



The Combine Harvester #6 January 2010 Greater Manchester Community Buildings Network Newsletter

Welcome to the new issue of The Combine Harvester

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.

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

Contents

[Training and Events](#)

[Useful Resources](#)

[Legal Updates](#)

[Good to Know](#)

[Community Hubs News](#)

[Combine Member of the Month](#)

[Focus on.... Stuff for Free](#)

[About Community Hubs](#)

[About Combine](#)

Training and Events

Counselling Skills 4th & 11th February 2010 at the St Thomas Centre 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:** £130.00. If you would like an informal chat about this course, or wish to book a place, please contact Andy Rawling on 0161 277 1009. Email: andy.rawling@gmcvo.org.uk

From Consumerism to Sustainability Thursday 4th February 5-6.30pm at St Thomas Centre How can a culture of consumerism be transformed into a culture of sustainability? How does sustainable thinking become as natural as consumerist thinking currently feels to many of us? Join Erik Assadourian from the US-based environmental think tank Worldwatch Institute and Caroline Downey from MERCI for a discussion on the importance of rethinking the very foundations of modern consumerism, rather than just relying on technological fixes. To reserve your free place at this GMCVO organised event, please register at <http://www.gmcvo.org.uk/?q=node/1828>

Measuring Social Value Social Return on Investment Workshop, Tuesday 16th February 10am – 1pm at T3SC, Ashton Social Return on Investment (SROI) is a way to measure and demonstrate the wider impacts of a project, service or organisation including the social, environmental and economic impacts. Come along to this one-off special workshop to find out more about SROI and how you can use it in your work – whether you're a voluntary organisation seeking a new powerful way to measure the difference you make, or a commissioner looking for new ways to demonstrate the value of services. To book a place on this workshop, contact Naomi Creed on 0161 339 4985 or email naomi.creed@t3sc.org

Increase Your Organisations Influence Monday, 1st March 2010 – Manchester - Full day interactive FREE workshop This workshop is based on the Voice tool, a discussion-based tool specifically designed to help community groups and networks: explore what 'influence' is; discuss and record how influential they feel; plot and evidence how influential they are and plan how to increase their influence. To express interest, and further information, please contact Anton at bassac email anton@bassac.org.uk tel 07955364193

Stand and Deliver: People, Power and Politics bassac annual conference 3-4th March Marriott Renaissance Hotel & Manchester Town Hall With cuts in public spending and people feeling the pinch, councillors, communities and local authorities must find new ways of working together. We want to hear your ideas about how this could be done and your experience of innovative partnerships. Delegate fees vary according to size and type of organisation from £100 see www.bassac.org.uk

Useful resources

Carbon Calculator A tool to get a rough idea of your carbon emissions can be found at The NEF (National Energy Foundation) website at <http://www.nef.org.uk/greencompany/co2calculator.htm>

Trade Union Safety Pointers on Lone Working The TUC has a brief new guide 'Lone Working: A guide for safety representatives', with links to further resources. The voluntary sector was one area identified where working alone was considered a major hazard in a 2008 survey. http://www.tuc.org.uk/h_and_s/tuc-17252-f0.cfm.

Business Planning Toolkit for setting up a social enterprise Social enterprises are unique; they require a balance between conventional business practices and their chosen social purpose. Business Link London provides a business planning toolkit for social enterprises which can be found at the following web address - <http://tinyurl.com/yjvckpa>

High Legh Village Hall is perfect if you fancy getting away from the city to have a workshop in the country. The main hall can accommodate up to 80, comfortably, with potentially 3 other rooms for breakout sessions. It is about 5 miles from Altrincham Metrolink station and 2 miles from the M6/M56. There is an organic farm with its own shop within easy walking distance. Contact jennifer.pearce@talktalk.net or call 01925 754 327 for booking details.

Building Success www.building-success.org.uk is an online toolkit for capital projects with lots of practical exercises and work sheets. Developed by Community Hubs, it is free to use and focuses on critical success factors that make projects successful.

Manchester Community Central is the new service providing information and support to build the capacity and sustainability of voluntary and community sector groups in Manchester. It offers a telephone helpline (open from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday), weekly e-bulletin, quarterly Newsletter with a theme for each issue such as finance, governance & management, managing risk, volunteering, project planning and development. The website is coming soon at www.manchestercommunitycentral.org and there is support for individual groups. To get in touch telephone 0333 321 3021, email: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org

Legal Updates

Charity Builder UK Charity Builder is a new site which is designed to help not-for-profit groups become compliant with the law quickly, easily and free of charge. CBUK will guide you through key areas such as HR and H&S but it doesn't just signpost advice. It actually helps you produce documents such as contracts, policies and job descriptions and because the content is written by lawyers you'll be kept up to date with any changes in legislation. You'll also find practical guides to insurance, governance and volunteering <http://www.charitybuilderuk.com>

The Equality Bill was introduced into Parliament in April 2009. It is expected to receive royal assent in spring 2010 and come into force in October 2010, but this could be delayed by a general election. It will replace all the existing equal opportunities legislation and cover nine protected characteristics — age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. The Bill is intended to simplify the law, sort out the disparities between the different discrimination "strands", extend some existing protections, and introduce new protections. An overview can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/njgxcc>

A Rough Guide to Organisational Structures can be found at http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/Taxes_and>Returns_files/LegalStructures.doc to help you think about whether you should register as a charity, become a CIC etc.

North West Planning Aid can support your organisation with free information and advice on planning law, publications and procedures, see www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk or tel 0161 969 3672.

Good to Know

The Northern Money Conference on Monday 1st March 2010, 9am – 4.30pm in Liverpool will highlight the financial difficulties currently facing many people on low and moderate incomes and look at possible solutions in the context of the changing political environment. Organised by The Association of British Credit Unions Ltd, Citizens Advice and Liverpool John Moores University. Concessions are available to credit union members, CAB and money advice workers, community activists and volunteers. Details from www.abculearning.coop

Asset Transfers Progress in England 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 progress across England. The survey of a sample of 119 local authorities discovered 350 transfer projects underway <http://www.dta.org.uk/whatsnew/pressreleases/AA4thousandtransfers.htm>

Transport Strategy Consultation Manchester City Council and GMPTE, in consultation with Salford City Council, are developing a new transport strategy for Manchester city centre. The need for a comprehensive strategy has been identified, to ensure that the transport network can support the significant economic growth forecast to 2020. The draft strategy sets out a transport masterplan. The consultation was launched on 11th January 2010 and runs until 22nd March 2010 at http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/200107/transport_policy/3800/a_transport_strategy_for_manchester_city_centre

Greater Manchester Community Development Workers Network is a new initiative to help anyone involved in community development through information sharing, training and peer support. Following a very well attended first meeting they are conducting a survey to direct future work. Take part here <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SM7TPCW>, and for more information email: morag.rose@gmcvo.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/>

The Funding Information Portal is a free, online resource that will give you all you need to know about funding your work. The funding search engine is a straight forward free service from GRANTfinder that can help voluntary, charitable and community groups like yours to find suitable funding. You can also access further support and information services in Greater Manchester.
<http://www.gmvss.net/?q=gmfunding>

Bio Energy Funding Community organisations that are considering investing in biomass-fuelled heating and/or combined heat and power projects can apply for grants from Round six of the Bio-energy Capital Grants scheme. Grants pay up to 40% of the cost difference between a biomass boiler and its fossil fuel alternative. www.bioenergycapitalgrants.org.uk The deadline is 31st March 2010.

Seif (Social Enterprise Investment Fund) Grants Capital grants (not to include working capital) up to a value of £450,000 are available to Social Enterprises delivering health and social care outcomes who need an injection of funds for a capital project. The fund will only be open until the 19th February. The deadline is very tight and is aimed at groups that need the money now to drive the capital work forward to completion, not to start the process, so it's for those who already have surveyors reports etc. Full details can be found at <http://www.socialinvestmentbusiness.org/application2/e>

HACT (Housing Association Charitable Trust) – Together for Communities Key community anchor organisations and social housing providers are invited to demonstrate the value of their existing or emerging neighbourhood regeneration partnerships. Grants of up to £30,000 are available to develop or extend a programme of joint activity that will contribute to definable, sustainable, inclusive and optimistic neighborhoods. The together for Communities programme will run until March 2011. The deadline for expressions of interest is 15th March 2010. More information from Chris Wadhams, tel: 0121 784 4858, email: cwadhams@hotmail.com or see www.hact.org.uk for an overview.

Commissioning Film MACC (Manchester Alliance for Community Care) have produced a film about making a case to commissioners which they made with Manchester Social Media. Watch it at www.macc.org.uk

Local Climate Fund - North West Foundation is a carbon reduction fund for the region. Individuals and businesses that wish to compensate for the environmental impact of their actions can make a contribution to Foundation. These donations are invested in a variety of community-based carbon reduction projects across the region, from energy efficiency measures to renewable energy schemes..Grants so far have ranged from £8,200 to £50,000). If you would like to compensate for your own carbon footprint and make a contribution to Foundation please go to www.climatefund.org.uk/donate If you are developing a local carbon reduction project that needs funding, you can apply online at <http://foundation.climatefund.org.uk/about/projects>

Community Hubs News

Issues 22: Community Hubs *Issues* is GMCVO's regular briefing on areas of policy, practice and the operating environment affecting the voluntary and community sector in Greater Manchester. The latest edition focuses on Community Hubs and includes case studies, information on support services, an overview of funding sources, and an update on asset transfer. Download a copy at <http://www.gmcvo.org.uk/files/issues%2022.pdf> or email david.sutcliffe@gmcvo.org.uk

What Do You Want From Us? In the past 18 months COMBINE has run a series of conferences and events, offered free training on marketing for hubs and produced an email newsletter read by over 400 people. Initially this work was funded by a grant from The National Lottery. This has now ended and we want to make sure the network evolves according to the needs of its members. Please take a few minutes to complete our short online survey - your answers will help shape the future services available and the content of forthcoming issues of this newsletter. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S3ZY2W9>

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.

Hub of The Month – Nexus Art Café

Nexus is a not-for-profit, community arts space, linked to the Methodist Church and located in the heart of Manchester's Northern Quarter. Their lovely cafe, in which they always choose fairtrade, organic, locally sourced and sold produce, is the setting for an exciting and varied arts programme- and much more besides, including a very charming secret garden. Nexus say 'we believe in the power of bringing *all* people together through creativity to explore and share community, meaning and spirituality'.

Forthcoming events include a Den making Workshop on 13th February, a performance by Italian cello virtuoso, Francesco Dillon on 27th February and *You, Me and the Budgie* a practical workshop by London-based artist, Rhiannon Hunter on 11th March.

In addition every Saturday night / Sunday morning from 2am until 6am NexusNightCafe opens. Providing a safe, welcoming and entirely alcohol free space in which assorted night-owls can come together for a post club/bar wind-down featuring the full menu, extra nighttime treats, taxi ordering service and assorted entertainment in a welcoming atmosphere.

Nexus Art Café is on Dale Street (opposite Vinyl Exchange), Manchester, M1 1JW, email: info@nexusartcafe.com, telephone: 0161 2360100, www.nexusartcafe.com.

Focus on.... Stuff for free and very cheap

The following are a few places to look for support in kind, free and cheap services and other alternatives to grants. For more information please contact morag.rose@gmcvo.org.uk or for local contacts try your local CVS.

In Kind Direct re-distributes new goods donated by some of Britain's best-known manufacturers and retailers to voluntary organisations. Subscription is free but you need to pay a delivery charge on your order – this will be much cheaper than the goods. A very wide range of items are available from computers to cleaning products. You must use them in your work or give free to your beneficiaries. <http://www.inkinddirect.org/>

Business in the Community have several projects which can benefit groups. Pro-help matches professional firms with community organisations who need support in fields such as marketing, legal advice, architecture, business planning and accountancy and offers free support. Manchester Cares is an employee volunteering scheme that matches teams volunteers to projects that can use them. http://www.bitc.org.uk/north_west/programmes/community_impact/index.html

The Cranfield Trust provides free management consultancy for charities and social enterprise groups. Highly skilled managers volunteer to provide help on topics such as strategic and business planning, managing change, cost analysis and control and human resources.
http://www.cranfieldtrust.org/index.php?plDref=101-home_page

Manchester Free Software promote the use of free software, provide a friendly and accessible community for individuals in Manchester to learn about and discuss free software, with particular emphasis on ethical considerations and are a source of information regarding free software to individuals and organisations in Manchester. <http://manchester.fsuk.org/blog/about/>

Unwanted Treasure Freecycle and Realcycle both match people who have things they want to get rid of with people who can use them. There are groups throughout Greater Manchester see <http://www.freecycle.org.uk> and <http://www.realcycle.co.uk/> and perhaps you can save money at the same time as reducing landfill.

Grumpy Greater Manchester Play Resource Unit has a 'waste warehouse' which is open to all artists, carers, parents, playworkers, students, voluntary, non-voluntary groups, schools or everyone and anyone who works with or cares for children and young people. It is full of recycled materials that are available very cheaply and can be used for creative fun and learning, <http://www.grumpy.org.uk>, tel: 0161 223 9730.

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 please contact Ian Taylor on 0161 277 1040, 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.