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This is the **October** 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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National and Sector News

1. Gordon Brown Speaks to the Sector...

NCVO, the umbrella body for the voluntary sector in England, hosted Prime Minister Gordon Brown's first major speech of the political season on Monday 3 September. The speech, which outlined a 'new kind of politics' and the role we can all play in engaging the democratic process, shaping public policy and campaigning for change, can now be read on NCVO's website:

① <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/press/speeches/?id=6292>

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2. ...As does the Opposition

The outcomes of NAVCA's annual conference and AGM, held on 11 and 12 September, can now be read on the organisation's website. This includes details of Ian Duncan Smith's keynote speech, Breaking the Exclusion Cycle:

① <http://www.navca.org.uk/events/pastevents/conference07.htm>

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3. New Form for Charity Registration

A new streamlined application form for charities wishing to register with the Charity Commission will appear on 1 October, and the old style won't be accepted after Friday 30 November.

① <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/registration/newregform.asp>

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4. Programmes Considered for ChangeUp

Following Capacitybuilders' announcement of its plans to simplify and streamline the

provision of National Support Services, a call for expressions of interest for the delivery of the nine priority work streams has now been published. For more information and to register visit:

① www.digbig.com/4tqtn

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5. Community Assets Fund Plans

The Office of the Third Sector has published a response to its consultation on the Community Assets fund, a programme to enable community control over local assets, such as community buildings. Managed by the Big Lottery Fund, the scheme has been launched to provide grants of up to £1m to support the transfer of local authority buildings to third sector groups. For more information or to read the report visit:

① http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/consultations/closed/community_assets.asp

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6. Health & Safety for Disabled People

The Health and Safety Executive has new material around health and safety for disabled people at work, including issues of risk assessment. For more information visit:

① <http://www.hse.gov.uk/disability/index.htm>

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VODA and Local News

1. Filling The Gap: VCS Showcase

VODA's hugely successful VCS showcase event and workshop session took place on Wednesday 26 September at The White Swan Centre in Killingworth. More than 100 delegates attended the event, which looked at how the voluntary and community sector and statutory sector commissioners can work together to deliver North Tyneside's future plans. A full report of the event will follow, as will coverage in the next edition of VODA News.

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2. Positive About Disabled People

VODA has been awarded the right to use the Positive About Disabled People symbol by Jobcentre Plus, which operates the scheme. Assessed on an annual basis, the award binds VODA to a minimum standard of five commitments ensuring that disabled people who apply for vacancies at VODA are not disadvantaged by our recruitment process. If your organisation wishes to apply for the award, please contact your local Jobcentre Plus for further details.

① <http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/index.html>

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3. Survey Winner

Congratulations to Bewicke Lodge Social Fund who are the lucky winners of VODA's Is Something Missing? survey prize draw. 90 groups returned their surveys, which were designed to help identify gaps in service provision. A cheque for £50 is in the post to Bewicke Lodge Social Fund, whose name was chosen randomly by VODA Development Worker, Katie Knowles. Thank you to all who took the time to respond.

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4. Are You Leading The Way?

Do you want to form partnerships and/or bid for contracts, but not sure if you're ready? If so, then Pentagon Partnership's new toolkit, Are You Leading The Way? could offer the solution. The easy-to-use document takes organisations through '10 steps to future success,' and has been developed in consultation with the sector and piloted by 58 VCS

organisations. Priced at £30, the toolkit can be ordered by emailing:

① christine.obrien@pentagonpartnership.org.uk or by telephoning 0191 200 1405

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5. People Carrier for Sale

North Tyneside Women's Aid (NTWA) are willing to sell their people carrier, a Toyota Previa 8 seat automatic (deep red) to another charity organisation. First registered to NTWA in 2000 on an X plate, the vehicle has recently been valued at £7,500 but an offer in the region of £6,000 by another charitable organisation will be accepted. Anyone interested should contact:

① Toni or Val Fraser on 0191 200 1455 or 0191 251 3305

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6. NIWE Eating Distress Service

This confidential service provided by Northern Initiative on Women and Eating, is reminding people of its self-referral service which includes a telephone listening service, single consultations for support, information and next-step discussions, therapeutic groupwork and training and talks given to community and professional groups. To discuss any services or to find out more about volunteering opportunities contact:

① Tel 0191 221 0233 or email niwe@talk21.com or visit www.niwe.org.uk

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7. Tyne & Wear High Sheriff Awards

Organised by Community Foundation, this scheme makes annual awards to groups working with young people at risk of committing crime and anti-social behaviour. Made in recognition of the work local people do to offer young people alternatives to crime, the awards are made to voluntary and community groups and registered charities in Tyne & Wear who work with young people aged 10 to 25 years old. The deadline for application is Friday 9 November and forms can be obtained from:

① Tel: 0191 222 0945, email [kreb@communityfoundation.org.uk](mailto:krb@communityfoundation.org.uk) or visit www.communityfoundation.org.uk/ourfunds/fundss-z

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8. BA Community & Youth Studies Practice Placements

Sunderland University is looking for agencies who would be interested in providing practice placements for students from its BA Community & Youth Studies Programme, beginning in January 2008 for Level 2 students and February for Level 1. The university contributes a fee of £250 towards the students training and supervision and briefing sessions for Level 2 students take place mid-October. For more information or to register contact:

① Lyn Sisterson on 0191 515 2228, email lyn.sisterson@sunderland.ac.uk or visit <http://ldscf.sunderland.ac.uk/cywplacement/cywplacementnotice.cfm>

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9. Age Takes Centre Stage

The 12th Age Takes Centre Stage festival of North Tyneside begins today (October 1) and runs throughout the whole month, with events ranging from surfing sessions to a Last Night of the Proms concert (Wednesday 31 October). For the full festival programme visit:

① www.agetakescentrestage.org.uk

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Events: Local and National

1. Acorns' AGM

Acorns' AGM will take place on **Wednesday 28 November** at 4pm at its North Shields premises. The organisation is looking for new Management Committee members, particularly with fundraising, account or treasurer experience so for more information, including directions to the venue, and to book a place contact:

① Cath Lawson on Tel: 0191 200 6302 or email acorns@hotmail.com

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2. Black History Month Celebration Event

As part of its work to promote equality and diversity in the borough, North Tyneside Community Network and North Tyneside Council's Youth Service are hosting an event on **Tuesday 30 October**. Taking place at Wallsend Memorial Hall between 5pm and 8pm, the event will feature multicultural foods, dance and music in celebration of the achievements and contributions made by Black and Ethnic Minorities to British society. For more information contact:

① Tel: 0191 200 5384 or www.anita.sarkar@voda.org.uk

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3. Age Discrimination at Work... One Year On

This one-day conference on avoiding age discrimination and the impact of an ageing population on employers is taking place on **Thursday 4 October** at the Village Hotel and Leisure Club, Cobalt Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne. Speakers include Paul Johnstone from Muckle LLP and Richard Baker from Age Concern England. For more information or to download an application form visit:

① http://www.robertmuckle.co.uk/media/Age%20discrimination_flyer.pdf

Tel: 0191 244 2930 or email rcraig@muckle-llp.com

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4. Becoming Visible – Autumn Clinics

A series of 'area clinics' is being held across England between October and December with the purpose of helping community organisations to get started with using Community Matters' Becoming Visible programme. The North East events are taking place on: **Tuesday 6 November at Penshaw Community Centre, Sunderland** and **Wednesday 7 November at Sedgfield Community Association, County Durham**. Clinics are free but there is a cost of £8 to cover lunch and refreshments. For more information and details of how to book visit the Visible website:

① <http://www.visiblecommunities.org.uk>

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5. Are Our Streets Getting Better?

This Living Streets annual conference is taking place on **Saturday 13 October** at Middlesbrough Teaching and Learning Centre. Aimed at professionals and volunteers working with local communities, in regeneration or who have an interest in building safer, stronger and more vibrant communities, the conference is free but booking is essential. For more information or to book a place contact Cynthia Games:

① Tel: 0191 245 7326, email cynthia.games@livingstreets.org.uk or visit www.livingstreets.org.uk

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6. NIACE Conference

The NIACE (National Institute of Adult Continuing Education) conference, Inclusive Learning: Personalisation, Partnership and Progression, takes place on **Thursday 11 October** at Lakeside Conference Centre in Birmingham. The event will provide an

opportunity for those working in the further education system to discuss policy and key concepts that are influencing education and training provision and work with disabled learners. For more information or to reserve a place contact:

① Tel: 0116 204 2833, email gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk or visit www.niace.org.uk/conferences/Conferences.htm

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7. Safe and Sound? National Conference

Aimed at those working with sexually exploited children and young people, the first national conference organised in association with The National Working Group is taking place on **Wednesday 24 October**. Held at Pride Park Stadium in Derby, the event will bring together professionals working within the sector in order to share best practice and discuss key issues faced. For more information or to reserve a place contact:

① Tel: 01332 224504 or visit www.kc-jones.co.uk/safeandsound

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8. Northern Regeneration Summit 2007

This annual two-day conference takes place on **Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 October** at Manchester Central, Manchester. Featuring 52 speakers, including Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government Hazel Blears, the event aims to attract investment to realise the North's social, economic and environmental potential. For more information or to book a place visit:

① <http://www.northernregenerationsummit.com>

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9. Running with LAAs

Are you involved in getting your Local Strategic Partnership and Local Area Agreement to work and want to meet others from the voluntary sector who are involved in delivering on LAA outcomes? If so, then this NAVCA conference could be for you. Taking place on **Tuesday 30 October** at the Peepul Centre in Leicester, the conference is the first annual information exchange from Improving Local Partnerships. A brochure and booking form can be downloaded from:

① <http://www.navca.org.uk/events/runningwithlaas.htm> or Tel: 0114 289 3962 or email kate.housden@navca.org.uk

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10. NCVO Information Conference

This annual event, which is taking place on **Thursday 8 November** at Regent's Wharf in London, will look at the way organisations manage and share knowledge and information. Aimed at all those working as information practitioners in the voluntary and community sector, the conference will feature presentations, workshops and expert speakers. For more information or to book a place, visit:

① <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/events/latest/?id=6198>

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Training

1. VODA Training for October

VODA's programme of training events continues this month with:

Friday 26 October: Smart Ideas: Making the Most of an Interactive Whiteboard and

Tuesday 30 October: Monitoring and Evaluation

The courses run between 9.30am and 3.30pm and there is a bursary scheme available that may help with the cost of your place on the course. For more information or to book a place

contact Katie Knowles at VODA:

① Tel: 0191 200 8563, email bookings@voda.org.uk or visit <http://www.voda.org.uk/training.html>

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2. Making Changes at 50+

As part of the Age Concern Back on Board project, a free computing course is taking place in North Shields for people over 50, who are not currently in paid employment. A free introductory workshop session will be held on **Tuesday 10 October** at the Bradbury Centre, Saville Street West, followed by a 10-week computing course. Both are free but booking is essential. For more information or to book a place contact Sue Weighall at Age Concern:

① Tel: 0191 280 8484

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3. Strengthening Leadership and Governance – PNE Course

Project North East (PNE) have introduced a new programme providing exciting opportunity for organisations in the VCS to consider their own Leadership & Governance arrangements. The training, which is open to three key people from each organisation that are responsible for leadership and governance, begins with a short introductory session on **Tuesday 2 October** at Church House, Percy Main and continues for six monthly sessions. There is a limited amount of money available for bursaries. For more information contact:

① Brain Butcher on 0191 261 6009, email brian.butcher@pne.org or visit www.pne.org

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Funding

1. Northern Rock Foundation

In light of Northern Rock's recent publicity regarding its Bank liquidity crisis, Northern Rock Foundation is reassuring grant holders that it is fully able to meet all its existing commitments. Grant payments will be made as scheduled. For more information visit:

① http://www.nr-foundation.org.uk/important_message.html

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2. Social Enterprise Investment Fund (SEIF)

The deadline for preliminary applications to the Department of Health's SEIF, which totals £73m, is **Wednesday 31 October**. The funding provides financial support to social enterprise pathfinders and other organisations that are, or aiming to become, social enterprises delivering one or more health and/or social care services. For more information:

① http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Commissioning/Socialenterprise/DH_073426 or Tel: 020 7633 4113 or email socialenterprisefund@dh.gsi.gov.uk

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3. Funding Advisers' Support Services

A national partnership has been commissioned by the Finance Hub to research the feasibility of establishing a Funding Advice National Network in England. The first stage of this work, which is to be led by fit4funding, is to develop and consult on a feasibility study. Over 42 networks identified are expected to participate in the survey, in addition to a wide range of third sector organisations. For more information and details of the survey visit:

① <http://www.fit4funding.org.uk/> or www.financehub.org.uk

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If you would like any information to be included in our next bulletin, please contact Amy at VODA on amy.rudd@voda.org.uk

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