



Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin October 2008

Welcome to the Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin for October 2008. Pentagon Partnership is the strategic partnership for third sector involvement in the economic regeneration of the Tyne and Wear City Region. We do this by **informing and consulting** the sector on economic regeneration news and policy, securing third sector **representation** on decision-making partnerships and **capacity building** – helping the third sector towards a businesslike and sustainable future.

In this edition (click on the link to go directly to the story):

Pentagon News

- [Business Plus – notes from October and details of November's event](#)
- [Getting Physical - The Third Sector and Physical Regeneration in Deprived Communities](#)
- [Third sector or VCS?](#)
- [New Website](#)
- [Staff Changes](#)

City Region News

- [Executive Board Report](#)
- [New City Region Website](#)

Economic Regeneration News

- [DWP seminar on welfare reform – your chance to attend for free](#)
- [Multi-million pound fund to help the sector help the region](#)

Pentagon News

Business Plus – notes from October and details of November's event

Our *Business Plus* networking events take place on the first Thursday of each month and are proving to be extremely popular. Events include lunch and networking sessions, and topical business-based presentations from expert speakers.

Our October event - *Service delivery, social enterprise and sustainability – how can loans help?* – was a great success. Delegates from over 30 third sector organisations attended to hear, from a range of experts, how loans can help organisations bid for public service contracts, develop property or move into social enterprise.

Presentations and information from the expert speakers are available at www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/previous_events.htm along with presentations from September's Business Plus event, *Workforce Development and the VCS*.

November's event takes place on **Thursday 6th November** in **Sunderland**, and the theme will be *Business life coaching for the third sector*. Look out for further details soon.

Future *Business Plus* dates for your diary include:

- Thursday 4th December in Newcastle (theme and venue tbc)
- Thursday 8th January in Gateshead (theme and venue tbc)

[Back to top](#)

Getting Physical - The Third Sector and Physical Regeneration in Deprived Communities

One North East have commissioned Pentagon Partnership and the **Tees Valley VCS Forum** to host 2 mini-conferences to mark the launch of a report* (commissioned by One NorthEast and produced by the **PNE Group**) exploring the Third Sector's involvement in creating and improving physical spaces in deprived areas.

*read the report at www.voluntaryskills.com/regeneration

Featuring a range of expert speakers from the public and third sectors, the events will explore:

- When and why? The benefits of asset development and physical regeneration
- Opportunities – identifying them and capitalising on them
- Barriers – perceived and actual - and how to overcome them
- How can One NorthEast and local authorities help?

Wednesday 15th October (10.00am-12.30pm)

Blue Flames Centre, Whitley Road, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 9SF

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

Thursday 23rd October (10.00am-12.30pm)

The T A D Centre, Ormesby Road, Middlesbrough TS3 7SF

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

These events have been organised by Pentagon Partnership and the Tees Valley VCS Forum. They have been designed to be accessible to organisations across the North East and will be identical in content.

[Back to top](#)

Third sector or VCS?

You may remember from our [August e-bulletin](#) that we asked our membership whether they considered themselves members of the 'voluntary and community sector', the 'third sector' or 'civil society'. Results of the poll suggested a preference for the 'third sector', and at the Pentagon Partnership Steering Group meeting in September it was agreed that Pentagon amend its terms of reference accordingly; from now on we will refer to the 'third sector', except in order to make distinctions within the sector, or where quoting other organisations.

New Website

Following the end of our contract with Consult and Design, the Pentagon Partnership website has been brought in-house and is now hosted and maintained here at North Tyneside VODA. The address remains the same – www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk and we will continue to use the website as an information portal, keeping the sector up to date on Pentagon projects, City Region developments and economic regeneration issues.

Staff Changes

We're delighted to welcome Jo Woolley as our new part time administrator. Jo also works for the volunteer centre here at VODA and will be working with Pentagon for two days a week. Jo can be contacted on jo.woolley@pentagonpartnership.org.uk or 0191 200 1405.

Christine O'Brien has left the Pentagon team and started a new role with the North Tyneside Local Involvement Network (LINK) team at VODA. Pentagon staff and steering group members would like to thank Christine for her hard work over the last three years at Pentagon, and wish her every success in her new role.

[Back to top](#)

City Region News

Executive Board Report

Pentagon Partnership continues to support third sector representatives on the City Region Executive Board and the Employment and Skills Board, the two boards set up to make key economic regeneration decisions about the Tyne and Wear City Region and deliver on the Tyne and Wear Multi-Area Agreement (MAA).

The **Multi Area Agreement**, which sets out a series of proposals for action, alongside 'asks' of government, was signed off by the Department for Communities and Local Government in June. The City Region team is now moving towards an 'implementation phase' - implementing the proposals on the two themes of Employment / Skills and Transport:

You can read the Multi Area Agreement at <http://www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/Documents/CityRegion/MAA.pdf>

The interim **Employment and Skills Board** is moving towards being reconstituted as the final board. This will be business-led (but will also incorporate the third sector, Further and Higher Education sectors, the public health sector and local authorities). The Employment and Skills Board will only serve the 'traditional' 5-district Tyne and Wear; Durham and Northumberland will have their own, with the City Region executive team making sure the 3 employment and skills boards are talking to each other.

The interim **transport partnership** has commissioned Atkins consultants to review the transport governance arrangements in the City Region. The outcome of this analysis will inform the group's future work. We are working on securing third sector representation on this group.

The **City Region Director**, Peter O'Brien, has been given the go-ahead to recruit a team of 5 - an economic advisor / deputy director, a senior policy analyst, a policy analyst, an office manager and an administrator. These posts should be filled by January.

New City Region Website

The City Region team have launched a website at www.tynewearcityregion.co.uk which will feature latest news on the partnership and on the delivery of the Multi Area Agreement.

For further information on third sector involvement on City Region structures, please contact us.

[Back to top](#)

Economic Regeneration News

DWP seminar on welfare reform – your chance to attend for free

Pentagon Partnership is offering one free place (plus overnight stay if required) to a third sector delegate on an important and useful seminar on welfare reform.

In its green paper *No One Written Off: Reforming Welfare to Reward Responsibility*, the Government proposed a radical overhaul of the welfare state. The aim is to achieve 80% employment with just two working-age benefits - JSA (Jobseekers' Allowance) for everyone who is able to work, and ESA (Employment and Support Allowance), for those with a medical condition preventing them working.

In association with the DWP, the [Centre for Public Policy Seminars](#) are holding a one-day seminar on Monday 17th November in London to discuss the implementation of the proposals.

As potential providers, community advocates and strategic partners, its imperative that the third sector is informed – and listened to – on issues such as these. As part of our commitment to developing the policy skills of the sector, Pentagon Partnership is pleased to offer **one free place at the seminar*** to a representative from a third sector organisation in the Tyne and Wear City Region.

If you would like to attend, please write to jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk and outline, in less than 400 words, why you think you should attend.

If more than one person applies, a decision will be taken by the Pentagon Partnership staff team and Steering Group, based on the quality of the email submission.

The deadline for email submissions is 5pm on Friday 24th October.

**including travel from Newcastle / Sunderland / Durham to London, and accommodation on the night of November 16th if necessary.*

[Back to top](#)

Multi-million pound fund to help the sector help the region

One NorthEast, the Regional Development Agency, has announced a new fund that will help third sector organisations “*develop innovative ways of helping people move into work, deliver regeneration and boost the sector’s contribution to economic growth.*”

For full details of the fund and how to apply, visit the ONE NorthEast web page at <http://www.onenortheast.co.uk/page/news/article.cfm?articleId=3351>

Thank you for reading. Please feel free to circulate this e-bulletin to your networks. Read previous e-bulletins [here](#).

To unsubscribe, email jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk

[Back to top](#)