



Registered Charity No. 1075060 Registered Company No. 3703221

This is the April email bulletin produced by VODA. This bulletin will not replace our newsletters, it is simply another method of getting information out to the sector quickly. It may include information on local news, events, training, funding or any issues that are relevant at that particular time.

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News

Budget 2008

The 2008 Budget statement included the good news that Gift Aid will be paid at a transitional rate of 22% for the next three years. This equates to around £100m to the sector each year. Also announced was new guidance explaining how local infrastructure organisations – such as VODA – can help local groups to use Gift Aid tax advantages, even though they are not registered charities.

① The guidelines can be downloaded by [clicking here](#), and other Budget news relevant to the sector can be downloaded from the Cabinet Office website by [clicking here](#).

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New Commissioner for The Compact

Sir Bert Massie has been announced as the new Commissioner for The Compact, the agreement defining Government's responsibilities in dealing with charities and voluntary groups. Massie has stated he will be pushing for greater public sector compliance with the Compact and is delighted by MP Phil Hope's pledge to increase investment in the commission to £6million.

① For more information on Massie and his new role [click here](#).

Government Responds to Manifesto For Change

The Office of the Third Sector has published the Government's response to Manifesto for Change, the Commission on the Future of Volunteering report. In it the Government accepts the majority of the Commission's recommendations and backs this up with £6million of new investment.

① To read the full report [click here](#).

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New Guidance for Professional Charity Fundraisers

The Cabinet Office has also published draft guidance to help professional fundraisers and retailers comply with new laws. From April 1, those who are paid to raise money for charity will be required to tell potential donors upfront how much of each donation will go to charity and what proportion goes towards their own wage.

① To read the guidance and to comment on it [click here](#).

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Baroness Neuberger Reviews Volunteering in the Public Services

Baroness Julia Neuberger, the Government's independent volunteering champion, has published her report on volunteering in the public services. In it she finds much potential to expand volunteering in health and social care and makes several recommendations on how to achieve this.

① To read the report [click here](#).

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It's An Honour!

Do you know someone who deserves a medal? A local hero in your community who spends their time helping others or raising money for charity? If so, then why not nominate them for Royal recognition? In this year's Honours List 82% of OBEs and MBEs were awarded to "ordinary" people who had done charitable or voluntary service. Now the Government is looking for help identifying and rewarding these individuals, so to find out how to nominate such a person:

① Telephone 0207 276 2777, visit www.honours.gov.uk or email ceremonial@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

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NCVO Annual Conference

The keynote speeches from NCVO's Annual Conference are now available to view online, including those by MPs Ed Milliband and Oliver Letwin.

① To read the speeches [click here](#).

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UK Civil Society Almanac 2008

Recently published by NCVO, this all-new almanac gives a comprehensive overview of the third sector across the whole of the UK. The publication provides a wealth of information such as where organisations get their money from, how money is being spent and the changing nature of volunteering.

① To order a copy [click here](#).

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My Charity Page

www.mycharitypage.com is a new social networking website for fundraisers that allows users to accept online donations for their fundraising activity. It's free for charities to register and already has more than 2000 members.

① For more information on how to register telephone 0800 567 7102, email info@mycharitypage.com or visit www.mycharitypage.com/registration

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Local News

New ICT Helpline Launched

VODA is one of four organisations hosting the Circuit Riders North East project, which is co-ordinated by VONNE. This new, exciting scheme aims to help groups who are wrestling with the complexities of ICT strategies, budgets and maintenance, and assist with day-to-day computing and internet use. As part of Circuit Riders, VODA's ICT project has launched a new telephone helpline for organisations experiencing non-emergency technical problems. Open between 9am and 11am, Monday to Thursday, the number to call is **07875 935 148***. VODA's ICT Project will also be organising a range of full and half-day workshops looking at imaginative ways that the voluntary organisations can use ICT. Details of these will be announced soon – look out for more information in the next VODA News.

① For more information visit VONNE's [Circuit Riders](#) page or contact Jane Nesbitt on 0191 200 8565 or email jane.nesbitt@voda.org.uk

* Calls are charged at your telephone service provider's mobile rates for Orange. If calls are likely to be lengthy, an alternate form of communication can be arranged.

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Adult Learners' Week (May 17 - 23)

1. Do you know someone who has overcome difficulties to achieve a national test or learn a new skill? Is there a group out there who are proud of their learning achievements and who deserve recognition? If so, then why not nominate them for an Adult Learners' Week Award? The deadline for application is **Friday 18 April** and winners will be announced at a ceremony during Adult Learners' Week.

① For more information and a nomination form telephone Margaret Chambers on 07855 852068 or email margaret.chambers@northtyneside.gov.uk

2. Are you looking to do something new? Learn new skills? Improve your prospects? Also as part of Adult Learners' Week, a New Opportunities Fair is being held for adults throughout North Tyneside who are looking to give learning a go or get back in to learning after a long time. The fair takes place on **Tuesday 20 May** at Burnside Business & Enterprise College in Wallsend between 2pm and 7.30pm.

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Stonham Tenant Support Service – North of Tyne

Stonham is the North of Tyne Tenant Support Service providing practical help, advice, advocacy and general support to tenants in Newcastle and North Tyneside. Available to anyone aged between 16 and 65 who may be experiencing issues affecting their tenancies, the service currently has capacity to accept new referrals.

① For more information or a referral form telephone 0191 260 6100, fax 0191 260 6110 or write to Stonham, Tenant Support Service, Tyneside Foyer, 114 Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4AQ.

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Linkskill Centre Coffee Mornings

The Linkskill Centre in North Shields is hosting regular themed coffee mornings on the last Saturday of every month. This month's event will focus on Art Displays and Workshops and takes place on **Saturday 26 April** from 10am.

① For more information telephone 0191 257 8000 or visit www.linskill.co.uk

Trustees Wanted!

New Prospects Association provides support services to people with learning disabilities in North Tyneside, Newcastle and Northumberland. It is currently seeking board members who have experience or expertise in any of the following areas: human resources, marketing, finance, administrations, social care, community involvement and law.

① For more information contact chief executive Ellen Vick on 0191 251 7737.

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National Events

Obesity Strategy Seminar

This cross-cutting seminar on tackling obesity and how to most effectively implement the government's Obesity Strategy is taking place on **Monday 21 April** at the Royal Commonwealth Society in London. Featuring a number of guest speakers and workshops, the seminar will explore sustainable partnership approaches to food, diet and exercise through health, education, local government and industry action.

① For more information or to book a place [click here](#) or telephone 01422 845004.

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ACEVO North Conference

Aimed at third sector leaders from across the North of England, Acevo's North Conference 2008 takes place on **Thursday 24 April** in Manchester. Themes to be explored include strategic planning, setting and implementing long-term goals, and responding to threats and opportunities.

① For more information or to book a place telephone 0845 345 8481, email events@acevo.org.uk or visit www.acevo.org.uk/events

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Professional Fundraising Conference

Professional Fundraising Magazine is offering an early bird discount of £50 for those who book up for its annual conference before **Saturday 19 April**. The conference, which takes place in London on **Wednesday 21 May**, is divided in to three strands – Trusts, Trading and Voluntary Income – and features a host of guest speakers and an awards ceremony.

① For more information or to book a place telephone 020 7819 1200 or visit www.pfconference.co.uk

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Local Events

Inspiration and Aspiration – Making Diversity Work

There are a **few** spaces available for North Tyneside Community Network's Diversity event. Taking place on **Wednesday 2 April** at Wallsend Memorial Hall from 5.30pm to 8.30pm, the event aims to develop practical ideas to achieve a more cohesive community and to celebrate diversity through music, food and dance.

① For more information or to book a place contact Anita Sarkar on 0191 200 8561 or email anita.sarka@voda.org.uk

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Touching the Void: Commissioners and Providers Learning from Each Other

NCVCCO North East is providing an important workshop offering commissioners and voluntary sector providers of children's services an opportunity to discuss the issues facing them both. The event takes place on **Thursday 3 April** at the Government Office for the North East, Citygate,

Newcastle upon Tyne, between 9am and 3.30pm.

① For more information and to book a place telephone 0191 240 4800 or email

Lesley.lee@barnados.org.uk

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Leadership and Governance North East

Aimed at Third Sector leaders including chief executives, senior staff and board members, this event takes place on **Thursday 3 April** at the Assembly Rooms, Newcastle, between 9.30am and 4.30pm. Guest speakers are Professor Fred Robinson from Durham University and Mike Worthington, Chair of NE Leadership Strategy Committee. Places cost £20 and a bursary scheme is available from VONNE.

① For more information or to book a place [click here](#) or telephone 01491 571 454, ext. 2184.

For information on the bursary scheme, email Lesley.martin@vonne.org.uk or telephone 0191 233 2000.

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Folk And Fun

North Tyneside Disability Forum (NTDF) is hosting a speaker meeting with song at The Shiremoor Centre on **Friday 4 April**. Performers Megan, Dave and Fred will be playing a selection of folk songs between noon and 2pm, and refreshments will be provided.

① For more information contact NTDF on 0191 200 8570, email info@ntdf.co.uk or visit

www.ntdf.co.uk

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St Paul's Health Open Day

On **Saturday 12 April** St Paul's Community Centre, Willington Quay, is holding an open day promoting Health & Well-Being. As well as information from organisations including Age Concern and North Tyneside Carer's Centre, there will also be a Sea Cadets demo, photographic exhibition and a vegetable bag scheme. The event runs from noon to 4pm and is open to everyone.

① For more information telephone 0191 280 2594.

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How Do We Solve A Problem Like... Teenage Pregnancy?

Taking place on **Thursday 24 April** at the Langdale Centre, this event will be based on the latest national and local data around teenage pregnancy. Featuring presentations by experts in the field, it will help participants to gain an understanding of the key actions required to further improve the sexual health of young people in North Tyneside and the opportunity to network with colleagues.

① For more information or to book a place contact Anne Tierney on 0191 297 0441 or email

anne.tierney@nhs.net

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West Moor Community Centre – One Year Anniversary

West Moor Residents Association is celebrating the first anniversary of its new Community Centre on **Saturday 16 April** between 2pm and 4pm. North Tyneside Elected Mayor John Harrison will be in attendance, as will all of the funders who have helped the group raise funds and make the centre the success it is.

① For more information telephone 216 2005.

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Healthy, Wealthy & Wise

Bookings are now being taken for the high-profile Healthy, Wealthy & Wise Conference, which is taking place on **Monday 23 June** in Newcastle, with social capital expert Robert Putnam. There are early bird discounts of £50 for those who book before **Wednesday 30 April**.

① For more information on the conference [click here](#) or telephone 0191 222 0925.

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Training

VODA's Training Programme

1. There are still places available on VODA's courses for April and May:

Presenting with PowerPoint (Wednesday 2 April)

Cultural Awareness (Tuesday 13 May)

Revving Up For Revenue (Tuesday 20 May)

All courses take place between 9.30am and 3.30pm and are charged on a sliding scale up to £75. A bursary scheme available.

① For more information [click here](#) or contact VODA on 0191 200 8555 or visit www.voda.org.uk

2. VODA is also providing the following additional courses:

Risk Assessment: Limiting your Liability (Thursday 26 June)

Balancing The Books four-day course (Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4, Tuesday 10 & Wednesday 11 June)

Fundraising Made Easy (Tuesday 1 July)

① For more information on these courses please see the attached posters or contact VODA on 0191 200 8555.

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Local Area Agreements – Brave New World?

Part of a national programme of events, this half-day seminar on local area agreements (LAA) takes place on **Thursday 10 April** at The Assembly Rooms, Newcastle. Aimed at organisations that receive Supporting People funding, the event will include an understanding of what LAAs are, how they work and an understanding of the relationships between LAAs and Supporting People. Places cost £75 per person, including lunch.

① For more information or to book a place [click here](#), telephone 0121 707 7766/8881 or email training@supportsolutions.co.uk

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Project North East (PNE) – One Day Workshops

PNE's spring / summer programme of 'Implementing Best Practice' workshops is now underway. Courses include Supporting, Supervising and Rewarding Staff (April 17) and Complying with Employment Law (June 19) and are all priced at £105 + VAT.

① For more information or to book a place telephone 0191 261 6009 or email sector@pne.org

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Tyne Rivers Trust

Tyne Rivers Trust is offering training on becoming a RiverWatch Monitor to help monitor fly life and invertebrate populations in the Tyne and its tributaries. The two one-day seminars take place on **Saturday 26** and **Sunday 27 April** at Tyne Riverside Park in Prudhoe at a cost of £40 per person.

① For more information or to book a place call 01434 611817 or visit www.tyneriverstrust.org

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Stepping Into Management

Are you the best manager you could be? Could you find new and better ways to manage people more effectively and effortlessly? Taking place at venues across the country, this valuable seminar shows delegates how to unlock and enhance their management style. The events include practical techniques, tips and strategies and management myths and are priced at £119.

① For more details or to book a place telephone Britain in Business on 0207 183 0050 quoting reference SIM/0312/V.

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Voluntary Sector Studies

The Certificate in Interpersonal Skills for Volunteers is a part-time distance learning course aimed at the voluntary and not-for-profit sectors. The fully accredited course will improve learners' interpersonal skills and can lead to a BA Degree in Voluntary Sector Studies from the University of Wales. There are monthly start dates and the course is currently available free of charge to UK residents who do not hold a degree or higher qualification.

① For more information contact Matthew Scott on 01570 424785 or visit www.volstudy.ac.uk

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Funding

Futurebuilders England £215m Fund

Futurebuilders, the government-backed investment fund for the Third Sector, has opened its £215m fund from today (April 1). Offering loans-based investment packages, Futurebuilders provides flexible finance to organisations that are delivering public services or want to start contracting with public bodies.

① For more information telephone 0191 261 5200 or visit www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk

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Northern Rock Foundation Announces £1m Grants

Fifteen organisations across North East England and Cumbria will receive grants totalling more than £1m in the Foundation's first grant rounds of 2008. Among the recipients are a rape crisis centre, a project that uses arts and drama to improve the lives of older people and an IT academy. The Foundation's Trustees have also decided to increase their grants budget by at least £4m this year, with further details to be announced later this month.

① For more information [click here](#).

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BBC Children In Need Introduce New Regional Contacts

Elaine James and David Carnaffan have been introduced as the new BBC Children In Need contacts for the North Of England.

① For more information visit www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/

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I if you would like any information to be included in our next bulletin, or wish to make a comment on this Bulletin, please email amy.rudd@voda.org.uk

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