

Welcome to **June's** edition of the VODA E-Newsletter. In this edition:

- What the Government's Coalition Agreement means for the voluntary and community sector?
- Vote for an inspirational learner you know for the Adult Learners' Awards
- VODA's Autumn Training Programme Announced
- Funding Opportunities, and lots more...

## VODA News



### VODA's Autumn Training Programme Announced

Due to the success of our Spring 2010 Training Programme, we have announced details of our Autumn Programme early, in order to give you longer to book your place. The programme begins in September and contains a wide range of **free and**

**low-cost** courses in the following categories: Funding and Finance Courses, IT Courses, Organisational Development, Personal Development and our usual series of Free Volunteering Courses. [Download a programme poster](#) or book your place on any of our courses [online here](#). You can also request a poster or book your place by telephoning VODA on 0191 200 8555.

### VODA Launches New Toolkit: Procurement Factfile



On June 3, VODA and North Tyneside Council held a joint event around Making Your Organisation More Sustainable. The event saw the launch of VODA's brand new resource for voluntary and community groups who are interested in tendering for contracts, our Procurement Factfile. The Factfile contains all the information organisations may need including: the national and local procurement perspectives; the procurement process; two local case studies; a glossary of terms and useful resources. The packs are **free** and can be requested by telephoning VODA's Development Team on 0191 200 8563 or email [development@voda.org.uk](mailto:development@voda.org.uk).

### VODA Finance Forum Meeting: Financial Policies and Procedures

The next meeting of VODA's Finance Forum will take place at 5.30pm on Tuesday 29 June at The Shiremoor Centre. The topic of discussion will be Financial Policies and Procedures, and the meeting is open to treasurers, finance officers or anyone else responsible for their group or organisation's monetary matters. [Read more here](#) or to book your place email [katie.knowles@voda.org.uk](mailto:katie.knowles@voda.org.uk) or telephone 0191 200 8555.

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### **Social Capital Training: September Date Added**

A new date has been added to VODA's series of three-day Social Capital Training programme. The course will now also run on Wednesdays 8, 15 and 22 September. Social Capital is the concept that strengthening relationships between individuals and communities can have real economic and social value. The course will look at topics including: Community Development work; how to involve people; feedback and listening skills and influencing public sector organisations. [Read more or book your place online here](#), or telephone 0191 200 8555 for more information.

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### **VODA Volunteer Centre: Lights, Camera, Community Action Showcase Event**

On Friday 8 July 2010, VODA is holding a special event to showcase a series of short animations produced by local young people. The films explore the values that young people feel are important to a cohesive community and a discussion on the issues raised will follow. [Read more here](#) or to book your place telephone Robin Fry on 0191 200 8568 or email [robin.fry@voda.org.uk](mailto:robin.fry@voda.org.uk)

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### **Tender Opportunity: Children's Workforce Training Delivery**

VODA seeks to appoint an appropriate organisation or individual to design and deliver four training modules for the Children and Young People's VCS Workforce (i.e. people in the voluntary and community sector who work with children and young people). There will be 12 iterations of each training model, so 48 in total - dates and locations to be agreed with VODA. **Contract Value = £7,200.** For more information email [simon.irwin@voda.org.uk](mailto:simon.irwin@voda.org.uk) or telephone him on 0191 200 8560 for full tender details.

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### **Pentagon Partnership Business Plus Event: The Third Sector and European Funding**

July's Business Plus event is delivered in partnership with Riverside Consulting CIC, an organisation that supports third sector organisations to access European

funding. The event takes place on Thursday 1 July at the Lyndhurst Centre in Gateshead between 12noon and 2pm, with lunch and networking opportunities provided. Come along to hear about the range and type of European funding available and the support that Riverside Consulting and other organisations can provide. [Book your place here](#) or for more information contact Jon Goodwin on 0191 200 8516 or email [jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk](mailto:jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk)

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### **Trustee Network: How Do You Want it to Work?**

VODA holds regular meetings for Trustees and others involved in governing organisations and groups. The meetings have been taking place for the last two years on a quarterly basis covering a range of relevant themes and topics, but we'd like to find out how they're working for you. We've devised a short survey, which can be [taken here](#), to find out your views on the format, function and future plans of the network. If you have any questions about the survey or the Trustee Network in general email [katie.knowles@voda.org.uk](mailto:katie.knowles@voda.org.uk) or telephone 0191 200 8563.

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## **National and Sector News**

### **What the Coalition Agreement Means for the Voluntary and Community Sector**

The new Government published its [full coalition agreement](#) on 20 May 2010 in which it outlines its programme for partnership working. There are many points of interest to the voluntary and community sector - look out for a full summary in the July edition of VODA News. In the meantime, the East of England Local Government Association has published [a bulletin](#) that gives an 'at a glance' summary of the social issues included in the agreement. [Read more here.](#)

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### **Nick Hurd and the Office for Civil Society**



The Government has announced the appointment of Nick Hurd as Minister for Civil Society within the Cabinet Office, and the replacement of the Office of the Third Sector with an Office for Civil Society. The new office will act as 'champion for the voluntary sector in the heart of government' and lead on the

Government's 'Big Society' agenda. [Read NCVO's coverage of the announcements here.](#)

Hurd has already confirmed the end of the Futurebuilders programme, plus a review of Capacitybuilders and national volunteering organisation v. [Read more here.](#)

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## Vetting and Barring Scheme Halted

The Vetting and Barring Scheme, under which staff and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults would have to be registered to be checked by the Independent Safeguarding Authority, has been halted by the government. Voluntary registration was due to begin on July 26 but the Home Office has announced that a remodel will take place. [Read more here.](#) VODA will also carry a feature about this in the July edition of VODA News.

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### Knighthood for Chief Executive of NCVO

Stuart Etherington, the Chief Executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, has been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Etherington, who has led NCVO since 1994 received the honour for 'services to the third sector.' [Read more here.](#)

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## Help Mencap Change the NHS



As part of Learning Disability Week (21-27 June) Mencap are urging people to ask their local MPs to attend the [Getting it Right Parliamentary Launch](#) and hear about the charter that can help make healthcare equal for all.

People with a learning disability are 58 times more likely to die before their 50th birthday than other people. Mencap wants the NHS to provide a high standard of treatment and to value the lives of all people with a learning disability. It is asking all health authorities to sign up to the Getting It Right charter, which sets out nine actions to make sure this happens. For more information on the charter or the campaign visit [Mencap's website](#). See Local News for details of LDF's event.

## Local News

### North Tyneside Adult Learners' Awards - Deadline Extended



North Tyneside Council

Following a number of requests, the deadline for entries to this year's Adult Learners' Awards has been extended until 5pm on **Wednesday 30 June**. Nominations can be made in a number of categories including Individual Learner of the Year, Family Learner of the Year and Apprentice of the Year. Full guidance notes and nomination forms can be downloaded from [VODA's website here](#). For more information telephone Deirdre Collingwood on 0191 643 8831.

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## **Places for Everyone: Capital Development Workshop**

Places for Everyone are holding a Capital Development workshop on **Tuesday 13 July** at The Greenhouse in Stanley between 10am and 4.30pm. The workshop is aimed at organisations interested in undertaking a building project and is a great way to learn about what a capital development project entails. [Download the poster](#) for full information, telephone Anne-Maria on 0191 261 6009 or [visit the website](#).

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## **Procurement Seminars for North East Suppliers**

A series of support seminars, workshops, masterclasses and one-to-one support is being offered free to all regional suppliers of services to the public sector in the North East. The events take place on Tuesday 22 June at Gosforth Racecourse in Newcastle and Wednesday 23 June at The Wynyard Rooms in Billingham (both between 8.45am and 11.45am). The seminars offer top tips and secrets on how to maximise your tendering potential, plus how to identify the key elements of winning a bid. For more information and to book your place [visit the website](#).

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## **FREE Basic Word Processing Course for Carers**

The YMCA in North Shields is running a series of free basic word processing courses for carers each Thursday of June and July between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Participants will learn how to use a mouse, copy and paste, change font sizes, design posters and use the internet. For more information or to book your place contact Jane on 0191 257 5434 ext 103.

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## **Learning Disability Week Event**

Learning Disability Federation (LDF) are organising a Festival of Sports, Health and Wellbeing on Wednesday 23 June at The Parks Leisure Centre in North Shields. Taking place from 10am to 7pm the event will feature a host of information and advice for people with learning disabilities and their families and carers, plus sports, activities and the opportunity to sign up to the Getting it Right charter. For more information telephone LDF on 0191 200 1100.

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## **The Big Lunch 2010**



This year's Big Lunch event takes place on Sunday 18 July and is an opportunity for communities, neighbours,

friends and families to enjoy lunch together on one special day. Last year more than 8,000 lunches took place involving almost 1 million people. If you are interested in either attending or organising a Big Lunch, [visit the website](#), telephone 0845 850 8181 or email [info@thebiglunch.com](mailto:info@thebiglunch.com)

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### **Job Opportunity: Female Administrator, Tyneside Rape Crisis Centre (TRCC)**

#### **25.5 hours per week / £19,126 pro rata + pension**

TRCC is looking to appoint a part-time female administrator. The successful candidate will have extensive experience of administrative work, office systems and using different computer packages, plus an interest in working for a women's organisation. Deadline for applications is 12noon on Monday 28 June.

Applications can be downloaded from the [website here](#) or by sending a 66p SAE to TRCC, Third Floor, Bolbec Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1SE.

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### **Parentalk: Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking**

Parentalk is holding an open information event for all parents and carers of children and teens on the subject of drugs, alcohol and smoking. Taking place on Monday 21 June between 7pm and 9pm at Whitley Bay Baptist Church, the event will feature a panel of experts, presentations and a Q&A session. For more information telephone 07905 674952 or email [ckaine@wbbc.org.uk](mailto:ckaine@wbbc.org.uk)

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### **One World Food Festival**

Whitley Bay High School is holding this community event on Sunday 20 June between 12pm and 3pm. The festival will take place at the school and feature foods from around the world, plus family entertainment, arts and crafts, live music, plant sale, sports for all the family and lots more. [Download the poster](#) or for more information telephone 0191 200 8800 or email [s.lively@whitley.n-tyneside.sch.uk](mailto:s.lively@whitley.n-tyneside.sch.uk) or [d.harvey@whitley.n-tyneside.sch.uk](mailto:d.harvey@whitley.n-tyneside.sch.uk)

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### **Offer for the Third Sector on Event Equipment**

Have you got an event this summer? Launch Pad is a high-tech mobile unit packed with equipment and facilities, including internet access. It's perfect for roadshows and events and can even be used as a mobile stage. The vehicle is also fully manned and is accessible for wheelchair users. Launch Pad is offering a 20% discount on its rates this summer for third sector organisations. For more information [visit the website](#), email [mary.mccann@northeastenterprisebond.org](mailto:mary.mccann@northeastenterprisebond.org) or telephone 0191 275 5059.

# Funding

## Grassroots Grants: Still Plenty to Go Round



Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland has reported that the Grassroots small grants programme is still running apace. Money is still available for small community and voluntary groups that have a turnover of less than £30,000, have been running for over a year and who have a full set of accounts.

Grants need to be used by the end of March 2011. For advice on applying for a Grassroots Grant contact VODA's Funding Advisor Sue Reed on 0191 200 8560, email [sue.reed@voda.org.uk](mailto:sue.reed@voda.org.uk) or visit the [Community Foundation's website](#).

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## Francis Maude Promises New Fund for Community Groups

Minister for the Cabinet Office Francis Maude has announced the government will set up a Communities First fund to foster the creation of community groups in deprived areas. Maude said the fund would provide start-up funding for community groups in disadvantaged parts of the country but did not say how much the fund was worth or when it would be open. [Read more here.](#)

**Look out for full funding news in July's edition of VODA's Funding Update. This is issued with VODA News and is also available to download from our website.**

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If you have any feedback, comments or problems with this newsletter, or if you would like an article included in the next edition, please email VODA's [Information Worker](#) or telephone 0191 200 8563