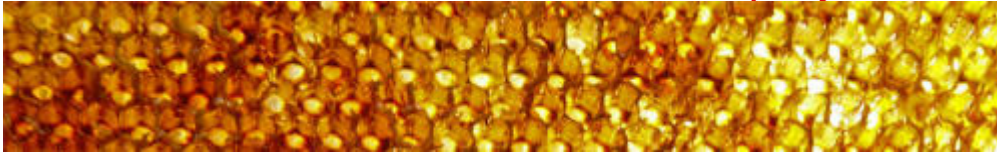




Improving support
for a stronger third sector

Capacitybuilders' Newsletter 18 December 2009



Welcome to the Capacitybuilders' Update

Top story: Local third sector organisations benefit from £1.2m capital grant awards

Other stories:

- Modernisation Fund grant awards of over £3.6m announced
- Volunteer Management Programme, Strand C, open for expressions of interest
- Capacitybuilders Chief Executive highlights critical role of support providers
- New international network highlights what works in supporting a thriving third sector
- Improving Support Magazine - new issue out in January
- Tackling under-representation of disabled people in leadership roles

Local third sector organisations benefit from £1.2m capital grant awards



Capacitybuilders have announced over £1.2m of grant awards for the refurbishment of local third sector resource centres. The nine grants - under Strand B of the £7m Capital Investment Programme - will mean that a wide range of frontline organisations across England will have better access to high quality and affordable shared facilities and shared services within their local area. To read more about these awards, please [visit our website](#).

Modernisation Fund grant awards of over £3.6 million announced



Office of the Third Sector and Capacitybuilders have announced details of 401 grant awards - totalling over £3.6 million - made to a range of third sector organisations, helping them to increase their resilience so that they are better able to provide vital services during the tough economic times.

As a result of these latest grant awards, a total of 521 organisations have now benefited from over £4.8m funding from Phase Two of the Real Help for Communities Modernisation Fund. To read more please

visit [our website](#).

Volunteer Management Programme, Strand C, open for expressions of interest



Capacitybuilders are now seeking expressions of interest to provide two distinct types of programme under the Office of the Third Sector funded Volunteer Management Programme. The first will support those coordinating volunteering activity day to day; the second will focus more on those with management and strategic responsibilities. Each will be a tried and tested programme, based on the National Occupational Standards in Volunteer Management, and offering optional accreditation. To find out more [visit our website](#).

Capacitybuilders Chief Executive highlights critical role of support providers as third sector emerges from recession.



Effective support and advice services will be vital to the third sector responding to current challenges and taking advantage of opportunities arising from the changing public service environment as the country emerges from recession, said Matt Leach - Capacitybuilders' Chief Executive - in his speech at the Westminster Briefing event; 'What support for the Third Sector Through Recession'.

Leach highlighted the results of the recent Capacitybuilders recession survey that showed demand for support and advice is continuing to rise, whilst many providers were now facing reduced income. To read the full news release, and access the two survey reports please visit the [Improving Support website](#).

New international network highlights what works in supporting a thriving third sector



A new international network linking third sector academics across the globe has produced its first report, identifying lessons from abroad for support providers in England.

The research, commissioned by Capacitybuilders and undertaken by Cities Research Centre (CRC) and COGS, established an international network of academics and practitioners to explore different approaches to capacity building and consider how this learning could be applied within an English context. To find out more please [visit our website](#).

Improving Support Magazine - new issue out in January



Capacitybuilders are pleased to announce that a second edition of Improving Support Magazine will be published in January 2010.

The magazine is available free to people involved in supporting third sector organisations, and those who fund and commission their services. The magazine works alongside the Improving Support website, bringing together practical resources and learning to strengthen support services for those delivering support and advise to the third sector.

The theme for this second edition is "Change". To sign up to receive your free copy, please visit the [Improving Support website](#) or email info@capacitybuilders.org.uk.

Tackling under-representation of disabled people in leadership roles



One in five of the working-age population has a disability or long-term health condition, but disabled people make up less than one in twenty of public appointees. *

RADAR - the UK's largest disability campaigning network - is interested in equipping people - particularly from black or ethnic minority backgrounds, people with learning difficulties, neuro-diversity conditions and mental health conditions - to be leaders and influencers in public life, and to take up leadership positions in the third, public and private sectors.

Anyone living with ill health, injury or disability in England who is interested in developing their leadership skills and has aspirations to positively influence the world they are living and working in is welcome to apply for a place, as the application process is now open. To find out more about RADAR's Empowerment Leadership Programme and download an application pack, please visit the [RADAR website](#).

* source - Government Equalities Office Diversity in public appointments factsheet 2008: Public Bodies 2008.

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Address: 77 Paradise Circus | Birmingham | B1 2DT

Tel: 0121 237 5100 | **Fax:** 0121 237 5138

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