

Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin

January 2009

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

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

As well as raising the business skills of the third sector, we act as the interface between the sector and the new Tyne & Wear City Region governance structures, which make important economic decisions about the City Region (Tyne & Wear as well as parts of North Durham and South Northumberland).

For further information about Pentagon Partnership visit www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk

In this edition (click on the link to go directly to the story):

City Region News

- [Third sector engagement in the Multi-Area Agreement](#)
- [Transport update](#)

Pentagon News

- [Business Plus: Employment Issues and the Economic Downturn](#)
- [Enterprising Charities: selling your intellectual property](#)
- [Are You Leading The Way? - a dynamic management toolkit](#)

Other News

- [Working in a consortium - A guide for third sector organisations involved in public service delivery](#)
- [IPPR research - third sector engagement with regional and sub-regional partnerships](#)
- [North East Regional Business Fair – seminars on public procurement](#)
- [VONNE Discussion Forum – discuss economic regeneration issues online!](#)
- [Financial support for small companies is open to charities too, says business secretary.](#)

Contract Opportunities

- [Sunderland Children's Services - Community Involvement & Volunteering Service](#)
- [City Region Employability contract - Emergency Retention Fund](#)

City Region News

Third sector engagement in the Multi-Area Agreement

We have been successful in securing resources from the North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership, via the Tyne and Wear City Region, to support the active engagement of third sector organisations across the City Region in the delivery of the MAA.

This is what will be happening:

- 2 launch events in March: one on **Employment and Skills**, the other on **Transport**
- A follow-up / way-ahead event to focus on specific issues that arise from the launch events
- Continued support for third sector representation on the various City Region partnerships
- Thematic focus groups on each of the themes, providing our representatives with a third sector mandate
- Continued provision of City Region / MAA information to the sector through e-bulletins and our website.

Look out for details of these events in our next e-bulletin.

For background information on the City Region and MAA, read our overview 'the MAA at a glance' [here](#).

Transport update

Stage 2 of the City Region Transport Governance Review is under way and Pentagon staff are meeting with Atkins, the consultants undertaking the review to ensure maximum third sector involvement in the new arrangements. You may remember that we fed third sector views into stage 1 of the review; the collection of third sector viewpoints is available [here](#), and Atkins' summary of stage 1 of the review is available [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

Pentagon News

Employment Issues and the Economic Downturn A *Business Plus* networking event

Thursday 5th February 2009

12noon-2.00pm

South Shields Community Fire Station, John Reid Road, South Shields, NE34 8FS

Joe Thornhill from Ward Hadaway returns* to brief the Business Plus network on employment issues that third sector organisations may have to deal with in the current climate, e.g.:

- *redundancies*
- *performance management*
- *flexible working*
- *managing absence*

The event is intended as a follow-up rather than a rerun of Joe's December session on Human Resources and Employment Law where attendance was affected by bad weather; **previous attendees are encouraged to come along.*

As usual this event includes a free lunch and networking opportunities.

Places are limited so please book a place now to avoid disappointment

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

[Back to top](#)

Enterprising Charities... sell their intellectual property

We're pleased to announce the launch of a new programme of events to complement our *Business Plus* programme. Where *Business Plus* helps organisations become fit for purpose, businesslike and sustainable, *Enterprising Charities* events will feature expert speakers sharing their knowledge and experience on how you can 'go the extra mile' to **boost your income**.

Selling your intellectual property – a Pentagon Partnership Enterprising Charities event

Tuesday 17th February

9.30am-12.30pm

Gateshead Community Fire Station, Dryden Road, Gateshead, NE9 5BU

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

You will learn how to:

- decide if it's right for your organisation
- identify what you've got to sell: Knowledge? Expertise? Support?
- spread the word!

[Click here to book a place on this FREE event](#)

[Back to top](#)

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

A Dynamic Management Toolkit from Pentagon Partnership

**Do you want to:
Sustain your organisation?
Develop your potential?
Expand your geographic boundaries?**

Yes? Pentagon Partnership's 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 third sector organisations.

Feedback:

- *“Renewed ideas for assessing and reviewing our organisation”*
- *“Very user friendly and accessible”*
- *“A practical toolkit...will use to help in implementing our strategic plan”*

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

Other News

Working in a consortium - A guide for third sector organisations involved in public service delivery

The Office of the Third Sector has produced a short guide for third sector organisations who may be considering, or already involved in, developing a partnership to deliver a public services contract. The guide includes:

- Introduction to consortium working
- Is it right for you: advantages, disadvantages and the different consortium models that exist.
- Where to get more information and advice.

The document is available from the Office of the Third sector website, [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

IPPR research - third sector engagement with regional and sub-regional partnerships

- *How important is partnership working with the public sector at the regional and sub-regional levels to the voluntary and community sector (VCS)?*
- *Should the sector be seeking to engage more at this level?*
- *How might this work and what skills are needed?*

The Institute for Public Policy Research North (ippr north), with the support of ACEVO, is currently conducting some research into the engagement of the VCS with strategic partnership working at the regional and sub-regional levels.

The institute ran a number of focus groups in December and the next stage of the research is an online survey.

We encourage you to complete the survey and give your experiences of your involvement with regional and sub-regional (including City-regional) partnerships, whether facilitated by Pentagon, another infrastructure organisation or by way of direct engagement.

The survey is available by clicking [here](#) and should only take about 10 minutes to complete.

[Back to top](#)

North East Regional Business Fair – seminars on public procurement

The North East Regional Business Fair takes place on the 25th and 26th February at Newcastle Racecourse and we are encouraging **third sector organisations with an interest in selling their services to the public sector** to attend.

The events includes sessions on:

- Public procurement
- London 2012 Supply Chain opportunities
- NHS Procurement
- Access to Finance
- Train2Gain

You can register for the fair at www.nebusinessfair.co.uk or by contacting Karen Lilley on 0191 281 5777 or karen@btob.co.uk

[Back to top](#)

VONNE Discussion Forum – discuss economic regeneration issues online!

VONNE, the regional VCS infrastructure organisation have a discussion forum on their website where third sector organisations can discuss policy areas and sector issues, including: Communities, Economic Regeneration, Environment & Planning, Equalities, Health and Social Care, Infrastructure, ICT, Leadership, Commissioning and Procurement and Volunteering

Visit <http://www.vonne.org.uk/discuss/> to start a conversation, or click [here](#) to go straight to the Economic Regeneration discussion forum.

[Back to top](#)

Financial support for small companies is open to charities too, says business secretary.

A £20bn financial support package for small businesses launched by the Government can be accessed by third sector organisations, business secretary Peter Mandelson has promised. In a letter to Stephen Bubb, chief executive of ACEVO, Mandelson confirmed that the package was open to "all businesses, including the third sector".

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) has set aside £10bn as a guarantee to banks that it will repay 50 per cent of short-term loans to businesses with turnovers of up to £500m.

It has also separately set aside money to guarantee 100 per cent of £1.3bn of loans to businesses with turnovers under £25m. "I am delighted to see that our discussions with the department have paid off and that the package will apply to the third sector," said Bubb. "The focus of ACEVO ongoing discussions with BERR will now focus on ensuring that the support is tailored to the third sector's needs, and that third sector organisations know how to access it."

For more information about the support package can be found at www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

[Back to top](#)

Contract Opportunities

Sunderland Children's Services - Community Involvement & Volunteering Service

Sunderland Children's Services are seeking expressions of interest from providers who can deliver this contract.

This service will operate within the guidelines for the development and delivery of Children's Centres outlined in the Childcare Act 2006 and Sure Start Children's Centres Practice Guidance.

Sunderland Children's Centres have adopted a citywide approach to service delivery through five agreed locality areas. It is therefore expected that all prospective tenderers will either provide services across all Children's Centre locality areas, or tender for specific areas but agree to work collectively with other agencies delivering the same service to ensure continuity and consistency of provision throughout the city.

The aim of the tender process is to identify independent providers to deliver this service which will compliment a range of other services being delivered by agencies from the statutory, voluntary and private sectors to children, families and the community. The successful provider(s) will be expected to deliver a service which is flexible and aligns itself with the Council's Children's and Young People's Plan and aims and objectives agreed for Children's Centre delivery.

An Information Session for this tender will be held at the Training Room, Community Library, Sandhill Centre, Grindon Lane, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, SR3 4EN on Tuesday 27th January 2009 at 3:00pm - 5:00pm.

Expressions of interest should be made in writing to:

Mrs Kerry Leece
Procurement Support Officer
Sunderland City Council
Health, Housing & Adult Services
Leechmere Training Centre
Leechmere Industrial Estate
Sunderland
SR2 9TQ
Email: kerry.leece@sunderland.gov.uk

The closing date for receipt of written expressions of interest is 30th January 2009.

Tender packs will be sent out on 2nd February 2009.

Requests for further information should be made to Kerry Leece at the above address or tel: 0191 566 2380.

[Back to top](#)

City Region Employability contract - Emergency Retention Fund

North Tyneside Council seeks expressions of interest from suitably experienced organisations to undertake the delivery of an Emergency Retention Fund Support Service to be delivered across the Tyne and Wear City Region.

The council requires a potential partner/s who will develop and deliver the service supporting individuals within the first six months of employment and those at risk of leaving their jobs due to exceptional circumstances. The contract will be offered for two months, and is to deliver this support fund, in partnership, with those organisations delivering employability interventions across the City Region.

Applicants wishing to register their interest against this tender should go to the web site located at www.nepoportal.org . Select North Tyneside Council and enter Contract ID QTLE-7NCDQE. Unregistered suppliers will be redirected to a Supplier Registration form to be completed. (The tender documents will be sent to the e-mail address as included on the Supplier Registration form)

Initial expressions of interest should be made as above and all tenders are to be returned to the Council no later than noon on 30th January 2009.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Steve Sprott, Strategic Procurement, Tel; (0191) 643 5659, e-mail: steve.sprott@northtyneside.gov.uk

No previous application or expression of interest shall be taken as an application for the purposes of this notice.

[Back to top](#)