



The Combine Harvester

Greater Manchester Community Buildings Network Newsletter #4

Welcome to the fourth issue of The Combine Harvester, including the latest news on the long awaited Community Builders Fund. This newsletter brings together the latest information of relevance to managers and volunteers who run community facilities or hubs. Please let us know what you think of this newsletter and what you would like to see in future editions. Your contributions for articles are also very welcome. If you wish to subscribe, unsubscribe or send us your comments please email morag.rose@gmcvo.org.uk. We promise not to pass your email address on. Please forward this information to anyone else who may be interested. **The newsletter is published quarterly in July, October, January and April. Please get in touch if you would like your news included. Underlined text is hyperlinked: just click on it to go direct to the website. If this does not work, cut and paste the web address into your browser.**

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Community Hubs News

Funding Success

GMCVO's own aspirations to extend the St Thomas Centre received a boost with the news that they have been successful at Stage 1 of the Capacity Builders capital programme and Community Hubs will now develop the business case needed for Stage 2. Community Hubs are interested in finding out who else in the network applied and what the outcome is; please email ian.taylor@gmcvo.org.uk.

Bespoke training / consultancy for your organisation.

Community Hubs are experts in managing, developing and supporting capital projects and voluntary organisations. We have a range of very successful training workshops which we can run for you. These include Managing Community Buildings, Marketing Skills, Developing Enterprise, Alternatives to Grants, Developing a Project, Best Practice in Buildings, Construction, refurbishment and maintenance, community consultation and more. We can also act as consultants and project managers. We work flexibly according to your needs, fees are very competitive and the initial meeting to discuss your requirements and explain how we can help is always free. For more details please email ian.taylor@gmcvo.org.uk tel 0161 277 1040.

Next Combine Event

Since its inaugural meeting The Combine Network has held two very successful events focusing on the key needs identified by our members. These included practical support with increasing diversity, access and environmental sustainability. We have also run a series of very popular training workshops on Marketing for Community Buildings. We still have copies of the accompanying report 'Creating a Hubbub' available if you would like one or you can download it from www.gmcvo.org/hubs.

We are planning to hold the next Combine event in the Autumn; details to follow soon. The focus will be on managing effectively and raising funds to cope with the recession. Please get in touch if there are any particular subjects you would like us to cover – it is YOUR network and we want to ensure it continues to respond to the needs of its membership.

Training and Events

FREE Collaboration Skills Training for Development Workers

21st and 28th July (2 days) 10.00 – 4.00pm, St Thomas Centre, Manchester

Are you a development worker looking to offer support to community-based organisations that want to collaborate with other organisations? This course is designed to equip you with knowledge and skills to improve collaborative working amongst the organisations you work with and support. The 2-day training sessions will help you get a better understanding of:

- Good practice in facilitation and enabling collaborative working
- The benefits and challenges of collaborative working
- Critical success factors involved in collaborative working
- The policy context which is driving collaborative working

For more information or to book a place contact morag.rose@gmcvo.org.uk or tel: 0161 277 1039.

Go Green to Stay Black

Thursday 16th July 12.30-4.30pm Bridge-5 Mill

A bespoke environmental policy that is robust and implemented as part of your everyday working practice also ensures your organisation is compliant with current legislation and is operating effectively and efficiently whilst saving you money. As well as interactive workshops delivered by the Sustaining Change team and Rochdale CVS, there will be **FREE** eco-kits with top tips, resources and freebies. To find out more please contact the Sustaining Change team at MERCI on 0161 273 1736 or email sustainingchange@merci.org.uk.

Meet the Commissioners

Wednesday 9th September, Manchester Venue tbc

This event provides you with an opportunity to meet your local PCTs and commissioners and find out what their priorities in service delivery are for the coming years. To book, please e-mail Catherine Pollitt with your contact details: catherine.pollitt@northwest.nhs.uk. For more information contact Neil at GMCVO on 0161 277 1036.

Useful resources

Facilities Management Presentations Online

The Charities F.M. (Facilities Management) Conference was held last month and most of the presentations are now on the resources section of the CFMG website at <http://www.upkeep.org.uk/resources/index.htm> Subjects include Saving Money on Property – legal Issues, The Current Property Market and its Implications for Charities, and How to Deal with Bats in Buildings.

Green Register

The Green Register is an independent, self-funded organisation whose principal goal is to promote sustainable building practices across all disciplines of the construction industry. More info at <http://www.greenregister.org.uk/>.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy

This is a no nonsense guide from Business Link and covers how organisations can avoid insolvency and bankruptcy. It was developed with Companies House and HM Revenue and Customs. <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?topicId=1074019105&r.s=sl>

Legal Updates

Trustees: ask yourself the hard questions

The Charity Commission has launched the 'Big Board Talk' initiative, designed to encourage trustees to ask a range of questions about how well placed they are to cope during the recession. Read the 15 question checklist at the Charity Commission website <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/Library/tcc/pdfs/ccnews29check.pdf>

Selling or Leasing Charity Property

The Charity Commission has issued new guidance on selling, leasing, transferring or mortgaging charity property, www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/cc28.asp

Charitable Buildings and Tax

The zero VAT rating 'charitable building' concession (ESC 3.29) is to be withdrawn on 1st July 2010. However, there is a new interpretation of the 'for use solely for a relevant charitable purpose (RCP)' requirement of statutory legislation - the building must intended to be used 95 per cent or more for a RCP based on any fair and reasonable measuring method. There is a transitional period of 12 months from 1st July 2009 in which charities can use either approach. See VAT Info Sheet 39/09, <http://preview.tinyurl.com/nuvkdq>

Good to Know

Peoples Voice Media

People's Voice Media is the new name for MCIN. They are a not for profit organisation working with many different types of communities throughout the North West, dedicated to using social media to get communities talking to each other, and empowering people to ensure their voices are heard. They provide individuals and organisations with the skills necessary to get their messages and stories across, and distribute them through websites and social networking sites, <http://www.peoplesvoicemedia.org.uk>

Your guide to 20 social impact and quality tools

Tools for you covers 20 different approaches, includes a tool decider and comparison chart to help development workers and frontline organisations navigate the world of social impact and quality measurement. For more information see http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/z_sys_PublicationDetail.aspx?pid=287

Campaign against 'rain tax'

We know changes in how water companies charge for surface water drainage have been a concern for Combine members; a new campaign has formed around the issue, www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#raintax.

GMCVO seeks new trustees

Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) is seeking 2 Honorary Board members for election at our AGM on 26th October 2009. This is an exciting time for GMCVO which is developing a diverse range of work aimed at the promotion, representation and development of the voluntary / third sector of Greater Manchester in the context of the city region. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Alex Whinnom (Director) 0161 277 1004, Stephen Little (Chair) 07795 821476 or Tanya Coutts (Operations Manager) 0161 277 1002. Closing date: Monday 14th September 2009.

Hub of the Month

Phoenix Mill

20 Piercy Street, Ancoats, Manchester M4 7HY

The Foundation for Paediatric Osteopathy is a registered UK charity which seeks to ensure that paediatric osteopathy - a gentle, effective and environmentally-friendly treatment – is available to parents and carers concerned for their child's health. They run clinics for babies, children and mothers in Manchester as well as North & South London.

Their Manchester base is Phoenix Mill. This building is a tastefully converted factory by the Ashton Canal. It's a 10 minute walk away from Piccadilly Station with onsite parking.

Phoenix Mill contains a number of offices that are currently available on flexible leases which would ideally suit community groups and charities. In keeping with their charitable status they want to maintain the mutually supportive atmosphere that is created when a variety of diverse charitable organisations share the same space. There is a live-in caretaker with modern security and access systems. The building also has an atrium space which can be used for events and meeting rooms for hire.

If you would like to know more about this unique venue please contact John Lavery, Deputy Chief Executive, Foundation for Paediatric Osteopathy, e-mail: john.lavery@fpo.org.uk, tel: 020 7250 3045 (direct) website: www.fpo.org.uk.

Funding news

For more information about funding opportunities and support in making an application please contact your local CVS. You can find them at <http://www.gmvss.net/>

Communitybuilders

Communitybuilders is a new £70million pot which aims to build more cohesive, engaged and active communities through investment in multi-purpose, community-led organisations that want to develop enterprise activity. Investment will comprise a mix of loans, grants and non-financial support at different stages of project development, including expert advice and mentoring services. It is being administered by The Community Alliance.

Organisations that are eligible for funding will have the following characteristics:

- **Community control** by local residents and/or representatives of local groups
- Able to address a **wide range** of the neighbourhood's needs in a holistic way
- Include **all sections** of their community
- Facilitates and **supports community development** and enterprise in the local area.

Communitybuilders will be open for applications later this summer. However, those organisations who wish to register an interest in applying for the fund or would like further information can call 0191 261 5200 www.dta.org.uk/activities/campaigns/communityanchors/Communitybuilders.htm

Changing spaces – Local food grant scheme, deadline 21 August 2009

The Local Food programme, managed by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) and funded by a £50 million grant from the Big Lottery Fund has seen unprecedented demand from projects that aim to make local food more accessible and affordable to communities. Due to the high level of interest, applicants are being asked to submit first round applications by August 2009 - details are available at <http://www.localfoodgrants.org/>.

BIG Groundwork - Changing Spaces: Community Spaces

The Community Spaces programme, run by Groundwork UK, funds community groups who want to improve local green spaces such as play areas, community gardens, parks, wildlife areas and village greens, kick-about areas and pathway improvements. All community groups (e.g. Friends Groups, Tenants and Residents' Associations) can apply. Grants range from £10,000 - £49,999 and applications are accepted on a rolling basis. See <http://www.community-spaces.org.uk> helpline 0845 3 671 671.

Funding Central

Funding Central is a new website which provides information about 4,000 grants, contracts and loans offered by local, regional, national and European funders, <http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk>.

Focus on.... A Treasury of Websites

In this issue we present a pot pourri of useful websites; if you have an idea for something we have missed, or a future 'Focus On' do please get in touch.

Building Success Online Toolkit

Building success is a free online toolkit to support the development of community design projects (community building & landscape projects). It is based on 10 success factors central to projects and structured on 6 project development stages. It will enable your project team to review progress, identify the potential risks and keep your project on track, <http://www.building-success.org.uk/>

Third Sector

Third Sector is a publication for everyone who needs to know what's going on in the voluntary and not-for-profit sector. Various free email updates can be subscribed to and a vast archive is available online, www.thirdsector.co.uk.

Flickr

Flickr is a free online photo & video management and sharing application. You must sign-up for a free account and then you can upload photographs. which can be shared with other people or organisations, www.flickr.com. Images saved under a Creative Commons license can be reused in your non-profit making/community work. See <http://creativecommons.org/> for details.

NCVO Case Studies

The Sustainable Funding case study library can be useful. The latest addition is Torrs Hydro, a community owned company that generates electricity from a small hydroelectric plant. Key themes include community investment, effective marketing and choosing the right organisational form. It's a new addition to the Sustainable Funding case study library you may find useful, <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sfp/?id=8514>.

Indymedia UK

Indymedia is 'A network of individuals, independent and alternative media activists and organisations, offering grassroots, non-corporate, non-commercial coverage of important social and political issues'. It is easy to publish your own stores too, see www.indymedia.org.uk.

Health and Safety Online

The Health and Safety Executive website www.hse.gov.uk has a wide range of articles and resources covering all aspects of Health and Safety – a subject of great importance to Combine members. Recent articles include dealing with swine flu and working in hot weather. This introductory guide is aimed at small businesses but is of use to VCS organisations too, <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg259.pdf>.

Voluntary Sector Legal Updates

Sandy Adorindack's website offers free updates providing information of a general nature for voluntary organisations about legal changes over the past year, and forthcoming changes. It is in two parts: **Employment** covering all aspects of employment, volunteering, equal opportunities, health and safety and **Managing** covering data protection, internet, intellectual property, human rights, charity law, company and related law, finance, property, licensing etc, <http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/legal.htm>.

About Community Hubs @ GMCVO

Community Hubs provides advice on Developing, Constructing, Refurbishing, Resourcing and Managing Community Hubs and on Identifying Neighbourhood and Community Need. It is an initiative built upon the legacy of 28 years of community technical aid, provided in Greater Manchester by CTAC For more information about Community Hubs at GMCVO please contact Ian Taylor on 0161 277 1040 or email ian.taylor@gmcvo.org.uk or see www.gmcvo.org.uk/hubs

Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) is the voluntary sector support (infrastructure) organisation for the sub-region of Greater Manchester. Our aim is to strengthen the voluntary and community sector, build bridges with other sectors, and influence local and national policy. GMCVO is a registered charity no. 504542 and a Company Limited by Guarantee no. 1223344, tel 0161 277 1000.

About COMBINE (Greater Manchester Community Buildings Network)

COMBINE (Greater Manchester Community Buildings Information Network) aims to bring together everyone involved in local community hubs. A hub is a place of community activity – it may be a community or social centre, park, hall, leisure facility or anywhere people gather to make things happen for their neighbourhood.

The network offers volunteers and staff involved in running hubs a chance to share information and resources, discuss key issues, work together to solve common problems and access training and support services. The network holds special events, meetings and training, and produces a free email newsletter and services which will develop flexibly according to the needs of members.

Membership of the network is free to anyone involved in running or supporting Community Hubs in Greater Manchester, as a volunteer or paid worker. For more information about the network, please contact Morag Rose on 0161 277 1039 or email morag.rose@gmcvo.org.uk or see www.gmcvo.org.uk/combine.