



Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin April 2008

Welcome to the Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin for April 2008. Pentagon Partnership is the strategic partnership for voluntary and community sector (VCS) involvement in the economic regeneration of the Tyne and Wear City Region. We do this by **informing and consulting** the sector on economic regeneration news and policy, securing VCS **representation** on decision-making partnerships and **capacity building** – helping the VCS towards a businesslike and sustainable future.

In this edition (click on the link to go directly to the story):

- [*Business Plus – dates for your diary*](#)
- [*Even More Even More For Your Money! Evidence your social, environmental and economic impact, free of charge!*](#)
- [*Economic Regeneration and You - a critical debate on the role of the VCS in the new City Region.*](#)
- [*Third Sector Physical Regeneration Survey*](#)
- [*Tyne and Wear City Region – an update*](#)
- [*Communities and Local Government Consultation - Pentagon and partners give the VCS a regional say on representation and participation*](#)
- [*Looking for Contracts? Online opportunities here*](#)
- [*£215m Funding Pot Available For Third Sector Organisations Delivering Public Services*](#)
- [*Conference: Delivering Regeneration and Investment in the North East*](#)
- [*Conference: Healthy Wealthy and Wise*](#)

Business Plus

Dates for your diary!

Business Plus is a new Pentagon Partnership project which aims to develop a **VCS Business Network** in the Tyne and Wear City region, and:

- assist organisations to develop a 'business' focus and prepare for contract bids
- offer networking opportunities to develop collaborative working
- develop social enterprise opportunities

On March 15th we launched *Business Plus* with an event in North Tyneside. You'll see from the minutes (available [here](#)) that this was a great opportunity for VCS organisations to meet, find out more about each other and consider the potential of partnership working.

We're now ready to roll out *Business Plus* across the City Region with a programme of monthly events. In future, *Business Plus* events will take place at **12noon-2.00pm** on the **first Thursday of the month**, and will move around the City Region. The next six events are therefore as follows (venues TBC):

- 1st May (STOP PRESS – this event will take place in Gateshead and the theme will be 'Enterprising Charities')
- 5th June
- 3rd July
- 7th August
- 4th September
- 2nd October

Each event will begin with a presentation on a topical subject concerning the VCS and business, which will be followed by a formal 'speed networking' session and informal networking over lunch.

For further information please contact Jon Goodwin on 0191 200 8516 or jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk

[Back to top](#)

Even More Even More For Your Money!

Evidence your social, environmental and economic impact, free of charge!

Evidencing our Impact - Social Accounting, Auditing and Appraisal in the Voluntary and Community Sector

The final report on our impact measurement project, *Even More For Your Money* is available [here](#), along with a write-up of a special event we held on 12th March to disseminate the project's findings to funders, policymakers and other 'investors in the sector'.

A number of strands of further work on impact measurement have emerged as a result of the project.

Social Appraisal Toolkit

We're offering ten organisations the chance to complete **Social Appraisal Toolkit (SAT)** analyses of their organisation, **free of charge**.

SAT is a web-based tool to project the expected social / environmental benefits of an individual project or small organisation. It's suitable for assessing social impact, governance and financial viability in the early stages of a project. The website produces a report on your organisation or project which is extremely useful to demonstrate to funders that you're thinking seriously about your stakeholders, beneficiaries and outcomes.

It's resource-light, and with a small amount of support from Pentagon's specialists, can be completed in around half a day.

We've got five organisations signed up already, so can only offer **five more opportunities** to complete an SAT analysis. If your organisation has an annual budget of less than £100,000 and you'd like to complete an SAT analysis of your project, contact Jon Goodwin on 0191 200 8516 or jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk

Local Multiplier 3

We're also going to be offering up to ten organisations the opportunity to complete **Local Multiplier 3 (LM3)** audits, also **free of charge**.

An LM3 appraisal of an organisation's activity provides the reader with a financial valuation of it's local impact. The framework is used by organisations seeking to demonstrate their economic effect on their local community and the economic regeneration of the area.

If you're interested in taking part, please contact Jon Goodwin on 0191 200 8516 or jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk

[Back to top](#)

Economic Regeneration and You

A critical debate on the role of the VCS in the new City Region.

This event took place on March 27th and was a huge success. Delegates heard debates between the VCS and public sector on VCS involvement in a number of key areas including employment and skills, economic inclusion, transport and business and enterprise.

We'll publish the final report on the event soon; in the meantime you can download the 'scene-setting' presentations from Peter O'Brien, Director of the Tyne and Wear City Region, and Barbara McClennan, VCS representative on the City Region Executive Board, here:

[Peter O'Brien](#)

[Barbara McClennan](#)

See the City Region update below for further information on the City Region.

[Back to top](#)

Third Sector Physical Regeneration Survey

One of the organisations that participated in the Economic Regeneration debate, Project North East, is investigating the issues facing Third Sector organisations which undertake projects involving physical regeneration.

On behalf of One NorthEast, PNE have devised [this survey](#) and are looking for responses from any Third Sector organisations operating in the North East of England.

If you're from an organisation that has completed or considered undertaking a physical regeneration project (new build, refurbishment etc), please take 5-10 minutes to complete the survey.

If you would like paper copies of the survey to fill in, or have any questions about this survey, please contact **Tracey Moore** in the **PNE Development** team on **(0191) 261 6009**.

[Back to top](#)

Tyne and Wear City Region

An update

The *Tyne and Wear City Region* is the collective name for the new governance arrangements being established for Tyne and Wear, parts of South Northumberland, and North Durham. As of April 1st, TyneWear Partnership no longer exists, and work is underway to establish a City Region team based with Peter O'Brien in Sunderland.

Peter and Barbara's presentations in the *Economic Regeneration and You* article above should give you a flavour of the key City Region developments so far and the role of the VCS therein. The Interim Executive and Employment and Skills boards have been established, and Pentagon secured VCS representation on these boards - and their subsidiaries - last year. The table below shows VCS representation on the various boards and partnerships established so far. Potential opportunities for further VCS representation in the City Region structures include the planned City Region Transport group; we will keep the sector updated on developments with this.

Meeting	VCS Representative	VCS Deputy
Tyne and Wear City Region Interim Executive Board	Barbara McClennan (Sunderland Community Network / Pentagon Partnership)	Roger Mould (Newcastle CVS / Pentagon Partnership)
Tyne and Wear City Region Partnership (Chief Executives Group)	Barbara McClennan	Roger Mould
Tyne and Wear City Region Assistant Chief Executives Group	Roger Mould	Barbara McClennan
Tyne and Wear City Region Employment and Skills Board	Roger Mould	James Herbert (Mental Health North East)
Tyne and Wear City Region Learning Network Group	James Herbert	Roger Mould

[Back to top](#)

Communities and Local Government Consultation – Pentagon and partners give the VCS a regional say on representation and participation

In November 2007 the Department for Communities and Local Government published two documents with significant implications for the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in the region. The first was [The Principles of Representation: A framework for effective Third Sector participation in Local Strategic Partnerships](#) which outlined the vision of Government and national VCS partners for delivering this locally.

The second was [Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities: Statutory Guidance](#), a draft consultation document which highlighted the new duty on authorities to, **“take those steps they consider appropriate to involve representatives of local persons in the exercise of any of their functions”**.

Collectively these two documents have far-reaching implications for how the sector will be expected to engage with statutory partners, both through Local Strategic Partnerships and by other means, into the future.

In association with regional partners (VONNE, Northumberland VCS Consortium, One Voice Network and Tees Valley Voluntary and Community Sector Forum) we facilitated a consultation event on February 1st to produce regional VCS responses to the two documents.

While the 'Duty To Involve' response is favourable to the idea of a statutory duty to involve local people in decision-making, there are felt to be issues around the timing of the Duty's implementation (especially in relation to Local Area Agreements) and the response asks for greater clarity on a number of issues.

In terms of the 'Principles of Representation' response, the region's sector is again broadly supportive of the concept, and the response makes a number of recommendations for additional Principles, including 'Resourcing' and 'Stability and Continuity'.

Download the response documents [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

Looking for Contracts? Online opportunities here!

A number of organisations have asked us to provide a sign-posting service to potential sources of contracts that VCS organisations can bid for. The following websites may be of use:

- North East Purchasing Organisation – www.nepo.org
- J4B - www.j4b.co.uk
- Funderfinder - www.funderfinder.org.uk
- Supply2 Gov - www.supply2.gov.uk
- Learning and Skills Council (North East) - www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/NorthEast/
- North East Service Provider Register - www.onebrokerage.co.uk
- Department for Work and Pensions (including Job Centre Plus) - <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplyingdwp/>

We'll be expanding and updating this list in future issues of the e-bulletin to keep you right up-to-date on where to look for contracting opportunities.

[Back to top](#)

£215m Funding Pot Available For Third Sector Organisations Delivering Public Services

A £215m government-backed investment fund will open its doors to all not-for-profit organisations delivering public services from April 2008. Offering loans-based investment packages, Futurebuilders England provides sustainable finance to organisations that are delivering public services or want to start contracting with public bodies, such as local authorities, primary care trusts or learning and skills councils.

Futurebuilders England offers unique investment packages of loans, combined with grants and professional support. Over half of Futurebuilders' investees have never borrowed before, so each applicant receives flexible and individual support to ensure it has the right financial, managerial and governance structures to take on a loan and successfully compete for contracts in the public sector.

Futurebuilders has already invested in over 250 third sector, or not-for-profit, organisations including charities, social enterprises, community interest companies, voluntary groups and community organisations. Established in 2004, the Fund was originally only open to organisations working in crime, community cohesion, children and young people, education and learning, and health and social care. From April 2008 it will extend its support to groups working across all areas of public service delivery, including sport and leisure, recreation, environmental projects, waste and recycling, legal aid, and the arts.

Every investment package, including its size and loan to grant ratio, is tailored to meet the individual needs of the investee, but some standard terms apply. Loans are offered at an interest rate of 6%, often with interest-free periods or repayment holidays built in. They can be used for capital or development projects by start-ups or established organisations. Organisations must be committed to repaying the loan through income from public sector contracts or fees.

So, if you need an investment of £50,000 or more and are getting ready to bid for, and take on, public sector contracts, Futurebuilders could be the Fund for you. There is no upper limit to investments – the largest package to date is £10.2m.

To register your interest, or to find out more about how loan finance can help your organisation achieve sustainability, visit www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk or call **0191 261 5200**.

[Back to top](#)

Delivering Regeneration and Investment in the North East **Tuesday 20th May 2008, Newcastle**

Pentagon Partnership is pleased to support this conference which is a fantastic opportunity for the VCS to learn and have a say about investment and regeneration in the North East.

The North East of England, which includes the city regions of Tees Valley and Tyne & Wear, is a growing region with its traditionally strong manufacturing base now supported by emerging high-technology and knowledge-based businesses. Innovation is key, with major programmes to develop the Core Region's knowledge economy.

The North East has undergone tremendous changes with this renaissance looking set to continue, supported by substantial private investment. Property development, regeneration and strong transport links are crucial to this.

This one day conference looks at current progress with the regeneration and development of the North East and the role of One NorthEast in delivering regeneration. It examines the role of property developers, planners and regeneration organisations in delivering change and the crucial role of transport connections in supporting this. The day concludes with a discussion on how further investment can be attracted in to the North East.

[Further information including brochure and online booking](#)

[Back to top](#)

Healthy Wealthy and Wise
Monday 23rd June 2008 - 8.15am – 4.45pm
Discovery Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne

We're also pleased to support this North East Social Capital Forum conference.

This must-attend conference takes the form of a debate, chaired by Kate Adie and led by the two leading American experts in social capital who will look at the evidence and experience of whether social capital really can make us healthy, wealthy and wise.

The Conference is a rare opportunity to hear the main proponent of social capital, Professor Robert D. Putnam described in the Sunday Times as “the most influential academic in the world today” and his long standing collaborator, Lewis M. Feldstein, speak and debate before a UK-wide audience. Decide for yourself whether social capital is the much neglected missing ingredient in building stronger communities.

Responses are led by The Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government; Darra Singh, Chair of Commission on Integration and Cohesion; and Kate Welch, Chief Executive, Acumen Development Trust. The day opens and closes with analysis from Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive, North Tyneside Council and Sir Jeremy Beecham, Vice Chairman, Local Government Association, on whether the North East is healthy, wealthy and wise.

For further information visit www.communityfoundation.org.uk

[Back to top](#)

Thank you for reading. Please feel free to circulate this e-bulletin to your networks.
Read previous e-bulletins [here](#).
To unsubscribe, email jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk