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Gateshead Wins Local Compact of the Year Award



The winners of this year's Compact Awards were announced at a ceremony at HM Treasury. The ceremony was run in partnership by Compact Voice and the Office for Civil Society.

The Compact Awards recognise excellent partnership working taking place between local and national government and the voluntary and community sector.

Gev Pringle, Chief Executive of GVOC and Linda Whitfield from Gateshead Council (both pictured above) collected the award from Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Civil Society, who said:

"I would like to congratulate all the winners and finalists. Local partnerships have a vital role to play in building thriving communities and the award winners really demonstrate that in the practical actions they have taken. Others should look to their impressive example."

DISCLAIMER

The information published in this mailing is, to our knowledge, accurate at the time of going to print. GVOC accepts no responsibility for any error, omission, subsequent changes, or complaint arising from, items herein. The information in this newsletter can be supplied in alternative formats upon request.

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Simon Blake, Chair of Compact Voice, said:

“The Compact Awards provide an opportunity for some of the best local partnerships to share their successes, and receive deserving recognition for the excellent work they have done. This year is no different, and the winners show the difference the Compact can make in delivering real benefits in challenging times.”

A number of awards were given on the day:

Compact Advancing Equality Award

For delivering activities which help eliminate discrimination and which promote equality of opportunity through better partnerships. **Winner: Lancashire United Against Hate**

Compact Champion of the Year

For the contribution of an individual working to embed Compact principles wherever possible, alongside promoting and supporting others to use the Compact. **Winner: Jackie Sully, Rainbow Services Essex.** Highly Commended: Ged Curran, London Borough of Merton.

Compact Impact Award

For those using the Compact to address issues arising from challenging times, and tackling adversity while maintaining or developing strong partnerships. **Winner: Merton Compact.** Highly Commended: Watford Compact.

Compact Innovation Award

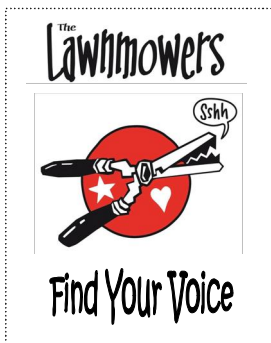
For effectively supporting the Compact with fresh ideas and a new approach. **Winner: Changing Times, Changing Roles Initiative – Wolverhampton.** Highly Commended: Dover District Compact.

Local Compact Award

For demonstrating the ongoing or long-term impact that positive partnership working can have in a local community. **Winner: Gateshead Compact.**

National Compact Award

For demonstrating how the Compact has developed better partnership working on a national scale, through new programmes, policies or practice. **Winner: Department for Communities and Local Government.**



The Lawnmowers – Find Your Voice

The Lawnmowers have launched a new singing club!

Running every Thursday evening 6pm – 8pm.

Each session costs £5.00 and will take place at Lawnmowers premises:
Swinburne House, Swinburne Street, Gateshead NE8 1AX

Contact: 0191 478 9200

Northern Rock Foundation Circuit Riders

A fully-funded source of IT advice, consultancy and practical help for voluntary and community organisations.

- Do you work for a charity or voluntary organisation?
- Is your IT letting you down?
- Would you like your IT to work better?
- Do you comply with current legislation?
- Are you planning to move or upgrade?
- Are you having trouble finding a local source of support?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then they can help. They aim to leave your organisation stronger and better able to cope with IT.

Don't wait until things go wrong. They can help you to sort out your IT and save you money. You won't have to pay a penny because the work is fully-funded by the Northern Rock Foundation.

Call them on 0191 256 5015 for more details.

A Letter from Santa

Do you know someone who would like a personal letter from Santa this Christmas?

The elves at Children North East are busy helping Santa with his post bag this Christmas. For just £3 they will send a letter from Santa to someone you know.

Just visit the Christmas shop at: <https://www.children-ne.org.uk/buy/products/christmas-shop>



HOLIDAY CLOSING TIMES

For visitors to John Haswell House

The building will be closing 12noon on Friday 23rd December 2011
Reopening 8.45am Tuesday 3rd January 2012

Crisis Skylight – Open Christmas Event

25th and 26th December 2011

This event is for those at risk of becoming homeless and those isolated from Newcastle, Gateshead and surrounding area.

Activities will include:

• Games • food • advice and information • films • podiatry • hairdressing and beauty • quiet tv space • free internet surfing and much much more.

A free pick up/drop back minibus service will be available on both days.

For more information drop in or email christmas@crisis.org.uk or call 0191 222 0622.

Local Healthwatch

GVOC acts as the host to Gateshead's Local Involvement Network (LINK). Between now and October 2012 LINK will "evolve" into Local Healthwatch, a new health and social care watchdog with more powers and responsibility than the LINK.

The philosophy will be "no decision about me without me".

Healthwatch England will be a statutory committee of the Care Quality Commission to provide leadership, guidance and support to Local Healthwatch as well as advice to the Secretary of State and the NHS Commissioning Board.

Local Healthwatch will support individuals, sign posting them to appropriate services and providing support and advocacy around the complaints procedures. It will sit on the new Health and Well Being Board.

Currently, Gateshead LINK is acting as a "pathfinder" Healthwatch, developing a model for Gateshead to help the Council when it is ready to commission the new body and to provide the Government with ideas for local Healthwatch functions.

If you want to participate in the new exciting developments in patient and public involvement Gateshead LINK wants to hear from you.

Contact Richard Jenks on 0191 478 4103 or richardjenks@gvoc.org.uk

Gateshead Awards 2011

GVOC's Chief Executive, Gev Pringle was delighted to give the award for voluntary organisation of the year to Arthritis Care Gateshead. On giving the award Gev said, "Arthritis Care is undoubtedly a deserved winner but there are also many other voluntary sector winners in Gateshead serving their communities selflessly".

The Mayor, Councillor Joe Mitchinson opened the proceedings and Bobby Moncur, Freeman of the Borough, officiated.

Syd Robson of Gateshead Harriers was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award.

Other winners were:

Jasmine West – **Young Person of the Year**

Lesley Rutter – **Volunteer of the Year**

Pippa Murray – **Carer of the Year**

Sam Little – **Sports Coach of the Year**

Charlotte Young – **Maureen Chaplin Young Sports Achiever Award**

Rutherford Deaf Football Club – **Sports Team of the Year**

Gateshead Kestrel Disability Sports Club – **Sports Club of the Year**



Sir Stuart Etherington Visits Tyneside and Teeside

GVOC organised a visit to the North East for Sir Stuart Etherington, Chief Executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and his Chair, Jo Ash. They were particularly interested in seeing how the VCS and communities have responded to the decline of the traditional industries such as coal mining and shipbuilding. The visit included projects in Middlesbrough, Wallsend and Scotswood.



GemArts wins a regional arts award for best Arts Organisation

GemArts has worked to support a vital and evolving programme of multicultural arts in Gateshead for more than a decade. Through their programme of concerts, events and festivals GemArts constantly strive to deliver work of the highest artistic quality, including providing a platform for artists of international significance, from the UK and abroad, to present their work to audiences in Gateshead and beyond.

GemArts are also committed to excellence in their participatory arts practice, particularly supporting artists working in the diversity sector, and they specialise in delivering high quality arts based projects with schools and community groups, to promote a greater understanding of people and their respective cultures. Through their efforts people from the black and minority ethnic communities, asylum seeker, refugee and wider communities have found a forum for their talents.

GemArts were nominated to win a Celebrating Diversity Award for making a difference by promoting arts within the minority ethnic and or new and emerging communities.

Vikas Kumar, Director GemArts told us "I was invited to attend the 2011 North East Diversity Awards in Cleveland on 4th November - a fantastic event organised by Culture CIC, great food, great people...evening was topped off by GemArts winning the regional arts award for best Arts Organisation.

This award is for all our staff, volunteers, board members, partners, funders, and especially the amazing communities we work with and audiences that support our work, and most importantly the brilliant creative artists, musicians and dancers that inspire us every day."

For details of all the projects, events and workshops that GemArts run please visit their website at www.gemarts.org.uk or they can be contacted on 0191 440 4124.

GVOC's Training Calendar

One Day Courses

Health and Safety	Wednesday 11 th January 2012 (£65 per person)
First Aid	Wednesday 18 th January 2012 (£65 per person)
Managing Money	Friday 27 th January 2012
Management Committee Skills	Tuesday 14 th February 2012
Minute Taking Skills	Wednesday 29 th February 2012
Train the Trainer	Wednesday 7 th March 2012
Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults	Wednesday 14 th March 2012
Safeguarding Children	Wednesday 21 st March 2012

Accredited Courses

OCN Level 2 Basic Book-keeping
OCN Level 2 Budgeting and Financial Management
Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS)
Vocational Learning Programme

**For more information on any of these courses and many more – check out our website
www.gvoc.org.uk**



Darren Thompson or Tracey Ford
Telephone: 0191 478 4103
Fax: 0870 705 8702
E-mail: capacitybuilding@gvoc.org.uk

Volunteer Centre News

Make a Difference Day



A group of volunteers from Gateshead took part in the CSV Make a Difference campaign on 26th October. Volunteers were supported by Harvest and Help, Community Links and Gateshead Supported Volunteers Programme. The volunteers helped out at Kibblesworth allotments, where they cleared a large area of shrubbery to make way for a sensory garden, which will be built for members of the public to enjoy. They also painted the fences surrounding the allotment, and cultivated the areas in which produce is grown and sold to local people.

Mayor and Mayoress of Gateshead, Councillor Joe and Mrs Jen Mitchinson, came along to show their appreciation.



GVOC also celebrated Make a Difference Day hosting a Volunteer Awards ceremony involving volunteers from Gateshead Supported Volunteers Programme, Gateshead Link, Gateshead Community Network, Gateshead Volunteer Centre and GVOC administration volunteers. The volunteers were given certificates to thank them for their contribution followed by tea and cakes.

Big Society will take 10 to 20 years to achieve, says Nick Hurd

Creating the Big Society will take ten to twenty years and will require a "massive, seismic culture change" within government and the country, Minister for Civil Society Nick Hurd said at a recent conference.

As the star attraction at a roundtable event organised by the Directory of Social Change, Nick Hurd listened to several leaders of local charities unload their frustrations about the barriers that prevent their organisations from achieving more.

Most complaints centered on commissioning and procurement processes but concerns were also raised about the lack of a level playing field with the private sector, the lack of attention paid to the "ultra-marginalised" and the difficulty of getting corporates to provide the right sort of support.

Localism agenda doesn't match reality

Lewis Herlitz, development officer at the Employment and Training Consortium, told the minister that the rhetoric of the government's localism agenda does not begin to match the reality on the ground, where government policy and procedures continue to deliver a top-down approach to local service delivery. Nick Hurd responded by saying that Government is too big and cannot listen enough but over 10 to 20 years Big Society will address this.

Source: Finance

Health Lottery may give more to charity, says its CEO

The Health Lottery has expanded the lottery market and may divert a greater percentage of its income to good causes, according to its chief executive.

In an exclusive interview with civilsociety.co.uk, the Health Lottery's CEO Martin Hall said that the lottery had made £3.6m for good causes in the first six weeks.

Concerns have been raised that the Health Lottery could divert players from the National Lottery, from which a bigger proportion of ticket sales goes to charity, but Hall said the early signs are that this is not the case.

Retailers, said Hall, have indicated that ticket sales to the National Lottery had not been negatively impacted by the new entrant. "They all say there is no negative impact at all," he said. "We're adding to the pot."

He said that criticism of the National Lottery when it launched had been similar to that of the Health Lottery, but that the entry of a new player into the market raises the profile of lotteries generally.

But Camelot, which operates the National Lottery, is not convinced of the claims that the Health Lottery is expanding the market, noting that it has not released any sales data that refers to the period since the new lottery has been in operation. A spokeswoman for Camelot said that it would be difficult to attribute any spike to the new player because during the period there have been large prize draws which often bring non-regular lottery players into the game.

Camelot also confirmed that it has complained to the Gambling Commission about the Health Lottery, believing that it is not acting as a society lottery.

Source: Fundraising, Civil Society

Sector wins VAT exemption on shared services

The government has confirmed it will introduce the long-awaited VAT exemption for civil society organisations that wish to share back-office services.

Confirmation of the exemption is contained in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement Document published today. It removes an additional VAT charge which can arise when organisations such as charities collaborate.

The exemption will apply to "services shared between VAT exempt bodies, including charities and universities".

Charity Finance Directors' Group and the NCVO were quick to welcome the news, which was largely the result of heavy lobbying by them and other sector bodies.

A requirement that charities who want to share services must set up a separate legal entity to do so was opposed by the sector but has been retained in the government proposal.

Sir Stuart Etherington, chief executive of NCVO, said the exemption removes a "sizeable stumbling block to effective collaborative working".

"We know from our members that there is appetite within the sector to work together more effectively and efficiently, especially in these tough times, but the additional VAT charge acted as a major disincentive, at odds with the government's drive to encourage more collaboration."

Source: Third Sector

Funding News

Comic Relief Deadlines

Source: FINE

Through Comic Relief's UK grants programme community based organisations can apply for grants through a number of different funding schemes. Cycle 8 will open for applications on 10th April 2012 until 8th June for the Older people and Sport for Change programmes and 29th June for Other programmes. This will be the last funding cycle under their current grants strategy. The new strategy will launch in spring 2013 with grant making resuming in summer 2013.

<http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/apply-for-a-uk-grant>

Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund National Grant Scheme 2012

Funding: Up to £200,000 per year for up to 3 years

Deadline: 18th January 2012 (please note, registration to apply closes 21st December)

Source: FINE

ECORYS and Department of Health have launched the second Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund (HSCVF) national grant scheme and a bespoke partner search portal that will support interested organisations find appropriate partners to meet the fund's requirements.

The fund will support health and social care projects that encourage volunteer involvement in key areas such as the following:

- Personalisation and choice of care and support
- Delivering better health and care outcomes
- Improving public health
- Improving health and social care

Grants will be awarded to projects that develop new, improved and/or streamlined systems in health and social care volunteering rather than projects that can simply supply core services.

Projects should have national reach by operating across at least four localities in different regions/counties geographically spread across England.

The scheme is open to national charities and partnerships of voluntary organisations, as well as social enterprises, co-operatives, mutuals and other not-for profit organisations, with social aims.

For more information and to apply visit <http://www.volunteeringfund.com/news/health-and-social-care-volunteering-fund-national-grant-scheme-2012-and-partner-search-portal-o>

Lankellychase Foundation

Source: FINE

The Lankellychase Foundation has announced that from April 2012, it will only accept funding applications for projects that focus exclusively on tackling social disadvantage. In particular projects focusing on people facing multiple disadvantage such as lives of crime, homelessness, exploitation and abuse, prostitution, problematic drug use, enduring mental illness and reduced life expectancy will be welcomed.

The Foundation also recognises that many organisations working with people who face severe and multiple disadvantage don't fit neatly into categories and require flexible funding. So the Foundation is moving away from their current programme approach, and is developing an Open Grants scheme that will offer funding to organisations that are working to build the capabilities of people who face severe and multiple disadvantage. It is anticipated that the new Open Grants Programme will be launched in the Summer of 2012.

The following programmes will remain open to applications until 30th March 2012: the Arts, Free and Quiet Minds, Breaking Cycles of Abuse and Local People Local Places. The exception to this deadline is the Custody and Community Programme which will close to new applications on 30th November 2011. <http://www.lankellychase.org.uk/news>

Elephant Trust

Funding: Up to £2,000

Deadline: 16th January 2012

Source: FINE

The Elephant Trust offers grants to artists and institutions for innovative visual arts projects based in the UK.

The Trustees' main objective is to support new work. Given The Elephant Trust's modest resources, grants are usually limited to £2,000. Priority is given to artists and small organisations and galleries who should submit well argued, imaginative proposals for making or producing new work or exhibitions.

The following categories are not supported:

- Arts Festivals
- Group Exhibitions
- Charities organising community projects
- Students
- Educational or other studies
- Residencies or research
- Symposia or conferences
- Publications or catalogues

- Projects taking place outside the UK

The Trust's aim is to make it possible for artists and those presenting their work to undertake and complete projects when confronted by lack of funds.

Application is by post only. For more information visit <http://www.elephanttrust.org.uk/docs/intro.html> or contact on 020 7922 1160 or email ruth@elephanttrust.org.uk

Making a Difference - Locally

Type of funder: Charity

Source: FINE

Making A Difference – Locally was launched to help independently-run local stores to add value in their communities through donations to local charities or good causes - such as local football teams, hospices or one of a thousand charities that run throughout the UK.

Money is raised by local stores over time through the sale of specific products in their stores. The store owner then chooses the beneficiary for the money. The Making A Difference Committee is responsible for ensuring that each time the retailer makes a donation it is going to a legitimate cause.

Over 2,000 stores nationwide, that are members of Nisa-Today's and Costcutter Supermarkets, participate. People are strongly encouraged to make suggestions to your local participating retailer.

The amounts donated depend on how much money is raised and whether the retailer chooses to give one lump sum or spread donations across several causes.

For more information visit <http://www.makingadifferencelocally.com/home> or call 01724 282 028.

Healthy Hearts Grants

Source: FINE

Funding: Up to £10,000

Deadline: 28th February 2012

Heart Research UK Healthy Heart Grants support innovative projects designed to promote heart health and to prevent or reduce the risks of heart disease in specific groups or communities.

Grants are available to community groups, voluntary organisations and researchers who are spreading the healthy heart message.

The types of projects supported in the past have included;

- the Foresight Project in Grimsby which encourages visually impaired people to take regular exercise using tandem bicycles
- the Ross-shire Bravehearts project in Inverness which educates adults with learning difficulties about heart health so they can take part in physical activities
- Superleague team, Wakefield Wildcats, which uses star rugby players to educate children about heart health

For the next round (May), applications will only be accepted between 1st January and 28th February.

Around 30 of the strongest applications will be shortlisted for consideration at the Stage 1 review meeting where 12 applications will be selected to progress onto Stage 2.

For more information and to apply visit <http://www.heartresearch.org.uk/grants/healthyheartgrant> or call 0113 297 6206 or email lifestyle@heartresearch.org.uk

SITA Trust Enhancing Communities - Core Fund

Funding: Up to £60,000. Projects must cost no more than £250,000

Open to: VCSE / Parish councils / Local authorities – within 3 miles of qualifying SITA waste processing site

Source: FINE

The SITA Trust Enhancing Communities programme Core Fund has announced deadlines for 2012. The Core Fund provides grants for capital improvements to community facilities.

Deadlines are:

19th March 2012

23rd July 2012

For more information visit www.sitatrust.org.uk/community-funding or contact on 01454 262 910 / info@sitatrust.org.uk

Health & Safety

HEALTH AND SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) is the law that requires employers to control substances that are hazardous to workers health. Substances can take many forms and include:

- Chemicals;
- products containing chemicals;
- fumes;
- dusts;
- vapours;
- mists;
- nanotechnology;
- gases and asphyxiating gases; and
- biological agents (germs) that cause diseases such as leptospirosis or legionnaires disease and germs used in laboratories.

Sometimes substances are easily recognised as harmful. Common substances such as paint, bleach or dust from natural materials may also be harmful. COSHH does not cover lead, asbestos or radioactive substances because these have their own specific regulations. See www.hse.gov.uk for more information and advice.

An employer has a legal responsibility to reduce exposure of hazardous substances to people. They can do this by a COSHH assessment. This assessment details:

- what the health hazards are;
- how to prevent harm to health;
- control measures to reduce harm to health;
- ensuring control measures are used and in good working order ;
- information, instruction and training for employees and others;
- the monitoring and health surveillance in appropriate cases; and
- emergency plans.

Before you start your COSHH assessment, you need to think about:

- What do you do that involves hazardous substances?
- How can these cause harm?
- How can you reduce the risk of harm occurring?
- Always try to prevent exposure at source.

Remember - hazards and risks are not limited to substances labelled as 'hazardous'. If you can't prevent exposure, you need to control it. An adequate control is when the risk of harm is 'as low as is reasonably practicable'. This means:

All control measures are in good working order;

Exposures are below the Workplace Exposure Limit, where one exists; and Exposure to substances that cause cancer, asthma or genetic damage is reduced to as low a level as possible.

Carrying out a COSHH assessment.

- Walk around your workplace - where is there potential for exposure to substances that might be hazardous to health?

Examples include processes that emit dust, fume, vapour, mist or gas; and skin contact with liquids, pastes and dusts. Substances with workplace exposure limits (WELs) are hazardous to health.

- In what way are the substances harmful to health?

Get safety data sheets, and read your trade magazines. Some substances arise from processes and have no safety data sheet. For example welding or soldering.

- What jobs or tasks lead to exposure?

Note these down and what control measures you already use. For these jobs, how likely is any harm to workers' health?

- Are there any areas of concern? The Accident Book, for example?

Examples include burns from splashes, nausea or lightheadedness from solvents, etc.

HSE provides specific guidance on COSHH assessment. It's called 'A Step by Step Guide to COSHH Assessment'. www.hse.gov.uk

Keeping a copy of the safety data sheet is not a COSHH assessment!

GVOC Mailings

Information may be distributed through our Mailings via an article in the Newsletter (which is free) or by including a flyer (which costs £10 for GVOC members, £15 for non-member voluntary groups and £40 for statutory/private organisations). **600** copies are required, no larger than A4 size.

Please contact Reception if you would like to include any information in future Mailings.

February 2012 Newsletter

Deadline for receipt of articles and flyers – Friday 27th January 2012

Subscription Rates

The Mailing is distributed **six** times per year and is **free** to GVOC Members. Non-members may subscribe at the following annual rates:

- £10 - unfunded voluntary groups
- £20 - voluntary groups with paid workers
- £30 - statutory/private organisations

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