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Children's Hearings System

Proposals to reform and streamline Scotland's Children's Hearings system, to improve the support given to vulnerable young people and create a more integrated system, were published on 31.07.08.

Central to the 'Strengthening for the Future' consultation, are plans to create a single national body which will bring together the work of the Children's Reporter service, the delivery and administration of Children's Hearings, and the recruitment and training given to panel members. It will also assist the work of safeguarders, who provide children's hearings and courts with an independent assessment of what action is needed to ensure the best interests of a child.

Douglas Bulloch, Chairman of the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, said:

"We welcome the publication of the consultation document on the reform of the Children's Hearings System in Scotland. SCRA looks forward to reviewing the proposals and contributing to the consultation process in support of the Government's view that the Hearings System is the best way of providing assistance and support to Scotland's vulnerable children and their families."

The consultation will run until the end of October and will be available on

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current>

STI Figures

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) increased by 7 per cent last year and have risen by 110 per cent since 1996, according to figures published today.

The Genito-urinary Medicine (GUM) statistics, which record the number of STIs diagnosed in Scottish GUM clinics, show that 22,906 acute STIs were diagnosed in 2007, compared with 10,919 in 1996.

New acute STIs remain more prevalent in men, with a higher number of diagnoses of syphilis, gonorrhoea, genital warts, NSGI (non-specific genital infection), non-chlamydial, and HIV recorded among men than women. However, a higher number of diagnoses of Chlamydia, genital herpes and trichomoniasis were recorded among women.

The figures also show that trends in younger people's sexual health give cause for concern, as four out of every five new diagnoses of Chlamydia among women were in the 15-24 age group, while 71 per cent of new diagnoses among men were in the 20-34 age group.

Public Health Minister Shona Robison said the statistics were "disappointing."

However, as other figures published today show that the three year attendance figures for breast screening are at an "all-time high", Robison said: "...we want to create the same levels of awareness in young people about STI testing, treatment and - perhaps most importantly - prevention. "The Scottish Government, health boards, clinicians and many other people can all help achieve this, but young people themselves have a big part to play."

Prepare for September tax allowance changes

A change in the basic Personal (tax) Allowance outside the usual sequence is happening shortly, after the arguments over tax rates. The basic allowance is increasing from £5,435 to £6,035 but the limit for applying the basic rate is reducing from £36,000 to £34,800. The new tax codes and rate bands must be used from the first payday on or after 7th September. Announcement at <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=375100&NewsAreaID=2>

Government Announces Benefits Shake-up

The proposals of the Green Paper on Welfare Reform Include Replacing Incapacity Benefit by 2013

The Work and Pensions Secretary, James Purnell, promises to bring sweeping change to the current benefits system. The new measures aim to raise employment levels to 80%. Under the proposals incapacity benefit will be replaced with a new employment support allowance. Independent doctors will then reassess all 2.7 million people who currently receive incapacity benefit. Personalised support will be offered to help people return to the workplace, with the new allowance seen as a temporary measure rather than a for-life benefit.

The strongly worded paper also promises tougher sanctions on those who 'fail to take steps to get back into work', or those who refuse a job. Only full-time carers and those 'with the greatest needs' will be exempt from these new rules.

Mencap's Head of Campaigns and Policy, David Congdon, said: "We welcome the focus of the Welfare Reform Bill in highlighting the capacity of people with a learning disability and their ability to work. Alongside this, we support the acknowledgment that people with the highest level of need will not be pressured into working. We want more people with a learning disability to have the opportunity to work, but it is crucial that the correct support is made available.

"One concern is that the plans to outsource employment provision to private companies, which will be paid once individuals have been placed into work, may result in cherry picking. People with a learning disability need more help to get and keep a job than other groups and this may place them at a disadvantage." Read the report on the [Department for Work and Pensions website](#)

Healthcare inquiry reveals 'discrimination, abuse and neglect'

The inquiry ordered in response to Mencap's 'Death by indifference' report has called for change to prevent more unnecessary deaths.

Mencap's 'Death by indifference' report told the stories of six people with a learning disability who died unnecessarily while in the care of the NHS. It prompted the government to order an independent inquiry into the healthcare of people with a learning disability.

The inquiry's report, published 29 July reveals some good practice, but also 'appalling examples of discrimination, abuse and neglect across the range of health services'. The inquiry found 'convincing evidence that people with learning disabilities have higher levels of unmet need and receive less effective treatment'.

Sir Jonathan Michael, who chaired the inquiry, said: "It was shocking to discover that the experiences of the families described in Mencap's report (pictured above) are by no means isolated, despite a clear framework of legislation against discrimination."

Dame Jo Williams, chief executive of Mencap, also welcomed the report. "The report proves that people with a learning disability are being discriminated against in the NHS, which is leading to unnecessary pain and death. It is clear that there is a desperate need for mandatory learning disability training for all healthcare professionals, and for people with a learning disability and their families and carers to be at the centre of all decisions made surrounding their healthcare." To find out more [Read the inquiry report](#). [Find out more about Death by indifference](#).

Cross Party Group on Children and Young People

The last meeting of the Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group (CPG) on Children and Young People for 2007/08 was held on 26 June 2008 on Children's Rights and the UNCRC reporting process. This meeting also incorporated an AGM where Robin Harper and Robert Brown were re-elected as co-convenors, Aileen Campbell was re-elected as vice convenor and Mary Mulligan replaced Claire Baker as vice convenor.

The next meeting will take place after the summer recess on 4 September 2008 on the theme of Communication Support Needs and Young Offenders. The group is also in the process of deciding on themes for next year.

If you would like more information on this meeting or the CPG, contact Donna Patterson, dpatterson@childreninscotland.org.uk

Funding

Ideas wanted to stimulate public discussion

Grants of up to £15,000 are available for up to 10 of the best proposals for using online tools, face-to-face events or a combination of approaches to help people participate in public discussions and influence government policy. Closing date 26th September - see <http://www.buildingdemocracy.co.uk/> (news release at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease300708a.htm>)

Red Nose grants deadline

The next deadline to apply for Red Nose Day Programmes grants over £5,000 is 15th August. During 2005-08, the six programme areas are Young people, Older People, Mental Health, Refugees & Asylum Seekers, Domestic Violence, Disadvantaged Communities. <http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/uk/>

New Cash Released from Dormant Trust Funds

Research has revealed that funds previously lying dormant in inactive charity trusts are now being unlocked for the good of communities. Surveys recently conducted by the Scottish Community Foundation found that while in 2006/07, £2.5m was distributed to charitable causes by Scotland's 32 local authorities, almost £2m of income was not.

Legislation introduced by the Scottish Parliament has now made it possible to release these funds for the benefit of community groups and voluntary organisations. This allows the objectives of charitable trusts to be changed to make them more relevant to the needs of both communities and voluntary organisations.

By working in partnership with local authorities, the Scottish Community Foundation is currently working to release these funds to provide new sources of funding for local communities and voluntary organisations across Scotland.

Funding for Scottish Disability Sport

An investment package of over £250,000 for Scottish Disability Sport (SDS) has been announced.

Sportscotland Chair, Louise Martin CBE, supported by Sports Minister, Stewart Maxwell, made the announcement during a visit to an SDS summer camp at the Sportscotland National Centre Inverclyde. Louise Martin confirmed that the £276,750 investment, of which £175,750 is from the sportscotland Lottery Fund, would support the work of Scottish Disability Sport as they build towards the 2012 Paralympics in London.

Louise Martin said: "Firstly I would like to congratulate all of the athletes who have been selected for the Paralympic Games in Beijing. Scotland's disability athletes have always done us proud on the world stage and we are delighted to provide this investment to support their development.

Welcoming the investment, Gordon McCormack, Chairman of Scottish Disability Sport said: "SDS is delighted with the ongoing partnership with sportscotland which supports disability athletes and our programmes.

"This commitment is vital to the continued delivery of our development work such as the hugely successful summer camp but also the implementation of our performance plans which will support our most promising and talented athletes towards London 2012."

Waitrose millions to benefit local charities

Charities can apply for a slice of £2.28m that supermarket chain Waitrose will donate to nearly 7,000 community projects in the next 12 months.

The money is being awarded as part of [Waitrose's](#) plans to support more local causes, and will not affect its national fundraising initiatives.

The Community Matters scheme will be available in the company's 190 stores. Each one will receive £1,000 a month, which can be distributed between three local projects.

Employees at each branch will vote for which causes the money will go to each month - charities can contact their local stores to nominate themselves.

Customers then choose which of the three monthly projects to support by depositing vouchers they receive at check-outs into a box for their favoured cause.

Final Call for Comic Relief Grants Applications

Comic Relief is reminding Scottish charities and community groups that the final deadline for applications to their current main grants programme is 15 August 2008. Under the main grants programme, awards are usually made for up to three years and are typically between £5000 and £100,000.

The 5 main grants programme areas are:

- Young people 11-21 experiencing problems with alcohol, mental health or affected by prostitution & trafficking;
- Older People;
- Refugees and asylum seekers;
- Mental health;
- Domestic Violence

Applications for small grants of up to £5000 (for work with older people, user-led mental health groups or disadvantaged communities) can be made at any time. The final deadline for small grants applications is expected to be late 2008 and will be advertised on the website.

The grant making guidelines provide full details of each programme and these are available on their website www.comicrelief.com.

New UK and overseas grants programmes will be launched in 2009.

For further information, call 020 7820 5555 or email ukgrants@comicrelief.org.uk

Voluntary Sector Development Fund

The criteria for this year's Voluntary Sector Development Fund has been agreed. £1m will be available in the financial year 2008-09 to assist voluntary organisations covered by phase two of the Scottish Social Services Council's registration process. Funding this year will support: supervisors in care home services for adults, practitioners in care home services for adults, support workers in care home services for adults and managers of housing support services.

Application forms and guidance will be obtainable from the Scottish Government through the Voluntary Sector Social Services Workforce unit website at: www.ccpsscotland.org/workforceunit

For more funding opportunities, see: www.youthlink.co.uk/Index.asp?MainID=8063

Show us a better way to use public data

The Power of Information Taskforce is running a competition on behalf of the government, calling for ideas on improving the way public information is used/communicated, Show Us a Better Way (<http://www.showusabetterway.co.uk>). £20,000 is on offer to develop the best ideas to the next level. Various new or previously invisible public information streams are being made available especially for use in the competition. Examples of what they are looking for include Fix My Street (<http://www.fixmystreet.com>) or <http://www.farmssubsidy.org>, which compiles obscure information from across Europe. Due to run to end of September.

Rewards for work to improve health

The IMPACT Awards, now in their twelfth year, recognise and reward registered charities that are doing excellent work to improve people's health, with amounts of up to £35,000. Organisations have to be at least three years old, working in a health-related field in the UK, with a total annual income between £10,000 and £1 million. Apply by 26th September, http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/funding/gsk_impact_awards/index.html

Consultation on Unused Assets/Dormant Bank Account

Edinburgh - 14th August 12.30pm - 4.30pm at The Apex European Hotel, Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh. Lunch and refreshments will be available.

Contact Susan Symington on 0131 313 2488 or email: ssymington@youthlink.co.uk if you are interested in attending. Places are limited, so book your places early to avoid disappointment.

Resources

Basics on contracts of employment

Recently updated by personnel professionals body CiPD is a factsheet giving introductory guidance on Contracts of Employment. <http://www.cipd.co.uk/subjects/emplaw/tacofemp/contracts.htm>

Improving the law for co-ops and credit unions

The Treasury has published proposals for a Legislative Reform Order which would allow Credit Unions to widen services and offer more flexibility to Industrial & Provident Societies. This is in response to last year's review of co-operative and credit union legislation. Credit Unions body ABCUL has welcomed the changes - <http://www.abcul.coop/page/news.cfm#535> (note very large web page). Treasury document (pdf, 667KB) http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/0/D/consult_lro230708.pdf - respond by 15th October.

Children's Arts Manifesto

Action for Children's Arts, the umbrella body for arts organisations working for and with children, has launched the first 'Manifesto for Children's Arts'. See <http://www.childrensarts.org.uk> or download the manifesto (pdf, 76KB) from http://www.childrensarts.org.uk/images/M_pdfs/manifesto.pdf

Influencing the legislative process

Hansard Society, the parliamentary democracy organisation, has published a report analysing the influences and elements that come together in making an act of Parliament, including the role of the media, voluntary organisations, professional associations and other outside factors. 'Law in the Making: Influence and Change in the Legislative Process' found that input from such groups and individuals can have an impact on the legislation but it varies. Plaza Publishing news alert at <http://www.charityfinance.co.uk/home/content.php?id=2103>, Hansard Society <http://hansardsociety.org.uk>

Resources for Socially Responsible Investment

Charity SRI, a new website set up by EIRIS (Ethical Investment Research Services) and the UK Social Investment Forum, provides information for charities and their investment advisors on socially responsible investment. Socially responsible investment (or just responsible investment) takes into account not just ethical issues, but also the environmental and social impact of various investments. The website is at www.charitysri.org

Invest today for a better tomorrow is a free guide to ethical investment from the Charities Aid Foundation, which can be ordered via www.cafonline.org/Default.aspx?page=12843

Briefings on Vat and Fundraising

Saffery Champness accountants, in association with *Professional Fundraising* magazine, are publishing free monthly factsheets on VAT and various fundraising activities. The first three, on VAT recovery, fundraising events, and printed materials, can be downloaded at www.professionalfundraising.co.uk/vat

Food guide for childminders

CHILDMINDERS in the Capital are being urged to pick up a new guide aimed at promoting food safety.

The Food Standards Agency Scotland is behind an information pack aimed at preventing the potential for prosecutions under health and safety laws.

Since 2006, childminders have had to comply with food hygiene legislation. The pack was developed with Scottish Childminding Association and the Care Commission to provide childminders with a single source of information to help them understand their responsibilities.

ZOOM- NHS Health Scotland Scottish Youth Photography Project Why Not Capture it in a Photograph?

NHS Health Scotland wants you to be involved in our national youth health photography project. We are looking for young people aged 12 – 25 to be part of a team, developing a bank of health related images to be used in publications for both health professionals and young people. We will consider all ideas submitted to the project and you will have the chance to win a digital camera!

For further information, email: jo.maclennan@health.scot.nhs.uk or call 0131 536 5569 by 18th July 2008.

Engaging and Motivating Young Adults

The Young Adults Learning Partnership (YALP) is giving away free copies of a briefing paper, *Learning from the Edge: Engaging and Motivating Young Adults*. This review of policy and practice in non-formal learning from 1997 to 2007 summaries 10 years of YALP's work and traces changes in the policy landscape during that time. The report would be useful for anyone supporting marginalised young people to help them back in to education, training and employment.

To request a copy, email: stephanief@nya.org.uk with your name, address and number of copies required.

Healthy working in Scotland

A new website for Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives, a Health Scotland project aimed at employers and employees, carries information on all aspects of workplace health including health and safety and health promotion. It offers resources, tools and publications plus an 'email a query' service. <http://www.healthyworkinglives.com>.

Microsoft to develop accounting software for UK charities

Third Sector reports that Microsoft is to develop a version of its Office Accounting Pro program for charities in the UK. The head of citizenship at Microsoft UK says that they are "going to research added features that will offer charities more functionality ... looking at having something ready by the end of the calendar year." The current version is available via Charity Technology Exchange for a £6 admin fee, and this could be a significant development for cash-strapped charities. Third Sector: <http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/829795/> (registration required)

Consultations

Debating the use of Dormant Accounts fund in Scotland

The Scottish Government has opened a formal consultation to debate the potential uses of the third sector fund which will be created once the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts legislation comes in. Four consultation sessions have been held across Scotland during June and July, but there is also an online questionnaire at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ndz1dT0nWFLMxxqdlR44vA_3d_3d, or start at [SCVO's page](#).

Skills and the Third Sector - Survey

How do you think third sector organisations should be able to influence the skills system in the UK?

The government is starting a programme of re-licensing and reforming Sector Skills Councils - what is your experience of SSCs or involvement with them? Have you heard of them? Which is the most appropriate one to support development in your organisation? Should their roles be changed? What are they doing well? What could they do better? Would you like to see your SSC developing actions in areas they are not doing currently? If so what?

There are around 8 to 10 SSCs which cover the needs of third sector organisations.

SCVO is putting in a response on behalf of the third sector to the consultation paper issued recently by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills on employers' views about re-licensing and reforming Sector Skills Councils.

Please respond to celia.carson@scvo.org.uk as soon as possible.

For full information see www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Life-Long-Learning/skills/sector-skills-councils

Young People and Alcohol Consultation

Young Scot and the Scottish Government are seeking the views of young people in Scotland on what they think about the Government's plans to tackle alcohol misuse. They are really interested in finding out what young people think about:

- raising the age that you can buy alcohol in off-sales premises
- banning special offers and promotions (eg buy one get one free, 3 for 2 offers)
- introducing separate checkouts for buying alcohol
- what activities should be on offer to give young people something to do other than drinking

A survey and discussion forum is available on www.youngscot.org for young people to share their views - just click on the Alcohol Survey link on the homepage.

A Nintendo Wii is up for grabs too!

Surveys

Major Survey Reveals the Changes Wanted by Scotland's Young People

Reducing poverty should be the government's top priority for improving young people's lives, a panel of teenagers has concluded. A major survey of 500 Scottish young people between the ages of 11 and 17 were asked to rank their top three priorities for action by the Scottish Parliament. Seventeen per cent of the respondents to the HearOur Voice survey said that reducing poverty should be the parliament's main priority.

The survey was conducted by NCH Scotland alongside Young Scot and in partnership with Dundee City Council, East Ayrshire Council, Highland Council and Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People.

For further information, contact: NCH Scotland on 0141 550 9010.

Developing policy skills

Anyone currently working in the voluntary sector in the policy field, or wishing to develop the policy functions of their organisation, are invited to complete a ten minute survey which will guide the work of the NCVO Policy Skills Development Programme. The survey aims to capture information on:

- How policy work is understood and carried out by organisations and individuals across the sector,
- Individual learning needs of policy workers,
- Broader challenges to effective policy work.

Closing date 31st July, <http://www.ncvo-consult.org.uk/survey.asp?s=01220217234165148>

ywca roundabout centre

YWCA Roundabout Centre are looking for views of girls and young women aged 9 - 29 living in Edinburgh to ensure they continue to focus their services where they are most needed.

If you are a young woman under 29 please help by completing the survey. All answers will be kept confidential and any personal information you give will not be passed on. You can access the survey by clicking a link on the YWCA Scotland Home Page below, or please contact them if you would prefer a paper or electronic document to write on - do let them know if you need any help at all with completing the form and they will provide the best support they can.

<http://www.ywcascotland.org/>

Centre Manager
YWCA Roundabout Centre
4B Gayfield Place
Edinburgh
EH7 4AB
0131 556 1168
emma@ywcaroundabout.org

Events

Contact a Family

For families with disabled children are organising a workshop

My time with Shirley Young

A positive and motivational workshop for parents of disabled children exploring the impact of caring and new ways of looking after yourself.

Thursday 18 September 2008

10am to 1pm (followed by lunch)

If you are interested in attending this workshop please contact

Contact A Family Scotland, Craigmillar Social Enterprise and Arts Centre, 11/9 Harewood Road, Edinburgh EH16 4NT tel. 0131 659 2930 email scotland.office@cafamily.org.uk

Eke-Out Bulletin August 2008

OPT IN FOR ART

Book-making Workshop

A free two day book-making workshop

Friday 29 August 2 - 4pm and Saturday 30 August 11am - 4pm

Venue: The Fruitmarket Gallery and the Scottish Book Trust

12 spaces for 13 - 17 year olds FREE

If you are into art and fancy trying something new

Call 0131 226 8181 or email optinforart@fruitmarket.co.uk

Richmond's Hope Walk

Raising money for bereaved children

21 September 2008-08-06

Starting from Duddingston Kirk Church Hall

Check in from 1.30pm - Official send off at 2pm

From the garden beside the church gatehouse

- Get sponsors or just donate
 - Certificate for every sponsored walker who finished
 - Lots of fun, lots of fresh air
- BBQ 4 - 6pm £1 (free to walkers)

If you are interested please call Richmond's Hope on 0131 661 6818 or email

richmondshope@tiscali.co.uk

JOBS

Community Connectors Wanted

Are you well connected in your local community? Do you believe in inclusion? Do you like a challenge?

Equal Futures are looking for creative inspiring, passionate and flexible people to support individuals with a disability to build up on their own community connections and maintain relationships. Community Connectors receive full training, work about 6 hours a month and are paid £11 per hour.

Interested? Contact Laura or Suzanne at Equal Futures 0131 226 5454

The following jobs are available at North Edinburgh Childcare:

PROJECT WORKER - PRE-SCHOOL

The closing date for this post is Friday, 15 August 2008.

SENIOR PROJECT WORKER - OUT OF SCHOOL CARE SERVICE

PROJECT WORKER - OUT OF SCHOOL CARE SERVICE

SESSIONAL WORKERS

The closing date for all remaining posts is Friday, 22 August 2008.

Applicants for all posts must be eligible for future registration with the Scottish Social Services Council.

For an Application Pack and to find out more about these jobs please call the Human Resources Dept. on 0131 332 8001,

email info@northedinburghchildcare.co.uk

or visit www.northedinburghchildcare.co.uk/recruitment.html



Two posts available at EVOC

Network Development Officer—the Eke-Out Project

35 hours per week

The post holder will work as a member of the Eke-Out Project Team to contribute to the co-ordination, development and support of the Edinburgh Network of Voluntary Organisations for Children, Young People and Families—closing date 12 noon on 15 August.

Edinburgh Compact Information Resource Worker

17.5 hours per week

The post holder will maintain, develop and promote the Edinburgh Compact Website and database— closing date 12 noon on 15 August

If you are interested in either of the above opportunities, please download an application pack from the EVOC website www.evoc.org.uk or email diannemorrison@evoc.org.uk or telephone 0131 555 9100.

Tender Opportunity

Can you or your organisation recommend a consultancy that would be interested in tendering for a piece of work with a community organisation based in Edinburgh wanting to draw together a community profile within their neighbourhood and write a 3 year business plan for the Management Committee?

If so please contact -

Ian Brooke

South Edinburgh Voluntary Sector Support Project

64 Gilmerton Dykes Street

Edinburgh

EH17 8PL

Tel 0131 664 8589

Website <http://www.evoc.org.uk/development/southedinburgh.htm>

Project details

The Eke-Out Project supports the Edinburgh Network of Voluntary Organisations for Children, Young People and Families

Contact Details

Carol Tinto, Manager, 0131 555 9130 caroltinto@evoc.org.uk

Kate Straine, Partnership Development Worker, 0131 555 9133 katestraine@evoc.org.uk

Jo Simpson, Administrator, 0131 625 9144, josimpson@evoc.org.uk

The Project is based within EVOC 14 Ashley Place, Edinburgh EH6 5PX

Tel. 0131 555 9100