

**THE NEWS-SHEET OF THE ESSEX COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY YOUTH SERVICES**

ECVYS would like to wish all our members, friends and partners a **very merry Christmas period and a happy new year!** Our offices will be **closed from Friday 17th December –**

**Wednesday 5th January 2010 for the festive season** (and to complete our move) so please be sure to contact us before this time if you require anything urgent.



Welcome to the rather belated 'Autumn Grapevine' we wanted to await the outcome of the '**Spending Review**' which would have a knock on effect as to the timing of our '**Conference**' and indeed the '**Structure of the Children's Trust's**' and of course to give you up-to-date details of the '**ECVYS Move**'

**Spending review**, whilst this is 25% Essex have decided not to impose this as a 'blanket' cut for everything but to look at what their priorities are; to help inform their 'Budget Prioritisation' they will be taking into account information they received from the consultations they had with:

- Members
- The Essex Public
- The Business Community
- The Voluntary Sector
- And Parish Councils

**The timetable for this is:**

<b>October:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome re Spending Review</li> </ul>
<b>November / December:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Settlement announcement expected</li> </ul>
<b>January :</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet</li> </ul>
<b>February:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Council to agree budget</li> </ul>

Two messages were also firmly reiterated:

- ECC will move away from being a **service provider** to becoming a **Commissioner of service**.
- We all need to acknowledge the '**Scale of the Challenge**' – It is **NOT** going to be business as usual next year.

**ECVYS Conference:** It was decided that as the outcome of the Spending Review in Essex would not officially be known until February that we should delay our conference until March.

**Children's Trust:** Whilst councils no longer have to have a Children's Trust it is ECVYS understanding that because of the very good partnership working that has been establish over time that Essex will retain this way of working. However Implementation Groups have been cut – thank you once again to those of you who were mandated to represent our sector on these and I am sure that within the new structure that will focus on 'Localism' that once again there will be opportunities to be involved.

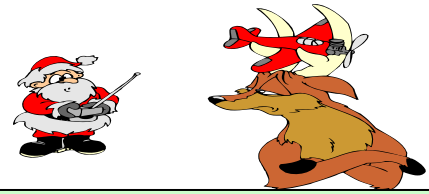
**ECVYS Move:** Unfortunately our lease is up at the old council offices in Dunmow and we hope to move to our new premises in the 'Old Police Station' from Tuesday 21st

Hopefully you too much services. expect our down from have not had



December. will not experience disruption in our However we do phone line will be the 20<sup>th</sup> and as yet confirmation as to

when it will be re connected. We hope that our emails will not be out of action for long but will keep you posted. So fingers crossed that at this time of year ECVYS does not need to knock on your door and ask to 'sleep in your stable'



## Happy Christmas



**Brenda**



[ct.commissioning@essex.gov.uk](mailto:ct.commissioning@essex.gov.uk)

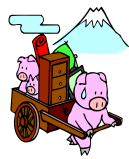
This is the email address to use if you have any questions, concerns, queries regarding the Children's Trust Commissioning in Essex (Local Children's Commissioning and Delivery Board)

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Cluster	Mid
Chair	Jane Youdale
Spring Term	20.1.11
Summer Term	12.5.11
Autumn Term	13.10.11

### Big Society

Jane Youdale, Vice Chair of ECVYS has sent this information which she thought might be useful ..... A colleague of hers attended a conference 'Big Society Unplugged' organised by Yorkshire and Humber Forum. The key note speaker was Nick Hurd, Minister of Civil Society. 2 things:



### ECVYS is moving

As from Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2010

ECVYS  
The Old Post Office  
45 Storfford Road  
Great Dunmow  
CM6 1DQ



01371 874273

[brenda@ecvys.org.uk](mailto:brenda@ecvys.org.uk)

[accounts@ecvys.org.uk](mailto:accounts@ecvys.org.uk)

[admin@ecvys.org.uk](mailto:admin@ecvys.org.uk)

Cluster	South
Chair	Jane Youdale
Spring Term	26.1.11
Summer Term	11.5.11
Autumn Term	12.10.11

Cluster	North
Chair	James McQuiggan
Spring Term	2.2.11
Summer Term	4.5.11
Autumn Term	5.10.11

To confirm venues please contact ECVYS at [admin@ecvys.org.uk](mailto:admin@ecvys.org.uk)

### ECVYS and the Children & Families Network (0 – 19 Clusters) dates for 2011

**Cluster Meetings** Listed below are the dates for next years ECVYS and the Children & Families Network Cluster meetings in your area. For those of you who have not yet attended a Cluster Meeting, these groups aim to connect those working with Children, Young People and Families and to be a place of support, information sharing and dissemination of news from a local and county level. They also provide the opportunity to meet colleagues from different organisations.

Cluster	West
Chair	Arthur Steward
Spring Term	9.2.11
Summer Term	11.5.11
Autumn Term	19.10.11



**ECVYS Annual Conference**  
**March 2011**  
**Date to be confirmed shortly**



**ECVYS AGM**  
**Tuesday May 24<sup>th</sup> 2011**



1. During his speech he said he wanted 'the sector' to flag up with him if there were excessive cuts to grants as David Cameron had been clear at PM's questions that LA's and PCT should not be cutting funding to the VCF sector until they had considered their own spending plans – he said that they were 'monitoring this very carefully'.
2. He said that he had written to all MP's today telling them that the VCS sector are anxious and they should/could be bringing representatives from the sector to talk directly to him about the challenges facing us in this transition period and that he had published an Open Letter to the VCS which was on the cabinet web site.



## NCVO chief executive outlines how the sector could respond to the big society vision



Sir Stuart Etherington, chief executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, suggests the big society "should be about the state and civil society working together and supporting each other through the different roles they play". He calls for an overhaul of infrastructure for front-line organisations. Further information is available at:

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/DailyBulletin/1038698/Big-society-prove-more-hot-air-says-Sir-Stuart-Etherington/817FB54C636A7CCA89E411E3770D047/?DCMP=EMC-CONDailyBulletin>

## Big Society Bank funds to be earmarked for youth projects

The primary focus of the Big Society Bank will be to fund youth projects, the junior children's minister has confirmed. Speaking at the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services' annual conference, Tim Loughton said that he has won the battle within government to keep the majority of funds, estimated to be in the region of £400m, for projects that would benefit young people. "I was absolutely clear that primary focus of the Big Society Bank should be youth and that is going to be its primary objective," said Loughton. Full article [here](#).

## Big Society strategy for charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises

The Civil Society Minister, Nick Hurd, published the Building a Stronger Civil Society document outlining the Government's strategy for voluntary and community groups, charities and social enterprises. The document has three objectives. It sets out the scale and nature of the opportunities being made available to civil society organizations; spells out the practical measures the Government is taking to support the sector; and publishes a consultation document alongside. The document can be accessed at:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/m>

[edia/426261/building-stronger-civil-society.pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/426261/building-stronger-civil-society.pdf). Plans in the strategy

include:

- reducing red tape for small organisations,
- giving local communities the right to buy or bid to run community assets, and
- modernisation of public service commissioning so the most efficient and effective charities can get a fair chance to bid for public contracts.

The consultation is available at:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/426258/support-stronger-civil-society.pdf>

## Big Society and spending cuts

The New Economics Foundation has published *Cutting It: The Big Society and the new austerity*, which argues that the Government wants the Big Society to pick up the pieces left by its public spending cuts. It suggests that the scale and speed of the cuts leave civil society with an impossible job to do and not nearly enough support

[http://www.neweconomics.org/sites/neweconomics.org/files/Cutting It\\_webReady.pdf](http://www.neweconomics.org/sites/neweconomics.org/files/Cutting%20It_webReady.pdf)

## CRB

### CRB's and portability

The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has outlined plans to reform CRB checks by increasing their portability, enabling employers to share checks. Plans to legislate for these changes are expected in the forthcoming Freedom Bill. Click [here](#) for further information.



### CRB Checks and Schools

A couple of queries from organisations working in schools that require clarification. In summary, NO-ONE other than you are allowed to see your staff's CRB's - it is actually a criminal offence to pass on this information. If you follow the CRB's guidance you should actually shred the Disclosure once you have made your recruitment decision. You should only keep the following information on someone's personnel file;

- Disclosure number
- The date it was done
- Whether it was an enhanced or standard check
- Whether it was a positive or a clear check and
- The registered body which carried out the check

With regards to schools all they need to do is get written confirmation from you (on headed paper), confirming the above information. They then keep the letter and the relevant information is transferred to their single central record which is the document that anyone working in the school needs to fill in.

## FUNDING



### Community projects

The Kerrygold Community Awards recognise and reward community projects in the UK, where groups of individuals have worked together to achieve something in their community.

[http://www.kerrygoldcommunityawards.co.uk/about\\_the\\_awards](http://www.kerrygoldcommunityawards.co.uk/about_the_awards)

### Disabled children

The True Colours Trust provides a small grants programme to small, UK-based organisations to carry out projects that provide help for disabled children and their families. Up to £10,000 is available for projects that support programmes for children, their siblings and families, including for young carers.

[http://www.truecolourstrust.org.uk/application\\_guidelines.aspx](http://www.truecolourstrust.org.uk/application_guidelines.aspx)





### The Jubilee People's Millions

The Jubilee People's Millions will run in place of The People's Millions in 2011, to mark the Queen's diamond jubilee in 2012. It will award £3.6m to good causes that will run projects in time for the celebration year. Community groups throughout the UK will be able to bid for one of 60 grants worth up to £60,000, that will improve local places and the lives of people in the community. The public will choose the winners from finalists featured on ITV regional news programmes in June 2011. The **deadline** for entries is **4 Feb 2011**. Full application details and entry form [www.peoplesmillions.org.uk](http://www.peoplesmillions.org.uk)

### Charities Aid Foundation launches text donation service

Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) has launched a text donation service designed to make it "easy and affordable for all charities" to fundraise and communicate with supporters through their mobile phones. The new service is part of CAF's Fundraising Support Service and CAF has set up two charity shortcodes to collect £3 and £5 donations on behalf of charity clients. CAF will set up campaign keywords, collect payments from the mobile phone networks and claim Gift Aid on behalf of charities. Read more [www.fundraising.co.uk](http://www.fundraising.co.uk)

### Kelly Family Charitable Trust

The Kelly Family Charitable Trust supports charities whose activities involve the whole family in initiatives that seek to tackle problematical issues that face one or more of its members, and whose aims include the strengthening of family bonds by helping all elements of the family unit to grow together and support each other. Next



**deadline 1 Mar 2011**. Find out more [here](#).

**Aiming High for Disabled Children - There is a new funding opportunity to purchase equipment or fund minor adaptations.** There is another exciting funding opportunity for small capital projects within the Aiming High for Disabled Children Short Break Programme. Would you like to be able to offer children and young people with disabilities greater opportunities and a wider range of choice and activities?

The Aiming High for Disabled Children small capital project is designed to:

- Enable the purchase of equipment or fund minor adaptations required to support children and young people with disabilities having greater choice of activities and improve the quality, participation and enjoyment of their short breaks
- Enable the purchase of equipment or fund minor adaptations so that children with disabilities and their families are able to take part in universal, community and leisure services together
- Enable the developments of innovative short break activities so that children and young people with disabilities have a greater range of choice and opportunities in the same way as their non disabled peers.

The opportunity for you to bid for funding is available through the Essex County Council's Source and Supply Portal called Bravosolution [www.essex.bravosolution.co.uk](http://www.essex.bravosolution.co.uk)

If you wish to apply for some funding to purchase equipment or have minor adaptations please register on Bravosolutions and make sure you sign up to the category of Childrens Social Care, Adult Social Care and SCF Grant Funding and you will receive an invitation to tender. The Invitation to Tender will close at the very beginning of January 2011. If you

are interested in this exciting opportunity, please register with Bravosolution.

### Comic Relief

The latest cycle of Comic Relief funding is now open. Current programmes include: mental health; domestic and sexual abuse; sport for change; local communities; and young people aged 11-25. Grants on average vary between £25,000 and £40,000 per year, for up to three years. Full details [here](#).



## INFORMATION

### The Equality Act 2010



The Equality Act 2010 replaces the existing antidiscrimination laws with a single Act. It simplifies the law, removing inconsistencies and making it easier for people to understand and comply with it. It also strengthens the law in important ways to help tackle discrimination and inequality.

You can download the summary guide [here](http://www.equalities.gov.uk): [www.equalities.gov.uk](http://www.equalities.gov.uk)



### 'Right to challenge'

Greg Clark, the decentralisation minister, has indicated that the right to challenge local councils' spending decisions, which will be part of the forthcoming Localism Bill, will be designed to benefit the voluntary sector rather than the private sector. The bill, will

contain provisions for a 'right to challenge'. Speaking at the launch of a ResPublica report on community rights, Clark said the right to challenge would allow charities and community groups to bid to provide services if they thought they could do it "differently or better" than the groups the council had chosen. "I don't want to give away the details of the bill, and it's legally complex," he said. "But it's all about community groups and the voluntary sector. "If they can demonstrate that they can do things differently and better, councils should take that into account. "Asked whether the right to challenge would be given exclusively to not-for-profit groups, Clark said: "I wouldn't say exclusively. But the details will be in the legislation. "Some charities have previously raised concerns that the right to challenge would allow private firms to challenge councils' decisions by offering to provide services more cheaply than voluntary groups could.



### Vetting and Barring Scheme

The High Court has ruled that vetting and barring legislation for people working with children and vulnerable adults breaches human rights law. Under the legislation, the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) keeps lists of people who are barred from working with children or vulnerable adults. Once barred, the restrictions on work last from a minimum of one to a maximum of ten years. The High Court ruled that automatically banning those convicted of, or admitting to, crimes with children and vulnerable adults, without allowing them to make representations, breached their rights to a fair trial.

<http://www.baillii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2010/2761.html>

### Teenage Pregnancy Services

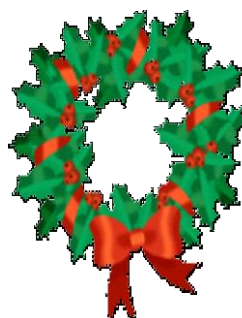
The chair of the teenage pregnancy independent advisory group (TPIAG),

Gill Frances, has told CYP Now about her concerns that local authorities are cutting funding for teenage pregnancy services. Frances is concerned by the uncertainty over the future direction of teenage pregnancy policy, as the work of TPIAG is due to conclude next month and the government is yet to set out its long-term vision for tackling teenage pregnancy.

Besides a lack of detail on the overall vision for teenage pregnancy policy, it remains unclear exactly which pots of funding will be available for maintaining services. Some funding looks set to be transferred into the new early intervention grant - which will not be ring-fenced. Further detail on the direction of teenage pregnancy policy is expected to be contained in the public health white paper, due to be published before the New Year. <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/1042283/Teenage-pregnancy-services-risk-funding-diverted/>

### Supporting People programme

The Supporting People programme, which provides housing related support to help vulnerable people to live as independently as possible in the community, is likely to suffer badly from cuts to councils, according to Community Care magazine. The National Housing Federation has suggested that 400,000 vulnerable people could lose support as local authorities make cuts of up to 40% from 2011-15 to the programme. The programme was cut by 12% in the Spending Review, but because it is no longer ring-fenced, local authorities are free to make cuts larger than 12% and many are planning to do so.



### When the new equality law lets charities discriminate

The Equality Act 2010 came into force on 1 Oct. The act consolidates 40 years worth of discrimination legislation while also extending protection in some areas, mostly for greater uniformity. Its purpose is to harmonise discrimination law, but there are a number of implications for charities that trustees should be aware of. Read on [here](#).



## RESOURCES & PUBLICATIONS

### Microsoft Charity Donations

In an effort to strengthen and support the UK voluntary sector, Microsoft invests in several programmes designed to help voluntary and community organisations make the best use of technology. Working with the Charity Technology Trust (Registered Charity No.1073954) through their Charity Technology Exchange service, Microsoft is one of a growing number of technology companies who make donations of their products to the voluntary sector. They offer eligible organisations up to six titles, including their most popular software packages such as Microsoft Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2010. Organisations can receive up to 50 copies of each title every two year period. Donations include free upgrades for two years and access to a range of e-learning resources. Not all charities are eligible, but the vast majority are, and there are no limits on the number of organisations who can receive a donation. Grantees pay a nominal administrative fee to the Charity Technology Exchange, which

supports the running of the services. As well as software donations, Microsoft also supports initiatives to provide affordable computer hardware, free IT skills training resources, access to skilled IT volunteers and general advice and guidance on technology for charities

If you would like more information about these programmes please contact  
Donna.Whitehead@microsoft.com.  
You can also visit  
[www.ctxchange.org](http://www.ctxchange.org)



**Fantastic Offer of FREE 1<sup>st</sup> Aid training from St John Ambulance**

**FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY CONTACT ECVYS FOR MORE DETAILS (with approximate numbers if possible)**

**Tender Support Project**

The NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action) Tender Support Project provides one-to-one specialist support to help prepare local social enterprises, voluntary organisations and community groups for contracting or producing high-quality tender submissions to deliver public services. The project can help you to improve your chances of being successful, and provides you with one day (8 hours) of consultancy, worth £500, to help you prepare for contracting, or prepare a good quality tender submission. The cost for this all this help is just £50. You can choose the consultant you want to work with from an approved list of high-quality specialist consultants, and the support is available to all local charities, community groups and social enterprise in England.  
[www.navca.org.uk](http://www.navca.org.uk) click on Resources: Commissioning and Procurement.

**Child Protection Awareness in Music**

NSPCC Consultancy has worked with the Musicians Union to produce Child Protection Awareness in Music, an online, bespoke EduCare programme. The training programme uses short films to show a variety of good and bad practice examples, which are available to watch on YouTube. These will help anyone teaching music to children gain a better understanding of their child protection responsibilities, and avoid situations that could lead to accusations of misconduct.  
[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) – Child Protection Awareness in Music

**First Aid**

Please find attached important information regarding recognising if someone is having a stroke



Blood.docSTROKE.1st Aid.doc



**USEFUL WEBSITES**

[How2fundraise.org](http://How2fundraise.org)  
Support for all volunteer fundraisers. How2fundraise.org is a free online resource, built by the Institute of Fundraising, to offer assistance to the millions of volunteer fundraisers that help to generate income for charities. The site is designed to increase the success of these vital workers in a number of different ways. Users can access How2guides, templates and tools, and know how sheets. The How2guides describe fundraising activities, (the templates range from letters to press releases), whilst the know how sheets offer information on topics such as sponsorship, gift aid, and involving children in

fundraising. Users can also use the website to build contacts with other fundraisers, exchange experiences and best practice, advertise their events and identify suppliers.



[www.askncvo.org](http://www.askncvo.org)

has a range of legal information covering model constitutions, changing constitutions, registering charities, names and more.



[www.e-voice.org.uk](http://www.e-voice.org.uk)

**Websites for community groups**

Cambridge Open Systems is making available websites to all community groups throughout the UK, for free.

Based on their successful VOICE service, any community, not-for-profit or voluntary group can apply to have a website.

With an easy-to-use website building package, users can set-up a website quickly and easily with no technical expertise required. Pre-built, interactive modules such as picture galleries, discussion boards, and surveys, can be added to websites with a single click.



<http://www.navca.org.uk/news/cutchallenge.htm>

**This link may be useful to you should you experience a cut in your funding.**

The Empowering the Voluntary Sector project has produced a special edition of its newsletter giving information about the processes and remedies that voluntary

organisations and community groups can use to challenge funding cuts.



[www.getlegal.org.uk](http://www.getlegal.org.uk) Get Legal website is designed to:

- Help individuals, organisations and their advisors understand different legal and governance structures
- Help individuals, organisations and their advisors decide what legal and governance structure will work best for them according to their objectives and vision.
- Provide signposting and templates to help individuals, organisations and their advisors take forward the ideas and recommendations.



[www.suppliersdirectory.org.uk](http://www.suppliersdirectory.org.uk)

If you need to find a reliable supplier for software, hardware, a web designer or an ICT consultant then visit the ICT Suppliers Directory. The directory, produced by [Lasa](http://www.lasa.org), offers a comprehensive, easy to search national listing of suppliers with a proven track record of working with the voluntary sector.



[www.Lawstuff.org.uk](http://www.Lawstuff.org.uk) The Children's Legal Centre has launched 'Lawstuff', a new website with information on the law as it

affects children and young people.



<http://www.charity-fundraising.org.uk> Fundraising consultants to the voluntary sector

Charity Fundraising Ltd may be a useful resource to help find new sources of funding. Their website says they offer a range of fundraising services including funder research, bid writing, tender writing and review as well as full fundraising campaign management.



[www.charitybuilderuk.com](http://www.charitybuilderuk.com) Charity Builder UK - Need a Health & Safety policy for funding application? Increasingly funders want proof that you're on top of your legal obligations. Charity Builder UK will create tailor-made policies online quickly, easily and for free.



<http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/rss> News feeds on funding news

The Funding Central online resource run by NCVO has some improved and new features, giving news and updates on funding opportunities (grants, contracts and loans) nationally and more locally. There are five types of news feeds (RSS) covering New and updated funds, Funds with deadlines in the next 30 days, Latest news, Latest events and Latest partners.



<http://www.ctxchange.org/> Useful website for charities



**Your representatives on the Children's Trust Board(s) and Implementation Groups**

Children's Trust Board	Brenda Towle Martin Solder
CT Joint Commissioning Board	Brenda Towle Martin Solder
<b>Local Children's Trust Boards</b>	
North East	James McQuiggan
Mid Essex	Kerry Horner
South East	Jane Youdale
South West	Eileen French
West	Brenda Towle
<b>County Group(s)</b>	
ESCB	Brenda Towle
Infrastructure	Brenda Towle
Workforce Dev	Brenda Towle
ECVYS Children & Families network	Jane Youdale

Don't forget the **Quarterly Surgeries with Commissioning Team** They run from 4:30 – 6:30 where community sector providers can book half hour slots.

- 20<sup>th</sup> December
- 15<sup>th</sup> March



Editor: Brenda Towle  
 Copy to:  
 ECVYS,  
 45 Stortford Road  
 Great Dunmow  
 Essex  
 CM6 1DQ  
 Email: [admin@ecvys.org.uk](mailto:admin@ecvys.org.uk)  
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