



Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin June 2009

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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.

Pentagon Partnership 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**.

The next events take place as follows:

Retaining talent in the recession

Thursday 2nd July

10.30am-12.00noon

Wearmouth Community Development Trust, Sunderland

- *Attracting Talent – how attractive is your organisation?*
- *Retaining and Motivating Talent – attitudes, values and opportunities*
- *Talent management in a recession – strategic planning and getting ready for the upturn!*

[Click here to book your place](#)

Collaboration – working together to beat the downturn

Thursday 3rd September, 10.30am-12.00noon, South Shields

[Click here to book your place](#)

Evidencing impact and value for money

Thursday 1st October, 10.30am-12.00noon, Newcastle upon Tyne

[Click here to book your place](#)

A bursary scheme to cover travel and carers cost will be available to assist community organisations with the costs of attending these events. Please contact us for further information.

Information from previous Business Plus events, including June's event on the Modernisation Fund and the Targeted Support Fund, is available at

www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/previous_events.htm

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Enterprising Charities – go the extra mile to boost your income!

Enterprising Charities is a series of events which aim to give organisations the tools they need to boost their income through innovative means.

The next Enterprising Charities event is being delivered in partnership with the North East Social Enterprise Partnership (NESEP) and details are as follows:

Pentagon Partnership and NESEP present:

Understanding Social Enterprise

A Seminar and Discussion
designed for Enterprising Charities . . .

Explore what Social Enterprise is . . . and what it isn't!

Is it for you? and what support can you expect?

Call 0191 200 8516
for info and to book your place
or go to www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk

Tuesday 21st July 2009

1.30 - 4.00 pm

Saltwell Park Towers
East Park Road
Gateshead
NE9 5AX



North East Social Enterprise Partnership



[Click here to book your place](#)

A bursary scheme to cover travel and carers cost will be available to assist community organisations with the costs of attending this event. Please contact us for further information.

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Are You Leading The Way?

10 Steps to Your Future Success - a dynamic management toolkit

Do you want to:

- **Take a more businesslike approach to sustainability?**
- **Work in partnership with others?**
- **Deliver public service contracts?**

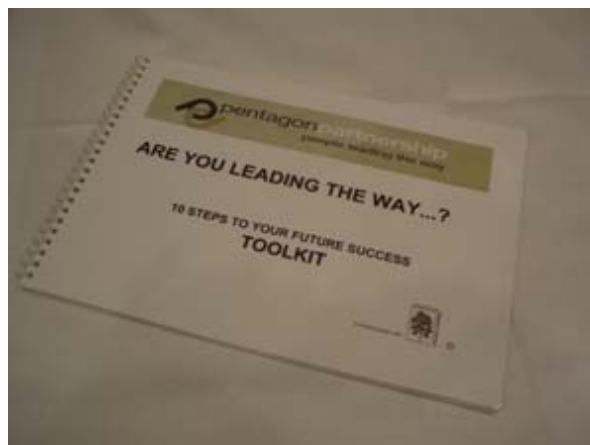
Pentagon Partnership's publication, *Are You Leading The Way? 10 Steps to Your Future Success* is an innovative toolkit, designed for third sector organisations of all sizes to assess your readiness for public service delivery and partnership working.

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.

Are You Leading The Way? takes you through a series of audits using a simple 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 8516.

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City Region News

Have your say on City Region Employment and Skills and Transport issues

Are you...

- A deliverer of employability or skills provision?
- An employer?
- A community transport operator?
- An advocate for better transport?

Pentagon Partnership is looking for organisations in Tyne and Wear, north Durham and south Northumberland with strong views on **employment and skills** and **transport** issues, to join two focus groups which will provide a third sector viewpoint to the Tyne and Wear City Region partnerships on these subjects.

The City Region partnerships are responsible for the implementation of the Multi-Area Agreement, which focuses on the strategic themes of employment and skills and transport as the means to achieve a more competitive and economically inclusive City Region.

Pentagon Partnership is resourced through the North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership to facilitate third sector involvement in the City Region / Multi-Area Agreement; we are doing this by organising focus groups and supporting third sector representatives on the various City Region boards.

If you're interested in joining a third sector focus group, please read Pentagon Partnership's new report, *Engaging the third sector in the Tyne and Wear City Region Multi Area Agreement* ([click here](#)), and email jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk with a summary of your organisation and its involvement in employment and skills and / or transport provision or advocacy, by **Friday 26th June**.

The focus groups will meet around 4-5 times a year, starting in July.

This is a real chance to use the sector's position as a service deliverer, an advocate for better service delivery and an employer to influence the City Region agenda, so please get in touch **NOW**.

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Interested in creating jobs? Be part of a joint bid to the Future Jobs Fund

Third sector organisations with an interest in creating jobs are invited to be part of a joint bid which aims to create over 4,000 jobs in Tyne and Wear, Durham and Northumberland.

The Tyne and Wear City Region Employment Consortium is co-ordinating a bid to the Future Jobs Fund, a fund of around £1 billion to support the **creation of jobs for long term unemployed young people** and others who face significant disadvantage in the labour market.

For further information on the Fund visit www.dwp.gov.uk/campaigns/futurejobsfund/pdf/fjf-guide.pdf .

The Employment Consortium is putting together a bid to the Fund and is looking to engage with third sector organisations from across the Tyne and Wear City Region who may be able to play a part in **delivering the bid and creating jobs**. The aim is to create over 4,000 six-month jobs (25+hrs p/w at minimum wage or above) and each job created will draw in up to £6,500 in funding.

Please see [this presentation](#) for full details, and contact Shona Duncan, Employment Consortium Manager, with any queries on 0191 643 6065 or shona.duncan@northtyneside.gov.uk

Next steps for organisations who operate across more than one Local Authority area:

If you feel like you can play a part in creating some of these jobs, please complete [this pro-forma](#) and return to shona.duncan@northtyneside.gov.uk by the **end of Friday 19th June**.

If you do not have the capacity to complete the form by this stage, please get in touch with Shona as future and ongoing opportunities may arise if the bid is successful.

Next steps for organisations who operate within a single Local Authority area:

Please contact the Economic Development Team within your Local Authority for further details on how they can become part of this bid. Contact details can also be obtained from Emma Wright on emma.wright@northtyneside.gov.uk or 0191 643 6063.

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Other events

Rising to the Challenge - Moving Away from Grant Dependency: Assets and Enterprise

One day conference: Friday 19th June 09
Lyndhurst Centre, Gateshead. 9.30am – 3.30pm

- Why are assets important?
- How do you make it work for you?
- How do you make money from having an asset?
- Creating sustainability for your organisation
- Demonstrating impact in the region

This conference, organised by the Community Alliance, is aimed at organisations thinking of acquiring a building, those who want to increase their earned income and/or are interested in exploring the possibility of developing a social enterprise.

The cost of the event is £23.00 plus VAT.

To find out more phone Susan Heads at the Development Trusts Association on 01670 518150 or email s.heads@dta.org.uk

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Places for Everyone - An Introduction to the Capital Development Process

The Glebe Centre, Murton, Co. Durham - Thursday 7th July 2009 - 10am-4.30pm
£50 VAT

- *Are you a voluntary or community group?*
- *Do your future aspirations involve a building project—perhaps a refurbishment or new build?*
- *Would you like to understand more about the process?*

PNE Development, in conjunction with Mosedale Gillatt Architects (MGA), the Development Trust Association (DTA) and Pentagon Partnership, is offering a one day taster 'Introduction to Capital Development' workshop. This workshop forms the initial phase of a larger programme which will help guide VCS organisations through the key stages of any capital development project.

The day will be interesting, informative, participative and interactive and will be led by a team of experts who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the capital development process.

To apply to this programme call PNE Development on 0191 261 6009 or email sarah.atkinson@pne.org for an application form.

Alternatively you can download an application form by clicking [here](#).

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Supporting Third Sector beneficiaries through the recession

How to link with Government help to better support Third Sector beneficiaries through the recession

Thursday, 16th July 2009

Durham County Cricket Club, County Ground, Chester-le-Street

Registration 10:00am Event begins at 10.30am with close and lunch at 1pm

VONNE's recent report on the impact of the recession on the region's Third Sector (*Surviving NOT Thriving*) has highlighted the impact of the downturn on the sector's beneficiaries. Two thirds of survey respondents reported a negative impact on their beneficiaries, while three quarters rated their beneficiaries' ability to cope with the recession as weak or very weak.

VONNE has organised this event in partnership with the region's Skills and Employability Response Group (SERG). It aims to look at how Third Sector organisations can link up with the Government's help for people affected by the recession to offer a better package of support for their beneficiaries.

This event will assist Third Sector organisations to identify the existing help that is available from the Government and local partners, as well as identify opportunities to strengthen links and understanding to better support Third Sector organisation's beneficiaries through the recession.

Building on the findings of *Surviving NOT Thriving*, the event will focus around support for the beneficiaries of Third Sector organisations. It will have a specific focus on:

- Mental Health
- Physical Disability
- Volunteering
- Homelessness
- Domestic Violence
- Debt & Benefits Advice
- Rural Areas
- Employability
- Funding & Sustainability

The event is aimed at all staff and volunteers of Third Sector organisations who are interested in how they can better utilise existing statutory provision to support their beneficiaries.

Places at the event are free but are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. So, if you are interested in attending please register by completing the [Booking form](#), stating your workshop preference and sending, by noon on Monday 13th July 2009, to VONNE.

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Opportunities: funding, contracts and support

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

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Safer Homes Fund

The Home Office have launched a new fund to increase **home security and reduce burglary rate**. Organisations in Newcastle, Sunderland and County Durham are invited to apply for revenue grants of between £10k and £100k for 12 months.

There are a few priority activities that the Home Office want to encourage:

1. Handy person schemes.
2. Community programmes
3. Peer to peer (befriending, mentoring projects etc)

The Home Office are also keen on:

- activities that reduce so-called 'distraction burglary' (ie burglaries while the home-owner is distracted perhaps by being at the community centre or by a bogus caller)
- activities which share information with the Police
- case study learning

Community Matters are offering support to voluntary organisations who wish to apply. For further information and support with your application, please contact Sarah Bishton on 0207 837 7883 or sarah.bishton@communitymatters.org.uk

For the full guidance application form, please see:
www.grantsadmin.co.uk/saferhomes

The deadline for all applications is the 31st of July 2009.

Meet like-minded organisations with Futurebuilders' new "merge-maker"

Futurebuilders new 'merge-maker' service profiles charities who are potentially interested in merging or collaborating with other charities in order to deliver public services.

For more information and to see the list of organisations signed up, please visit www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk/what-we-offer/services/merge%11maker/.

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