



The Combine Harvester

Greater Manchester Community Buildings Network Newsletter

Welcome to the new issue of The Combine Harvester, including information about the next COMBINE event ‘Don’t Just Sit on Your Assets’: Helping Your Community Space Thrive.

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. Thanks to all who have sent information, especially Kenny Lieske, York CVS

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. **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.** A PDF version can be downloaded from www.gmcvo.org.uk/hubs

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Community Hubs News

Don’t Just Sit on Your Assets – Helping Your Community Space Thrive Tuesday December 1st at The St Thomas Centre 10.30am-4pm

A special event for volunteers and workers from Greater Manchester’s Community Hubs. The focus is on financial resilience and enabling hubs to flourish through developing income, generating enterprise, effective fundraising strategies, and connecting with their local communities. Workshops will include Asset Based Development / Asset Transfer, Increasing your Influence, Connecting with Your Community and Funding Community Buildings. Expect lively debate, practical tools and lots of case studies. Cost is £10 per person for voluntary and community groups and £30 for statutory bodies. For more information please email morag.rose@gmcvo.org.uk or download a booking form <http://www.gmcvo.org.uk/?q=node/1706>
This event is a collaboration between GMCVO and the Community Alliance.

Managing a Community Building – EXTRA DATE ADDED 20th January 2010 9:30 am to 4:30 pm The St Thomas Centre

This course provides a whistlestop introduction covering the basics you need to consider to ensure effective management of a community building. Areas covered will include what makes a successful building, legal responsibilities, people within your building – staff, volunteers, users, developing enterprise / income and more.

The cost is £40 per delegate for voluntary and community groups, £60 per delegate for workers from statutory organisations. Includes lunch and all materials. A limited number of bursaries are available to support unfunded groups. More details and a booking form from morag.rose@gmcvo.org.uk tel 0161 277 1039.

Training and Events

Winterfair 2009 3rd December Manchester

After the success of last year's event, the Directory of Social Change is returning to Manchester for a second Winterfair. Organised in collaboration with GMCVO, the event will combine the most popular sessions from Charityfair 2009 and Winterfair 2008 along with brand new sessions reflecting changes in the sector and economic development. Details/bookings: www.dscwinterfair.org.uk.

Budgeting and Full Cost Recovery 28th January 2010

This is a practical beginner's course in budgeting aimed at introducing budgets, showing how budgeting can be a powerful tool in managing an organisation, how to produce a budget and introducing the principles of full cost recovery. Cost £85.00, for more details contact Andy Rawling on 0161 277 1009 email andy.rawling@gmcvo.org.uk.

Introduction to Counselling Skills 13th and 20th January 2010

Good counselling and listening skills are vital in building effective and supportive relationships in any professional environment. By enabling learners to explore and learn about active listening, this course will help front-line staff develop a greater awareness of the attributes and the boundaries of helping service users through listening. This two-day course will also seek to examine how learners' organisational policies affect this aspect of working, together with covering individual experiences. Cost £130, for more details contact Andy Rawling on 0161 277 1009 email andy.rawling@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 or tel: 0161 277 1040.

Useful resources

www.gmvss.net

This is the website of Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support (GMVSS), a partnership of infrastructure organisations that provide support to voluntary, community and faith sector groups/organisations (VCFS) across Greater Manchester. The site includes access to a range of support for VCFS organisations, along with the latest news, training and events and useful resources <http://www.gmvss.net/>

Sustainable Development Issues 21

Against the background of the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, this edition of *Issues* looks at how voluntary organisations can bring about sustainable change in their workplaces and at some other initiatives designed to reduce our impact on the environment.

<http://www.gmcvo.org.uk/?q=node/1763>

Social investment guides

Three tailored guides to Social Return on Investment (SROI) have been published by the Office of the Third Sector. *Social Return on Investment – an introduction* gives an overview of SROI, what it can do for organisations, commissioners and investors and where more information and support can be found. For more information and to download copies of the guides, visit www.sroi-uk.org.

Future Jobs Fund

Greater Manchester's successful bid to the Future Jobs Fund could see the creation of up to 8,000 jobs for young people in the sub-region over the next 18 months. GMCVO estimates that around 750 of these jobs will be in the voluntary and community sector. Organisations interested in hosting FJF placements should contact karen.rigg@gmcvo.org.uk.

Survey of England's Rural Community Buildings

A survey of rural community-owned buildings across England has found that use has trebled since 1988. The network of some nine thousand village halls and other community-owned facilities has a total asset value of over £3 billion. Key Findings Report <http://preview.tinyurl.com/yjchxn4>

Legal Updates

Safeguarding children

The new FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) page from the Department of Children, Schools and Families, covers various questions that parent volunteers and organisations may have about the new vetting and barring systems. There is also a useful 'mythbuster' and lots of resources to help keep children safe

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/vettingandbarringscheme/vettingvadbarring/>.

Changes to new legal form

The Office of the Third Sector and the Charity Commission have outlined several changes to the proposed rules for charitable incorporated organisations in their response to a consultation held last year. The CIO, which will be a new legal form for charities, is expected to be popular among third sector organisations because it will limit the liability of trustees, but without requiring them to register with Companies House see <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/>

'Rain tax' victory for charities and voluntary organisations

Scout groups, churches and amateur sports clubs have won their battle against the controversial 'rain tax'. Some community organisations faced increases in water bills of several hundred per cent under a charging regime for surface water drainage based on the size of premises rather than rateable value. The new legislation will form part of the Flood and Water Management Bill in the next session of Parliament.

www.dontdrainus.org.

A guide for communities considering purchasing land and buildings

has been published. Based on the experience of five social enterprises supported by East of England Development Agency. 'Building Community Assets' is available from Co-operative and Community Finance <http://www.icof.co.uk/docs/BuildingCommunityAssetsGuide.pdf>

Charity music license exemption to go

The government has come out in support of proposals from the Intellectual Property Office on music licensing which would remove charity exemptions from paying fees to Phonographic Performance Limited, which represents the interests of music producers and performers. A flat annual charge for playing music at events or in public places will come in after the exemption is repealed - Third Sector reports this as from April <http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/966708/>.

Good to Know

Social investment business

The organisation managing the Futurebuilders Fund, the Social Enterprise Investment Fund, the Communitybuilders Programme and the loan element of the Modernisation Fund, has a new trading name. Find the website for Social Investment Business, with information on all the finance streams and services, at <http://www.socialinvestmentbusiness.org>.

Health and Safety guidance

Around 250 priced publications that contain official health and safety advice and guidance are now available in pdf format from the Health and Safety Executive website at no charge. It will still be possible to purchase printed versions at HSE Books. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/news/>.

Dealing with a pandemic

The Charities Facilities Management Group is a network for people who look after buildings and facilities management issues in the voluntary sector. They are based in London and are facilitated by Upkeep. Their last meeting focused on being prepared for a pandemic and notes can be found at <http://www.upkeep.org.uk/cfmg/index.htm>.

North West Transport Roundtable open meeting

The next open meeting of the North West Transport Roundtable (NWTAR) will be taking place on Saturday, 28th November at the Mechanics Institute in Manchester from 12:30 - 15:00, with a complimentary lunch available from 11:45. This is your chance to learn the latest on: the work of the Commission for Integrated Transport, Manchester Rail Hub and other rail proposals, Natural England's advice to local authorities on Local Transport Plans and what work is underway by NW TAR and the wider voluntary sector on the Regional Strategy and the new Department for Transport studies. Further details and directions can be downloaded from <http://nwtar.org.uk/>.

Assets transfers progress in England, funds open in Wales

Based on an independent survey on how community asset transfers are progressing, the Asset Transfer Unit (run by the Development trusts Association) estimates that there may be around a thousand transfers of local authority owned assets to third sector organisations in train across England. The survey of a sample of 119 local authorities discovered 350 transfer projects underway, see <http://www.dta.org.uk/whatsnew/pressreleases/AA4thousandtransfers.htm>

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/> also look out for the launch of the Greater Manchester Funding Portal early next year.

Capacitybuilders Latest

Capacitybuilders have announced that an additional £2m has been added to their fund to improve community facilities. Capital Strand A awards grants of up to £30,000 to local resource centres enabling them to make small scale improvements to their premises which result in improved availability, or quality and accessibility of accommodation or shared facilities for local third sector organisations.

It is an open programme, with online applications welcome from existing local resource centres including those which have previously had an application to the programme declined. The closing deadline for applications is midday on 24 December 2009. To find out more about Strand A 2010 and apply online see <http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/programmes/our-programmes/capital-investment-programme>

Project Towpath

These grants are aimed specifically at all small voluntary and community sector groups within Greater Manchester that help people return to work. Grants of up to £12,000 can be used to provide support to 'hard-to-reach' communities and individuals, to enable them to access employment or further learning and training. The final application round closes on 15th January 2010. To apply for a grant, download and complete the prospectus from www.gmcvo.org.uk/projecttowpath or for further information or an informal chat, please contact Gill or Karen on 0161 277 1019/1017 or via email gill.dixon@gmcvo.org.uk.

Mustard Seed grants for faith work

Small grants for faith-based community projects are available from the Mustard Seed Grant Programme. Administered by the Church Urban Fund, the programme will consider requests for up to £5,000 from faith-based groups with incomes of under £150,000 and based in the top 10 per cent most deprived areas or working with marginalised groups. For further details and an application form, contact Dian Leppington, 0161 828 1410 dleppington@manchester.anglican.org.

Volant Charitable Trust

The Volant Charitable Trust supports national and community-based charitable organisations whose purpose is to alleviate poverty and social deprivation. There is a particular emphasis on children's and women's issues. Although no minimum or maximum amount is specified in the guidelines, the trustees are prepared to support a charity by way of regular annual payments. Such payments are expected to cover projects' associated costs and will only, in exceptional circumstances, exceed three years. Further details from: <http://volanttrust.com/>.

Member of The Month

bassac

bassac have recently appointed Anton Shultz as their first regional manager for the northwest. As well as organisational support to members, bassac have a range of services available to community hubs in Greater Manchester and beyond including free voice workshops to help organisations become more influential, free consultancy support to facilitate collaborations, and advice and support to organisations seeking funding through the Communitybuilders Programme. They are also hosting their national conference in Manchester on the 3rd and 4th March 2010. For more information, visit www.bassac.org.uk or contact anton@bassac.org.uk, tel: 0161 234 2901 or 07955 364 192.

Focus on.... Food and Drink

In this issue we have a few useful websites and information if you provide refreshments within your hub (or if you just like food and drink!) Food can be an important part in making someone feel welcome (or alienated) and plays a key role in building community as well as promoting health. If you have an idea for something we have missed, or a future 'Focus On' do please get in touch.

A Pinch of Salt

Too much salt in your diet can have serious consequences; would you like to take part in a scheme to help improve your stakeholders health through simple actions such as switching to free (and award winning) salt shakers with less holes in? If so please contact neil.walbran@gmcvo.org.uk and for more information on the issues see http://www.salt.gov.uk/salt_myths.html.

Food Hygiene

If you provide food you have a duty of care to ensure it is safe and hygienically prepared. Lots of information is available from The Food Standards Agency at <http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/regulation/hyglleg/>.

Healthy Eating in Community Cafes

Practical tips are available in this report which focuses on experiences in Glasgow <http://www.communityfoodandhealth.org.uk/fileuploads/comunitycafsum-8192.pdf>.

Abundance Manchester

Abundance Manchester is a project which picks surplus or unwanted fruit from gardens and public trees around South Manchester and distributes it to local groups and communities. <http://abundancemanchester.wordpress.com/>.

Vegan Month

November is Vegan month; vegan options can be cheap, delicious and cater for all kinds of dietary needs so everyone in your community feels valued. Evidence suggests it is also the most environmentally friendly option. The vegan society has a range of resources for caterers including community centres <http://www.vegansociety.com/userhub.aspx?id=467>.

Tips, Gratuities and The Minimum Wage

If you employ staff in restaurants, bars etc where they may receive tips then you need to know that that from 1 October 2009 no tips or service charges will count towards minimum wage even if paid to workers through the payroll. www.berr.gov.uk/files/file51166.pdf.

About Community Hubs @ GMCVO

Community Hubs provides advice on Developing, Constructing, Refurbishing, Resourcing and Managing Community Hubs and on Identifying Neighbourhood and Community Need. 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, please contact Morag Rose on 0161 277 1039 email morag.rose@gmcvo.org.uk or see www.gmcvo.org.uk/combine.