



WARWICKSHIRE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ACTION

Know-how

A Bi-monthly publication. . . . More than 2,400 copies distributed annually

We are delighted to announce that Mr Paul Tolley, Director of Rugby CVS has been appointed to the important post of Chief Executive of the new Infrastructure Organisation that is to be called Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA). Paul successfully beat off the challenges of a short list of five candidates. Paul will take up his post officially on 1st April 2008. The staff here are excited about the prospect of continuing to work with him.



Paul Tolley

Our congratulations to him on this challenging appointment.

Readers will remember that Warwickshire CAVA is to be an amalgamation of CVS Warwick District (including Volunteer Centre); Stratford CVS and Volunteer Centre; Nuneaton and Bedworth CVS; North Warwickshire CVS; Rugby CVS and Rugby Volunteer Centre.

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Stephen Nightingale
Chief Officer

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Warwickshire Employer of Choice 2004

Commended Warwickshire Employer of Choice Awards 2005

PROMOTING, SUPPORTING AND DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE VOLUNTARY ACTION TO MEET LOCAL NEED

GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO SERVICE PROVISION 'CONFUSING'

By Andy Ricketts, Third Sector Online

The Government is leaving charities high and dry by pursuing the delivery of public services through charities, MPs have been told.

Debra Allcock Tyler, Chief Executive of the Directory of Social Change, told the Public Administration Select Committee on Thursday that the current approach was confusing. She was speaking at the committee's final hearing into voluntary sector organisations delivering public services.

"Part of the problem is that the approach the Government has taken to public service contracting is muddying the waters," she said. "All of a sudden, organisations find that a grant has been turned into a contract."

The move to more contracts meant that service users were being forgotten, she said, because organisations were forced to satisfy the contracts rather than the needs of the people they were serving.

"The taxpayer realises the con in that they are paying for services twice: through their donations and through their taxes," she added.

Peter Kyle, Director of Strategy and Enterprise at Chief Executives body Acevo, told the hearing that if public services were to be transformed the one thing that needed to change was commissioning.

"The blockage in the system at the moment is commissioning," he said. "This means the full potential of the third sector is not being realised."

The select committee will now consider the evidence it has heard from a variety of sources before publishing a report, which is not likely to be published until at least March.

From Third Sector daily bulletin



FAIRTRADE TOWN

Royal Leamington Spa has been awarded the coveted title of a Fairtrade Town.

The Town Council has signed up to the principles of "Fairtrade".

Together with a Voluntary Group it has worked to achieve the various objectives set out by the Fairtrade Foundation and is now able to use the Fairtrade logo to further promote awareness of this important initiative.

Fairtrade is often defined as providing a better deal for producers from third world countries; buying Fairtrade means that the farmers and producers in poor countries can get a better return for their hard work. This in turn has benefits in terms of improving incomes, preserving the environment, securing clean drinking water and educating children in those countries which are reliant on trade with the developed world.

**For further details please visit: www.leamingtonspatowncouncil.gov.uk
www.fairtrade.org.uk www.maketrade4fair.com**



GREAT NEWS!



Illuminate ICT have just been commissioned to create their 100th website! And the great news is that the new site is for Mid-Warwickshire Mind, a local charity! This local branch of Mind wanted an attractive and functional website to advertise and expand on their services.

For two years now, **Illuminate ICT** have been building a healthy list of clients in the charitable and voluntary sectors. In that time, they have helped 100 Warwickshire organisations to gain

the confidence to build and manage their own websites. They also provide computer support and training, as well as low cost computer servers, designed with the voluntary sector in mind.

If you'd like **Illuminate ICT** to help you with a new website or with any IT related work, please contact them directly on 0121 288 9876 or by email on pete@illuminateict.org.uk.



RANDOM CHECKS WILL FEATURE IN NEW PUBLIC BENEFIT REGIME

The Charity Commission will carry out random checks on charities to ensure they comply with the new public benefit requirements that will take effect from 1st April.

The measure is highlighted in the commission's final public benefit guidance, published today. "It is part of good regulatory practice," Dame Suzi Leather, chair of the Charity Commission, told *Third Sector*. "It keeps people on their toes."

The guidance says charities must comply with two main principles: they must provide an identifiable benefit or benefits, and the benefit must be to the public or a section of it.

The commission will assess charities on the basis of risk: organisations affected by changes in the law, such as the removal of the presumption of public benefit, are likely to be the first to be scrutinised.

Existing charities will be required to start reporting on public benefit in their trustees' annual reports at the end of the 2008/09 financial year. New applicants for charitable status already have to meet the commission's new standards.

Appeals by charity trustees against public benefit decisions will be considered by the commission's internal review procedures in the first instance, and will be referred, if necessary, to the Charity Tribunal, which will start operating in February.

Charity Commission guidance says that charities must justify charitable status by demonstrating public benefit - a challenge for those charging high fees. The new guidelines state that "people in poverty must not be excluded from the opportunity to benefit".

From Third Sector Daily

CHARITY COMMISSION

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Faith and Social Cohesion Unit

The Charity Commission is setting up a dedicated Unit to work with and support faith-based charities.

The Faith and Social Cohesion Unit will provide support and advice to faith-based groups through outreach work, capacity building training and guidance. It aims to: engage with faith communities to identify and support organisations that could be but are not currently registered with the Commission; assist faith-based charities to improve their standards of governance and accountability and thereby increase their effectiveness; work collaboratively to achieve and promote well run and effectively regulated faith-based charities; and improve the Commission's and society's understanding of faith-based charities.

The Unit will initially work primarily with Muslim charities and communities. A Project Board including representatives of the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (Minab) has been established to direct the Unit's work and to provide specialist advice.

The new unit will be headed by Ghulam Rasool. With extensive experience of working with faith communities at the grass roots, Ghulam has been actively involved in interfaith initiatives, religious education, and has been at the forefront of capacity building within faith organisations and upskilling of religious leaders. Ghulam has also worked on innovative projects with young people to promote tolerance and understanding between different faith and ethnic groups. The Commission is also establishing a Faith Advisory Group with representatives from a variety of faiths to advise them on their work.

Tel: 0845 3000 218 Textphone: 0845 3000 219 Lines are open from 8.00am to 8.00pm weekdays and 9.00am to 1.00pm Saturdays, except national holidays. Fax: 0151 7031 555
 Charity Commission Direct, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG
 Website: <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/tcc/faithsc.asp>

From Fit4funding newsletter

FREE BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR (BME) ORGANISATIONS

Foremost Solutions has been engaged by B:Rap to offer FREE business development support to BME third sector organisations (specifically in the West Midlands Region). This project is funded through AWM and delivered via B:rap.(Birmingham Race Action Partnership)

For the purpose of this support Foremost Solutions is looking to assist not for profit organisation with social objectives (voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises and CICs), which are BME specific, owned, managed or focussed.

The support is to focus specifically on improving the ability of organisation to successfully access and deliver public sector contracts.

If you would like any further information please contact 01384 441151 - see <http://www.foremostsolutions.co.uk/aaa/business-support.html> for more information and a contact link.

From Grapevine, Rugby CVS's newsletter

Regional Action West Midlands

Supporting the voluntary and community sector in the West Midlands

REGIONAL ACTION WEST MIDLANDS NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS - VOLUNTEERS



Regional Action West Midlands is appointing voluntary non-executive directors. Regional Action West Midlands is currently undertaking a review of the sector which will inform its future focus. It is seeking to recruit individuals to the board who will drive forward this programme of change within RAWM and support the voluntary and community sectors in the wider change agenda. If you come from a network that exists in the West Midlands region and consists largely of voluntary and community organisations, and you have skills and experience in one or more of the following areas: working in the voluntary and community Sector; managing change; financial management; human resources; communications and marketing; governance structures; programme delivery, and strategy and policy (including regional and national agenda) RAWM would love to hear from you!

For further details contact Sian McClure 0121 359 9181.

Healthy Living Network

CALLING FOR POTENTIAL DIRECTORS/ TRUSTEES



Can you be tempted to give your time to a local successful community organisation?
Interested in Health in its widest sense?

Believe that everyone has the right to services and information so that they can make informed life choices for themselves?

Do you have experience of (or would like the chance to learn about) the community and voluntary sector?

Then you may be just the person we are looking for. Brunswick Healthy Living Centre Ltd is recruiting directors/trustees. Since April 2007 the centre has become an independent Not- for -Profit Company. The current Board is fully committed to developing the centre and making sure it meets local need. To do this it needs more individuals to take on a trustee role.

If you have the time, interest and commitment to offer we would encourage you to contact Carole Edkins (Chair) for an informal discussion on what is involved.

Please call 01926 439 491 ext .250

Contact details: Tracey Neumann

Brunswick Healthy Living Centre, 98-100 Shrubland Street, Leamington Spa, CV31 3BD

Tel: 01926 422 123 or Email: tracey.neumann@warwickdc.gov.uk