>th</sup> November. Make sure you have your say - go to the [Big Care Debate](#) website.

### Care Quality Commission – strategic plan 2010-15 consultation

The Care Quality commission (the regulator responsible for monitoring health and social care provision) is consulting on its strategic plan for 2010-15, which will determine the work of the CQC. The deadline for comments is 24th December 2009.

- [Download the full strategic plan consultation document](#)
- [Download a summary of the strategic plan consultation document](#)

- [Download a summary of the strategic plan consultation document in different accessible formats](#)
- [Register your feedback via the online form](#)

### **Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) - Disability Committee work programme**

The Disability Committee of the EHRC has produced its work programme for 2009-10.

Its priorities include:

- Equality bill and its effective implementation
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- to support and direct public authorities to use the disability equality duty to achieve meaningful improvements
- promote greater choice and control via influencing the public service reform
- work to reach and empower 'seldom heard' disabled people, particularly disabled Muslim people and those living in institutions
- develop a considered perspective on end-of-life decision making.

You can download a copy [here](#)

### **Manifesto for adults with multiple needs**

Four national charities - Clinks, DrugScope, Homeless Link and Mind, have created a coalition called Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM). It aims to influence policy and services for adults with multiple needs and exclusions - [www.meam.org.uk](http://www.meam.org.uk). It has launched a four-point manifesto for the next parliament at this year's party conferences - [download the PDF](#). The four points are:

1. Define multiple needs and exclusions
2. Accept the social and economic case for action
3. Commit the next Government to developing a national policy framework for multiple needs and exclusions
4. Measure national progress

It concludes with a promise on working with whoever is the next government.

## **Learning Disability Partnership Boards – guidance on implementation of Carers Strategy**

The Department of Health has published a booklet offering guidance to Learning Disability Partnership Boards on implementing the Carers' Strategy. This was commissioned by the Family Carers programme of Valuing People Now, through their work with The Princess Royal Trust for Carers and Crossroads Care. The guidance shows how boards can ensure that both carers of people with learning disabilities and carers with learning disabilities are:

- Supported in their own right (not as an add on to the person they care for), and
- Involved in local service developments that affect their lives, and the lives of the people they care for.

The booklet covers

- key facts about family carers of people with learning disabilities
- what the National Carers Strategy is, and how it relates to the work of Learning Disability Partnership Boards
- the responsibilities of Partnership Boards to ensure the National Carers Strategy's aims are fulfilled for carers of people with learning disabilities, and carers with a learning disability
- important questions for Partnership Boards to ask in reviewing, devising and implementing services for people with learning disabilities and their carers, to ensure that the needs of carers are taken into account
- Web links to resources to support Partnership Boards' ongoing work with carers.

You can download [a copy here](#) and get [more information here](#)

## **Empowered Communities – citizenship survey**

The Department of Communities and Local Government has published the results of the 2007-8 Citizenship survey. This asked people about how “active” people see themselves as citizens and looks particularly at how much people:

- think they can influence local and national decisions,
- have trust in public bodies,
- are involved in “civic activity” – from signing a petition to being a school governor.

There are some interesting findings about different social groups. On average, only 38 percent feel they can influence local decisions - in Bromley this even lower. Increasing ,

this percentage is one of the Bromley Local Area Agreement targets. [Download the report here](#)

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## National/regional events

### South London BME Partnership conference

Date: Thursday 22 October 2009

Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm

Venue: Croydon Hilton

The South London BME (black & minority ethnic) Partnership in collaboration with KnowHow NonProfit is holding a major conference

Speakers include:

- John Marshall, Office of the Third Sector,
- Vandna Gohil, Director, Voice4Change and
- Ian Redding, London Councils.

There will be workshops on:

- Online Voice and E-Campaigning - NCVO (National Council of Voluntary Organisations)
- Surviving in a Commissioning world - NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action)
- Social Enterprising - Social Enterprise London
- Marketing and Communications for the Third Sector – Media Trust
- Reaching Communities - Big Lottery Fund

If you are a BME organisation interested in attending phone: 020 8684 3719, email:

[conference@bmeforum.org](mailto:conference@bmeforum.org) or log on at [www.bmelinks.org](http://www.bmelinks.org)

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## National/Regional training

### Disability Law Service Autumn Training

Do you work with disabled people, including providing advice or advocacy? If so, the following accessible courses may be of interest:

- [An Introduction to how the Disability Discrimination Acts can be used in Employment](#)
- [An Introduction to Community Care Law](#)
- [Employment law issues relevant to disabled people employing their own staff](#)
- [Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance: A Guide to Successful Claims](#)
- [Enforcement of Part III DDA in the County court](#)
- [An Introduction to Age Discrimination Law](#)
- [Using the Disability Equality Duty to improve disability rights in the public sector](#)

Cost: Courses cost £50 per half-day session for voluntary organisations and a block-booking discount is available.

Venue: All courses taught at London E1 premises.

For further information and to book online visit [www.dls.org.uk](http://www.dls.org.uk)

### **Gypsies and Travellers: Simple solutions for living together**

Date: Monday 2 November 2009

Time: 10am-3pm

Venue: LGiU Offices, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0TB

While many councils have made progress in meeting the needs of Gypsies and Travellers, in other areas these disadvantaged communities continue to be the focus of social tension, with accommodation as a core issue. [For more information go to the website](#)

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## **Local Jobs**

### **Orpington Methodist Church - Family Worker**

Orpington Methodist Church is looking for an enthusiastic and committed Family Worker, who can support existing Church families and reach out to other families in the area;

- to encourage and nurture spiritual growth.

The post is for 36 hours p/w and for 2 years fixed term

Pay: JNC 7-10 depending on experience

For an application pack, contact: [maja.gunn@btinternet.com](mailto:maja.gunn@btinternet.com)

Closing date for application is 16th November 2009

### **Community Enterprise Champion**

(2 day a weeks until March 2010, then subject to funding 1 day a week until March 2011)

Annual Salary: £30,091 p.a. inc OLW plus pension, pro rata

Community, Business and Work is a new programme being delivered by CVA that provides outreach, training, information, advice and guidance to people from hard to reach groups so that they are supported and connected to training, business, volunteering and employment opportunities. The programme is run as a partnership with Croydon Supplementary Education Project, DisabilityCroydon, Gingerbread Corner, Croydon College and PJ's Community Services.

Each community partner hosts a Community Enterprise Champion who is an access point to the programme and has responsibility for outreach, 1:2:1's, signposting and aftercare.

As CVA's Enterprise Champion, the post holder will deliver outreach activities, provide one to ones and develop mechanisms that help people to move towards, accessing training, employment or starting a business.

This post is based at the CVA Resource Centre.

For an application pack, please contact Carole Short on T: 020 8683 7011 or 020 82537080 E: [carole.short@cvalive.org.uk](mailto:carole.short@cvalive.org.uk)

Closing Date for all Applications: 5pm on Monday 19th October 2009

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## **Funding news**

### **London Borough of Bromley - Personal and Community Learning Development Fund**

Proposals for commissioned work are invited from community and voluntary organisations to work in partnership with Community Links Bromley or another partner within Bromley Life Long Learning, to deliver Personal and Community Development

Learning to adults aged 19+, in the Penge and Anerley, Mottingham, Biggin Hill and Cray Valley areas of the London Borough of Bromley.

Personal and Community Development Learning is described as learning for personal development, cultural enrichment, intellectual or creative stimulation and for enjoyment, so there is plenty of scope to tailor courses to local need or demand.

Larger grants of up to £20,000 and smaller grants of up to £2,500 are available.

The closing date for applications is 30th October 2009 and delivery of courses must be completed by 31st March 2010.

To request an application pack please contact Gail Elliston, Community Development and Project Manager by telephoning 0208 461 8682 or e-mail [gail.elliston@baec.ac.uk](mailto:gail.elliston@baec.ac.uk)

### **Help to provide practical learning opportunities for young people**

The Learning Launchpad fund wants to help 'fresh' organisations to promote practical learning to lots of young people to enable them, whatever their background, to achieve their potential. The fund is delivered by the Young Foundation working in partnership with Edge and helps innovative organisations with groundbreaking ideas to grow or get off the ground, through a combination of financial investment and tailored support. Apply by 24th November, [www.learninglaunchpad.org](http://www.learninglaunchpad.org).

### **London charities can apply for jobs fund grants**

London Councils and European Social Fund offer cash for skills training projects. Not-for-profit organisations that work across more than one London borough are being invited to apply for a share of a new [£7.3m jobs fund](#).

The fund has been established by [London Councils](#), the umbrella body for the capital's local authorities, which is providing half the funding. The other half is match funding from the [European Social Fund](#).

London Councils will award grants of up to £250,000 per organisation over two years to about 30 voluntary organisations.

The fund, which opened on 1st October and closes for applications on 2nd November, will support projects that equip excluded individuals with personal and occupational skills that help them access the labour market. Select the following links for more information:

The information about the [London Councils ESF Programme 2009 application round](#)

Details about the [application workshop](#)

LVSTC is developing a partnership portal to assist organisations search for potential partners. [Organisations submit their details](#) here.

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## Volunteer News

### Checking your staff and volunteers - update on the new Vetting and Barring Scheme

Following the successful workshop on the Vetting and Barring Scheme at the CLB Conference, the official guidance relating to the introduction of the initial phase of the Vetting & Barring Scheme (VBS) has now been released. This is available by clicking on the following link: [www.isa.gov.org](http://www.isa.gov.org).

As you may know, the three key changes at 12 October 2009 are:

- i. For employers/volunteer involving organisations: you must not knowingly employ in regulated activity, or use as a volunteer, a barred person;
- ii. For employers/volunteer involving organisations: if you dismiss or cease using a person in regulated activity (or in controlled activity) because you think they harmed or pose a risk of harm to children or vulnerable adults, you must refer the case to the ISA (see ISA referrals guidance, below);
- iii. For employees/volunteers: if you yourself are barred from regulated activity, you must not work, or seek to work, in regulated activity from which you are barred.

Guidance documents about the new duty from 12 October for employers and others to make referrals to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), and about the ISA Decision Making Process, are available on the ISA website.

- [New duty to make referrals](#)
- [ISA decision making process](#)

Further key changes scheduled over the next 2 years are:

**July 2010** - new entrants to work/volunteering with vulnerable groups can register with the ISA.

**November 2010** - new entrants must register with the ISA before starting work/volunteering.

**April 2011** - existing workers/volunteers can start to ISA-register. The ISA will publish, in good time, our recommendations as to dates by when they should register.

**April 2011** - existing workers/volunteers can start to ISA-register. The ISA will publish, in good time, our recommendations as to dates by when they should register.

**New date for your diary.** LBB has provisionally booked a Vetting and Barring roadshow event for 5<sup>th</sup> November and is waiting confirmation on a speaker from ISA before sending out publicity. For more information contact either Diane Diamond, Volunteer Centre Manager on 020 8315 1930 or Ruth Warren, Adult Safeguarding Co-ordinator, LBB on 020 8313 4626.

### **Working with the Department of Work and Pensions**

The Department of Works and Pensions has established a process of offering additional support to people who have been unemployed for six months or more in order to increase their employability. Called the '6 month option', Job Centre Plus Advisers offer those who have not been employed for over six months the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, including training and volunteering.

The project led nationally by British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Community Service Volunteers and Volunteering England, is delivered at local level by a range of different providers. In Bromley, the Volunteer Centre Bromley is working with Job Centre Plus to support those people who choose volunteering as one of their options. We identify volunteering opportunities that are simple and easy to access so that the potential volunteers are not waiting for long before they start. So far, our experience has been very positive and we have seen some potential volunteers with useful skills and experiences.

If your organisation would like to become more closely involved with this project, please call Diane Diamond on 020 8315 1930.

### **European Year of Volunteering 2011**

2011 will see a Europe-wide Year of Volunteering, and you have the opportunity to vote for your favourite logo or slogan for the year. To cast your vote go to [www.eyv2011.eu](http://www.eyv2011.eu). Voting closes on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

'More than 100 million Europeans engage in voluntary activities and through this make a difference to our society. A Euro barometer survey in 2006 revealed that 3 out of 10 Europeans claim to be active in a voluntary capacity and that close to 80% of

respondents feel that voluntary activities are an important part of democratic life in Europe.

There is a vast array of notions, definitions and traditions concerning volunteering. However, what is common throughout Europe is that wherever people engage together in activities to help each other, support those in need, preserve our environment, campaign for human rights, or to initiate actions to help ensure that everyone enjoys a decent life - both society as a whole and the individual volunteers benefit and social cohesion is significantly strengthened.' – European Volunteer Centre (Centre Européen due Volontariat).

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## Legal News

### **NJC pay scales for 2009/2010**

NJC pay scales for 2009/2010 (which are widely used in the voluntary sector for setting salaries) have just been published. Please click this link to [LVSC's website](#) for to the scales.

### **Employment Law & HR Advice Line (PEACe)**

PEACe offers free advice for London's Voluntary Sector Employers from Monday to Thursday. The new helpline telephone number for PEACe is 020 3349 8921 or [email](#). Please note that this helpline is not for out-of-London organisations, nor for individuals, employees, consultants, private or public sector employers who could instead contact [ACAS](#).

### **Legal advice at a local level – implementation plan**

The Ministry of Justice published a study on access to legal advice in the summer. This had a number of recommendations. This implementation plan sets out how the Ministry of Justice has responded. You can download the [implementation plan here](#) and the original report [here](#)

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## Best practice, resources and offers

### DSC- free tips to cutting costs

The Directory of Social Change is offering free tips from its new publication – [365 Ways to Cut Costs](#). The ideas in this book can genuinely transform your organisation and potentially save your charity thousands of pounds leaving it well placed to survive tough times. To access a weekly free tip from the book, visit [My DSC](#) or register with the site.

### Get technology donations from Microsoft, Cisco and Symantec

Charity Technology Exchange (CTX) enables eligible charities to gain access to donations of the latest technology from major companies including Microsoft, Cisco and Symantec. To see the full range of donors, available products and how to apply for a donation, go to [www.ctxchange.org](http://www.ctxchange.org)

### Updated legal handbook for the voluntary sector available now

Written by the team of leading charity lawyers at Russell-Cooke Solicitors and edited by Sandy Adirondack, [the Russell-Cooke Voluntary Sector Legal Handbook](#) is an essential guide to the law as it applies to charities, community groups and other voluntary organisations.

The comprehensively revised third edition not only reflects legal changes that are in force, but also future changes that will or might take place. [Read more](#)

### Gather statistics as evidence to make a funding case

#### Reproduced from Julie Hunt's latest Funding Special

Linking your funding application to local and national reports

All funding applications need to be robust in today's increasingly competitive funding environment. It is important therefore to use both national and local resources to evidence the 'need' and endorse your case for funding.

- [London's Poverty Profile](#): In May, City Parochial Foundation and the New Policy Institute launched a report and findings – London's Poverty Profile. It is the first independent report to bring together such a wide range of indicators measuring poverty, inequality and social exclusion in the capital
- Here is a useful local resource if you are looking for [strategic reports](#) into the connection between health and activity levels. There are also [tactical](#)

[reports](#) available to find out where in Bromley interest in a particular sport or activity is at its highest

- The [Rapid Health Needs Assessment](#) for Bromley is now available to download. This document can also be used as evidence to support funding bids.

### **Media Trust online marketing resources**

This new web-based guide includes the fundamentals of marketing, tips on developing a marketing plan, benefits of Web 2.0 for reaching audiences and an introduction to PR:

[www.mediatrust.org/marketing-support](http://www.mediatrust.org/marketing-support)

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## **Financial Management**

### **Companies Act 2006 – Final Implementation on 1st October 2009**

The Companies Act 2006 is changing the law for companies. These changes affect every company operating in the United Kingdom. Passed in 2006, the Act reached the final stage of implementation on 1st October 2009. Companies House has detailed the following main changes:

- Directors' addresses protected from disclosure
- Alternative address for registers
- Easier to set up a company
- Notifying companies house of articles changes
- UK wide company registry
- Guidance
- Forms
- Fees
- Dealing with Companies House online
- Protecting your company from hijack.

**In addition to the above key changes for October, Companies House also recommended the following important tips for companies to make the transition to the new Act a smooth one:**

- Make sure that you are ready to file electronically in October. If you use WebFiling, this will be easy – the menu screens will guide you through what you have to do.

- Get your company signed up for Protected Online Filing (PROOF).
- Watch out for the new rules in the Act on inconsistent filings. Keep your company's record up-to-date and consistent with what Companies House already has on the public record. Tell the companies house about changes when they happen – do not wait for the Annual Return.
- File on time to avoid a penalty. You have one month less to file your accounts. If your company normally files its accounts on 31 January, remember that the deadline this year will be 31 December – nine months after the end of the year as opposed to ten.
- You must send any amendments to the company's articles to Companies House within 15 days. Otherwise, you could be liable to a criminal offence and a civil penalty of £200
- Keep up to date with information on the Companies Act 2006 by checking Companies House website regularly or signing up to the Companies Act RSS [Really Simple Syndication] online news feed

For further detailed information on this article, 'Companies Act 2006 and its final implementation', go to Companies House website: [www.companieshouse.gov.uk](http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk). You can also get further support in accounting and financial management, from Maroof, your local community accountant, on 020 8315 1919 or e-mail: [maroofa@communitylinksbromley.org.uk](mailto: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

The editor is Philippa Leary, Membership, Information & Communications Officer, Community Links Bromley. Our website is at [www.communitylinksbromley.org.uk](http://www.communitylinksbromley.org.uk)

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