

E-NEWS BULLETIN

April 3rd, 2007

Space East e-news bulletin is a bi-weekly production which aims to keep member organisations up-to-date with information that is affecting the sector. If you feel that there is a particular issue that is affecting your organisation that you would like to share in our e-news update or our bi monthly publication 'Raising the Roof', please contact <mailto:Kezia@space-east.org>

LOCAL AND REGIONAL NEWS:

Floating Support in Norfolk

If you refer clients to floating support services in Breckland, Broadland, King's Lynn & West Norfolk, North Norfolk, Norwich or South Norfolk it is important that you understand the changes happening with Floating Support in your area.

As of 1st April 2007, all housing-related floating support services in these districts, except those managed by Julian Housing Support, will be delivered by Stonham's new service called Stonham HomeStay - supporting independent living in Norfolk.

The website address for the Floating Support service in Norfolk will be:

<http://www.stonhamhomestay.org.uk/norfolk>

Gypsy and Traveller sites in Bedfordshire and Luton

After a report on the nature of accommodation and housing-related support needs within the Gypsy and Traveller community it has been suggested that approximately 74 pitches in Bedfordshire and Luton are needed over the next five years. For more information or to make a comment go to:

http://www.midbeds.gov.uk/community/news/2007_march/mid_beds_consults_residents_on_suggested_gypsy_and_traveller_sites.asp

CLG announces successful bids for unitary status to improve local services

Local Government Minister Phil Woolas has announced that sixteen councils bidding for unitary status have been short listed to go forward for consultation today. If implemented the successful proposals could save up to around £200m per annum which can be directly transferred into improving front line services or used to reduce council tax bills.

Among the successful are Ipswich Borough Council, Norwich City Council, Bedfordshire County Council and Bedford Borough Council.

For further details go to: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2387>

Invitation for tenders: MENTER and EEDA 'Impact Evaluation'

Deadline: 10th April 2007

The assignment is to help develop the impact and strategic added value of MENTER as a regional strategic body and to make recommendations on the future roles and relationships between MENTER and the East of England Development Agency (EEDA). This should be done through an evaluation of work done by MENTER as a capacity building organisation for the BME sector from 2003 to 2006. This evaluation is funded by EEDA.

For further information contact Ila Chandavarkar email: <mailto:ila@menter.org.uk> tel: 01223 355034.

MENTER - Partnership Development Project Evaluation

Deadline: 19th April 2007

The project seeks to assist the integration of refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers in the East of England and improve local community cohesion through partnerships working. We look to review the relevance of accumulated knowledge for other transitional groups. The project is seeking tenders from external evaluators with experience of evaluating partnership working and where possible working with such transitional groups. For further information contact Finbarr Carter email: <mailto:finbarr@menter.org.uk> tel: 01603 617076 or 07891782971.

Customer Satisfaction Survey - Integrated Youth Support Service. Southend-on Sea Borough Council

The Integrated Youth Support Services (Connexions) monitors customer satisfaction in order to improve the services provided. A major survey just taken place with 232 young people taking place:

The results revealed that an impressive 96.8% of young people were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the youth work on offer from Connexions, up from 94.8% in 2006.

Another key indicator also improved: 89.2% of young people "agreed" or "agreed strongly" that it was easy to talk to staff about things that concern them, up from 83.7% in 2006.

Everyone agreed that our recently refurbished youth centres were young people friendly, safe and well decorated - a real result for all of those people who worked on last years centre refurbishment project.

NATIONAL NEWS:

Offender Report 'Locked Out' - Citizens Advice Bureau

The CAB has released a report about the high incidence of offenders re-offending once they are released from prison due to inadequate support available. To read the report go to:

http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/locked_out_full_report_text_final-2.pdf

For more information on 'The Resettlement of Ex-offenders' keep an eye out for your Space East Managing Inclusion Briefing.

What is Homelessness? A report on the attitudes of young people and parents on the risks of running away and homelessness in London.

Centrepont and the London Metropolitan University have released a full report to look at the prevention of youth homelessness. It recommends that agencies should investigate and respond to these needs to reach all variety of individuals. To read the full report go to:

http://www.centrepont.org.uk/documents/Centrepont_What_is_Homlessness-report.pdf

Small community organisations to get £80m - and other third sector Budget announcements

As part of the Budget, the Chancellor announced a new £80 million fund to provide small grants to community groups to make a real difference in their neighbourhood. The fund will be distributed over four years by local grant makers with the greatest knowledge of their areas and local community groups.

The fund responds to a need identified in the Government's third sector review, informed by consultation with hundreds of third sector organisations and the Local Community Sector Taskforce. The details of the programme will be developed with the sector over the Spring as part of the final stage of the Third Sector Review.

Futurebuilders

The Chancellor has announced that the Futurebuilders programme will be expanded in its second phase from 2008-2011. Current funding criteria will be widened to enable the sector to apply for funding to deliver in all areas of services provision. (Currently, applications are eligible for just 5 areas - crime, community cohesion, education & learning, health & social care, support for children & young people.)

In addition, today the independent Futurebuilders Advisory Panel publish their first progress report on the Futurebuilders programme, in which they congratulate ministers for [creating a fund](#) that is 'highly innovative' and 'ahead of its time'.

Community Investment

Social enterprises stand to benefit from changes to the rules around Community Investment Tax Relief (CITR). The Chancellor announced a change that allows funds raised under CITR to be used more flexibly by Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs). This will benefit not only the CDFIs themselves (many of whom are social enterprises), but also those organisations that borrow from CDFIs (many of whom are social enterprises). The Chancellor announced a change to the operation of the tax incentives for investors in disadvantaged communities via CDFIs. The change will allow CDFIs to keep an average of 75% of their fund onward invested, instead of a minimum of 75% - providing better flexibility in the way they manage their loan books.

These changes are a part of the ongoing review of the operation of CITR, announced in last November's social enterprise action plan. The Office of the Third Sector will continue to build the evidence on access to finance for social enterprises, to establish whether there are inefficiencies in the market that could be addressed.

Commissioning framework for health and well-being - Department of Health

Deadline: May 28th 2007

The Commissioning framework for health and well-being is published for consultation. It is aimed at commissioners and providers of services in health, social care and local authorities. It is part of the White Paper Our health our care our say implementation and we are consulting as part of the development of a final document to be published in Summer 2007.

To download a copy of the consultation go to:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_072604

Third Sector News

To read the following news and policy updates from the Office of the Third Sector go to:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/

Stories include:

- Competition launched for partner to deliver £1.2m programme to help develop third sector innovation
- Strong sector support for social enterprise and government ambassadors programme
- No changes to business rate relief for the third sector
- Plans to help the sector access £700m in unclaimed Gift Aid
- Small community organisations to get £80m - and other third sector Budget announcements
- Futurebuilders Advisory Panel publishes their first report
- IDeA to train 2,000 local commissioners on involving the third sector in delivering services

Homeless Link Rural Project

Homeless Link is developing a new project focussing on capacity building support to voluntary agencies working with homeless people in rural areas. They are keen to hear from all types of agencies in rural areas, whether they work directly or indirectly with people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

They have developed an online questionnaire to understand the issues faced by agencies like yourself. The questionnaire should take around 30 minutes to complete. Please follow the link below to access the questionnaire. <http://www.homeless.org.uk/policyandinfo/research/archive/questionnaires/rural/>
Please complete the questionnaire online by 6 April 2007

Evaluation of the Role and Impact of Regional Assemblies: Final Report

This is the final report of an evaluation of the roles and impacts of the eight Regional Assemblies in England outside London. It looks at the collective role and impact of the assemblies and identifies good practice and transferable lessons.

To read the report go to: <http://www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/100176?version=1>

IDEA interview with Anne Williams

In March 2007 Anne Williams has become the first president of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS). She believes that this is an exciting time for social care and that commissioning is key and should be used to influence the types of services people want.

"Joint commissioning should be the driver, particularly with health, housing and also with culture and leisure if we're bringing in preventative and quality-of-life services. I think that's where we've got to make a reality of good strategic needs assessments. And having decided on the needs, we must look at the most effective way of dealing with them jointly."

To read IDeA interview with Anne Williams go to:

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelid=6116305>

Call for mandatory ethnicity reporting for mental health and disability patients

A recent census has found that people from some black and ethnic minority groups are more than three times more likely than average to be admitted to mental health hospitals. To find out more go to:

http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/newsandevents/pressreleases.cfm/cit_id/5288/FAArea1/customWidgets.content.view_1/usecache/false

Supporting People Grant Conditions 2007-2008

These documents provide the grant conditions for the Supporting People programme for 2007-08 which have been revised as the result of a recent consultation. To find out more go to:

http://www.spkweb.org.uk/Subjects/Legal_Framework/Grant_conditions_directions_and_statutory_guidance/Grant+Conditions+2007-2008.htm

Supporting People Guidance

This document provides guidance for non-excellent authorities in England on the administration and application of the Supporting People programme grant.

http://www.spkweb.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F66C28E9-7244-40AA-8B7C-F6F0D7663D6C/12093/SPGuidance_.pdf

EVENTS:

Sure Futures Arts Partnership Event

Monday 23rd April 5pm-7pm at The Garage, Chapelfield North, Norwich, NR2 1NY

The event is titled 'Using the arts to raise the aspirations of young people - not a soft option'. This title sets out not only the Partnerships objective but also their message: that the arts can be used engage young people who are on the margins of exclusion in improving their lives in real ways, not just by improving soft skills, but by offering paths into learning and qualifications.

The project is supported by EEDA Investing in Communities and Norwich City Council.

RSVP by April 5th 2007 to pamhustwayte@norwich.gov.uk 01603 212 377

Housing and Drugs - Homeless Link and Shelter

24th May 2007, Resource Centre, London

This one day national conference is in partnership with Homeless Link and Shelter and is supported by the Housing Corporation and DrugScope. If you are involved in delivering or commissioning services to those who use drugs then this event will be essential for you.

Delegates will have the opportunity to:

- Hear Government and National Treatment Agency perspectives on joint working and commissioning
- Attend practical and strategic workshops on delivering the spectrum of services needed for homeless drug users to progress towards stability
- Take part in discussion and the best ways to resolve tensions between anti-social behaviour and providing housing and support to drug users
- Network and share ideas, gaining practical ideas from colleagues who can help them tackle the challenge of housing those using drugs.

For further information go to:

<http://www.homeless.org.uk/developyourservice/events/calendar/housinganddrugs>

Impact of Change: Working with Consortia and TUPE - SITRA

Sitra has organised a number of one day events for participants to consider the pros and cons of partnership working when bidding for Supporting People services. The events will offer practical ideas about partnership working and explore the legal and practical issues associated with TUPE once a contract is transferred to another provider.

Venues and Dates:

April 3 London, The Kings Fund (Room 7)
 April 25 Birmingham, Aston Villa Macgregor's Restaurant
 May 3 York, the York Pavilion Hotel
 May 8 Taunton, Somerset County Cricket Club (Old Pavilion)

For a booking form go to:

http://www.sitra.org.uk/fileadmin/sitra_user/Impact_of_Change_flyer_and_booking_form3_01.doc

Emerging Personality Disorder - CSIP

Wednesday 6 June 2007, Robinson College, Cambridge

The event aims to bring together expertise and influential thinking in this overlooked area, and initiate debate and cooperation between relevant stakeholders both within and beyond the region.

Who should attend:

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Youth Justice
- Adult Mental health in relation to Early Intervention and transition
- Commissioners of services

This is a free event and lunch will be provided.

For a booking form or further information please contact Kim Filer at kim.filer@nemhpt.nhs.uk or on 01206 287 586.

TRAINING:

Space East Training April/May 2007

Date	Course Title	Location
18/04/07	Managing Aggression and Violence	Norwich
26/04/07	Support Planning	Norwich
27/04/07	Successful Key Working	Norwich
02/05/07	Understanding Easting Disorders	Ipswich
02/05/07	Understanding Self Harm	Ipswich
16/05/07	Assessing and Managing Client Risk	Bedford
16/05/07	The QAF and Involving Service Users	Luton
23/05/07	Support Planning	Ipswich
24/05/07	Successful Key Working	Ipswich

We also offer a range of **full In-house** training on a variety of topics.

In House training can be an economical training option that your whole team can benefit from.

Go to the Space East website for a full programme and to download a booking form <http://www.space-east.org/> or contact <mailto:laura@space-east.org> 01603 617 299. Please book early, as places are limited!

Hub4 Training Programmes for Young People

Tuesday 12 April 2007, 3-5pm, The Garage, 14 Chapel Field North, Norwich

Throughout 2007 Hub4 is running a series of accredited training programmes for young people aged 16-25 not in employment, education or training to develop their knowledge in the arts sector. To attend an information event to find out more about the programme and how you can refer people to the courses

Places are limited so if you would like to attend please contact Caroline Ash Email: <mailto:hub4@artswork.org.uk> Telephone: 023 80630 960

Solving Housing Benefits Training Course

Tuesday 25th September 2007 10am-4.30pm, Ipswich

Housing benefit is the most complex and unstable of all social security benefits and it is made much worse by very variable standards of administration and local misunderstandings about the law. Fortunately much can be achieved if your staff have the confidence and knowledge to solve common housing benefit problems.

The course covers:

- Delays in processing claims
- Evidence and information problems
- Backdating
- Overpayments
- HB when moving home
- Absences from home
- Non-dependent deductions
- Discretionary Housing Payments
- And much more...

For a booking form and ore information go to:

<http://www.neilbateman.co.uk/Solving%20HB%20problems%20course%20leaflet.doc>

Tax Credits - EJB Services

Ipswich 18th April 2007, Northampton 18th July, Nottingham 27th July 2007

The course will cover:

- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Entitlement
- Who can claim
- Claiming rules
- Calculation
- Payment
- Affect on other benefits
- Overpayments
- Disputes

Each delegate will receive a detailed booklet all for £95 including lunch. If you book two places get the third half price. To book or for further information email ejbservices@hotmail.com or phone 01449 672 785

REMINDERS:

Consultation Draft of the Greater Norwich Homelessness Strategy

Go to <http://www.space-east.org/> for a copy of the draft. Any comments must be made to <mailto:nicolagalway@norwich.gov.uk> by Friday 18th May 2007.

Consultation on the Development of a Commissioning Strategy for Supporting People in Cambridgeshire

The consultation will run until 13th April 2007. Go to for further information.

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social/supportingpeople/Schspnews.htm?wbc_purpose=Basic

Tendering and Procurement in Supporting People Services- Support Solutions

One day practically oriented events 9.30am-4.30am. The dates are:

Birmingham May 14th, Bridgewater, May 16th, London May 17th, York May 21st, Newcastle May 23rd and Manchester May 25th. To see a course outline go to

<http://www.supportsolutions.co.uk/docs/tendering&contracting.pdf>

Skills Strategy Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) - Consultation Alert

To read the draft document go to <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/>. It includes some key questions on which you can focus your response (though you are welcome to comment on any part of the EQIA). Express your view by Tuesday 17th April 2007.