



Policy E-Alert October 2008

News:

Local Welfare solutions proposed

The Welfare Reform Green Paper has recently been published by the Department for Work and Pensions aiming to give local authorities more powers to tackle long-term unemployment. In the proposals, incapacity benefit will be scrapped by 2013 and replaced with an Employment and Support Allowance, for those who have a medical condition that prevents them from working. The long-term unemployed will be expected to participate in "work for benefits" schemes, such as taking part in community work or skills training.

For more information visit the website

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/>

Government Departments to make three year funding the norm for Third Sector Organisations

Charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises all stand to benefit from new guidance published by the Government, ensuring every Whitehall department offers three year funding to third sector organisations in all but exceptional cases. The guidance document, published jointly by the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) in the Cabinet Office and the Treasury, sends a clear message across Government that, where appropriate, funding for the third sector must be for a minimum of three years.

For more information visit the website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/080903_funding.aspx

Grassroots Grants distributors announced

The Government has appointed 63 local organisations across the UK to distribute grants and set up endowment funds as part of its £130m Grassroots Grants programme. Under the Grassroots Grants programme,

which runs from 2008 to 2011, local funders will award grants of £250 to £5,000 over the three years to local projects and community groups. The programme, funded by the Office of the Third Sector and administered by the Community Development Foundation, is divided into £80m of direct funding grants and a £50m endowment scheme.

For more information visit the website:

<http://www.communityfoundation.org.uk/ourfunds/grassrootsgrants/index.php>

New Code of Practice on Consultation

The Government has recently published a new Code of Practice on Consultation. The Code is based on the results of a review of Government consultations in 2007 involving many people who regularly respond to Government consultations. The new Code will apply from November 2008 to all central Government departments' formal, written consultation exercises. Other public sector organisations are invited to sign up to the Code. A list of organisations adopting the Code will be published in November '08.

For more information visit the website:

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/bre/policy/scrutinising-new-regulations/reviewing-consultation-process/page44083.html>

Consultations and Events:

Empowerment and poverty "Thinking Spaces"

Also a reminder that Urban Forum are running 'Thinking Spaces' to focus on the Empowerment White Paper and how it might address issues relating to poverty. The events are running in Manchester on 29th September and Birmingham on October 17th. For more information go to:

<http://www.urbanforum.org.uk/events/index.html>

"Transforming Places, Changing Lives: A Framework for Regeneration"

Following the Empowerment White Paper in the summer, a framework and consultation have been released to focus on 'real-life' measures to improve people's lives rather than bricks and mortar targets for regeneration funding. In particular, the three priority outcomes are: improved economic performance in deprived areas; improved rates of work and enterprise in

deprived areas, and creating sustainable places where people can work and live, and businesses want to invest. The consultation runs until October 31st.

For more information visit the website.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/transformingplaces>

The Future of the Compact

A consultation on the future of the Compact and the role of the Commission for the Compact is now underway. The three key questions in the discussion document are: what sort of agreement should the Compact be in the future? How could the form and content of the Compact be enhanced to make it fit for the future? And how could the Commission for the Compact change to ensure better implementation of the Compact? The consultation runs until Monday 10 November 2008.

For more information visit the website:

<http://www.thecompact.org.uk/information/100019/101784/commissionissuesdiscussionpaperonthecompactsfuture/>

NHS Constitution

The NHS is consulting on its constitution, which establishes the principles and values for the NHS in England. All Third Sector providers supplying NHS services will be required by law to take account of this Constitution in their decisions and actions. The consultation ends on 17th October.

To find out more about the consultation and to download the documents go here:

<http://digbig.com/4xqmj>

National Survey of Third Sector Organisations

Organisations across England are being invited by the Office of the Third Sector to take part in the first National Survey of Third Sector Organisations. The survey will measure the quality of support in every local authority in England. Questionnaires were sent out in mid-September.

To participate, go here:

<http://www.nstso.com/>

Have your say on the East Midlands Regional Plan

The consultation on the Proposed Changes to the East Midlands Regional Plan which started on 22 July will end at 5.00pm on Friday 17 October. There are therefore only a few days left to submit comments.

For more information, and to make comments, visit the website:

<http://goem-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>

Draft Immigration and Citizenship Bill

The Bill has been published in draft to allow Parliament and public to provide their views on our plans before the final Bill is introduced.

To find out more and comment, go here:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/immigrationandcitizenshipbill/>

Publications:

Cohesion Delivery Framework: Overview

Good practice and guidance has recently been published by Communities and Local Government. The guidance contains advice to local cohesion practitioners to help them understand the concept of cohesion, map their local communities to identify possible cohesion issues and develop action plans to address those challenges; and it identifies other resources available to practitioners.

For more information, go here:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/cohesiondeliveryframework>

Preventing violent extremism: next step for communities

Communities Secretary Hazel Blears recently announced a package of measures responding to calls from Muslim communities to support the promotion of citizenship and shared values. The report outlines plans to: establish a new independent board of academic and theological experts; citizenship teaching in mosque schools; set up a group of new community leaders to advise on local responses to tackling extremism, and establish a Local Delivery Advisory Group.

For more information, go here:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/communities/898008>

Believing in Local Action

A report highlighting seven case studies where faith organisations and Local Infrastructure Organisations (LIOs) are working effectively together has recently been published the Church Urban Fund and NAVCA.

For more information go here:

<http://www.navca.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4DC56997-1528-43EB-9335-E2C858355EBE/0/Believinginlocalaction.pdf>

Principles of Representation: A framework for effective third sector participation in Local Strategic Partnerships

This document is a framework to assist the third sector to determine how best to organise its involvement in the local strategic partnership (LSP) based on the experiences of others. It will help LSPs to decide how they might support effective third sector involvement in the LSP. It should also enable all parties to reach an understanding of what they might contribute to the development of an inclusive approach that will widen and deepen the involvement of local third sector groups and through them empower local communities to exert appropriate influence over local decision-making.

For more information and application visit the website.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/923543>

The contribution of Community Development to local governance and democracy

To get to grips with the government's vision of reviving local democracy through empowered communities, a study has been published by the Community Development Foundation entitled "Community Development Challenge: Democracy" to demonstrate how community development enhances the quality of local governance and democracy. In particular the study covers: preparing and supporting people within communities for engagement; preparing and supporting public authorities for engaging communities, and ensuring that engagement is empowering for the people who get involved.

For more information and application visit the website.

http://www.cdf.org.uk/POOLED/articles/bf_docart/view.asp?Q=bf_docart_303847

Empowerment in Action: Accountability - Consultation - Leadership

If the summer's passed you by and you've not had a chance to read the Empowerment White Paper and associated documents you can have a quick look at Hazel Blears' speech, delivered after the White Paper release, entitled "empowerment in action".

For more information, go to:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/empowermentinaction>

Searching for the Impact of Empowerment

Following the Community Empowerment White Paper outlining how people will be given more control over local decision-making, the Social Research institute – Ipsos Mori have released a report examining the relative importance of involvement in local activities and feelings of influence on key outcomes. The report concludes that, while community empowerment is no guarantee of success, the evidence suggests that making sure people feel they have influence over local decisions is important.

For more information visit the website

<http://www.ipsos-mori.com/assets/pdfs/searching%20for%20the%20impact%20of%20empowerment%20310708.pdf>

Having a greater say in how the Working Neighbourhood Fund is spent

New Start Online reports on how local people will have a say on the spending of the 1.5bn WNF. The government's proposal was included in a national strategy launched this week alongside 12 participatory budgeting pilots, also known as community kitties. No decisions have been made yet on exactly how priorities will be decided by local people but guidance is expected soon.

For more information visit the website

<http://www.newstartmag.co.uk/news/article/local-people-to-get-more-say-over-how-wnf-is-spent>

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please email Clare at policy@voice-em.org.uk



Clare Anopa
BME Policy Analyst

Voice East Midlands
66 Carlton Road

Nottingham
NG3 2AP

t. 0115 950 8820

f. 0115 950 9232

www.voice-em.org.uk

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