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Empowerment Newsletter

September 2011

Welcome to issue 5 of the monthly Empowerment e-bulletin for the East Midlands Empowerment Network, which will aim to keep you up-to-date on relevant empowerment news and events.

You are receiving this e-bulletin as a contact for an organisation listed on the East Midlands Empowerment Partnership Directory. If you do not wish to receive further monthly issues, please email information@one-em.org.uk.

If you have any comments, please get in touch by emailing information@one-em.org.uk. You can also visit the East Midlands Empowerment Network website at www.emep.org.uk or the One East Midlands website at www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk.

If you have any events, news articles, announcements etc that you would like to contribute to the October Empowerment e-bulletin, please email them to clairechapman@one-em.org.uk by Friday 21 October 2011.

Empowerment News

Nominations wanted for Community Insight Visits

- Are you or do you support a fantastic community organisation that deserves some recognition?
- Is it an excellent example of good practice that should be shared?
- Could it provide a unique opportunity for visitors to see its work in practice?
- Would it make a great case study for publicising throughout the region?

One East Midlands and Business in the Community are organising informal and interactive visits to organisations throughout the region and would love your nominations for who to visit. Each free half-day site visit will provide up to 20 participants with the opportunity to learn from the experiences, struggles, successes and good practices of the organisation. Visitors will:

- See how the organisation do what they do and where they operate from

- Be able to share and learn from their good practice
- Talk to key members of staff about how they can support and replicate similar community empowerment work in their area.

To nominate your organisation or an organisation you work with for a Community Insight Visit and case study email information@one-em.org.uk, including the organisation's name and why you are nominating them (in less than 500 words). The deadline for nominations is Friday 30 September. Nominees will be contacted after this date.

Once finalised, details of the Community Insight Visits will be publicised on the One East Midlands website at www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk. For further information on the nomination process and the visits themselves email information@one-em.org.uk

Locality announces four-year plan for Community Organisers scheme

Locality has selected a second group of organisations, including two in the East Midlands, to host the £15million Community Organisers programme, which will recruit and train 5,000 community organisers over the next four years. The two new host organisations in the East Midlands are Saffron Lane Neighbourhood Council in Leicester and Voluntary Action Melton.

In February, the government chose Locality to lead the programme, which started with 11 initial 'kickstarters' host organisations. The official recruitment process for host organisation began in July and from now onwards new host organisations will be recruited in groups of 10-15 every three months until 2015. Community organisers will work in local communities to encourage dialogue and help communities develop their collective power. Each organiser will be recruited and supported by a local host organisation while they undergo 12-months training.

Since opening the host recruitment process in July, Locality has had 220 applications. The programme is still inviting applications from potential host organisations. For further information visit www.cocollaborative.org.uk

Providers announced for National Citizen Service pilot expansion

The Office for Civil Society has announced the 19 providers, including two based in the East Midlands, chosen to run the 2012 National Citizen Service pilot programme, which will aim to reach three times as many young people as this year's pilots.

There will be 30,000 places available in 2012, compared to 10,000 in 2011, and at least 19 providers, increased from 12. Government funding for the scheme will grow from £13million in 2011 to £37million in 2012. This will be the second round of pilots for the scheme, with the government hoping to roll the programme out nationally in 2013. Further partners for 2012 are due to be announced shortly.

In addition to nine geographically specific partners, including Lincolnshire & Rutland Education Business Partnership and New College Nottingham in the East Midlands, the 10 national organisations providing the 2012 pilots are:

- Catch22 NCS Partnership
- Changemakers
- Envision
- Future Foundations Training Ltd
- Global Action Plan
- Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade
- The Challenge Network
- The Football League Trust
- The University of the First Age
- v, the National Young Volunteers Service and the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust

Last chance to nominate for The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The deadline to nominate local voluntary groups for The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for volunteer organisations, is Friday 30 September. The UK national honour was created by the Queen to mark the Golden Jubilee in 2002 and recognises the outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups of volunteers. Next year, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year, is also the Award's 10th anniversary.

Among the 983 organisations who have already received the award in the last 10 years, are volunteers from groups working in large cities and rural communities across the United Kingdom. These groups support the needs of people of all ages, abilities, social backgrounds and ethnic origins. Among the 130 organisations who received the award in 2011 were Bingham and District Audio Magazine, Friends of Thringstone, and Harmless in the East Midlands.

For further information, including how to nominate, visit www.direct.gov.uk or email queensaward@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk

Riot Communities and Victim Panel set up

Two VCS representatives will form part of the Riot Communities and Victims Panel, set up by Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg set up to talk to communities affected by the riots in August.

Maeve Sherlock is a former Chair of the Charity Awards judging panel and former Chief Executive of the Refugee Council and the National Council for One Parent Families. Simon Marcus is Founder and Chair of alternative education charity the Boxing Academy. They will be joined by Heather Rabbatts, former Chief Executive of Merton and Lambeth Council, and Darra Singh, Chief Executive of Job Centre Plus and former Chief Executive of Ealing and Luton Councils, who will chair the panel.

The group will look at:

- The motivation for a small minority of people to take part in riots
- Why the riots happened in some areas and not others
- How key public services engaged with communities before, during and after the riots
- What motivated local people to come together to take civic action to resist riots in their area or to clean up after riots had taken place

- How communities can be made more socially and economically resilient in the future, in order to prevent future problems
- What they think could have been done differently to prevent or manage the riots.

The panel will deliver early findings by November and a final report by March 2012.

Empowerment Funding

Coalfield Community Grants Level 1 funding programme

The Coalfield Community Grants Level 1 funding programme, which runs until March 2013, welcomes requests for funding of between £500 and £5,000 from VCS organisations who benefit a coalfield community. The programme supports a range of projects, including:

- Improvements to a community facility
- Training projects teaching people new skills
- Setting up or supporting an existing social enterprise
- Activities that promote volunteering
- Provision of childcare places including after school clubs, holiday play schemes and playgroups
- The establishment or improvement of a much needed service or community activity or an activity that gets more people involved in physical activity or addresses a local health issue.

The programme will provide up to 100% of total project costs for capital and revenue projects. Projects can run for a maximum of 12 months and spending must be completed by March 2013. Applications can be submitted at any time from VCS organisations who:

- Hold a bank or building society account
- Have a constitution or set of rules, including a dissolution clause
- Hold annual accounts and have an annual income of less than £100,000.

For further information, including how to apply, visit www.coalfields-regen.org.uk, email andrena.jenkinson@coalfields-regen.org.uk or telephone Andrena Jenkinson or Peter Meadows at the East Midlands Regional Office on 01246 820970.

Community Action Against Crime Innovation Fund

The Community Action Against Crime Innovation Fund, funding by the Home Office and delivered by the Community Development Foundation (CDF) aims to encourage creative new approaches to tackling crime. The fund is worth £5million in 2011/12, with a further £5million set aside for 2012/13. The fund will aim to encourage:

- Greater community activism and enable communities to develop innovative approaches to tackling the local crime issues that matter to them
- Effective partnerships to get everybody working together to tackle crime

- VCS groups to work with their community safety partnership to tackle local crime problems, including through co-design and co-delivery of initiatives to cut crime.

Applications are encouraged grassroots community activists who are not traditional recipients of government grants, and all applications must be:

- Innovative
- Deliver lasting benefit
- Involve local communities
- Tackle crime issues that matter to the local community, particularly focus on antisocial behaviour, crime in local neighbourhoods, drug/alcohol related crime, reducing re-offending, violence against women and girls, and youth crime.

The following application criteria are also desirable:

- Partnership working between the VCS and the local community safety partnership, or one of its constituent statutory agencies
- Partnership working between the VCS and local private sector organisations
- Local community involvement in the design or the delivery of the project.

The fund is open for applications from 5 September to 1 December. For information on applying for funding of between £1,000 and £15,000 per year visit www.cdf.org.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=74586cf0-471c-45b4-b18a-5779fd85668c&groupId=10128. For information on applying for funding of between £15,001 and £50,000 visit www.cdf.org.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=7bcc6702-a779-43b9-a452-b6f9c9f0437b&groupId=10128. For further information email crime.innovation@cdf.org.uk or telephone 020 7833 1772 and press '3' for a member of the Programmes Team.

Power for communities to bring empty houses back into use

Communities Minister Andrew Stunell has announced that community groups will be able to apply for Government funding to bring empty homes that blight neighbourhoods back into use. VCS organisations will be able to bid for part of £100million Government funding for pioneering housing schemes, which will ensure that the 700,000 empty homes across the country are lived in and provide affordable housing.

Formal bidding guidance will be published shortly on how the VCS can apply for financial support to tackle empty homes. Previously only conventional housing providers could apply for this. The Government will also shortly publish its approach to tackling empty homes, as part of its wider Housing Strategy. This will include consulting on plans to allow councils local discretion to introduce a council tax premium on homes that have been empty for more than two years.

Empowerment Training

All of the events below can be found on the One East Midlands training and events page. (www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/infusions/one_events_panel/event_list.php).

30 September 2011 - Community Assets Matter Free Training

Work with children or young people? Run a community centre or control community buildings? Looking to bring community services into your youth centre – or youth services into your community building? Community Matters is offering up to 15 free places at their participatory asset management course in Newcastle.

For information click more [here](#)

22 October 2011 - Get Up Stand Up: CDX Conference

Communities and community development are being buffeted by strong winds. Do we batten down the hatches and hope it passes, or work together to build a flying ship?

For information click more [here](#)

01 November 2011 - Locality '11 2 day National Convention - Communities ambitious for change

Locality '11 is a unique opportunity to join the UK's largest gathering of community-led organisations – to talk openly about our challenges and opportunities, to share stories and learn from others, to inspire and be inspired.

For information click more [here](#)

Empowerment Resources

All of the resources below have recently been added to the One East Midlands online library (www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/infusions/library_panel).

- [Potential funding for community green spaces \(Communities and Local Government, August 2011\)](#)
- [Encouraging Participation: The role of community-based organisations \(Community Matters / Institute for Voluntary Action Research, June 2011\)](#)
- [Community Rights and Neighbourhood Planning: What community activists are saying \(Urban Forum Surveys, 2011\)](#)

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