



## Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin December 2007

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## Pentagon News

### Even More for Your Money – The Way Ahead

There are two more *Even More for Your Money* events in December, showcasing different ways of measuring and demonstrating your organisation's social, environmental and economic impact.

- **Wed 12 Dec 9.30 am -12.30 pm Swallow Hotel, Gateshead**  
*Focus on Social Appraisal Toolkit (SAT) with Philip Angier (Angier Griffin)*
- **Thu 13 Dec 9.30 am -12.30 pm The Mansion House, Newcastle Upon Tyne**  
*Focus on Social Auditing, with Bob Webb (Social Enterprise Europe)*

*The postponed LM3 event will be rescheduled for the New Year. Full details in the next e-bulletin.*

For full details of the events, booking information and information on the five models (which will help you choose which event(s) to attend) please visit our website [here](#).

## Christmas Networking

Do you want to find partners? Enhance your service provision? Expand your geography? Put your name on the map?

If so, you should attend our Christmas Networking event this **Thursday 13 December (12.30pm-4.00pm)** at The Mansion House in Newcastle.

This is the opportunity to get together with colleagues from across Tyne and Wear, take part in a speed networking event and sign up for professional support in completing Pre-Qualification Questionnaires for LSC contracts before the January 2008 deadline.

We're also providing lunch, and there'll be a chance for some informal networking later in the afternoon.

For more details on the event and how to book, visit our website [here](#) or give us a call on 0191 200 1405.

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## Steering Group Update

We are delighted to welcome Emma Frew (West Harton Action Station) and Alan Gerono (North Tyneside VODA) onto our Steering Group. Emma is filling the vacant South Tyneside CEN role as an interim community representative, and Alan is the new North Tyneside VCS infrastructure representative.

Details of the current Steering Group, as well as information on who represents the partnership (and the VCS) on external partnerships can be viewed [here](#).

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## Pentagon documents to download

[Annual Review 2006-2007](#)

[Annual Conference Report 2007 - Employability Showcase](#)

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## Future Plans

Look out for Pentagon's next e-bulletin in January which will include details of future projects and events, including further work on employability, Multi Area Agreements and VCS business support.

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## Policy and Other News

### City Regions are starting to become a reality!

Tyne and Wear is one of 13 'City Regions' who are starting to work with the Government on producing Multi Area Agreements. City Regions and MAAs will allow local authorities and other organisations to work together across existing boundaries to improve transport infrastructure, skills, education and access to employment.

The area covered by the Tyne and Wear City Region covers the current Tyne and Wear sub-region (Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland) as well as northern parts of County Durham, South East Northumberland and the Tyne Valley.

Moves are already afoot to establish governance arrangements for the City Region, and Pentagon are working to ensure that the VCS are represented every step of the way. As you may remember from previous Pentagon bulletins, a City Region Interim Executive Board has been established as well as the Tyne and Wear City Region Employment Consortium.

The VCS is represented on the Executive Board by Barbara McClennan (Sunderland Community Network) and on the Employment Consortium by Roger Mould (Newcastle CVS). Barbara and Roger can be contacted through the Pentagon team and feedback from the partnerships will be directed through Pentagon .

For more information about City regions and Multi-Area Agreements, click [here](#).

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### ONE NorthEast's Corporate Plan – Consultation

ONE NorthEast, the Regional Development Agency for the North East, has released a draft of its corporate plan for 2008-2011. Comments on the draft are welcomed before Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

You can see the draft, and send your comments directly to ONE NorthEast by visiting the ONE NorthEast website [here](#). Alternatively, if you would like to contribute to VONNE's regional VCS response, please contact Jo Curry on [jo.curry@vonne.org.uk](mailto:jo.curry@vonne.org.uk) or 0191 233 2000.

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### Cross-sector working - North Tyneside leads the way!

North Tyneside VODA hosted a very successful VCS Showcase event in September, bringing the sector together with statutory sector commissioners. The focus of the event was on identifying how the VCS can help local authorities and other public bodies meet their targets. A report of the day is available [here](#).

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### **Third Sector involvement in public service delivery**

The Office of the Third Sector has produced a short update on the Government's achievements in ensuring the sector is fully and equitably involved in delivering public services. The document includes updates and examples of best practice on four key themes (commissioning, procurement, building the sector's capacity and innovation) as well as information on community anchors, community assets, consortia building and social clauses.

To download the leaflet, click [here](#).

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### **Go crazy for quasi! Quasi-equity is here**

Venturesome has launched a new investment mechanism that will enable charity or social enterprise trading organisations to mimic the process of selling shares. For more details click [here](#).

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### **New £50m loans fund for sector**

Unity Trust Bank has launched a £50m social economy fund that will provide loans to third sector organisations. For more information click [here](#).

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### **And last but not least....**

Season's Greetings from the Pentagon team!

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*We welcome your comments on this bulletin. This will enable us to shape our information services to meet your needs.*

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

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