



Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin August 2008

Welcome to the Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin for August 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):

Pentagon News

[Business Plus – book NOW for September / October events](#)
[Annual Conference - Enterprising Charities](#)
[The VCS, or the Third Sector – have your say!](#)
[Tyne & Wear Infrastructure Consortium \(TWIC\) - be a part of it!](#)
[Are You Leading the Way – a dynamic management toolkit](#)

City Region News

[TyneWear Partnership evaluation event](#)

Other News

[Voluntary Sector Entrepreneur of the Year](#)
[Online contracting opportunities](#)
[Funding Information North East \(FINE\)](#)

Pentagon News

Business Plus – book NOW for September / October events

Our network events go from strength to strength. Over 25 people attended this month's event in Northumberland to hear David Carr from Business and Enterprise North East (formerly Business Link) talk about what support they can give the sector.

You can read notes from the session and download David's presentation at <http://www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/?q=node/278>

Business Plus network events take place on the first Thursday of every month, 12noon-2.00pm. Forthcoming events are as follows:

Thursday 4 September (at East Durham Trust, Peterlee)

12noon-2.00pm

Workforce development and the VCS – be a better employer'

For September's network event, we're delighted to welcome Lai-Har Cheung from the 38H [UK Workforce Hub](#)

Come and find out how the Hub 'helps third sector organisations make the best of their paid staff, volunteers and trustees through workforce development' and:

- be great places to work;
- be better employers;
- embrace a culture of learning and development.

We're also joined by Barbara McClennan from 39H [Education Business Connections](#) who will give a North East viewpoint on workforce development and the support available to VCS employers.

Plus the usual networking opportunities and lunch.

Places are limited at this event – YOU MUST BOOK A PLACE IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND.

40H [Click here to download a booking form](#)

Thursday 2 October (at Segedunum, Wallsend)

12noon-2.00pm

Loan Finance and the VCS

Food for thought on how the voluntary sector can use loan services to build for a sustainable future.

37H [Click here to download a booking form](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Annual Conference – Enterprising Charities

Pentagon Partnership's 2008 Annual Conference will take place on **Wednesday 12th November**, venue TBC. Places will be strictly limited so look out for further information coming soon, and be ready to book a place.

The theme for this year is *Enterprising Charities*; we'll be looking at the various ways organisations can maximise their charitable income. We'll also be looking back at the last 12 months of Pentagon Partnership activity, and looking ahead to the future.

[Back to Top](#)

The 'VCS' or the 'Third Sector' – have your say!

At the last Pentagon Partnership Steering Group meeting, there was some discussion over whether we should refer to ourselves as working with 'the Voluntary and Community Sector', or the 'Third Sector'. It was decided that we should let the organisations we work with have a say.

We've set up a poll at <http://www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/?q=node/284> for you to have your say on the best way to describe our sector. You can vote for one of three options ('VCS', 'Third Sector' or 'Civil Society'). Voting closes **at the end of August**; results will be taken to our next Steering Group meeting and will guide us in future communication and publications.

To help you decide, we've put together short summaries of the three terms:

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)

The 'traditional' term for organisations that:

- *are self-governing (some being registered charities, some incorporated non-profit organisations and some outside both these classifications),*
- *are independent of both formal structures of government and the profit sector*
- *have an important reliance on volunteers to carry out their work.*

(Definition from National Council for Voluntary Organisations)

Third Sector

Current term for the sector, adopted by Central and Local Government. The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) was created in 2006 and defines the Third Sector as:

A diverse, active and passionate sector. Organisations in the sector share common characteristics:

- *non-governmental*
- *value-driven*
- *principally reinvest any financial surpluses to further social, environmental or cultural objectives.*

The term encompasses voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, cooperatives and mutuals both large and small.

Civil Society

The recent Conservative Green Paper *A Stronger Society: Voluntary Action in the 21st Century* rejects the use of the term 'third sector' in favour of 'civil society'; the document refers to 'charities and voluntary organisations' rather than 'third sector organisations' and proposes the establishment of an 'Office for Civil Society' to replace the OTS.

Have your say now [by clicking here!](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Tyne & Wear Infrastructure Consortium (TWIC) - be a part of it!

Your chance to find out more about - and join - TWIC, a new consortium for organisations that support other VCS organisations in Tyne and Wear.

Are you a VCS infrastructure organisation based in, or working in, Tyne and Wear?

Do you work behind the scenes to ensure that frontline voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations get the support they need to function?

Do you want to...

Have your say?

- Advocate on behalf of your service users and influence policy
- Have a voice on important decision making bodies
- Raise the profile of the sector

Work together?

- Build partnerships with other organisations and agencies
- Share experiences and good practice
- Raise awareness of your organisation

Get informed?

- Get advice and support from other members
- Communication about what is happening sub-regionally, regionally and nationally
- Information about other organisations and projects

If the answer to any of these questions is '**YES**', then the Tyne and Wear Infrastructure Consortium (TWIC) is for you.

TWIC is a new consortium of all the organisations providing infrastructure support to VCS organisations in Tyne and Wear.

If you are interested in finding out more or you want to become a member, why not come along to one of two events we're holding* to recruit members and share information about TWIC:

- **Wednesday 3rd September**, Nuns Moor Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, 11.30am-1.30pm
- **Friday 5th September**, National Glass Centre, Sunderland, 11.30am-1.30pm

**Pentagon Partnership has been commissioned to facilitate these events on behalf of TWIC, of which it is a member.*

[Back to Top](#)

Are You Leading The Way? 10 Steps to Your Future Success

A Dynamic New Management Toolkit from Pentagon Partnership

DO YOU WANT TO...

Sustain your organisation?

Develop your potential?

Expand your geographical boundaries?

Yes? Pentagon Partnership's new publication, *Are You Leading The Way? 10 Steps to Your Future Success* is an innovative toolkit, designed for organisations across the voluntary and community sector, irrespective of size.

This toolkit has two unique features...simplicity and diversity of use!

Simplicity – each stage of the toolkit is based around a consistent framework which can be adapted to meet the exact needs of your organisation

Diversity – the detail derived from using the toolkit can be used

- as essential management information for taking your organisation forward
- to prepare you for bidding for any contracts
- to develop partnerships in order to submit a combined bid

Using a review process, the toolkit takes you through a series of audits using a simplified method of self assessment. Worked illustrations are used throughout and are based on genuine local examples developed with the help of 58 voluntary and community sector organisations.

Welcomed by the sector, feedback has included

“Renewed ideas for assessing and reviewing our organisation”

“Very user friendly and accessible”

“A practical toolkit...will use to help in implementing the strategic plan”

The toolkit is priced at £30 including p+p and can be ordered by emailing christine.obrien@pentagonpartnership.org.uk or phoning 0191 200 1405.

[Back to top](#)

City Region News

TyneWear Partnership Evaluation event

The TyneWear Partnership, the subregional economic development partnership with responsibility for Single Programme monies in Tyne and Wear, has been formally wound up. As its last formal activity, the TWP team held a learning event to consider the success and failures of the last 8 years of partnership working.

Pentagon Partnership, which was funded by Single Programme money from 2005-2008, was highlighted as a key success of the TyneWear Partnership.

You can download a write-up of the learning event, and an evaluation report of the partnership's activity from 2005-2008 [here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

Other News

Voluntary Sector Entrepreneur of the Year

The Community Foundation for Tyne and Wear and Northumberland have announced details of the Voluntary Sector Entrepreneur of the Year award.

The award, worth £5,000 to the winner and their organisation, will be announced at the Community Foundation's Annual General Meeting in the autumn.

Closing date for nominations is 1 September 2008; for more information visit www.communityfoundation.org.uk

Online contracting opportunities

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
- 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/>
- www.tendertap.co.uk

www.funderfinder.org.uk and www.fine.org.uk (see article below) may be of use if you're looking for more grant-oriented funding sources.

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](#)

Funding Information North East (FINE)

Funding Information North East (FINE) is a regional infrastructure gateway, that is, it is a single point of access to funding information and support for both local infrastructure and VCS frontline organisations in the North East. It also acts as a signpost, referring organisations to assistance and further information and advice.

FINE was established in 1985 and is a project of seven Local Development Agencies (LDAs) in the North East of England. FINE researches potential sources of funding for the voluntary and community sector in the North East of England and keeps organisations informed of funding opportunities via publications, information bulletins, online searchable databases and its website. These resources include:

- **The North East Third Sector Funding Opportunities Database** – An online searchable funding database of local and regional charitable trusts, local and central government funding, lottery distributors and loan providers etc.
- **The North East Guide to Grants for Voluntary Organisations** - A directory of grant-making trusts which support voluntary organisations and community groups in the North East of England.
- **The North East Guide to Grants for Individuals** – A directory of over 90 grant-making trusts which support individuals in the North East, to relieve need and for educational purposes. Available in paper and CD formats and as an online database.
- **Grants Bulletin** - A newsletter published eight times a year, with information on a wide range of funding opportunities relevant to organisations in the North East of England, plus details of fundraising training events, publications and websites.
- **News You Can Use** - An email bulletin sent at least 44 times a year allowing subscribers to keep up to date with funding opportunities.

FINE supports Funding Advisers working in LDAs throughout the North East. This includes not only facilitating network meetings but also offering a quality standards programme which allows funding advisers to undertake both accredited and non accredited training around funding issues to further develop their skills and knowledge which then enables them to provide comprehensive and effective funding advice.

FINE also has a unique and close working relationship with North East funders, in particular charitable trusts, acting as a link between the funders and the VCS. It is a member of the North East Trust Secretaries Group and provides secretariat support to the North East Funders Forum.

If you would like more information about FINE's information services and how they can help you please either contact a member of the team, tel: 0191 477 1253 / email: enquiries@fine.org.uk or visit their website, www.fine.org.uk

[Back to Top](#)