



Pentagon Partnership e-bulletin September 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. If this e-bulletin has been forwarded to you, you may wish to join our mailing list [by clicking here](#).

Pentagon News

Business Plus - October 2009

Collaboration – working together to beat the downturn

Thursday 1st October

10.30am-12.00noon

Disability North, Newcastle upon Tyne

This interactive event delivered in association with ACEVO North will explore some of the issues around third sector organisations working together, including short term collaborations, more formal partnerships and mergers.

The session will look at the different models of working together, the pros and cons of each, and the support available to organisations who want to work together.

As usual, this Business Plus event offers a great networking opportunity and a chance to meet third sector organisations, partners and funders from across Tyne and Wear.

[Click here to book your place](#)

About Business Plus

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** 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**.

Presentations from previous Business Plus events are available by clicking on the following links:

- [September 2009 – Employment Law](#)
- [July 2009 - Retaining Talent](#)
- [All previous events](#)

Business Plus events are funded through the Tyne and Wear Infrastructure Consortium (TWIC)



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E-bulletin evaluation: Have your say on our information provision!

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.**

To help us to evaluate this work as it draws to a close, please spend a few moments thinking about how our information provision – including our e-bulletins, and the information we put on our website following our events - has helped your organisation over the last few months (**May – September 2009**)

Please download the evaluation form [by clicking here](#) and return to info@pentagonpartnership.org.uk by **Friday 23rd October.**

Refresh your memory! You can read previous e-bulletins at www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/Archive.htm



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Are You Leading the Way – for free?!

Free support in assessing your readiness for contracting and partnerships!

Are You Leading The Way? 10 Steps to Your Future Success is an innovative management toolkit, designed to help third sector organisations assess their readiness for public service delivery and partnership working.

We are pleased to make available a number of FREE copies of the toolkit (normal price £30); also on offer is support from Pentagon Partnership in completing it.

We will work with you to complete the toolkit which includes the following self assessment sections:

- Your project pathway
- Services audit
- Delivery audit
- Skills audit
- Risk assessment
- Advice and support
- Partnership working – pros and cons

To apply for a FREE copy, plus support in completing the toolkit, please email jon.goodwin@pentagonpartnership.org.uk stating:

- The name of your organisation
- Your annual turnover
- Number of (paid) employees
- Nature of work
- A summary of any partnerships you are members of
- A summary of any public service contracts you currently deliver

Should this offer prove oversubscribed, the Pentagon Partnership Steering Group will decide on the allocation of toolkits and support, based on a number of factors including geographical coverage and need of organisation.

This work is funded through the Tyne and Wear Infrastructure Consortium (TWIC) and as such this offer is only available to VCS organisations who work in Tyne and Wear.



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Places for Everyone

An exciting new programme designed to help Third Sector organisations explore and progress their Capital Development plans

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

Developed by PNE Development, the Development Trusts Association (DTA), Mosedale Gillatt Architects (MGA) and Pentagon Partnership, and supported by One North East, Places for Everyone features a range of support options including:

- ◆ Workshops
- ◆ One-to-One Support
- ◆ Toolkits
- ◆ Access to Specialist Expertise

For just a small cost of £50+VAT you can access the Places for Everyone programme. The initial phase of the programme consists of 'An Introduction to the Capital Development Process' workshop which will ultimately help guide Third Sector organisations through the key stages of any capital development project. The aim of the workshop is to help your organisation make informed decisions about its capital development plans. Following this you could access one-to-one support and specialist expertise to help you to move your plans forward. Along with the one-to-one support, the longer term aim of the programme is to help organisations to secure funding towards feasibility studies and enable access to our Bank of Expertise.



Upcoming Workshops

15th October 2009 – 10.00am-4.30pm – Stannington Village Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland.

If you are interested in joining the programme please email development@pne.org for an application form or contact PNE Development on 0191 261 6009 for more information.

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City Region News

Third sector representatives on City Region partnerships– expressions of interest wanted

As part of our work to facilitate third sector involvement in the evolving City Region partnership structures, vacancies have arisen for third sector representation on two partnership groups:

- City Region Executive Board
- Employment and Skills Advisory Group

Working with local infrastructure organisations and consortia in Tyne and Wear, Durham and Northumberland, we will be looking to elect representatives (and named deputies) in time for meetings in early November.

We're looking for representatives who will be able to give a robust third sector viewpoint to these multi-sector partnerships, and – with the support of Pentagon Partnership – feed back City Region developments to the sector.

Look out for further information next week on:

- The form and function of these partnership groups
- Criteria for third sector representatives
- Support available from Pentagon Partnership
- Timescales for involvement

In the meantime you can make an initial expression of interest by emailing info@pentagonpartnership.org.uk

For further information about the City Region and Pentagon Partnership's role in involving the third sector, read our report, *Engaging the third sector in the Tyne and Wear City Region Multi Area Agreement*, available at www.pentagonpartnership.org.uk/Documents/CityRegion/MAAreport.pdf



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Opportunities - funding, contracts and support

Phase Two of the Government's Modernisation Fund opens for applications.

The second phase of the Real Help for Communities: Modernisation Fund grants programme has opened. **Organisations that have already received support under the first phase** are invited to apply for grants worth £10,000 that will help them to collaborate or merge.

The £16.5m Modernisation Fund is part of the Office of the Third Sector's Real Help for Communities action plan to support third sector organisations through the recession. The fund is targeted at organisations that are **delivering services to people and communities affected by the recession**.

The first phase of the Modernisation Fund grants programme opened in June and has offered over 1000 bursaries worth £1,000 to third sector organisations wanting to explore the potential benefits of collaboration and merger.

Grants are now available to bursary holders, and organisations have until 9th November to apply. Early applications are welcome as some awards will be made in October 09. Interest-free loans are also available. The Modernisation Fund is being delivered by Capacitybuilders.

Please visit the Capacitybuilders Modernisation Fund website via the link below for more information:

www.modernisationfund.org.uk/

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Other News and Events

Skills North East Regional Employment and Skills Partnership

Invitation to the Regional Employability Event

Date: Friday 9th October 2009

Time: 8.45am - 4.00pm

Venue: Bamburgh Suite, St James' Park, Newcastle

The Regional Employment and Skills Partnership (RESP) is hosting an event to update partners and providers involved in the strategic development and delivery of services to improve employability in the region.

The event will provide the opportunity for participants to hear about national policy and Regional Employability Framework (REF) developments. Participants will also get the chance to engage, influence and shape future regional priorities through the following interactive breakout sessions:

- Recruitment made easy - or is it?
- The REF - coming to a place near you
- The Customer Journey - supporting providers to make the REF a reality
- Supporting priority customers - responding to current policy
- Reducing the drop out - systems and process

The event is co-funded by One North East, Jobcentre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

To book your place, please [click here](#) to complete the online registration form by Friday 25th September.

The employability section on the [Skills North East](#) website is currently being updated. If you would like to receive regular updates on employability issues and policies, please [click here](#) to register to the site.

If you have any problems reading this email, please contact [Corporate Marketing](#) on 0191 229 6836.



Leading learning and skills



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Working Better - Together

Process Improvement + People Management

a half-day workshop to be held on

Wednesday 21 October 2009

In the current economic climate, organisations from all sectors are recognizing the importance of improving performance whilst reducing costs. They know that alongside greater efficiency they must also:

- Maintain the highest levels of customer satisfaction
- Create a high performing workplace & culture
- Learn to manage change effectively
- Improve communication and engage with their workforce

Nicholson Consultancy and Holgate HR are combining their experience in Lean in the Workplace and People Management to deliver a half-day workshop which will be invaluable for those considering making changes and those currently involved in change management. You will take away:

- an understanding of what Lean Thinking means in your organisation
- a proven approach to rapid improvement
- simple low-cost / no-cost improvement activities that you can use now
- a consideration of your own organisational culture and any barriers to performance improvement
- an understanding of the key components of a successful change management programme
- topical knowledge of the key leadership and line management skills required in today's challenging business environment.

When: 21 October 2009,
8.00 am for registration and breakfast rolls.
Presentations commence at 8.30 am and the session will close at 1.00 pm.
1.00 pm - 1.30pm for buffet lunch and networking

Where: Keel Row 3 Conference Centre, The Watermark, Gateshead, NE11 9SZ

Cost: £75 per person. The price for this workshop is normally £95 + VAT, however it is being offered to **those registered with Pentagon Partnership at the discounted rate** of £75 per person.
Price includes breakfast rolls, refreshments and buffet lunch.

Booking: To book, please email info@holgatehr.co.uk



Addressing Health Inequalities: The Third Sector Way

Wednesday 25th November 2009 - 9.30 till 4
The Sage, Gateshead



Programme

The Health Challenge 
 Activities 
 Information 
 Your Contributions 
 Networking 

More Info:

www.hi3.org.uk

0845 4501251

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BURA courses on Regeneration Training and 'Planning for non-planners': free places available for third sector organisations

BURA Regeneration Training Programme

Developed by BURA with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), the new BURA Regeneration Training Programme focuses on solutions to the challenges and issues currently facing regeneration.

Signing up to the programmes offers your team opportunities to –

- Broaden their understanding of regeneration
- Engage with fellow regeneration practitioners
- Develop new contacts
- Strengthen existing networks and alliances

What will it cover?

The programme features a series of six seminars dedicated to context, strategy and delivery of regeneration:

- Regeneration in Context
- Economic Development & Financing Regeneration
- Social Impact of Regeneration
- Environmental Sustainability in Regeneration
- Physical Regeneration and the Built Environment
- Delivering Regeneration and 'Place-Shaping'

For full details of dates and programme content please go to www.bura.org.uk/Training/Regeneration+Training+Programme

Planning for Non-Planners

- Identify how to more effectively engage with the planning system
- Network with regeneration practitioners from the public, private and community sectors

Upcoming dates:

- Newcastle – 21st and 22nd October
- London – 17th & 18th November

Click here for more details:

www.bura.org.uk/Training/Planningfor+nonplanners/

BURA offers a number of FREE PLACES for members of Community and Voluntary Organisations on our Training Programmes

For more information visit <http://www.bura.org.uk/Training/>, email training@bura.org.uk or call the BURA offices on 0207 539 4030.

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