



## Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin August 2009

Welcome to the Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin for August 2009.

### Pentagon News

- [Business Plus - a third sector business network](#)
  - [Weathering the storm? An update on employment issues in the recession](#)
  - [Collaboration – working together to beat the downturn](#)
- [Enterprising Charities](#)
  - [E-commerce for the third sector - an introduction to selling on eBay](#)
- [Places For Everyone – helping you progress your capital development plans.](#)
- [Are You Leading the Way? – FREE toolkits plus support available](#)

### City Region News

- [Have your say on City Region Transport issues](#)

### Opportunities - funding, contracts and support

- [Welfare to Work sub-contractor event](#)
- [Hardship Fund – supporting third sector organisations fighting the recession](#)
- [Partnership opportunities with A4e](#)

### Other News and events

- [Are you investment ready? - a Community Alliance roadshow](#)
- [hi3 - Addressing Health Inequalities the third sector way](#)
- [Total Place](#)

### **Further information on Pentagon Partnership:**

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[www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk](http://www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk)

Read previous e-bulletins [here](#).

Please feel free to distribute this e-bulletin to your networks. If this e-bulletin has been forwarded to you, you may wish to join our mailing list [by clicking here](#).

## Pentagon News

### Business Plus - a third sector business network

Business Plus is an innovative third sector business network designed to share information, initiate partnerships and raise the business skills of the sector.

Business Plus events take place on the **first Thursday of every month** (except August) and offer opportunities to make new contacts and form partnerships – collaborative working is crucial in the current economic climate.

Each event begins with one or more experts on a **topical business-related subject**, and concludes with an innovative 'speed networking' session: giving each organisation an opportunity to introduce their work, highlight any new initiatives and outline support needs or **partnership opportunities**.

Upcoming events are as follows:

### Weathering the storm? An update on employment issues in the recession

*with Ward Hadaway law firm*

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

10.30am-12.00noon

TEDCO Business Works, South Shields

Following our successful session on Employment Law with Ward Hadaway earlier in the year, we're delighted to welcome them back to explore how the recession is affecting third sector organisations and their employees, and what **you** can do to weather the storm.

This **interactive session** will focus on **managing sickness absence** and will also touch on other elements of how good employment practice can help organisations of all sizes manage the effects of the recession.

As usual, this Business Plus event offers a great networking opportunity and a chance to meet third sector organisations, partners and funders from across Tyne and Wear.

[Click here to book your place](#)

### Collaboration – working together to beat the downturn

*with ACEVO North*

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October

10.30am-12.00noon

Disability North, Newcastle upon Tyne

[Click here to book your place](#)

## Enterprising Charities

Enterprising Charities is a series of events which encourages organisations to 'go the extra mile' to boost their income by exploring enterprise and trading opportunities.

The next event takes place as follows:

### E-commerce for the third sector - an introduction to selling on eBay

*Delivered in partnership with TEDCO*

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

11.00am-3.00pm

MHC Resources, Seaton Burn

An Introduction to Selling on eBay is an interactive workshop designed to support third sector organisations who would like to explore the idea of trading online using eBay. This workshop covers the differences between eBay and other types of trading, useful hints and tips about how best to market and sell items on eBay as well as practical help in setting up your organisation as a seller, listing items and maximising the impact of this form of selling.

As well as a hands-on guide to selling on eBay, we'll hear about enterprising organisations that already trade online and the benefits it has brought them.

#### How could selling on eBay help your organisation?

- You could sell things that your staff and volunteers have made ... or things that have been donated to you
- Already trading? Sell things to a wider audience!
- Maybe your service users / local community have second hand goods to sell but don't have the time to do so? Do it for them and split the profit!
- Encourage enterprise and IT skills amongst your staff, volunteers and service users.

[Click here to book your place](#)

*Business Plus and Enterprising Charities events are funded through the Tyne and Wear Infrastructure Consortium (TWIC)*



[Back to top](#)



# Places for Everyone

## An exciting new programme designed to help Third Sector organisations explore and progress their Capital Development plans

- *Do your future aspirations involve a building project — perhaps a refurbishment or new build?*
- *Would you like to understand more about the process?*

Developed by PNE Development, the Development Trusts Association (DTA), Mosedale Gillatt Architects (MGA) and Pentagon Partnership, and supported by One North East, Places for Everyone features a range of support options including:

- ◆ Workshops
- ◆ One-to-One Support
- ◆ Toolkits
- ◆ Access to Specialist Expertise

For just a small cost of £50+VAT you can access the Places for Everyone programme. The initial phase of the programme consists of 'An Introduction to the Capital Development Process' workshop which will ultimately help guide Third Sector organisations through the key stages of any capital development project. The aim of the workshop is to help your organisation make informed decisions about its capital development plans. Following this you could access one-to-one support and specialist expertise to help you to move your plans forward. Along with the one-to-one support, the longer term aim of the programme is to help organisations to secure funding towards feasibility studies and enable access to our Bank of Expertise.



### Upcoming Workshops

15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 – 10.00am-4.30pm – Stannington Village Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland.

If you are interested in joining the programme please email [development@pne.org](mailto:development@pne.org) for an application form or contact PNE Development on 0191 261 6009 for more information.

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[Back to top](#)

## ***Are You Leading the Way – for free?!***

### **Free support in assessing your readiness for contracting and partnerships!**

*Are You Leading The Way? 10 Steps to Your Future Success* is an innovative management toolkit, designed to help third sector organisations assess their readiness for public service delivery and partnership working.

**We are pleased to make available a number of FREE copies of the toolkit (normal price £30); also on offer is support from Pentagon Partnership in completing the toolkit.**

We will work with you to complete the toolkit which includes the following self assessment sections:

- Your project pathway
- Services audit
- Delivery audit
- Skills audit
- Risk assessment
- Advice and support
- Partnership working – pros and cons

To apply for a FREE copy, plus support in completing the toolkit, please email [jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk](mailto:jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk) stating:

- The name of your organisation
- Your annual turnover
- Number of (paid) employees
- Nature of work
- A summary of any partnerships you are members of
- A summary of any public service contracts you currently deliver

Should this offer prove oversubscribed, the Pentagon Partnership Steering Group will decide on the allocation of toolkits and support, based on a number of factors including geographical coverage and need of organisation.

*This work is funded through the Tyne and Wear Infrastructure Consortium (TWIC) and as such this offer is only available to VCS organisations who work in Tyne and Wear.*



[Back to top](#)

## City Region News

### Have your say on City Region Transport issues

Are you a third sector organisation and:

- A community transport operator?
- An advocate for better transport?

If the answer to either of these questions is 'yes', you may be interested in joining our Third Sector Focus Group (Transport) which will meet for the first time in the autumn.

The Focus Group will be a chance to make links with other community transport operators and advocates from across the City Region, and feed into the City Region Transport governance structures as they develop.

If you would like to be involved, please email [jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk](mailto:jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk) with a summary of your organisation's involvement in transport, by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

For further information about the City Region and Pentagon Partnership's role in involving the third sector, read our report, *Engaging the third sector in the Tyne and Wear City Region Multi Area Agreement*, available at [www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/Documents/CityRegion/MAAreport.pdf](http://www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/Documents/CityRegion/MAAreport.pdf)



[Back to top](#)

## Opportunities - funding, contracts and support

### Welfare to Work sub-contractor event

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September

10.00am – 4.00pm at St James Park

The Office of the Third Sector and the Department for Work and Pensions are hosting this event:

- Are you a specialist provider/small organisation?
- Are you interested in getting involved or increasing your involvement in supplying services for a range of Welfare to Work programmes but find the process too complicated?
- Do you want to be part of a healthy, high performing supply chain?
- Do you want to learn more about how prime providers and sub-contractors work together?

For further information visit

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/241658/sub%20contracts%20advert.pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/241658/sub%20contracts%20advert.pdf)

And you can book a place at

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/241661/sub%20contract%20event%20booking%20form.doc](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/241661/sub%20contract%20event%20booking%20form.doc)

[Back to top](#)

## **Hardship Fund – supporting third sector organisations fighting the recession**

The Hardship Fund is a £16.7 million grant programme which aims to support third sector organisations in England who are delivering front-line services to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in society.

Grants of between £50,000 and £250,000 are available to organisations with an annual income of at least £200,000 that are in financial hardship as a result of the recession, which is impacting on their ability to deliver services in the following areas:

- Health and social care
- Housing support
- Education and training
- Information, advice and guidance.

For further information and details of how to apply, visit [www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/hardship-fund](http://www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/hardship-fund)

## **Partnership opportunities with A4e**

At a third sector partnership event in Sunderland in July, A4e announced they were looking for third sector partners to work with the company on Flexible New Deal Phase 2 (FND2 ).

FND2 aims to assist people who have been unemployed for 12 months or longer to find a job and stay in work and work will commence in October 2010.

A4e is looking to develop partnerships and build links with stakeholders, potential sub-contractors and other local organisations, especially those who:

- help prepare people for employment
- provide specialist help and advice
- offer vocational training
- deliver provision that helps people sustain employment

For further information on opportunities to work in partnership with A4e on Flexible New Deal Phase 2, contact North East Partnerships Manager Gerry Croall on 07850 945340 or [gcroall@a4e.co.uk](mailto:gcroall@a4e.co.uk)

Further information is available at [www.mya4e.com/4-Partners/Current-Partnership-Opportunities/Flexible-New-Deal-\(1\).aspx](http://www.mya4e.com/4-Partners/Current-Partnership-Opportunities/Flexible-New-Deal-(1).aspx)

[Back to top](#)

## Other News and events

### Are you investment ready? *A Community Alliance Roadshow*

- Wednesday 9th September 10.00am – 2.00pm, Morton Park Business Training Centre, Darlington
- Thursday 10th September 10.00am – 2.00pm, The Linskill Centre, North Shields

These one day events, organised by the Community Alliance, are for community organisations that:

- have an idea and are looking for an investment
- are interested in loans as part of their funding package
- want to develop a building as an asset for their community

Participants will gain:

- a better understanding of loan finance - the opportunities and the process
- an insight into how to build a balanced score card as a way of measuring the viability of ideas
- an opportunity for one-to-one advice on financial plans
- a chance to meet banks and funders providing loan finance

The cost, including lunch and materials is £25 + VAT per person

For further details please contact Susan Heads at the DTA on 01670 518150 or [s.heads@dta.org.uk](mailto:s.heads@dta.org.uk)

[Back to top](#)

## hi3 - Addressing Health Inequalities the third sector way

The Sage, Gateshead, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November

This is a day for anyone in the Health Service or the Third Sector who has a passion for reducing the Health Inequalities that continue to disproportionately affect the North East.

- What can the Third Sector learn from Health Professionals?
- What can the Health Service learn from the Third Sector?
- What is your community doing to promote better health locally?
- What else could you do, if you had the resources?

For further information visit [www.hi3.org.uk](http://www.hi3.org.uk)

### Total Place

South Tyneside, Sunderland and Gateshead have together been chosen as one of 13 pilot areas to form part of a new efficiency programme called Total Place.

Total Place is a pilot programme looking at how public money is spent in a local area and how it can be used more efficiently to improve local services. One of the intended outcomes of the project is to explore ways in which business, voluntary and public sector bodies can work together to provide a wide range of public services.

Each participating area has been asked to pick a small number of issues to investigate as part of a programme that aims to find efficiency savings and improvements in public services by reducing duplication between different parts of the public sector. South Tyneside, Sunderland and Gateshead will focus on teenage pregnancy, health inequality and safer communities.

Third sector organisations are encouraged to get involved and have their say on the project through their Local Strategic Partnership representatives.

For further information visit: [www.local.gov.uk/lgv2/core/page.do?pagelD=111040](http://www.local.gov.uk/lgv2/core/page.do?pagelD=111040)

[Back to top](#)