



## Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin October 2009

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### **Further information on Pentagon Partnership:**

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[www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk](http://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 Partnership news

### Supporting the third sector through the recession

In May this year Pentagon Partnership was 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.**

This work has now ended and initial indications suggest the programme of events, information provision and one-to-one support has been very valuable to Tyne and Wear's third sector.

Working with a variety of expert partners the following 6 events were delivered.

Event	Topic	Expert speaker(s)
June Business Plus	<i>Support available in the recession</i>	Futurebuilders, Sunderland CVS, Community Foundation
July Business Plus	<i>Retaining Talent</i>	Premium People
July Enterprising Charities	<i>Understanding Social Enterprise</i>	NESEP
September Business Plus	<i>Employment Issues in the recession</i>	Ward Hadaway
September Enterprising Charities	<i>E-commerce</i>	TEDCO
October Business Plus	<i>Collaboration – Working Together to Beat the Downturn</i>	ACEVO North

You can **download materials and presentations** from all of these events by visiting [www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/previous\\_events.htm](http://www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/previous_events.htm)

We also produced 6 **e-bulletins** which featured news and information on Pentagon and City Region events, alongside opportunities for sustainable funding and further support for the sector. You can download old e-bulletins at [www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/Archive.htm](http://www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/Archive.htm)

We'd appreciate your views on the quality of this information provision: please help us by downloading our e-bulletin evaluation form [by clicking here](#) and returning to [info@pentagonpartnership.org.uk](mailto:info@pentagonpartnership.org.uk) by **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November.**

## Specialist Support Services: sustainability, income maximisation and collaboration

As part of a Big Lottery (BASIS) funded partnership project called Specialist Support Services, we will be continuing our successful **Business Plus** and **Enterprising Charities** events: look out for details of events in the near future.

We 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 deliver public service contracts. As well as the Business Plus and Enterprising Charities events we'll be able to offer **one-to-one-support** in a number of areas.

We will be working very closely on this project with Sustainable Enterprise Strategies (SES) to raise awareness of **social enterprise** as a model for increased sustainability, helping organisations identify business opportunities, research the market and develop projects.

Other partners in the project are FINE, ACAS, 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. Look out for full details of the project in our next e-bulletin.



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## City Region News

### City Region Executive Board and Employment and Skills Advisory Group – your new third sector representatives

As part of our work to facilitate third sector involvement in the evolving City Region partnership structures, we have recently conducted an election to appoint third sector reps on two partnership groups.

Votes were sought from across Tyne and Wear, Durham and Northumberland and we are pleased to announce the following two appointments.

#### City Region Executive Board

Barbara McClennan, from Education Business Connections, has been elected as the third sector representative on the City Region Executive Board, with Liam Wetherill from East Durham Community Transport elected as deputy.

Taking a view and a mandate from the Third Sector Employment and Skills and Transport Focus groups. Barbara will be responsible for ensuring that a third sector voice is heard on the Executive Board, which also comprises local authority leaders from Tyne and Wear, Durham and Northumberland, other public sector bodies and a business representative.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the delivery of the **Multi Area Agreement (MAA)**, a package of measures that are framed around the delivery of specific strategic employment and skills and transport interventions designed to improve sustainable economic performance across and within the City Region.

#### City Region Employment and Skills Advisory Group

Anne Lyall from Wansbeck CVS has been elected as the third sector representative on the Employment and Skills Advisory Group, with Maureen Madden from Wallsend Peoples Centre elected as her deputy.

Accountable to the Third Sector Employment and Skills Focus Group, Anne will present a third sector viewpoint to the Advisory Group, which works collectively to promote employment and skills policies that contribute to long-term economic prosperity of the City Region.

Both representatives have been elected to serve for two years and we look forward to working with both representatives in coming months.

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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 / Job Centre 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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## Other News

The following two events may be of interest to third sector organisations with an interest in sustainability, collaboration and enterprise.

### How will you generate your income in the future?

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

**10.00am – 2.00pm**

Linskill Centre, North Shields

This one day event is for community organisations that:

- suspect their grant aid may not continue or will be reduced
- know they need to broaden their range of income
- are interested in loans as part of their funding package
- keep hearing about trading, commissions, contracts, loans ... and don't know where to begin
- want to develop a building as an asset for their community

The roadshow will present some **top tips for getting to grips** with...  
Contracts, commissions, loans, trading and earned income

In addition there will be opportunities:

- for one-to-one advice on financial plans
- to meet banks and funders providing loan finance

The cost, including lunch and materials is £25 + VAT per person

Only **20 places available** on a first come, first served basis. **Book now** by completing the attached form and emailing to: [s.heads@dta.org.uk](mailto:s.heads@dta.org.uk) or by calling Susan on 01670 518150 for a Booking Form.

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## Social Enterprise, Collaboration and Sustainability

### Achieving more with less

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009  
9.00am – 4.30pm  
National Glass Centre Sunderland

If...

- you have a passion for making a difference to social enterprise, health and community in the North East,
- you know that none of us is as smart as all of us and you're ready to contribute to our collective intelligence,
- you have knowledge or expertise to share, questions to ask and collaborators and partners to discover....

.... then this social enterprise conference is for you.

Have you ever noticed that the best parts of a conference are usually the coffee and meal breaks or time in the bar afterwards? When like minded people gather for animated and productive conversations?

Well, this is how we are designing this open space conference. No experts speaking from the front and no pre-organised workshops you have to sit through.

We're going to co-create our conference agenda so not only do you get to go to the workshops for which you have a passion, you get to suggest the topics and lead them if you choose.

Participants in our previous open space conferences said:

*"The breathtaking aspect of this open space conference was the shift towards action and self-help. I can't remember being at a similar forum which, in the end, produced so many concrete possibilities."* Mary Brennan

*"I felt the format of the conference was dynamic and cooperative - democratic in the widest sense of the word. I was enabled to listen more effectively than if I had been 'talked at' or 'talked to'.* Participant - 'Recyclables, Renewables, Reusables' Conference for the RSA

For more information or book your place visit  
[www.mutualinspiration.co.uk/SED09.html](http://www.mutualinspiration.co.uk/SED09.html) or contact Mike Bell on 0191 241 0236,  
email [mike@mutualinspiration.co.uk](mailto:mike@mutualinspiration.co.uk)

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## Regional Third Sector Procurement and Commissioning Practice Group – your opportunity to influence the regional procurement and commissioning landscape

VONNE and NESEP have created a regional steering group which aims to ensure that the third sector in the North East has the skills, capacity and opportunities to compete successfully for public sector contracts.

The rationale for the creation of the Procurement Practice Group is to develop a network where individuals from **front-line voluntary groups and organisations** can talk directly to local authority representatives about the challenges they face on the ground. The Practice Group provides a safe, managed space where these discussions can take place, and constructive responses can be developed and delivered.

VONNE and NESEP are in the process of refreshing the membership of this group and would like to hear from workers in front-line organisations who might be interested in getting involved.

Participants in this group will have a very real opportunity to influence the regional procurement and commissioning landscape

Meetings are two hours long and are held quarterly in venues around the region; commitments beyond that can be as much or as little as members can manage.

If you would like to know more, please contact Rhiannon Bearne, Procurement and Commissioning Manager at VONNE, on 0191 233 2000 or [rhiannon.bearne@vonne.org.uk](mailto:rhiannon.bearne@vonne.org.uk) .

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