



## Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin May 2009

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

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## Pentagon News

### **Pentagon Partnership: supporting the third sector through the recession**

Pentagon Partnership has been commissioned by the Tyne and Wear Infrastructure Consortium to deliver a number of events, information provision and one-to-one support to help third sector organisations in Tyne and Wear become **more resilient to the effects of the recession**.

The **monthly e-bulletin** forms part of this work, and we'll be featuring news of relevant events and support available to the sector in the recession, as well as flagging up contract, funding and partnership opportunities. As ever, the e-bulletin will keep you up to date on all Pentagon Partnership and City Region news.

We are resuming our extremely popular **Business Plus** events on the first Thursday of every month, starting in June. The events are a great chance to learn **business skills** and meet **potential partners**.

Look out too for details of forthcoming **Enterprising Charities** events – one-off events focusing on innovative ways for organisations to **boost their income**.

Finally, we're keen to respond to the needs of individual organisations and offer **one-to-one support** with business skills, income generation and collaborative working, by providing support with completing pre-qualification questionnaires and other tendering issues, completing our *Are You Leading the Way* ([click here](#)) toolkit and forming partnerships.

For further information about this work, contact us on [info@pentagonpartnership.org.uk](mailto:info@pentagonpartnership.org.uk), call us on 0191 200 8516, or visit [www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk](http://www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk)

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## 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 event takes place as follows:

### Business Plus June 2009

#### **The Modernisation Fund – helping you become resilient to the recession**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June

10.00am-12.00noon

The Meadows Neighbourhood Centre, North Shields

*The Modernisation Fund helps third sector organisations be more resilient to the impact of the economic downturn. It is aimed at helping organisations that are providing services which are particularly in demand during a recession.*

CapacityBuilders will be distributing £1,000 bursaries and grants of up to £10,000 from June 2009, and Futurebuilders are currently distributing loans of £30,000 or over.

Join us for our monthly Business Plus network event - a representative from Futurebuilders will be on hand to talk about the Modernisation Fund, as well as the other support available from Futurebuilders including the [Cashflow Fund](#), the [Consortia Fund](#) and the [Small Organisation Tender Fund](#).

There will also be a chance to talk to Futurebuilders about individual projects.

[Click here to book your place](#)

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

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## Future Business Plus events

### Retaining talent in the recession

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

10.00am-12.00noon

Wearmouth Community Development Trust, Sunderland

[Click here to book your place](#)

### Collaboration – working together to beat the downturn

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

10.00am-12.00noon

TEDCO Business Works, South Shields

[Click here to book your place](#)

### Evidencing impact and value for money

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October

10.00am-12.00noon

Disability North, Newcastle upon Tyne

[Click here to book your place](#)

## Business Plus March 2009 - the economic value of volunteering

The last Business Plus meeting was 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.

- [Click here for Ciara Van Vogt's \(North Tyneside Volunteer Centre\) presentation on why we should measure the value of volunteering](#)
- [Click here for information on some of the methods available to measure and cost that value](#)

### Feedback on previous Business Plus events:

- *“A much-needed opportunity for organisations to get together.”*
- *“I always come away with a handful of business cards and new ideas for partnerships.”*
- *“The Business Plus events have put sustainability firmly on the agenda.”*

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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?**

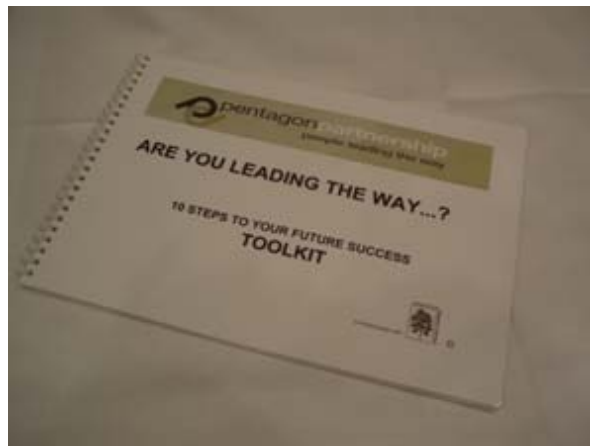
Pentagon Partnership's publication, *Are You Leading The Way? 10 Steps to Your Future Success* is an innovative toolkit, designed for third sector organisations of all sizes to assess your readiness for public service delivery and partnership working.

**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](mailto:admin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk) or phoning 0191 200 1405.

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## City Region News

### The third sector and the Multi Area Agreement – roles, barriers and recommendations

In March, Pentagon Partnership hosted two events to raise awareness of the [Tyne and Wear City Region](#) and the [Multi-Area Agreement](#) and to discuss third sector involvement in delivering on City Region employment, skills and transport issues.

Delegates concluded that the third sector has a critical **role** to play in delivering on employment and skills provision, and a growing role in delivering and advocating for better transport in the City Region.

The events also identified a number of **barriers** and risks to full third sector involvement, and our final report on the events makes a number of **recommendations** for increased involvement.

Download the final report, including a one-page executive summary, at [www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/Documents/CityRegion/MAAreport.pdf](http://www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/Documents/CityRegion/MAAreport.pdf)

### Third sector focus groups - get involved!

The report recommends the establishment of two third sector focus groups to draw together third sector organisations from across the City Region, and provide third sector representatives on City Region partnerships with their mandates.

We're looking for organisations in Tyne and Wear, north Durham and south Northumberland with strong views on employment, skills and transport issues.

Are you...

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

If you're any of the above, and you're interested in joining a third sector focus group, read the report ([click here](#)), and email [jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk](mailto:jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk) with a summary of your organisation and its involvement in employment and skills and / or transport provision or advocacy.

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 get in touch **NOW**.

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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](mailto: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](mailto:sarah.atkinson@pne.org) for an application form.

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

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## Opportunities: funding, contracts and support

### Modernisation Fund

The Government's £16.5 million 'Real Help for Communities' Modernisation Fund will help third sector organisations be more resilient to the impact of the economic downturn.

The Modernisation Fund website has been launched to provide information on the fund, which is a mix of grants and loan funding being delivered by CapacityBuilders and Futurebuilders.

The Modernisation Fund is focused on helping organisations that are providing services to those worst hit by the recession. The funding will help in two main ways:

Bursaries of £1,000 for organisations to pay for initial advice on how they can become more resilient to increase their impact, and grants of up to £10,000 to help pay costs involved in moving towards collaboration or merger

Interest-free loans of between £30,000 and £500,000 for third sector organisations with existing plans for mergers and collaboration or other activities to help them prepare for difficult times

CapacityBuilders will be distributing £1,000 bursaries and grants of up to £10,000 from June 2009, and Futurebuilders are currently distributing loans of £30,000 or over.

Those interested in applying to the Modernisation Fund are encouraged to visit the website for additional information and updates.

For more information visit: [www.modernisationfund.org.uk](http://www.modernisationfund.org.uk), or come to our Business [Plus](#) event on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June!

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## Targeted Support Fund

The £15.5 million Real Help for Communities: Targeted Support Fund will provide grant funding to small and medium providers in communities most at risk of increased deprivation due to the recession. This is in addition to the £130 million already committed to the Grassroots Grants programme meaning more small grants to more community groups.

Grants will be available to small, local third sector service providers who have experienced increased demand as a result of the recession. Services that will be funded under the Targeted Support Fund will be those that are providing key, recession focused services under one of the themes below:

- Information, advice and guidance (housing, financial, debt and legal advice and support)
- Employment and employability (training and support related to finding employment).
- Health and wellbeing (mental health, relationship breakdown, counselling, domestic violence & substance abuse)

50 areas in the country have been targeted to benefit from the fund, including:

- Gateshead
- North Tyneside
- South Tyneside
- Sunderland
- County Durham

Newcastle and Northumberland are not included in this fund.

The [Community Foundation](#) will be awarding grants in Tyne and Wear; the [County Durham Foundation](#) is the local funder for County Durham.

The programme will be delivered at a national level by the Community Development Foundation (CDF). Further details are available at their website [here](#).

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## **Overcoming barriers to self-employment: Flexible Funding seeks intermediary organisations**

Flexible Funding is a small grant scheme funded by One NorthEast which can provide payments of between £150 and £500 to help people to overcome barriers that stop them from being able to consider self employment as an option.

Applications must be supported by a recognised intermediary and third sector organisations are invited to consider acting in that role.

The fund is open for applications now and is expected to remain open until 31 March 2010.

PNE Group is managing Flexible Funding on behalf of One NorthEast. Further information, including downloadable application form, guidance notes and frequently asked questions, is available on the PNE website at: [www.pne.org/flexiblefunding](http://www.pne.org/flexiblefunding)

## **Future Jobs Fund**

The Future Jobs Fund aims to create 150,000 jobs between October 2009 and April 2011 providing help for young people and those who face significant disadvantages in the labour market.

Third sector organisations are being invited to bid for funding, though it is anticipated that the majority of bids will come from upper tier local authorities or sub-regional partnerships.

It will be targeted at those aged 18-24 but there will also be funding for older people from disadvantaged groups and areas worst hit by unemployment.

- create additional jobs for long term unemployed people;
- benefit the local community; and
- create a significant proportion of jobs quickly.

For more information, visit

[www.dwp.gov.uk/campaigns/futurejobsfund/futurejobsfund-guide.pdf](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/campaigns/futurejobsfund/futurejobsfund-guide.pdf)

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**Further information on Pentagon Partnership:**

0191 200 8516

[info@pentagonpartnership.org.uk](mailto:info@pentagonpartnership.org.uk)

[www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk](http://www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk)

Read previous e-bulletins [here](#).

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