

E-bulletin June/July 2011

Welcome to the summertime edition 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 also excuse us if you receive this mail more than once. At the moment we're using our own membership mailing list and also asking other organisations, including the Council, to forward our messages on to their mailing list.

The CVS has been busy lately recruiting members (we now have over 70 organisations signed up but we're keen to get [more](#)) drawing up a programme of training and events, working with organisations, preparing for this weeks [Back to the Future 2 event](#) and getting ready to move offices at the start of July. We're not moving far – just to a different block in St Margaret's House where we'll have a lovely light resource space for meetings. Please bear with us if we go a little quiet at the start of July; we'll be back in touch soon with our new contact details and with lots more news about voluntary and community action in Tower Hamlets.

Best wishes,



Gemma Cossins
Development Officer
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News

Consultation on Mainstream Grants

London Borough of Tower Hamlets is currently consulting on the specifications for its next round of [mainstream grants funding](#), applications for which will be due at the end of the summer. The funding is being distributed by three of the council's directorates, each of which has been running its own consultation events over the past few weeks. If you weren't able to get to the previous events and/or would like the chance to comment on the redrafted specifications, there's one last chance to have your say in person:

Mainstream Grants Commissioning 'wash-up' consultation meeting
9.30 Thursday 7th July 2011
Brady Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, London, E1 5HU

Everett Haughton, Funding end Development Manager for LBTH, writes:

“During the meeting we will be presenting the ‘second drafts’ of all the Service Specifications and giving further clarification on the commissioning process and arrangements. This will be your final opportunity to speak to the key officers of the Council who are charged with developing and implementing the Mainstream Grants Commissioning programme.

Event timings:

- 9.30 Registration and Refreshments
- 10.00 Presentations
- 11.30 Open Forum Question Time

In order that we have a good idea of the numbers likely to be attending the meeting, please register by emailing your details to: thirdsector@towerhamlets.gov.uk”

The consultation phase is due to end on **15th July 2011**, so if you have any comments or queries please be sure to direct them either to the Council by that time. Alternatively, if you’d like to talk to the CVS first or raise any questions or concerns through us, then please contact our Chief Executive Khadiru Mahdi at khadiru.mahdi@thcvs.org.uk, or give us a call on 020 3286 3630

Vote for The Attlee Friends and Food Garden to win the People’s Millions!

“The Attlee Foundation's Attlee Friends and Food Garden project has been selected as a finalist in the 2011 Jubilee People's Millions competition to win £60,000. This will be filmed on ITV on the 28th June, early evening. We are asking all our supporters and friends to vote for our Attlee project. All you have to do is the dial the voting hotline on **0871 626 88 41 on 28th June**.

You can vote by phone up to 10 times - calls cost 11p from a landline and may cost more from a mobile phone. **You can also vote online from 9am to midnight on 28th June.** For any enquires please call 0207 183 0093 or contact us via [Facebook](#)

Thank you!

[Attlee Foundation](#)”

Charitable Incorporated Organisation structure finally on its way

Five years after the charitable incorporated organisation model (CIO) there are signs that it will soon be available. The CIO is a new corporate structure for charities, providing some of the benefits of being a company, but without some of the burdens. Find out more from [this article in Third Sector magazine](#) and from the [Charity Commission website](#).

Guardian Small Charity Awards

Are you a small or medium-sized charity delivering real solutions to problems, but struggling for profile? The [Guardian Charity Awards 2011](#) aim to honour smaller charities that make an essential contribution to social welfare in the UK community. If you are a small charity making a big difference and believe your achievements could inspire others, then we want to hear from you. Entering the awards is free and you could win **£6,000**, capacity building support from the FSI, a tailored package of media services from Media Trust and free NCVO membership

For more information click [here](#). Don't don't forget to get your entry in by **15th July!**

Events and training

Top police and council officers to 'face the public'

Residents Question Time
18.30 – 20.30, Thurs 30th June
Whitechapel Idea Store

Residents, businesses and third sector organisations will be able to question the senior officers responsible for making Tower Hamlets safer, at a meeting on 30 June.

In the first of a series of four free events hosted by Tower Hamlets Police and Community Safety Board (P&CSB), attendees will be able to question police borough commander, Paul Rickett, and the council's head of safer communities, Andy Bamber, about issues relating to crime and community safety.

There is no charge to attend the event but those wishing to come must register by contacting Abu Sufian on 020 7364 1613 or abu.sufian@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Workshops from Social Enterprise London

[Are you ready for social enterprise?](#)

Tues 12 July Cost: £75 + VAT

A half-day workshop for newcomers to the social enterprise way of doing business

[Introduction to social outcomes and impact assessment](#)

Thurs 14 July Cost: £75 + VAT

A half-day course including identification of the tools and approaches that can be used

THCVS and Fossbox present: Wordpress for Beginners

10.00 – 16.00, Weds 20th July

This workshop will introduce participants to using WordPress.org to create simple websites which are relatively easy for an organisation to maintain themselves. Users can practice on our training WordPress sites or get started on creating their own. It's unlikely that you will be able to make a complete site (it's a lot to learn in one day) but it will get you started and further free help is available at Fossbox' monthly drop-in sessions. Book your place on the [Fossbox site](#) or call Nasrin on 020 3286 3630

THCVS and Fossbox present: Sustainable IT Workshop

10.00 – 16.00, Thurs 21st July

Learn how to re-vitalise old, slow computers with Ubuntu (www.ubuntu.com) and maintain them properly yourself as well as how to find, install and use good quality free alternatives to expensive Office, graphics, media and web software for Windows, Mac or Ubuntu. [Register online](#) or call Nasrin on 020 3286 3630

Athletes Village Event from London Civic Forum

[A model of community led regeneration and neighbourhood development?](#)

9.30 – 13.00, Thurs 28th July, Toynbee Hall

This seminar will bring together policy makers and community organisations to explore the challenges and opportunities for community led regeneration presented by the transformation of the Athletes Village on the Olympic Park into a new neighbourhood in East London in 2013/14.

For more information please e-mail Paul Bower at paul@londoncivicforum.org.uk

For more events and training, please see our website at www.thcvs.org.uk; we regularly update it and will shortly be adding an online calendar to it to make it easier for you to plan ahead.

If you have an event you'd like us to promote, please email Nasrin, our Information and Admin Officer, at Nasrin.Patel@thcvs.org.uk, or give her a call on 020 3286 3630

Resources and reading

Risk management for small charities and new trustees

The Charity Commission has produced a web section on risk aimed at small or newer charities, and for trustees just starting out. It covers ten useful questions for avoiding problems, simplified risk management for small charities, and signposting for further information/help on topics from charity law to health and safety. See the Commission news item [here](#) or go direct to their [risk management pages](#).

Protecting Charities from Harm – the Compliance toolkit

Another recent Charity Commission publication, this guide is an [online toolkit](#) that aims to give trustees the knowledge and tools they need to manage risks and protect their charity from abuse, including terrorism, fraud and financial crime.

Guide to Equality Duty from the Government Equalities Office

The Equality Duty is a duty on public bodies and others carrying out public functions. This new [pdf guidance](#) to the Duty as laid out in the Equality Act 2010 is a clear and useful read.

Turning public services into employee owned mutuals

The conversion of public into mutual services is one of the [current government's strategies](#) for reducing their spending. But how does it work? This [Guardian feature](#) makes for interesting reading whether you yourself are a public servant, or whether your organisation operates in an environment where mutuals are likely to appear.

Fantastic factsheets from Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support

[Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support](#), a group of 36 organisations in the Manchester area has produced a series of free online factsheets about setting up and running voluntary and community sector groups. The sheets cover a wide range of topics and are very well written; some of them contain local information specific to Manchester and to the organisations involved in producing them, but the overwhelming majority of their content is fairly universal and as likely to be as useful to groups in Tower Hamlets as anywhere else. We're hoping to eventually create a similar set of locally specific guides as the CVs develops, but in the mean time it's really worth taking a look at <http://www.gmvss.net/factsheets> to see if there's anything there that might be of use to your organisation.

Pass it on!

THCVS aims to disseminate good quality information about the development and management of voluntary and community organisations. We don't want to duplicate work that already exists and we know there are loads of great resources out there, so where possible we'll collect together today existing downloads, factsheets, links and publications and host or promote them on our website, as well as letting you know about them by email and by putting extracts our printed newsletters.

We're always on the lookout for accurate, interesting and accessible sources of information, so if you find any resources that you think might be of use to other voluntary and community groups in Tower Hamlets then please email me at Gemma.Cossins@thcvs.org.uk so I can help to pass it on.

Thank you!

Resources special – finding the funds

Since I started as Development Officer at THCVS six months ago I've dealt with quite a wide range of queries from a wide range of groups, but the topic that has come up the most (as you'd most likely expect) has been funding.

In the light of this, and in the understanding that fundraising in its many forms is likely to be an ongoing challenge for many Tower Hamlets groups, here's a short selection of links you might find useful:

Grants databases

There are a number of searchable online databases available now, some of which are free and some of which charge. The ones listed below cost nothing to use:

- [Tower Hamlets 4 Community](#) is an online database hosted on the Tower Hamlets website and a great place to start your search. Use the [search page](#) and the tabs just above it to identify funding for different types of work.
- You can also access [GrantNet](#) via the Tower Hamlets site. Registration is free and fast.
- The Council's Third Sector team produces and distributes a regular Funding Information Bulletin, as well as posting up information about funding distributed by agencies within the borough. Find out more on their [community grants pages](#) and download the latest Bulletin [here](#).
- [Funding Central](#) from [NCVO](#) is easy to use, frequently updated and can help you to narrow down your grants search in order to find the most appropriate sources of funding
- [J4b funding information portal](#) offers free access to a range of searchable grants databases
- [Fundinginformation.org](#) isn't free to subscribe to, but you can sign up for a free temporary password in order to have a look around
- [Grantsnet](#) offers a very simple keyword search, much like Google

Online fundraising resources and other useful information

The [funding and income section of the KnowHow NonProfit pages](#) offers a great accessible overview of issues like fundraising, commissioning and trading. Their '[how to write an application to a charitable trust](#)' page offers some useful pointers, and their [how to fundraise in tough times](#) article is particularly relevant at the moment.

The [Information about Fundraising](#) pages from the Institute of Fundraising contain a huge amount of information, from tips on getting started, to advice on data protection and raising money at events

This [Guide to Income Sources](#) from NCVO's Sustainable Funding Project lays out and links to a wealth of useful information

The main pages of [Funding Central](#), also from NCVO, provide useful resources and regular email updates about what grants are available

[Funding Fundamentals](#) is a concise online guide from the (now closed) Finance Hub; still useful and relevant now

[London Funders' E-gateway for fund seekers](#) is a brief guide to information sources on funding for London's voluntary and community sector. Their [Jigsaw guide](#), in addition, is aimed particularly at groups working with children and young people

[5 Steps to Funding Success](#) from j4bcommunity is a neat and clear starter guide to the key things you need in order to access funding

Grantfinder is a subscription based grants database, but their site also offers some free information, including this useful guide to [Writing a fundraising strategy](#)

[Advice on Applying to a Charitable Foundation](#) is a brief but readable guide featuring some useful links from the [Association of Charitable Foundations](#)

The Directory of Social Change publish a range of guides to [fundraising techniques](#). [The Complete Fundraising Handbook by Nina Botting and Michael Norton](#) is a good place to start.

How can we help you?

The CVS is committed to helping organisations to think about, plan for and get access to a wide range of income sources; not just straightforward grants but also earned and commissioned income, loans, donations and gifts in kind. Since we're only a small team we can't provide in depth hands-on help to everyone, but we aim to put on courses, undertake strategic work and provide links to resources that can help you to stay sustainable.

At the present time, when it comes to fundraising support we can provide the following:

- One to one support with project planning and bid writing
- A 'second eye' for when you've written a draft application and need someone to look at it afresh and give you feedback
- Information about grants sent by email and posted on our website, as well as forwarded directly to organisations we know might find them particularly relevant
- Courses and workshops on both general fundraising techniques and other specific methods of generating income, including commissioning and trading
- Network and forum meetings (either facilitated or signposted by the CVS) aimed at particular groups or covering particular subject areas, for example social enterprise
- Advocacy, support and (where necessary, and in consultation with the sector) a leadership voice on issues relating to funding, for example joint bidding, responding to consultation, or using the [Tower Hamlets Compact](#) to challenge funding decisions.

If you're interested in any of the above, or have suggestions about what else might be useful the please contact Gemma.Cossins@thcvs.org.uk or call the CVS team on 020 3286 3630.

Grants available now

Cash 4 Clubs

Deadline 8th July 2011

[Cash 4 Clubs](#), funded by **Betfair** and supported by **SportsAid**, offers grants of £250 - £1,000 to supports grassroots sports clubs. Clubs should play an active role in the community, encourage social interaction and fitness, and be registered with its sports' National Governing body.

John Lewis Stratford Community Grants

Deadlines 8th July, 5th August, 2nd September

To mark the September opening of their new shop near the Olympic Park in Stratford, John Lewis are launching a Community Grants scheme, to which good causes in the local area can apply for a grant of up to £500. You might know a sports club which needs new equipment, a nursery wanting to fund a mums and kids day out, a youth club in need of a games console, or a charity needing help

with day-to-day running costs. All these would be eligible for consideration. If you know of a worthy cause, please tell them more about the organisation you think deserves help, and how much funding they're looking for. Email communitygrants@johnlewis.co.uk including all the following information:

Date:

Name of nominator:

Email address and phone number:

Name of organisation:

Charity registration number (if applicable):

Name and contact details for organisation:

Amount of request £:

What does this organisation do in the local community?

What will the money be used for? Please be as specific as you can here - for example; a specialist microphone for a hospital radio station (£499), or 5 judo mats for a youth club (£250)

Briefly explain why you think this organisation should receive our help

What difference will our support make, and what are the benefits to the community?

Architectural Heritage Fund

The [Architectural Heritage Fund](#) is managing a new £2 million Challenge Fund for Historic Buildings At Risk in England. The fund will support Grade I and Grade II* buildings which are on the Heritage at Risk register. Mainly capital grants of up to £200,000 are available to registered charities only.

BT Community Connections

Deadline 15th September

Community Connections provides 12 months' free broadband from BT to groups which help, or wants to help, people access the internet and improve their ICT skills. See www.bt.com/communityconnections to access the online application form and read the full guidance notes, call 0845 257 6792 or email info@btcommunityconnections.com

Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy 2012

Deadline 25th October 2011

The [Ashden Awards](#) are for projects that are finding new ways to produce or roll out renewable energy. There are five awards of up to £10,000 available, and an overall UK Gold Award of £20,000. Winners are also featured in a short film about their project and receive support and other benefits. Projects need to have been running for at least a year and businesses, schools, local authorities and charities based anywhere in the UK are eligible to apply.

£500,000 research fund to stimulate digital arts and culture

Deadline 2nd September 2011

Arts Council England, the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) have opened their new £500,000 Digital R&D Fund for Arts and Culture. Large and small projects will be considered, up to a maximum of £100,000. The fund is to help arts and cultural organisations work with those with digital expertise to help them understand the potential offered by new technologies. It will support organisations who want to work with digital technologies to expand their audience reach and engagement and/or explore new business models. Contact Angela Pugh on 020 7438 2647 or email angela.pugh@nesta.org.uk, or see the [nesta website](#) for details.

Changes to Awards for All

Some changes have been made to the **Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All** programme:

- Groups can apply for up to £10,000 per year as long as they only hold one Awards for All grant at a time
- Groups can't apply for existing activities and repeat or regular events, including those that have been funded before, unless it is more than three years since those activities or events

have taken place or they have been developed (for example they are to be run with new beneficiary types or in a new area)

- An eligibility checklist is on the new application form. This will make the application process easier for applicants
- Successful applicants that have provided a bank or building society details form in the last two years will not need to resubmit this form as long as they are using the same bank or building society account
- There is a new application form and guidance notes available on the Awards for All website. The old application form will be accepted until the end of June 2011.

The Awards for All programme can fund not-for-profit and community groups, schools, health organisations and parish and town councils. The project must meet at least one of the following four aims:

- People have better chances in life, with better access to training and development to improve their life skills
- Stronger communities, with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems
- Improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to enjoy
- Healthier and more active people and communities.

For more information visit the [Awards for All website](#), call 0845 410 2030 or email general.enquiries@awardsforall.org.uk

Big Society Investment Fund

Early investments asked for by 14.00 4th July 2011

Whilst the Big Society Bank is being set up, the Big Fund has been asked by the government to administer the Big Society Investment Fund. This new fund is looking for around five UK based social investment intermediary organisations to provide social investment products or services for social sector organisations primarily benefiting people in England.

The minimum investment you can apply for is **£500,000 from a total pot of £5 million.**

Organisations which cannot meet this deadline can submit proposals after this date, either by the end of July or the end of September. You need to bear in mind though, that only five proposals will be funded in total. For more information contact the BIG advice line on 0300 456 4746, email: bsif@biglotteryfund.org.uk or see the [website](#)

Ben Kinsella Fund

The Ben Kinsella Fund, through the [Prince's Trust Community Cash Awards](#), has been set up for young people aged 14 – 25 to set up projects to tackle anti-gun, knife and gang crime projects in their local area. Grants of up to £3,000 are available to plan and set-up youth-led community projects. The fund is also interested in projects that target girls, children 12 years and under and parents.

Find out more by calling 0800 842 842, text: " Call Me" to 07983 385418 or see the [website](#).

That's it for now! As ever, if you have any feedback, suggestions or queries then please get in touch

Chief Executive: Khadiru Mahdi Khadiru.Mahdi@thcvs.org.uk

Information and Admin Officer: Nasrin Patel Nasrin.Patel@thcvs.org.uk

Development Officer: Gemma Cossins Gemma.Cossins@thcvs.org.uk

At present we only have one office phone number, 020 3286 3630. We're hoping to keep this when we move, but in case we can't, (and because we're out of the office a lot) it may often be better to email us first.