



Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin July 2009

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

In this e-bulletin (click on the link to go directly to the story)...

Pentagon News

- [Business Plus - a third sector business network](#)
- [Enterprising Charities – go the extra mile to boost your income](#)
- [Are You Leading the Way – FREE toolkits plus support available](#)

City Region news

- [Employment and Skills and Transport Focus Groups](#)
- [IPPR North Report on Third Sector engagement in regional and sub-regional partnerships](#)

Opportunities - funding, contracts and support

- [Social Enterprise Investment Fund](#)
- [Communitybuilders – supporting community anchor organisations](#)
- [Funding Central – access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities](#)

Events, consultations and other news

- [A4e Third Sector Partnership event, 30th July](#)
- [The Tyne Gateway Partnership: Could you be a community entrepreneur in North or South Tyneside?](#)
- [Consultation on Social Investment Wholesale Bank launched – your views wanted](#)

Further information on Pentagon Partnership:

0191 200 8516

info@pentagonpartnership.org.uk

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**.

Retaining Talent

July’s Business Plus event was on the subject of *Retaining Talent* and featured a presentation by Lee Rankin of Premium People who talked about options available for attracting, retaining and motivating talented staff.

Lee’s presentation is available [here](#) and he can be contacted on 0191 5872999 or lee.rankin@premiumpeople.co.uk

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

with Ward Hadaway law firm

Thursday 3rd September

10.30am-12.00noon

TEDCO Business Works, South Shields

[Click here to book your place](#)

Collaboration – working together to beat the downturn

with ACEVO North

Thursday 1st October

10.30am-12.00noon

Disability North, Newcastle upon Tyne

[Click here to book your place](#)

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



[Back to top](#)

Enterprising Charities

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

July's event focused on ***Understanding Social Enterprise*** and was delivered in partnership with NESEP, the North East Social Enterprise Partnership. The session explored the concept of social enterprise and how it can be combined with grant and contract funding to make enterprising charities *really* enterprising!

Presentations from the event can be accessed by clicking on the links below:

- [NESEP / Pentagon presentation on Understanding Social Enterprise](#)
- [Meadowwell Connected Presentation on their enterprising activity](#)

The next Enterprising Charities event will take place in the Autumn, on the opportunities available around **e-commerce**. Look out for more details in our next e-bulletin.

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



[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, for free, a number of copies of the toolkit; also on offer is support from Pentagon Partnership in completing the toolkit.

We'll talk you through completing 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

The toolkit normally costs £30 so this is a great opportunity to assess where your organisation stands in these difficult economic times

To apply for a FREE copy, plus support in completing the toolkit, please email jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk **before Friday August 14th** 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

Third Sector Focus Groups – Employment and Skills and Transport

As you may know, Pentagon Partnership was commissioned earlier this year to engage the third sector in the City Region / Multi Area Agreement agenda.

To read our initial report, *Engaging the third sector in the Tyne and Wear City Region Multi Area Agreement*, please [click here](#).

The report made a number of recommendations, including the establishment of third sector focus groups on Employment and Skills and Transport.

The first meeting of the **Employment and Skills Focus Group** took place on July 10th. Minutes of that meeting, as well as a list of members and some background information on the City Region Employment and Skills Board, are available [here](#).

The next meeting takes place on Friday September 11th. If you're interested in joining the group, email jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk with a summary of your organisation and its involvement in employment and skills.

A number of organisations have expressed an interest in joining a **Transport Focus Group**; this will meet for the first time in the Autumn. For more details please contact us.



Pentagon Partnership's work on the City Region agenda is funded by the North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership.

[Back to top](#)

IPPR North Report on Third Sector engagement in regional and sub-regional partnerships

IPPR North has recently undertaken some research exploring third sector involvement in regional and subregional policymaking. As facilitators of third sector engagement in the city Region agenda, Pentagon Partnership was involved in the research as a consultee.

The final report, *All Inclusive? Third sector involvement in regional and sub-regional policymaking* has now been published; it identifies a number of key issues to progress effective engagement between the public sector and the third sector at regional and sub-regional levels.

The report makes a number of recommendations including:

- Central government guidance to regional and sub-regional bodies, such as regional development agencies and city regional partnerships, should name the third sector as key stakeholders to engage in policymaking;
- The third sector should conduct an open debate about how high a priority regional and sub-regional engagement is for different parts of the sector, and how to deliver effective engagement given the changing economic context;
- The third sector should use its campaigning skills to develop a more coherent voice at the regional and sub-regional levels, focusing on a small number of key issues;
- Training and development would be beneficial for both the public and the third sector.
- For the public sector increasing awareness and understanding of the third sector – what we term ‘third sector literacy’ – is a key area for development;
- For the third sector, strategic thinking, influencing skills and communication skills are identified as key areas for development;
- Collectively the public and third sectors should develop a programme of joint activities and training to provide time and space for interaction, and the building of social capital and understanding.

The report is free to download from the IPPR North website by clicking [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

Opportunities - funding, contracts and support

Social Enterprise Investment Fund

The Social Enterprise Investment Fund (SEIF) provides investment to help new social enterprises start up and existing social enterprises grow and improve their services in the delivery of innovative health and social care services.

The Fund was set up in 2007 as part of the Government's plans for stimulating expansion in the role of social enterprise in the provision of health and social care.

By enabling social enterprises to deliver health and social care services, the Social Enterprise Investment Fund aims to improve the quality of services for patients.

Social enterprises that can apply to SEIF include:

- Multi-agency partnerships, particularly voluntary and community groups wishing to use their expertise to provide services across health and social care
- Existing social enterprises looking to expand into health and social care
- Groups of professionals, such as nurses or therapists, seeking to form a social enterprise to deliver their services using the 'right to request' - see link below
- All social enterprises who apply would be expected to have a 'not for profit' status.

More information is available [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

Communitybuilders – supporting community anchor organisations

Communitybuilders is a £70 million programme that will strengthen the resilience of multi-purpose, inclusive, community-led organisations operating at the neighbourhood level (sometimes referred to as community anchors).

These organisations:

- provide a place for community activities to take place
- run local services
- stimulate community involvement and enterprise
- generate independent sources of income

Communitybuilders will benefit around 300 organisations across England, with many more sharing the best practice lessons.

What types of organisations will Communitybuilders support?

- **Community controlled** by local residents and/or representative of local groups
- Address their **neighbourhood's needs** in a multi-purpose, holistic way
- **Inclusive** of all sections of their community, including marginalised groups
- **Empowering** by facilitating and supporting the community development and enterprise in their area
- Provide a **voice** for their community

Differing types of anchor organisations

No two areas are the same. Communities have different needs and resources that will affect what a community anchor is and how it operates.

Under Communitybuilders' definition, the following organisations may be considered eligible:

- Community centres
- Multi-purpose settlements and social action centres
- Development trusts and community enterprises
- Building preservation trusts
- Community land trusts

Want to apply?

Register your interest by phoning 0191 261 5200.

[Back to top](#)

Funding Central – access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities

Funding Central is a brand new, free-to-use website for the whole voluntary and community sector, including social enterprise, providing access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities, plus a wealth of tools and resources supporting organisations to develop sustainable income strategies appropriate to their needs.

Phase one of Funding Central was launched on 17 June 2009 with further enhancements and additional tools and resources being released in September 2009.

Funding Central is managed by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations in partnership with j4b Software and Publishing and is funded by the Office of the Third Sector. It covers national funding and finance opportunities for voluntary and community organisations operating in England from European, national, regional and local government and charitable sources.

To see what the website can do for you, visit www.fundingcentral.org.uk

[Back to top](#)

Events, consultations and other news

A4e Third Sector Partnership event, 30th July



A4e improving people's lives

A4e would like to invite you to join us for our first Third Sector Partnership Event

A4e are always looking to work in partnership with organisations that can help **Improve People's Lives**. We strongly believe that a partnership of organisations, each with particular skills and experience, will be more responsive to individual and local needs and we are committed to building and investing in our partnership structure. We feel that by working in the spirit of true partnership with Third Sector organisations we can make a genuine contribution to local communities and leave a lasting legacy for people in the future. It would be great to have the opportunity to meet with you and hope you will be able to be part of our day.

Date: Thursday 30th July 2009
Time: 09.30am - 4.30pm
Venue: Sunderland Stadium of Light, Sunderland. SR5 1SU

A4e invites you to a one-day event that will offer information and the opportunity to discuss partnership working in the NE. The day will include:

- Introduction to A4e and our services and future opportunities in the NE
- Presentations from NE Third Sector organisations who are A4e partners
- Third Sector Strategy presentation
- An introduction to the Foundation of Social Improvement (FSI)
- Workshop sessions covering subjects such as Social Enterprises / Loan Fund Applications
- Flexible New Deal / FSI
- Networking opportunities
- Lunch and refreshments included

Who should attend this conference?
Any Third Sector organisations / umbrella organisations who are interested in developing partnerships in the North East.

Booking and queries
If you would like to book a place at this event, or have any queries, please email Sara Lewis at slewis@a4e.co.uk or telephone on: 01642 754 777

[Back to top](#)

The Tyne Gateway Partnership: Could you be a community entrepreneur in North or South Tyneside?

North Tyneside and South Tyneside councils are joining forces as the Tyne Gateway Partnership to support and train 20 people to become 'Community Entrepreneurs'.

Becoming a Community Entrepreneur is about working with other people to make sure they get a chance to make a success of their lives, for themselves and their families.

A Community Entrepreneur will be a paid job and Entrepreneurs will be fully trained.

The programme aims to recruit Community Entrepreneurs who will help others to

- Look at life more positively
- Get back to work or find better jobs
- Gain skills and qualifications
- Earn more money
- Have a better family life

For more information on the project, contact Susan Postlethwaite at North Tyneside VODA on 0191 200 8561 or susan.postlethwaite@voda.org.uk

[Back to top](#)

Consultation on Social Investment Wholesale Bank launched – your views wanted

Access to appropriate funding and finance is often the single biggest concern facing organisations driven by social or environmental purpose. A Social Investment Wholesale Bank could help enable third sector organisations to access the finance they need to grow and become more sustainable.

(Office of the Third Sector 2009)

The Office of the Third Sector has announced a three-month consultation on the shape of a proposed Social Investment Wholesale Bank, which will be funded by unclaimed assets from dormant bank accounts and private and public investment.

The consultation looks at proposals for the design and functions of the potential bank and is part of the Government's plan to respond to the economic downturn and build a stronger, fairer and more prosperous country. The results will inform proposals to be developed by the Office of the Third Sector.

Full details, and the consultation document, are available at the Office of the Third Sector website [here](#).

Pentagon Partnership is very interested in your views on how the bank can be shaped to best meet the needs of the sector.

If you would be interested in attending a consultative focus group on the subject in September, please contact Jon Goodwin on jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk by **Friday 14th August**.

Subject to demand, we will either hold a consultation event or consult with interested organisations by email and telephone.

[Back to top](#)