

Futurebuilders Funding: Building Opportunity

The formal launch of the long-awaited Scottish Executive funding programme, Futurebuilders Scotland, took place on 13th December. The £18m programme which will run until 2007 is aimed at existing social enterprises which are looking to become more sustainable and develop their services (the Investment Fund), as well as targeting voluntary and community organisations that want to begin the process of working in a more business-like way or test out new ideas (Seedcorn Fund). For the purposes of Futurebuilders, social economy organisations are defined as those voluntary and community organisations which combine a business-like approach to delivering services with one or more explicit social objectives.



The Executive is particularly looking for Futurebuilders projects to address its "Closing the Opportunities Gap" priorities. These are:

- To increase the chances of sustained employment for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups - in order to lift them permanently out of poverty
- To improve the confidence and skills of the most disadvantaged children and young people - in order to provide them with the greatest chance of avoiding poverty when they leave school;
- To reduce the vulnerability of low income families to financial exclusion and multiple debts - to prevent them becoming over-indebted and/or to lift them out of poverty;
- To regenerate the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods - so that people living there can take advantage of job opportunities and improve their quality of life;
- To increase the rate of improvement of the health status of people living in the most deprived communities - in order to improve their quality of life, including their employability prospects; and
- To improve access to high quality services for the most disadvantaged groups and individuals in rural communities - in order to improve their quality of life and enhance their access to opportunity.

Futurebuilders Scotland is being managed by the Social Economy Unit within Communities Scotland. The Unit is operating a helpline (0131 479 5379) for information and advice on the programme. The first application phase runs until 11th March, and the next phase will begin in April. For more details, application forms and guidance, see the Communities Scotland website or use the helpline above.

www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk

The Canny Buyer

Would your organisation like to do more to safeguard the environment, but as staff or committee members you're not sure where to start? If so, the Canny Buyer event could be for you. A joint initiative between CVS Fife and Friends of the Earth Scotland, this one day session aims to provide practical suggestions and advice to voluntary organisations and community groups on how to begin to develop a "green office" approach (and you don't really need to actually have an office - if your base is a home, you can still consider using a "greener" approach to purchasing goods).

What's the Format?

The Canny Buyer event will include presentations on Sustainability and Sustainable Procurement, as well as the opportunity for group discussion to allow those who take part to think practically about simple steps they can take within their own organisations to boost sustainability.

There will be plenty of opportunity to hear about what organisations are doing already, and what support exists via CVS Fife and Friends of the Earth for voluntary organisations wishing to tackle this issue. A number of suppliers of sustainable goods will also be taking part with exhibition stands, and will be available to answer questions.

When and Where?

The Canny Buyer event is taking place on Thursday 10th February at the Rothes Halls in Glenrothes, between 10am and 3pm. To book a place or for further information, please contact Angela Gallacher at CVS Fife on 01592 868948 or email agallacher@cvsfife.org. We look forward to seeing you there!



Award Success for West Fife Enterprise

Local voluntary organisation West Fife Enterprise walked away with a prestigious Scottish Training Award for excellence at the 2004 National Training Awards ceremony in Glasgow in November. Sponsored by UK Skills and Scottish Enterprise, the National Training Awards are the UK's number one accolade for business and organisations who have achieved lasting excellence and success through training and learning.

West Fife Enterprise picked up the award for the Quest for Employment project. Supported in partnership by Fife Council, Lauder College and the Scottish ESF Obj 3 Programme, the project assisted 258 unemployed and particularly excluded beneficiaries to overcome barriers to employment. Over the last three years 88% achieved vocational qualifications, 73% went into jobs and 11% into further education and 90% are still in work 6 months after leaving.

This recent success was not the first in 2004. Earlier in the year West Fife Enterprise picked up the award of Overall Scottish Winner of Best Practice in Coalfield Regeneration at an event in Sheffield from Depute Prime Minister John Prescott. Alan Boyle, Chief Executive of West Fife Enterprise said "We are delighted to have received these awards. Due to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, staff, partners and service users, vulnerable and excluded groups have been assisted to become financially independent and local employers supplied with a pool of skilled, qualified and experienced workers".

Date for Your Diary

Are you a member of a management committee or board? If you are a worker or volunteer, could you pass this newsletter on to your committee or board members? CVS Fife occasionally receives feedback from committee and board members indicating that they do not always feel fully informed about wider developments in the voluntary sector, so we are looking at a number of ways to address this.

What are we doing?

Our newsletter updates people on national and local developments impacting on the voluntary sector, so even if we can encourage staff members or volunteers to pass this newsletter on, we can boost the flow of information to committee and board members. Another resource we have is CVS Fife's Community Planning Animateur, Kirsty Dawson, who is targeting board and committee members in particular while trying to spread the Community Planning message.

What are the plans for the future?

Kirsty is currently meeting with board members from a range of children's services organisations to spread the word about her project, but she is also planning ahead to a dedicated event she will be holding in April that is specifically for board and committee members of voluntary organisations and community groups. This event will give board and committee members the opportunity to discuss how Community Planning is impacting on the voluntary sector, and how individual organisations can make the most of the opportunities presented by Community Planning. It will also be a useful networking opportunity, and there will be the chance to dip in to workshop sessions on some of the areas of responsibility for board members. If you are a board or committee member of a voluntary organisation or community group, this is your chance to get a bit of dedicated attention! Please put the date of Saturday 16th April into your diary, and watch this space for further details. In the meantime, if you'd like to find out more about Kirsty's project, In It Together, please contact her on 01592 414588.



Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003

New laws to strengthen the safeguards for children have come into force, as a result of the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003. The new Act allows for Scottish Ministers to keep the Disqualified from Working with Children List (DCWL). Individuals working in childcare positions (paid or unpaid) will be included on the DCWL when they have harmed a child or put a child at risk of harm, and have been dismissed or moved away from contact with children as a consequence. Organisations, including voluntary agencies, have a duty to refer such individuals for possible inclusion on the DCWL.

The Scottish Executive has recognised that voluntary organisations require advice, training and guidance to meet the requirements of the Act, and has developed a Training Pack which is available on The Central Registered Body Scotland's website, www.crbs.org.uk. The CRBS has also set up a helpline to provide voluntary organisations with advice - contact 01786 849777 and select Option 4 for queries around the Act and its implications. The Executive is keen to stress that this new Act will significantly improve the protection of children but wants to stress that it complements rather than replaces other child protection measures. All organisations entrusted with the care of children need to practice the full range of pre-employment checks. This includes interviews, the full investigation of the applicant's employment history and taking up references. Supervision during any probationary period is also recommended where practical.

Big Lottery Fund Update

The Big Lottery Fund, the newly formed distributor of lottery funds (following the merger of the Community Fund and NOF), has issued a summary of the outcomes from the consultation it held between June and September 2004 in Scotland. This includes the feedback provided by the representatives from voluntary organisations in Fife who came along to the Consultation Session CVS Fife held in partnership with Fife Council and VONEF on 2nd September last year. As we would expect, there were a broad range of views expressed. However, here is a brief summary of some of the outcomes for Scotland in general:

- ◆ Projects in the areas of **health, education, environment and the voluntary sector** (specifically tackling poverty & improving quality of life) were the highest priorities for funding amongst respondents
- ◆ The majority of those who responded to the written questionnaire felt that **longer periods of funding** (5 to 7 years) would help to achieve change over the longer term
- ◆ There was also clear majority support (82.1% of respondents) for the Big Lottery to **fund support organisations** and to **provide development money** for voluntary and community groups
- ◆ Respondents in Scotland felt that **decision-making** on programmes, priorities and funding **should be devolved to Scotland**

One area where there was a clear consensus amongst respondents was around the need to have broader and simpler aims for the Big Lottery Fund funding programmes. This has been picked up by the UK government, which has asked that funding be distributed under three themes:

- ◆ Community learning and creating opportunity
- ◆ Promoting community safety and cohesion
- ◆ Promoting well-being

In Scotland, the Scottish Executive will identify outcomes and priorities for the Big Lottery Fund funding to sit underneath these themes. Once the BLF knows what these outcomes and priorities are, it will want to consult with its stakeholders once again, to see how it can best go about delivering its funding to meet these priorities.

What if My Organisation Wants to Apply for Lottery Money?

New Opportunities Fund grant programmes are currently still running, and you can find details of these on the NOF website (www.nof.org.uk). The Community Fund grants programme now comes under the heading of the Developing Communities programme and is also still open for applications. This programme will continue to accept Outline Proposal Forms up until 31st May 2005, and will continue to accept full applications up until 31st August. Grants Officers will continue to carry out assessment visits and calls until all of these applications have been assessed and all of the fundable applications will have been presented to the Developing Communities Committee by January 2006. The last grants under this programme will be announced by February 2006. At this stage, only those applications that meet one of the published priorities (disabled people & their carers, people who live in areas affected by social & economic deprivation and black & minority ethnic communities or refugees) will be considered. The Committee has amended the Scotland funding strategy in this way because of pressure on funds.

Two new strands of funding have also been announced. **Active Futures** was launched in November 2004. This will fund projects able to demonstrate how they are able to encourage disadvantaged 17-24 year olds to become involved in regular sport and physical activities, or increase/sustain their participation levels. Projects can apply for a minimum grant of £50,000 and a maximum of £500,000 spread over one to three years. The **Young People's Fund** is scheduled to be launched in the Spring of this year. If you have any enquiries about any of the Big Lottery Fund programmes or the consultation, please contact the Fund direct on 0870 240 2391.

New Staff at CVS Fife

As it is the beginning of a new year, we are taking the opportunity to introduce you to 3 new staff members. All three will be offering new services from CVS Fife to voluntary organisations, which we believe will significantly boost the help and support we can offer, both to individual organisations and to voluntary sector networks. If you are interested in hearing more about the work any of our new staff or indeed our existing staff are doing, please feel free to contact us on 01592 414588.

Network Support Officer

CVS Fife appointed Douglas McLellan in October as Network Support Officer. Douglas has a background in politics having worked for a national political party before and after the 1999 Scottish Election performing a variety of roles within both the Events and Information Teams. He has also for the Board of a national charity, providing it with policy research and support, working at both a national level and with local voluntary organisations. Most recently Douglas has been working in the private sector, within Corporate Banking. He gained a BSc (Hons) from the Open University in mid-2004 and chose to return to the charity sector. He lives in Lochore with his fiancé, their dog, two cats and rabbit!

Douglas will providing the existing and emerging voluntary sector networks with support and information which will help the meetings of these networks to be as efficient and effective as possible, and help to devise communication methods to assist network members to work together on specific topics as well as giving those playing a representative role easier ways of canvassing opinion and feeding back.



ICT Adviser

Ron Smith has joined CVS Fife from Dundee City Council where he worked on Systems Development with the Community Information Team, and developed the Council's award-winning website. Ron has previous experience of working as a Computer Support Officer with Tayside's Community Education Service providing ICT support across the region for CVS staff and the voluntary sector, working as part of the Training and Research & Development Teams.

Ron is married and lives with his wife and their cat! His main interests are music and computing. He will provide voluntary and community organisations in Fife with ICT support and advice, as well as looking after CVS Fife's systems and developing our website.

Human Resources Adviser

Karyn McComiskie has a working background in management as well as administration in both the voluntary and the private sectors. Karyn has joined CVS Fife from the Scottish Association for Volunteer Managers in Stirling where she worked as Office Manager for three years. Currently studying at Stirling University, Karyn will graduate with a BA (Hons) in Human Resource Management following the completion of a 12 week work placement which will take place alongside her employment at CVS Fife. She will also gain graduate membership of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

Karyn is travelling back and forward from Stirling to Buckhaven to work, so she is developing a close relationship with her car at the moment. She will provide HR support and advice to voluntary organisations in Fife, as well as dealing with CVS Fife's HR requirements.



SJC Salary Scales Settled

The local government pay increase has now been agreed and the revised salary scales for 2003 - 2005 are now available. These scales, used by many voluntary organisations, incorporate a 2.95% increase from 1st April 2004 and a 2.95 % increase from 1st April 2005. For details of the scales, see the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations website:

www.scvo.org.uk

If you don't have access to the internet, please give us a call here at CVS Fife and we'll send you out a copy of the scales.

Unique Exhibitions at Rothes Halls

The Rothes Halls in Glenrothes will be the venue for two unique exhibitions early in February. "Violence Against Women 365" is an international poster exhibition compiled by Colm Dempsey, an Irish policeman. The exhibition highlights the extent of abuse perpetrated against women worldwide, 365 days of the year. "104 Pairs of Shoes" represents the deaths of 104 women who are murdered in Britain every year as a result of domestic abuse. Prominent women from Fife and Scotland have donated shoes and written very moving messages in support of the campaign to end domestic abuse. Both exhibitions are free of charge, and can be viewed between 2pm and 4pm, Tuesday 2nd February until Friday 4th February, and from 10am till 3pm on Saturday 5th February.

In addition, on Saturday 5th February there will be a number of activities taking place to complement the exhibitions, coming under the heading of "Celebrating Women Across the World".

For more information on any of the above events, contact Sharon Turnbull, Policy Officer on 01592 416756 or Sheila Noble, Domestic Abuse Strategy Co-ordinator on 01592 414704.

Community Health Partnerships: Getting Involved

A significant development for 2005 will be the establishment of Community Health Partnerships, due to take place on 1 April. There is little doubt that the changes taking place across the NHS will have a major effect on the delivery of services over the next few years. The establishment of these partnerships have the potential to play an important role in promoting the good health of the communities in which we live and work. It is inevitable, too, that they will have a significant impact on Fife's voluntary sector – how organisations work alongside partner agencies, how services are commissioned, and how funding is allocated. Voluntary organisations in Fife which deliver Health and Social Care services or are involved in related activities are positively encouraged to give some thought to how CHPs will effect their work and how the voluntary sector can organise itself to take its place in these partnerships and ensure effective representation of the sector's interests. To begin to tackle some of these issues, CVS Fife has organised a half-day event on Wednesday 16th February for staff, volunteers and board members of health and social care organisations. The event will include input from Professor James McGoldrick, Chair of NHS Fife, and there will be discussion sessions on offer to allow participants to unpick some of the key issues. If you are interested in attending, please contact CVS Fife on 01592 414588.

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