



## **Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin February 2009**

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

Pentagon Partnership is the strategic partnership for third sector involvement in the economic regeneration of the Tyne & Wear City Region.

For further information about Pentagon Partnership visit [www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk](http://www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk)

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## City Region News

### **The third sector and the Multi Area Agreement: delivering on Employment, Skills and Transport issues**

The Tyne and Wear City Region Multi Area Agreement (MAA) is an agreement between the public, private and third sectors to work together on **employment, skills and transport issues** across the City Region (Tyne and Wear, north Durham and south Northumberland).

The third sector has a huge role to play in helping achieve a more **competitive** and **economically inclusive** City Region. Pentagon Partnership has organised two events in association with the City Region team to raise awareness of the MAA and discuss opportunities for - and barriers - to full third sector engagement.

The events, bringing together key City Region policymakers and third sector partners, take place as follows:

#### **Employment and Skills**

##### ***The third sector's role in increasing the employment rate and tackling skills gaps***

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009 - 10am to 3pm

Blue Flames Sporting Club, Newcastle upon Tyne

[Click here to book your place NOW](#)

#### **Transport**

##### ***The third sector's role in improving access to employment and services***

Tuesday 24 March - 10am to 1pm

Stannington Village Hall, Stannington, Northumberland

[Click here to book your place NOW](#)

#### **Further information**

Download the MAA from our website at

<http://www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/Documents/CityRegion/MAA.pdf>

Read more about the City Region / MAA at [www.tynewearcityregion.co.uk](http://www.tynewearcityregion.co.uk)

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## Employment and Skills update: Recruitment Hub and Directory of Employment

The City Region Employment Consortium is currently undertaking two pieces of work aimed at meeting the employment targets set out in the multi-area agreement.

### Recruitment Hub

The Recruitment Hub is intended to formalise the way the various partners working across the City Region seek to engage with Employers. Anecdotal evidence suggests that employers are often confused by what is available from the various local agencies; the Hub approach is seen as a way of avoiding duplication and aligning support that is available and presenting it in a single cohesive offering. This will not completely replace existing ways of working but will help align funding and delivery to reduce duplication.

The key partners involved are Jobcentre Plus, the LSC, local authorities, Business and Enterprise North East, North East Employer Coalition and One NorthEast. Currently the City Region Employment Consortium are working to develop a series of principles and protocols which the partners will agree and sign up to which will establish how the partnership will work jointly for the benefit of employers and the client group.

At this stage the Hub is being developed as a 'virtual' model and much of the debate at the workshop was around what the Hub may look like in the future including the possibility of a physical entity. This is subject to a lot more work by the partnership and ensuring any provision is in line with the REF.

*For more information on the Recruitment Hub contact Chris Peel at the Employment Consortium on [chris.peel@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:chris.peel@northtyneside.gov.uk) or 0191 6436064*

### Directory of Employment

The first edition of the 'Directory of Employment' has been prepared to bring together the names and contact details of the many organisations (public, private and voluntary sector agencies) who can help the unemployed and those facing the threat of, or experiencing, redundancy because of the poor economic environment.

Shona Duncan, Manager of the City Region Employment Consortium, says the new publication will be an important reference guide pointing individuals to places where they can get very real assistance in these difficult times.

*“There are many organisations in the City Region delivering some form of help and support to those who are unemployed, or those facing redundancy.*

*This developing directory is a first attempt at pulling together this crucially important information and it will continue to grow over the coming months.”*

The Directory of Employment is available for reference or download on the City Region website at [www.tynewearcityregion-employment.co.uk/publications.php](http://www.tynewearcityregion-employment.co.uk/publications.php)

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## Pentagon News

### The Economic Value of Volunteering A *Business Plus* networking event

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

12noon-2.00pm

Colby Court Community Fire Station, Elswick Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear NE4 6HL

This event is an opportunity to consider why (and how) third sector organisations should place a tangible value on work done by volunteers. Often we think about volunteering as being cost-neutral, or only having social or environmental benefits. In reality there is an economic value to volunteering, and a cost too, and organisations should factor these in when planning for the future or applying for funding.

We'll think about:

- The value to your organisation
- The value to the community
- The cost to your organisation
- The value to the volunteer

Information will also be available on some of the specific techniques designed to measure the benefit cost of volunteering, including VIVA (Volunteer Investment and Value Audit), SROI (Social return on Investment) and Full Cost Recovery.

As usual the event will feature a **free lunch** and **formal and informal networking sessions**: a great chance for you to share ideas and experiences with partners from outside your local area.

**Please note that this event is now FULLY BOOKED; remember to book early for future Business Plus events!**

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## Previous Events

### **Enterprising Charities event February 2009**

We invited Barbara McClennan from Education Business Connections (a very enterprising charity!) to talk us through the income generation opportunities available to third sector organisations who sell their intellectual property.

[Click here to download Barbara's presentation](#)

### **Business Plus event February 2009**

*Employment Issues and the Economic Downturn*

After December's event was badly hit by the weather, we invited Ward Hadaway back to brief the Business Plus network on employment issues including redundancies, performance management and managing absence.

[Click here to download the Ward Hadaway presentation](#)

### **Business Plus event January 2009**

*Gift Aid and Payroll Giving*

The first Business Plus event of 2009 was a session on Gift Aid and Payroll Giving, exploring how third sector organisations can maximise their income using tax-efficient giving.

[Click here to download our presentation](#)

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## Other News

### Free Social Enterprise Training

Built to Achieve is a programme of free workshops in February and March, aimed at social enterprises in the North East region. The workshops are aimed at established organisations as well as individuals planning to set up and run a social enterprise. These workshops will provide practical, informal training in small groups to share knowledge and ideas, and discuss solutions to the challenges you face.

You will learn new skills and meet new contacts to help your business develop and grow. Our interactive, lively sessions will be facilitated by experienced trainers and focus on several key areas essential for your business to achieve its goals:

Topics include:

- Business Planning
- Performance and Quality Management
- Financial Management
- Commissioning and Winning Contracts
- Sales Marketing and Promotion
- Human Resources and Volunteers
- Governance Management

[For more information click here](#)

### Commissioning and procurement advice from NAVCA

NAVCA's commissioning and procurement advice line provides information, guidance and advice to local infrastructure organisations on all aspects of commissioning and procurement. Enquiries to date have ranged from 'what is commissioning?' to information on new EU procurement regulations. The contact details for the advice line are email: [lcpu@navca.org.uk](mailto:lcpu@navca.org.uk) telephone: 0114 2893989.

Further information on NAVCA's Local Commissioning and Procurement Unit can be found at [www.navca.org.uk/lcpu](http://www.navca.org.uk/lcpu)

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## Opportunities

### Small Organisation Tender Fund

FutureBuilders are offering grants to small third sector organisations who need small sums of money to help them tender successfully for specific public sector contracts. For further information [click here](#).

For information on the full Tender Fund, which offers larger amounts of money, in loan as opposed to grant form, to organisations bidding for contracts, [click here](#).

### European Social Fund (North East)

The European Social Fund (ESF) helps people improve skills and consequently their job prospects: combating unemployment, preventing people from dropping out of the labour market, and promoting training are key objectives of the ESF.

Information on forthcoming Opportunities to Tender can be found at: [http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplyingdwp/what\\_we\\_buy/european\\_social\\_fund.asp](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplyingdwp/what_we_buy/european_social_fund.asp)

### Adventure Capital Fund (ACF)

The Adventure Capital Fund (ACF) offers a range of investments and support to develop stable and sustainable community based enterprises. The aim of ACF is to fill the investment gap that faces community enterprise organisations, and to increase investment-readiness of community organisations wishing to move to greater sustainability through enterprise. The Business Development grant is targeted at community enterprises in their early stages of development to improve their investment readiness and sustainability through developing their skills and capacity.

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## Early Warning – Third Sector Capacity Fund

One NorthEast will be releasing guidelines in March 2009 for the above funding opportunity for the third sector - £6million over 5 years.

This project will provide grant funding to third sector organisations in the North East of England in order to build the capacity of the sector to engage with, and deliver, sustainable economic development activities.

Building on the success of the pilot Third Sector Capacity Fund which ran from 2006-08, this new fund will allow third sector organisations to bid for activities such as:

- testing ways to work with partners on the barriers preventing people from playing a full role in the economy
- developing new ways of becoming sustainable
- delivering specialist training, coaching or mentoring
- managing community buildings
- playing a partnership role in physical regeneration.

Grants will be offered to a maximum of £150,000 per project.

All proposals will be expected to fit with the Regional Economic Strategy as a minimum and the Regional Employability Framework if they are related to getting people into employment.

Look out for full details in the next Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin

Thank you for reading. Please feel free to circulate this e-bulletin to your networks. Read previous e-bulletins [here](#).

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