

## E-bulletin August 2011

Welcome to the August issue of the THCVS e-bulletin. We hope you find the following information useful; please feel free to forward it on to anyone else you think might benefit from it.

Please note: If you received this bulletin directly it's because you are on the CVS's contact list. If you'd like to be removed from (or added to) this list or if you'd like to change your contact details, please email Nasrin on [nasrin.patel@thcvs.org.uk](mailto:nasrin.patel@thcvs.org.uk).

### We've moved!

Tower Hamlets CVS is still based at St Margaret's House in Bethnal Green, but we now have a bigger office with space for meetings and small training sessions. We'll be hosting a couple of 'open house' days soon so you can come and see us and meet with other colleagues from the Tower Hamlets voluntary and community sector. In the meantime the main thing to note is that we're now at 15A Old Ford Road and our office phone number is **020 8980 8427**

### Call for nominations to the CVS board

Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service will hold its inaugural AGM at Toynbee Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011. The Interim Board which has developed the organisation for the past 18 months will stand down and a new Board will be elected to take the work forward, guiding and governing the efforts of the staff team. **We are therefore looking for new Board members** to stand for election on the 4<sup>th</sup> October.

The THCVS vision is:

*To create an independent, inclusive, trusted and sustainable body that will enable voluntary, community and faith organisations to develop a thriving third sector in our Borough.*

If you feel you share the vision and want to commit time and energy to seeing it in practice, we would very much like to encourage you to stand for election to our Board.

In order to stand you need to be nominated and seconded and will be required to write about one side of A4 on your own knowledge, skills and experience and how you could put them to use on behalf of the THCVS membership. You can find out more about the election and download all the necessary nomination papers and background information on our website – [www.thcvs.org.uk](http://www.thcvs.org.uk). Please also feel free to approach any existing board members or staff to find out more about the organisation and the trustee roles.

## **THCVS Membership – last chance to get free membership before the AGM!**

Tower Hamlets CVS currently has 98 members and we're hoping to have over 100 by the time of our AGM. Could you help us to reach our target?

Membership of THCVS is currently free and is open to both organisations and individuals. It brings a range of benefits, including access to resources, priority booking and reduced rates on training courses, and regular newsletters and updates. Membership is also key to the governance of THCVS; You can only get nominated, nominate someone or vote at the AGM if your organisation is a registered member. To find out more and to download a booking form, see the [membership section of our website](#).

### **Not sure if you're already a member?**

All CVS members should now have been sent welcome letter in the post. If you would like to check if your organisation's membership has been approved or have any other queries about the membership application and registration process, please contact Nasrin Patel on 020 8980 8427 or email [Nasrin.patel@thcvs.org.uk](mailto:Nasrin.patel@thcvs.org.uk)

**Please note - the deadline for free membership is 23 September 2011.**

## **Become a Compact Champion!**

The Compact is an agreement of shared principles to support effective relationships between statutory and third sector organisations. The Tower Hamlets Compact, called "Working Together", sets out how organisations in the borough want to work together with an aim is to achieve more for local people. Tower Hamlets the key shared principles agreed between voluntary and statutory sector stakeholders are:

- Mutual respect
- Quality Services
- Independence
- Responsibility
- Joint Working

The full Tower Hamlets Compact (available for download [here](#)) defines what is meant by each of these principles and lays out a set of expectations on the part of both the third sector and the statutory sector (including the council, the NHS and the emergency services).

Whilst the Compact is not quite a full legal contract, the more people know about it, use it and refer to it the more useful and meaningful a commitment it is likely to become. Particularly now, in a time of changes, cutbacks and consultations, the Compact might well be a useful way for voluntary and community organisations to hold the council and other bodies to account when they feel they have been treated unfairly.

### **What is a Compact Champion?**

According to [Compact Voice](#), the national voluntary sector support organisation for the Compact:

*"Compact champions get the Compact known and used in their organisations, to build sustainable relationships between local groups and public bodies. Focussing on their own organisation, they ensure everyone (whether trustees, staff or volunteers) knows and uses their Compact"*

THCVS is working with the council to recruit Compact Champions from both the statutory and voluntary sectors. Our aim is to hold an informal induction meeting for the first group of Champions in September.

Are you a voluntary sector worker, volunteer or trustee that's interested in improving the sector's working relationship with the council, the NHS and other partners? Would you like to be a Compact Champion?

If so, please contact Gemma at the CVS as soon as possible for more information and an informal chat about the Champion role – email [gemma.cossins@thcvs.org.uk](mailto:gemma.cossins@thcvs.org.uk) or call 020 8980 8427

## News and requests from CVS members

### Organisation in search of space to deliver language classes

ElJood, is a new voluntary organisation that aims to advance the education and employment opportunities of refugees and to support parents in educating their children. They are looking for space to run Arabic Language and literacy classes on Saturdays or Sundays, ideally a school or similar building. Do you know of anywhere that they might be able to use? Do you have space for hire? If you think you can help please email [gemma.cossins@thcvs.org.uk](mailto:gemma.cossins@thcvs.org.uk) with your contact details and I'll put you in touch.

### Seeking premises? Spare desks available to rent . . .

Tower Hamlets Co-operative Development Agency has up to 5 spare desks to rent at £250 each per month (or less if you take more than one desk) located in Whitechapel Road, near Aldgate East & Whitechapel underground stations. We include free Broadband, use of a printer, use of photocopier, some use meeting rooms, bike park (and on site shower) and 24 hour access. The fee includes rates, heat, light, power and cleaning. There is no long-term contract. For more info contact Gregory Cohn, Tower Hamlets Co-operative Development Agency 077707 52250 - [gregory@co-operation.coop](mailto:gregory@co-operation.coop)

### Speaking of Premises....

Tower Hamlets council has a substantial portfolio of office spaces, shops, community centres, halls, and other similar properties that it can make available to voluntary and community organisations. The majority of these spaces are currently in use, but when letting opportunities arise they are listed on [this page](#).

Premises issues are one of the most common concerns that we see at the CVS. We will shortly be setting up a **premises users' forum** and will also participate in CIDA's **premises providers forum**; if you would like to be kept up to date about either of these or have a premises issue you think needs to be brought to wider attention then please let us know.

PLEASE NOTE: The **first premises users' forum** will be held on **Tues 27<sup>th</sup> September**. If you'd like to attend or receive further information please email [gemma.cossins@thcvs.org.uk](mailto:gemma.cossins@thcvs.org.uk) to be added to the forum mailing list.

Do you have services to advertise, space to let, jobs to advertise or news to pass on?

If there's anything you'd like us to include in this section of the next THCVS ebulletin or put on our website please email [nasrin.patel@thcvs.org.uk](mailto:nasrin.patel@thcvs.org.uk)

## Events and training

THCVS training in partnership with LB Tower Hamlets

### Understanding Pre-Qualification Questionnaires (PQQs)

8:30 registration opens, 9:00 start – 12:00 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011

### Effective Tender Writing

12:30 registration opens, 13:00 start – 16:00 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011

These two in-depth workshops will be delivered by Julie Harmer, Supplier Relationship Manager with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and will help to demystify two of the key stages in the commissioning process. Places are free and you are welcome to book for one or both of the sessions.

For more information see the [CVS website](#). To reserve your place call Nasrin on 020 8980 8427 or email [training@thcvs.org.uk](mailto:training@thcvs.org.uk)

### A Sustainable 2012 Games: Practical Advice for Business

5<sup>th</sup> September 2011, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS

London businesses are invited to a complimentary event examining London 2012's sustainability strategy. Attendees will learn how best to implement sustainable policies and hear about the business opportunities available now and beyond the Games. For further information and booking details please [click here](#) or call 020 7665 1431

### Health in London

9:00 – 4:30, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011, Toynbee Hall

[London Civic Forum](#), the [London Empowerment Partnership](#) and [LVSC](#) would like to invite you to 2 free events which will offer participants an opportunity to learn more about both the proposed new health structures.

#### How Health Works 9:30 – 12:30

This event aims to explain the proposed new structures for health service delivery and what that means for London including the setting up of Health Watch Boards, London Health Improvement Board and Clinical Commissioning consortia. It will also look at how these new bodies can be held to account and how patient/community voices are to be represented.

#### Community Involvement in Health 1:30 – 4:30

This seminar will take a more in depth look at community involvement in health and what past experience and research has taught us.

To find out more and download a booking form, visit [London Civic Forum's event page](#).

### How Education Works

15<sup>th</sup> September 2011 (venue to be confirmed)

What are the implications for education in London resulting in the growing number of academies and applications to set up free schools? Find out more at this free afternoon event.

For more information and to book your place see [the website](#).

## **Try Being in My Shoes; the impact of cuts on local people and services**

10:00-12:00, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011

St Joseph's Hospice, Mare St, Hackney, London E8 4SA

This conference will discuss the impact of benefits changes and wider cuts and the role of advice services in this new context and will look at what local community groups can do. It will also include the launch of the Social Action for Health's report "**Try Being in My Shoes**", which highlights the impact of the benefits changes on local people in Hackney and Tower Hamlets.

If you are interested in attending this conference please contact Martina Berti on 020 8510 1968 or email [martinab@safh.org.uk](mailto:martinab@safh.org.uk) by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

## **DSC Trustee Fair**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011, DSC's Charity Centre, Euston

The reality is that anyone can be a pretty effective trustee during the good times. It's when times are tough that your knowledge, experience and board room skills can be tested to the limit. The latest offering in the Directory of Social Change's Fairs training model provides a day full of interactive training designed specifically for trustees, chairs, CEOs and senior executives. DSC have partnered with [Charity Trustees' Network](#) and [Small Charities Coalition](#) to bring trustees a day of training designed specifically to fit their needs. **Workshop sessions are priced from £25!** Numbers are limited and sessions are filling up fast! [Book your sessions now.](#)

## **First aid training for teenagers, parents and grandparents in Tower Hamlets**

The lottery has funded one of account3's partners to provide first aid training to teenagers, parents and grandparents in Tower Hamlets. The 1 day training will also provide candidates with an HSE Emergency First Aid at Work qualification, which is the minimum legal requirement for the workplace. [account3](#) can provide this training free at their building in Bethnal Green for groups from August to October for residents, staff, volunteers or service users. Contact Nilza on [nilzat@account3.org.uk](mailto:nilzat@account3.org.uk) for more information and dates.

## **Resources, information and specialist support**

### **New guide to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) structure**

The CIO structure was first proposed in 2006 as a way of combining the benefits of company and charity registration and eliminating the need for charitable companies to report to two different regulatory bodies. This [detailed 28 page pdf guide](#) from Deloitte looks at the tax and auditing requirements of the CIO structure and explains how to set up a CIO from scratch as well as how to convert an existing company into the CIO form.

### **Useful guides and resources from Community Matters**

Community Matters has a great range of downloadable material to help you to run your organisation, covering everything from trustee roles and responsibilities to funding and finance. Have a look [here](#).

### **Insolvency Helpline; Specialist support for voluntary and community organisations facing financial crisis**

Many voluntary and community organisations are struggling financially at the moment, and if you're one of them, you should get the right support as soon as possible. Seeking early expert advice combined with determination can avoid closure. The [Insolvency Helpline](#), a project of the Charity Finance Directors Group, is a free service backed up by a set of useful resources that can help you to get the right advice at the right time.

### **First aid information**

The Health and Safety Executive has updated its 'Basic [advice on first aid at work](#)' leaflet. It covers a range of medical emergencies and also provides information about the records that should be kept.

### **Information to help smaller community activities**

Community Toolkit is a new "online information resource for people who want to get involved in organising smaller, straightforward community activities". Created by Zurich Insurance to address barriers to community volunteering, it provides guidance on some legal, health and safety, insurance and planning issues. Check it out at <http://www.communitytoolkit.co.uk>.

## Stories from the boardroom

This [downloadable pdf report](#) from New Philanthropy Capital highlights some of the key challenges trustees face. It's well worth a read and there are lots of other useful resources on the website too.

## Employment and HR advice for voluntary organisations

[PEACe](#), the Personnel, Employment Advice and Conciliation Service project run by London Voluntary Service Council, has a new website containing a range of useful HR material for voluntary sector employers. While many services and publications have a cost, others are available for free.

## Sector news and policy developments

### Open Public Services White Paper

The Cabinet Office recently published the [Open Public Services White Paper](#) which will be followed over the summer by a wide ranging consultation, run through a [dedicated website](#). The Paper says services should be procured at an individual level (i.e. through individual budgets) when possible, at a community level if this is not possible and only at a local authority or national level when absolutely necessary. Organisations and individuals have until the end of September to respond. See also: '[What will the open public services white paper mean for social enterprise?](#)' on The Guardian's Social Enterprise Network, and NCVO's analysis of the [Public Services White Paper](#).

### 'Investment and Contract Readiness Fund' announced

The government has announced a £10m 'Investment and Contract Readiness Fund' to help charities and social enterprises develop the skills and infrastructure to win more capital investment and public service contracts over 3 years from April 2012. Read more on the Cabinet Office site [here](#). [NCVO has responded](#) to the accompanying Open Letter to the sector 'The Road Ahead: A journey through public service reform for civil society organisations'.

### Changes to the Charity Commission

Sam Younger, chief executive of the Charity Commission, says changes at the regulator will mean that charities will need to become more [independent and more self-reliant](#). The Commission has also asked group of staff to [review the approach to regulation](#) and make recommendations for ways in which its [regulatory role could be reduced](#). Commission officers have been making it clear that following cuts to their budget they will not be able to offer as much guidance and advice to organisations as they have in the past, and that where possible trustees should make their own decisions [without seeking official reassurances](#). The chief executive of the

### Panel on the Independence of the Voluntary Sector

Consultation closes 21st September 2011

Independence - of purpose, voice and action - is what makes the voluntary sector special and enables it to serve the interests of those who might otherwise be left without support or a voice because they lack power or influence. The Panel on the Independence of the Voluntary Sector has been established by the Baring Foundation because of continued concerns about that independence.

You can download the first report from the panel, published in July, [here](#). Responses to the consultation questions contained in the report should be sent to:

[info@independencepanel.org.uk](mailto:info@independencepanel.org.uk)

Find out more about the Panel, see their [website](#).

## Funding available now or soon

Please note that this list is not exhaustive. There are many funders out there but not all of them will be suitable to your needs and not all of them have grants programmes that are open at the moment.

### **NatWest CommunityForce grants and volunteering support**

**Deadline 4<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

Organisations can apply for grants of £6,000 from NatWest's CommunityForce. The scheme also aims to get people volunteering with the projects which apply. When voting begins in the autumn, the public will be able to join NatWest staff in volunteering with local projects looking for help. For more information see the [website](#).

### **The Evening Standard Fund for The Dispossessed**

**Deadline Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

The Evening Standard is distributing small grants of between £2,000 and £10,000 to organisations that have been running for more than 12 months that are helping to tackle the causes and effects of poverty. In Tower Hamlets the funding pot of £47,000 is being distributed by the St Katherine and Shadwell Trust. Use the drop down list [here](#) to find out how much money is available and then follow the links to access [more information](#) and an application form.

### **GSK IMPACT Awards**

**Deadline Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

The awards aim to recognise and reward organisations doing excellent work to improve people's health. Registered charities that are at least three years old, working in a health-related field in the UK, with an income between £10,000 and £1.5 million are eligible to apply. You do not have to apply with a new project. [See the website for more information](#).

### **Home Office Community Action Against Crime: Innovation Fund**

**No deadline yet – opening soon**

The Home Office is interested in funding innovative community safety projects involving grass roots community activists who are not traditional recipients of government grants. They also want the fund to encourage the voluntary sector to work with local Community Safety Partnerships, to drive co-design and co-delivery of services. The Innovation Fund will be worth £5 million in 2011-12 with a further £5 million set aside for 2012-13. It isn't open yet, but full details of the application process for 2011-12 will be made available on the Home Office [website](#) shortly.

### **Trust for London**

**Deadline 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

The City Parochial Foundation and Trust for London merged recently to form one fund, but their priorities for funding remain focussed on employment opportunities for disadvantaged people, the inclusion of recent arrivals to the UK, promoting social justice and strengthening the skills of the voluntary and community sector. They will also continue to provide small grants for small groups interested in campaigning, new communities and mother-tongue and/or supplementary schools providing creative educational opportunities. [Read the full guidelines on the Trust's website](#).

### **Children in Need (Revenue and Capital)**

**Deadline 15<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Children in Need is looking to fund projects that focus on the differences made to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people. Organisations can apply for small grants of £10,000 or less per year for up to three years, or main grants over £10,000 per year for up to three years. [See their website for more information](#).

To find out more about potential sources of funding try [Tower Hamlets 4 Community](#), [Grant Net](#), [Funding Central](#), and Tower Hamlets Councils' [community grants pages](#)

If you need help with fundraising or other organisational development issues, please contact our Development Officer, Gemma Cossins – [gemma.cossins@thcvs.org.uk](mailto:gemma.cossins@thcvs.org.uk)