



Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin January / February 2008

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Pentagon News

Even More for Your Money – masterclasses

Your chance to produce a Social Appraisal or Social Return on Investment report for your organisation, free of charge!

As a follow up to our *Even More for Your Money* project, we're offering a limited number of organisations the chance to attend masterclasses in two impact measurement tools with Philip Angier of [Angier Griffin](#) consultants.

“Really useful... a good tool to introduce a more disciplined approach”

“Stimulating, thought-provoking and incredibly relevant”

- Feedback on the information sessions we held on SROI and SAT in November:

Social Return on Investment

Thursday 21st February

9.30am-4.00pm, Wallsend Peoples Centre

Are you bidding for public service contracts? Do you already measure the impact of your work but feel you need to put a figure on these benefits?

SROI puts an economic value on an organisation's social performance, putting impact into the language of 'return on investment', which is widely understood by investors and lenders.

Philip will talk you through the process of preparing a SROI analysis for your organisation and put a monetary value on the social impact of your organisation.

Download a booking form [here](#).

Social Appraisal Toolkit

Friday 22nd February

10.00am-3.00pm

Wallsend Peoples Centre

Are you setting up a new project? Do you want to build sustainability in from the start? Are you looking for funding?

The Social Appraisal Toolkit is an online process which helps you present your social, economic and environmental benefits in a systematic way.

Philip will talk 12 organisations through the process ('live', in an IT suite) and help you produce an SAT report for your organisation which you'll be able to take away at the end of the day.

Download a booking form [here](#).

Lunch will be provided at both events.

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So You Think You're Ready...

Put your business planning and presentation skills to the test and win 2 days of free consultancy support!

Only five organisations per event!!

- Are you passionate about your next project?
- Do you know your project 'inside out'?
- Are you ready to pitch for support?

Then test your skills....and get first hand feedback on your proposal

We're looking for one participating organisation per borough, at each of two events, to present their project to a panel of professional bankers and funders.

The Rules...

1. You must be able to attend from 9.30 am on the day of your presentation
2. No more than two people per organisation may present to the panel
3. Your proposal should be at the point of submission and you should understand your plans in detail
4. No computer aided presentations allowed – only flip charts! However, you may bring any marketing literature currently used by your organisation

The day...

Ten Tips from Top to Toe – it is said that 'first impressions count' and that 'people make up their mind in the first 30 seconds' - learn how to convey yourself both through personal presentation and verbal communication with the aid of style and delivery advisers, in a comfortable and informal manner.

Meet the Panel...Sell your Idea – you will have a 10 minute 'slot' to present your proposal to a panel of professional bankers and funders in true 'Dragon's Den' style.

In return...

The 'winning' organisation will receive *2 days of consultancy support* from Pentagon Partnership to pursue their proposal through to submission of bid. Other participating organisation will receive written, constructive feedback from the panel.

Lunch and networking opportunities will be provided.

Monday 10th March
9.30am - 3.00pm
The Oxford Centre, West Farm
Avenue, Longbenton, NE12 8LT
Click [here](#) for directions.

Wednesday 19th March
9.30am - 3.00pm
West Harton Action Station, 85-91
Boldon Lane, South Shields, NE34
0AS

Limited to 10 organisations per session - strictly first come first served.

Download booking forms for these events [here](#).

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Economic Regeneration and You – a critical debate on the role of the VCS in the new City Region

Thursday March 27th

9.30-1.30pm (lunch will be provided)

The Village Hotel, Cobalt Business Park, NE27 0BY

Click [here](#) for directions.

- *What is Economic Regeneration?*
- *What does it mean to the region?*
- *You already contribute...but how?*
- *How can this contribution be recognised?*

Participate with a panel of regional organisations and voluntary sector representatives to consider many sides of the argument... the critical debate.

Recognising the sector's influence in economic regeneration, we are inviting interested voluntary and community sector organisations to join us in discussing and shaping the sector's role in the Tyne & Wear City Region.

Panel representatives will include Peter O'Brien (Director, Tyne and Wear City Region), George Snaith (Executive Director (Acting), TyneWear Partnership), Kate Welsh (Chief Executive, Acumen Development Trust), Gillian Hewitson (Managing Director, Newcastle Futures), Shona Duncan (Manager, Tyne and Wear City Region Employment Consortium), Karen Wood (Chief Executive, North East Social Enterprise Partnership)

The critical debate with live audience participation and voting will be followed by a choice from five workshops on each of the key themes of economic regeneration:

- Business & Enterprise
- People - Economic Inclusion
- Rural & Environment
- Culture & Tourism
- Skills & Higher Education

Here you will be invited to share your views, knowledge and experience in shaping the sector's contribution across the region.

Lunch and networking opportunities will be included.

Some limited bursaries may be available to allow volunteer representatives to attend. Please contact us for more information.

Download a booking form [here](#).

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The future for Pentagon

As you may be aware, funding to continue the Pentagon Partnership beyond March 2008 has not yet been secured. We're currently in [negotiation](#) with potential funders and will be in touch with more information soon.

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Policy and other news

City Region latest

Tyne and Wear City Region is the name for the new governance arrangements being established for Tyne and Wear, parts of South Northumberland, and North Durham. The idea is that traditional local authority boundaries do not adequately reflect economic realities, and that the new structures will enable officers from different authorities to work together on initiatives such as a Multi Area Agreement for the City Region, and the City Region Employment Consortium.

Here's the latest on these developments, from TyneWear Partnership:

“City Region developments have taken a major step forward since the turn of the year with the newly appointed City Region Director, Peter O'Brien, taking up his post on January 4th. Peter has joined the City Region from the North East Assembly and among his first tasks he will be looking to take forward the development of the new City Region structures, including a new Executive Team.

In November the City Region submitted an expression of interest to the Government to develop a Multi Area Agreement. On the 7th November Communities Secretary Hazel Blears announced that the Tyne & Wear City Region would be one of 13 sub-regions invited to develop proposals for a MAA to be agreed with government by June 2008. The initial plans for the MAA are looking at adding value by addressing issues of Transport, Employment and Skills and our analytical capacity across the City Region. A work group has been set up and is currently developing the proposal.”

A new website is being established at www.tynewearcityregion.co.uk and Pentagon will continue to update the sector on developments relating to the City Region.

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Asset Transfer latest

The Department for Communities and Local Government has made a further £2million available to assist with the transfer of assets from public to community ownership. A further 14 pilot areas have been announced, including Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead (North Tyneside was selected as one of the original 20 pilot areas). For more information, visit the CLG website, [here](#).

Results of the BASIS consultation

BASIS is a Big Lottery Fund programme which aims to improve the infrastructure support available to VCS organisations. You may remember from our November e-bulletin that the Big Lottery held a consultation on how the funding should be targeted. The Big Lottery Fund have now summarised and responded to the results of the consultation; recommendations included both national and bespoke regional and sub-regional allocation of resources. The results of the consultation are available [here](#).

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Indices of Deprivation

The English Indices of Deprivation 2007 are available to order online now. The document assesses deprivation at neighbourhood level, against a variety of 'domains' including employment, health, education, housing, crime and environment.

You can see a summary and order the complete document [here](#).

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bassac annual conference

bassac is a membership organisation that represents and supports a national network of multi-purpose organisations who provide services, community development support and host smaller community initiatives.

Their annual conference, *Speak Out!*, takes place on February 28th-29th in London. The event will include discussions on community anchors, community assets and investment funding, and speakers include David Cameron MP and Campbell Robb (Office of the Third Sector).

For further information, a full programme and a chance to book, click [here](#).

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The VCS and the statutory sector: a 'Jargon Buster'

IDeA, the Improvement and Development Agency for local government, has produced a useful jargon-buster which may help VCS organisations better understand concepts like full-cost recovery, service level agreements, commissioning and procurement.

The jargon buster is available [here](#).

Meanwhile, ACEVO, the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations, has produced an online Full Cost Recovery toolkit, which can be downloaded by visiting www.fullcostrecovery.org.uk/ and selecting 'Download the Full Cost Recovery Toolkit for FREE'.

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The Big Green Challenge

The Big Green Challenge is a £1million prize fund designed to encourage and reward people working together to develop and implement new approaches that will lead towards a reduction of CO₂ emissions.

More details [here](#).

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Stamp out Stigma – free accredited training for the VCS.

D'ArtE CIC are running a free two-day course (12th and 26th February) to help voluntary organisations get up to speed on the latest disability issues and legislation, to better meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and the Skills Base project. For more information, including a flyer and a booking form, click [here](#).

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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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c/o VODA, Shiremoor Centre, Earsden Road, Shiremoor Tyne and Wear NE27 0HJ
t: 0191 2008516 f: 0191 200 8556 w: www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk

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