



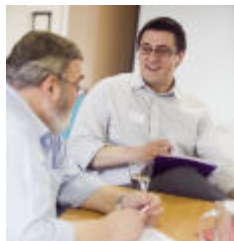
newsletter

June 2010



Welcome to the Capacitybuilders' Update. In this issue:

- Top story - Last chance to apply for volunteer management bursaries



Last chance to apply for Level 3 volunteer management bursaries

Capacitybuilders is offering volunteer managers across England a final opportunity to apply for a bursary to pay for an approved Level 3 skills development package ahead of the closing date on 30 June.

Each package is delivered regionally by experienced training providers and is aligned to the national occupational standards in volunteer management (Level 3). There is also the option of obtaining a nationally recognised qualification.

The programme is nearly fully subscribed, however, there are a limited number of bursaries available in the following regions: West Midlands, East of England, Greater London, South East.

To apply for a bursary, please visit www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/vmpskills for full information. The Volunteer Management programme is supported by the Office for Civil Society.

Please note that the application window for Level 4 and 5 bursaries has now closed and waiting lists are in place.



Hot off the press - new Improving Support Magazine

The Summer edition of Improving Support Magazine, published by Capacitybuilders, is out now and brings together insight, practical resources and learning for people who are involved in supporting charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises.

Local partnerships. This edition of the magazine focuses on the theme of "Local Partnerships"; looking at how charities and community based organisations can get involved in the delivery of public services and shows how even small organisations can be supported in building partnerships to get a foothold in local delivery.

Highlighting best practice. Other articles include a feature highlighting best practice in achieving meaningful involvement in local decision-making and two compelling stories about the benefits for service users when the public and third sectors work well together.

Commenting on a previous edition of the Magazine, Ruth Stone of Milton Keynes CVS said : *"There's no other publication that is quite so specific about support issues. This is the only magazine I know of that focuses on that, so it's brilliant."*

Practical resources now available online. A range of practical and useful resources and tools (referenced in the magazine) are also available on the [Improving Support website](#). If you would like to receive a free copy of Improving Support Magazine, please [email us](#) today to request your a copy.



Sustainability report - five new case studies published

Five new sustainability case studies have been published by Capacitybuilders as a follow up to the March 2010 report which explored how support providers can make their services more sustainable. In addition to the publication of these case studies, Capacitybuilders also held a sustainability event in June to provide an opportunity to consider the report in more detail.

The report, case studies and presentation slides from the event are available from www.improvingsupport.org.uk/evaluationandlearning



Capacitybuilders' programme evaluations - current and upcoming invitations to tender

Capacitybuilders is inviting applications to tender for [Capacitybuilders' Programme Evaluation 2004-2011](#).

Opening for application soon. From August 2010, a range of other invitations to tender will be open for application including a Capital Investment programme evaluation, Consortia Development programme evaluation and overarching evaluation of the National Workstreams.

Experience. In each case, the team appointed to carry out the evaluation work will need to have worked on comparable projects and have a strong track record in evaluation and research. To find out more, please visit [our website](#).



New support resource for people managing volunteers

Capacitybuilders is pleased to report the launch of a new online volunteer management portal that has been created using funding from our Volunteer Management programme, supported by the Office for Civil Society.

Gateway to wide range of resources. Managed by Volunteering England, it acts as a gateway to the world of volunteer management with links to over a thousand resources across England - meaning that, for the first time, information on support, training and development opportunities for people managing volunteers is available to view in one single place.

Visit the portal today. If you work with volunteers, or know someone who does, this portal could be invaluable to you and your work. To visit the portal please visit [Volunteering England's website](#).



Evaluation shows RCAN Investment Programme benefits rural communities

An interim evaluation, published by Capacitybuilders, confirms that the £10.35 million Rural Community Action Network (RCAN) Investment Programme, is improving the way in which the needs of rural communities are addressed by national, regional and local government.

Sharing successes - Successes from the programme - delivered on behalf of Defra by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) - include:

- improving service delivery plans to better suit the needs of rural communities
- securing funding and tapping into external sources, so that rural communities can access funding streams for activities such as improvements to community buildings
- improvements to policy processes - notably where rural proofing or community led planning approaches have been adopted by local authorities and partnerships.

Find out more - A full copy of report can be downloaded from the [Capacitybuilders' website](#) and printed copies can be requested by [emailing us](#).

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