



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

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## Pentagon Partnership News

### Enterprising Charities

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Wearmouth Community Development Trust

9.45am for 10am–12noon

An event to help third sector organisations from Tyne and Wear consider social enterprise and trading as a sustainable way to generate unrestricted income to complement other funding sources.

Delivered in partnership with SES (Sustainable Enterprise Strategies), this event will be a chance to look at the following topics:

- Social Enterprise: something that you ARE, or something that you DO?
- Enterprise alongside other sources of funding (grants, contracts, donations)
- Legal technicalities – trading arms, CICs and charity law
- Support available for enterprising organisations

#### **If you like what you hear at the event...**

...and you want to further explore social enterprise as an addition to your existing work, SES will work with you to share their in-depth knowledge of social enterprise, offering one to one support and mentoring to organisations keen to develop their enterprising activity.

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

tyne wear  
infrastructure  
consortium



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## Specialist Support Services

December's Enterprising Charities event is part of a Big Lottery (BASIS) funded partnership project called Specialist Support Services. As well as **Enterprising Charities** events we will be continuing our successful **Business Plus** events from February 2010.

Pentagon Partnership will be working with a range of partners and experts to provide support for organisations wishing to increase their sustainability, maximise their income, work in partnership and win and deliver public service contracts. In addition to the Business Plus and Enterprising Charities events we'll be able to offer **one-to-one-support** in these areas.

Other partners in the project are FINE, ACAS (see below for details of their part of the project), Sunderland CVS, Education Business Connections and the PNE Group, who will be delivering a range of activity aimed at increasing the capacity and effectiveness of third sector organisations in Tyne and Wear.

*While we work with third sector organisations in Durham and Northumberland on our City Region work, please note that work funded under our Big Lottery programme is aimed at third sector organisations who work in **Tyne and Wear**. Please contact us if you require more information about this.*



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## Employment Matters: Free helpline for VCS organisations in Tyne and Wear

As part of the Lottery-funded Specialist Support Services project, Acas are offering the following service to VCS organisations in Tyne and Wear.



# Employment Matters: How can we help you..?

Do you ever need help with employment issues at work? Acas (the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service) offers a unique opportunity to speak directly to the experts.



Acas offers advice either by telephone or during a visit on a range of employment issues including:

- ▶ Recruitment and contracts
- ▶ Flexible working
- ▶ Absence management
- ▶ Communications
- ▶ Discipline and grievance
- ▶ Equality and diversity
- ▶ Bullying and harassment
- ▶ Handling conflict

### For further advice contact:

**Bill Moore:** 0191 269 6034  
**Suzanne Wright:** 0191 269 6035  
**Chris Peel:** 0191 269 6020



**Acas, Cross House, Westgate Road,  
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4XX**

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## Valuing Social Values and Evidencing Our Impact

In partnership with Newcastle University Business School, VONNE, NESEP, and Co-operatives North East, Pentagon Partnership is starting to develop a regional social values network called *Valuing Social Values*. The network, which will be open to participants from all sectors, will offer opportunities to explore different social value techniques such as social auditing and social return on investment. It's also hoped that the network will offer opportunities to broker training in different techniques for third sector organisations who want to evidence the value of the work they do.

This work builds on Pentagon's earlier *Even More for Your Money* project, which researched and trialled five methods by which third sector organisations can evidence the social, economic and environmental impact they make. You can read more about that project at

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

Look out for more information on Valuing Social Values in our next e-bulletin.

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## Places for Everyone – helping you explore and progress your capital development plans

*Places for Everyone* is a new three year project that aims to engage with third sector organisations embarking on any type of capital development project including refurbishment, redevelopment or new builds. *Places for Everyone* is a partnership project with PNE Development, the Development Trusts Association (DTA), and Mosedale Gillatt Architects (MGA).

The project will provide third sector organisations with knowledge and understanding of capital development processes and support to identify need, plan, manage and progress their projects. The range of support we have to offer includes workshops, toolkits, one-to-one support and access to specialist expertise.

If you would like to join the programme please visit the [PNE Development website](#) for more information and an application form.

In the next few weeks we will be launching the *Places for Everyone* website which will contain all the latest information on the project. The website will include a 'Bank of Expertise' where you will be able to use a searchable database to find experts who can help you with your plans.

If you are an expert in any aspect of capital development, or if you're a third sector organisation with a track record in building, refurbishing or extending a property (and willing to be a mentor for organisations embarking on the process) you might like to be considered for the Bank of Expertise. If so, please contact Anne-Maria on 0191 261 6009 or email [development@pne.org](mailto:development@pne.org) for a registration form.

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## City Region news

### Have your say on City Region Transport issues

Are you...

- Interested in transport issues?
- A community transport operator?
- An advocate for better transport?

We are looking for organisations in Tyne and Wear, north Durham and south Northumberland to join a focus group which will provide a third sector viewpoint to the Tyne and Wear City Region partnership on transport issues.

The City Region, a partnership of local authorities, other public sector bodies and representatives from the private and third sectors, is responsible for the implementation of the Multi-Area Agreement (MAA), 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.

The **Third Sector Transport Focus Group** will sit alongside a third sector Employment and Skills Focus Group (which is already up and running) to provide third sector representation on relevant City Region boards and advisory groups.

If you're interested in joining the focus group, please email [jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk](mailto:jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk) with a summary of your organisation and its involvement in transport provision or advocacy.

The focus group will meet around 4-5 times a year, starting in January.

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**.

For more information about the Tyne and Wear City Region, its role in transport issues and third sector involvement, please read Pentagon Partnership's report, *Engaging the third sector in the Tyne and Wear City Region Multi Area Agreement* ([click here](#)).



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## Third sector employability providers! Your chance to influence the commissioning of future contracts

Have you been a subcontractor / delivery partner to a prime contractor as part of a DWP / JobCentre Plus contract? Or have you been put off by your pre-contract experiences? We want to hear from you about what goes well with the system, what is not so good, and how the system can be improved to benefit commissioners, prime and sub-contractors, and - above all - the beneficiaries!

Responses will be fed to the Tyne and Wear City Region Employment Consortium who will be working with the DWP to commission future contracts.

This is a chance to **directly influence the commissioning of future employment contracts** in Tyne and Wear, Northumberland and Durham.

Please download our survey at  
[www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/Documents/survey.doc](http://www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/Documents/survey.doc)

The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. Please complete it and return by **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November** to:

Jon Goodwin  
Pentagon Partnership  
c/o North Tyneside VODA  
The Shiremoor Centre  
Earsdon Road  
Shiremoor  
NE27 0HJ

or

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

If you have any queries, please get in touch.



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# Collaboration support skills for Development Workers

## **A free two-day training course aimed at development workers and other staff working in the voluntary and community sector.**

Are you a development worker that wants to support collaborative working amongst your frontline groups? The Collaboration Benefits programme is designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills to improve collaborative working amongst the organisations that you work with and support. Collaboration can help strengthen all parties and is especially important during times of recession.

### **The two-day training sessions will help you get a better understanding of:**

- ◆ Good practice in facilitation and enabling collaborative working
- ◆ The benefits and challenges of collaborative working
- ◆ Critical success factors involved in collaborative working
- ◆ The policy context which is driving collaborative working

**When:** Wednesday 20 and 27 January 2010  
**Where:** Church House, St Johns Terrace,  
Percy Main, North Shields, NE29 6HS  
**Cost:** Free, with lunch provided

**To book your place contact North Tyneside VODA on 0191 200 8555 or email [vodatraining@voda.org.uk](mailto:vodatraining@voda.org.uk)**

Maximum of 12 places so book now to avoid disappointment!



## **The Regional Skills and Employability Contracting Supply Chain for the third sector in the North East.**

### **What is Contracts Matter?**

Contracts Matter is an independent, third sector-led skills and employability contracting supply chain, which is overseen by a steering group of third sector representatives and hosted by Acumen, on their behalf.

A means for VCS organisations to work together to bid for, win and deliver skills and employability contracts. A streamlined route for public and private sector contractors to engage with the third sector.

### **The Role of the Skills & Employability Hub includes:**

- Bring together groups of third sector organisations to bid collaboratively for contracts
- Co-ordinate a range of services to help members continuously improve their service offer and effectively participate in the delivery of employability and skills services
- Identify and inform members of funding/contracting opportunities
- Co-ordinate contracting opportunities and multi sector partnerships

### **Membership Criteria:**

Membership is open to all Third Sector organisations, located in the North East irrespective of size who are interested in or who deliver skills and employability services.

### **Benefits to members:**

- Increased opportunities to access potential funding
- Central co-ordination and impartial support
- Facilitation of partnership working
- Greater awareness of how to develop the '*right*' partnerships and gain access to members providing specialist/innovative services
- Increased exposure to delivery and funding organisations within the North East
- Access through the HUB to a directory of members provision/services/information

### **How do I become a member?**

To become a member or for further information email; [info@contractsmatter.co.uk](mailto:info@contractsmatter.co.uk) or telephone Pat Anderson on 0191 5878019

## Other News

### North East Social Enterprise Partnership – join today

The North East Social Enterprise Partnership (NESEP) represents and promotes social enterprise in the North East region.

Social enterprises (including enterprising charities!) can join, as can organisations and individuals who support or are interested in social enterprise.

For information on the benefits of membership, visit <http://www.nesep.co.uk/aboutus/>

If you're not already a member of NESEP you can sign up at <http://www.nesep.co.uk/bepartofit/>

The NESEP AGM takes place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December; members are entitled to attend the AGM and vote for board members.

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