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Contents

Vulnerable Groups Update	Page 1
Resources	Pages 2 & 3
Scottish Executive Publications	Pages 3, 4 & 5
Other Publications	Pages 5 & 6
Consultations/Surveys	Pages 6, 7 & 8
Training	Pages 8, 9 & 10
Events and Funding	Page 10

Protection of Vulnerable Groups - Update

The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Bill: Pre-Consultation Discussion Paper on Secondary Legislation

From the date of commencement of the new Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act, anyone seeking work in the children's or protected adults' workforce will be required to join the vetting and barring scheme in order to obtain a disclosure. The consultation carried out between February and May 2006, made it clear that registration of the existing workforce onto the vetting and barring scheme would not be an immediate requirement however the intention has always been that Scottish Ministers would have the power to set a time by which the entire relevant workforce should be scheme members. The new paper has been written to outline the point that if there is to be retrospective checking, discussion is being undertaken at this pre-consultation stage to canvass early views from stakeholders on the duration of a phasing in process. Broadly what the Executive is seeking to do is gather views on at what point a balance can be struck between securing the benefits of a vetting and barring scheme and how those organisations that will be involved could manage the burden of having to bring their existing workforce onto the new scheme. The discussion paper can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/02/02105256/0>

Resources

Tell Me a Story Daddy

The National Literacy Trust is in the process of producing a magazine for professionals who work with parents. The idea behind the magazine is to provide ideas that could help get fathers reading with their children. The Literacy Trust would like to hear about inspiring case studies or any tips you would like to share with others in the field. To take part email rodie.akerman@literacytrust.org.uk

A Champion amongst Men (well a reading one)

A new School Reading Champions toolkit is now available for existing and new members. This is a 32-page publication of background information, activities, case studies and ideas on how to go about engaging with boys and men to develop a male reading culture. For more information visit www.readingchampions.org.uk

New Reading Connects Family Engagement Toolkit

This toolkit is aimed at schools, local authorities and school library services. It is full of case studies, practical ideas and advice on how to engage families to encourage reading in the home. It also considers how schools can best reach out to dads and families for whom English is an additional language, and how to link up with the local community. Free downloadable materials are also available from the Reading Connects website including a reading passport, pupil certificates, bookmarks and a Get Caught Reading poster. For more information visit www.readingconnects.org.uk

Creative Resource Packs

A creative resource pack has been developed by the 16-24 Literacy Project as part of the 'To the Max' national collaborative project with YouthLink Scotland. This pack provides activity sheets aimed at engaging young people with literacy and includes worksheets on: art, creative writing, music, photography and poetry. The activity sheets from the pack are available on the Discover Learning website at <http://www.discoverlearning.org/youthlit.php>

Working with Young People to Create a Climate of Change

This resource aims to promote a greater understanding of and commitment to sustainable development in the context of youth work and demonstrate that youth work incorporates many of the principles which are implied in the notion of sustainable development. The document can be downloaded at:

www.nya.org.uk/shared_asp_files/uploadedfiles/a1338024-003e-463a-aa07-80beb865a057_climateofchange.pdf

A Fab Pad

Impact Arts has established the Fab Pad Edinburgh project, in venues in the east and west of the city, offering up to 40 places a year on the programme which works with vulnerable young people in their first housing tenancy. Its main focus is to offer young people the opportunity to work with an interior designer, to help them get ideas and learn new skills to help them turn their new house into a home. Hopefully this will help reduce the risk of the tenancy breaking down by making the young people feel more 'ownership' over the house they are living in. Fab Pad sessions are running in WHALE Arts Agency, Wester Hailes on Tuesday afternoons and at SPACE, Craigmillar on Thursday afternoons. To make a referral onto the Edinburgh programme or to find out more about the project contact Claire McGowan at claire@impactarts.co.uk

Resources cont.

Looking for Inspiration?

Inspiring Volunteering is Edinburgh's first city-wide volunteering strategy. It is a framework for supporting and developing volunteering in the city for the next five years. It lays out the strategic framework for the joint actions needed for the development of volunteering in the city from 2007-2012. The strategy has been developed as a key action of the Edinburgh Compact 'In Equal Respect: A Shared Vision' and is one of a family of strategies developed within the framework of the Compact. The strategy can be downloaded at:

<http://www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/strategy/documents/VolunteeringStrategy2006.pdf>

Excellence- Something to Aspire to

The EFQM Excellence Model is the most widely used management framework in Europe (a model overview can be accessed at: <http://www.efqm.org/Default.aspx?tabid=35>) Quality Scotland's Voluntary Sector Network has created a new guide for the use of the model for the social economy. This guide draws upon the direct experiences of a range of voluntary organisations implementing the Model as a means of demonstrating its accessibility to the sector. For more information e-mail info@qualityscotland.org.uk. The guide costs £5.00 for members of Quality Scotland/SCVO and £10.00 for non-members.

Planning for Project Transition

The Readiness Assessment Tool, originally produced in 2005 for Government Office London to help projects to manage an effective succession or exit strategy when original (European) funding ends, has been updated and improved. The interactive toolkit focuses on practical forward planning and on which of four possible succession routes - mainstreaming, self-sustaining enterprise, further funding or project closure - might be most suitable. Download from http://www.gos.gov.uk/gol/European_funding/?a=42496.

Careers Scotland

The Careers Scotland website has been redesigned to help provide comprehensive information for young people to help them plan their careers, including an online career matching questionnaire. The site can be found at: www.careers-scotland.org.uk

It's Good to Talk

Talking 2 Ourselves is a new website that has been designed and written by young people themselves. It provides information and advice on mental health issues that can affect young people. The website address is: www.talking2ourselves.com

Health Promoting Schools Support Young Carers Online

There is now a dedicated section on Health Promoting Schools Unit's website for young carers which looks at some of the issues faced by young people caring for members of their family and how schools can offer support. The site can be accessed at:

<http://www.healthpromotingschools.co.uk/practitioners/emotionalwellbeing/topics/youngcarers.asp>

Scottish Executive Publications

Review of Scotland's Colleges: Accountability and Governance

DTZ Consulting & Research was appointed to undertake research on Accountability and Governance as part of the Scottish Executive's Review of Scotland's Colleges (RoSCo). The aim of the research was to identify good practice in accountability and governance by learning from current practice in countries' colleges and from the experience of other public and

Scottish Executive Publications cont.

private sector organisations. It is hoped that the findings will help inform public policy; identify implications for funding decisions; and inform consideration of changes to the accountability and governance arrangements for colleges and for Board member training and development. The research can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/02/05093435/0>

Opportunities for Environmental Volunteering to Deliver Scottish Executive Policies

This discussion paper has been written for the Scottish Executive to look at the current issues relating to environmental volunteering in Scotland, and to assess the relevance of environmental volunteering in the wider Scottish policy context. Many elements of the paper relate to volunteering activity in the 'green environment', but this is not to the exclusion of other activities in the outdoors, which may be the starting point for many volunteers. The paper can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/02/01143700/0>

Extended Schools Childcare Pilot: Final Report

Evaluation of the Scottish pilot which commenced in two areas of the country, Aberdeenshire and Fife, in October 2004 and ran until March 2006. It aimed to address the barrier to work for lone parents through providing 'a virtual childcare guarantee' to help them into work. The report is available on the Scottish Executive's website at

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/11/17135806/0>

A Literature Review of Multiple and Complex Needs

The aim of this research was to review the evidence from research literature on service provision for people with multiple and complex needs. It has evaluated existing research to try and understand the processes through which people with multiple or complex needs engage, or do not engage, with services to resolve their problems and identifies good practice. The research findings can be downloaded at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/01/18133419/0>

Exclusions from School

This document contains analysis of the exclusions from local authority schools for 2005/06. In Edinburgh 389 primary, 1,073 secondary and 197 special school pupils were excluded in that year. The analysis can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/01/30100624/0>

Glossary of Terms relating to Mainstream and Specialist Educational Provision

The Executive recommended that The Scottish Council for Research in Education provide a glossary of terms relating to mainstream and specialist educational provision and the document can now be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/01/Glossary>

Guidance on Appropriate Qualifications for Teachers of Children and Young Persons who are hearing impaired, visually impaired, or both hearing and visually impaired

This is a guidance document describing what constitutes appropriate qualifications for teachers of children and young people who have a hearing impairment, or visual impairment, or both. The guidance can be downloaded at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/01/29163203/0>

Evaluation of Pilots to Improve Primary to Secondary School Transitions

This report presents the findings of an 18-month evaluation of three pilot initiatives financed by the Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED). The pilots were introduced in response to anecdotal and research evidence that suggested that there is a dip in pupil attainment at the point of transition between primary and secondary school, the pilots

Scottish Executive Publications cont.

attempted to try and improve the transition. The findings can be downloaded at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/01/24111206/0>

Getting it right for every child: Guidance on the Child's or Young Person's Plan

This is a support document for the implementation of Getting it Right for Every Child which aims to provide a framework for planning and action to help improve outcomes for children in Scotland. The document can be downloaded at
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/01/22142141/0>

That's NEET

This briefing paper provides background information for the Scottish Parliament Enterprise and Culture Committee's round-table discussion on the Scottish Executive's Employability Framework, Workforce Plus, and their Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) strategy, More Choices, More Chances. The paper outlines statistics on the current labour market in Scotland, including the numbers that are unemployed or economically inactive and summarises the evidence on young people who are NEET, including risk factors, geographical distribution and the relationship to later disadvantage. The paper can be downloaded at:
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-06/SB06-104.pdf>

Other Publications

Children and Families Department Service Improvement Plan 2007- 2010

A draft of the Children and Families Department's Service Improvement Plan for 2007 - 2010 is available to download on <http://egfl.net> and http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/council/council_publications/council_policies_and_plans/CEC_service_planning. This will be the second plan developed specifically for the Department and it is a roll forward from last year's plan, the final plan will hopefully be published in April 2007.

Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion in Scotland 2006

The New Policy Institute has produced its 2006 edition of indicators of poverty and social exclusion in Scotland (covers both devolved and non-devolved areas of responsibility). The document provides a comprehensive analysis of trends over time and differences between groups. It shows that there has been substantial progress in poverty among children and pensioners but not among working-age adults and that Scotland still has substantial problems with bad health and low educational achievement. The findings and full report are available on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's website at
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/1980.asp>

Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK 2006

The New Policy Institute has produced its ninth annual report of indicators of poverty in the UK. The findings and full report are available on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's website at
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/1979.asp>

Making Markets Work - Serving Demand from Low-Income Consumers

There is a growing awareness that low-income consumers may not be adequately served by providers of essential goods and services. The Scottish Council Foundation, with support from the Scottish Centre for Regeneration in Communities Scotland, has explored the market provision of essential goods and services to low-income consumers and has identified several development options that have the potential to inform future policy and practice. The subsequent report can be downloaded at:
http://www.scottishcouncilfoundation.org/pubs_more.php?p=65

Other Publications cont.

The Idea of Poverty

The Policy Press are offering a free extract from Paul Spicker's book 'The Idea of Poverty', published in January, which explores different understandings of poverty, from material deprivation to social exclusion. The free extract is available at <https://www.policypress.org.uk/images/upload/pages/Free%20pre-publication%20extract.pdf> and details of the full publication are available at https://www.policypress.org.uk/catalog/product_info.php?cPath=10043&products_id=1151

Consultations / Surveys

Engaged and Involved: Attendance in Scottish schools (Closing date 27/02/07)

This draft guidance replaces Circular 5/03 and the subsequent Addendum published in September 2003. In addition to the classification of attendance and absence there is one specific proposed change - to amend the classification of medical and dental appointments from attendance to authorised absence. The guidance also seeks to explore and address wider issues around the promotion and management of good attendance and the prevention and reduction of absence. The consultation can be downloaded at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/12/01160441/0> and any comments should be emailed to laura.meikle@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or tracy.o'hanlon@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Consultation on the draft Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 (closing date 28/02/07)

The Scottish Executive proposes to implement a change to the legal age limit where someone can purchase tobacco products from 16 to 18, making the change through the draft Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 (Variation of Age Limit for Sale of Tobacco Products and Consequential Modifications) Order 2007. They have also undertaken a partial Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) to assess the likely impact of the proposed legislation. The consultation can be accessed at

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/12/07153221/0>

Comments should be sent to John Glen, Scottish Executive Health Department Tobacco Control Division, 3 E(R), St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG or email them to John.glen@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

They Want to be Elected (closing date 28/02/07)

The Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) has launched a three month consultation period to give young people aged 14 to 25 across the country the opportunity to contribute to their election manifesto. The SYP is seeking feedback on a draft of their manifesto, which identifies key campaigns for the run up to the 2007 election. Young people interested in participating can access the consultation at www.youngscot.org/manifesto

Community Investment Tax Relief (closing date 28/02/07)

A review of the delivery and operation of the community investment tax relief (CITR) scheme was announced on the publication of the government's Social Enterprise Action Plan in November. They are now inviting evidence from all interested parties on how the operation of CITR and other incentives might be improved. See

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/citr.asp

Consultations/surveys cont.

Child Maintenance (closing date 03/03/07)

The UK Government published its Child Maintenance White Paper on 13 December 2006 which can be accessed at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/childmaintenance/csa_report.pdf
Comments from the public are being asked for and the specific questions the consultation is seeking answers to can be accessed at

https://secureonline.dwp.gov.uk/childmaintenance/response_feedback.asp

Responses should be sent to Child Maintenance Redesign Team, Department for Work and Pensions, 5th Floor, The Adelphi, 1-11 John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6HT

'A Stronger Voice for Health and Safety' (closing date 05/03/07)

This Consultative Document seeks views on merging the Health and Safety Commission and Health and Safety Executive into a single body. The document describes the origins of HSC/E, the role of Local Authorities and the existing governance arrangements sets out the case for merging the Commission and Executive, elaborates and seeks views on a set of principles that underpin the proposed framework for establishing a single authority for health and safety at work, outlines the objectives for an improved governance structure and invites comments on how the government proposes to achieve this and it summarises the legislative options for merging HSC and HSE and the timescales for transition. The consultation can be found at

<http://consultations.hse.gov.uk/inovem/gf2.ti/f/3938/116453.1/PDF/-/CD210.pdf>

Responses should be sent to Ami Badmus, Health and Safety Executive, Rose Court, 2 Southwark Bridge, London, SE1 9HS or emailed to governance@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Release of Radio Resources (closing date 20/03/07)

The Digital Dividend Review has been launched by media regulator Ofcom, setting out proposals for the most effective use of the radio spectrum released by the switch to all-digital television broadcasting. Public Voice has been commissioned to encourage civil society groups to participate in the consultation, and argue for more citizen-centric use (e.g. local TV). The Ofcom documents can be found at

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/ddr/>

West Edinburgh Planning Framework, 2006: Consultation Draft (closing date 31/03/07)

Whilst still pitched at a strategic level, the West Edinburgh Planning Framework 2006 provides more detail about the location of additional investment planned for the area.

The consultation can be accessed at

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/11/30125742/0>

and responses should be sent to Tom Williamson, Scottish Executive Development Department, Planning Division, Room 2-H77, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

Equalities Strategy for Charity Regulator (closing date 30/03/07) The Scottish charity regulator OSCR has published a consultation document entitled, 'Mainstreaming Equalities', which is to form the basis for its three year equalities strategy. They are planning to run a series of focus groups to be held mid-March to discuss the issues raised and the general themes involved. The consultation can be found at

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/MainstreamingEqualities.stm>

Draft Children's Services (Scotland) Bill Consultation (closing date 31/03/07)

In June 2006 the Scottish Executive published its implementation plan for getting it right for every child. A number of further issues have developed since the publication of the proposals for action in 2005. These are: Changes arising from the Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2004; Engaging with young people involved in offending and Changes to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and procedural changes to the Children's Hearing system. The draft Children's Services (Scotland) Bill is intended to support this wide programme of reform and to place the child at the centre of service provision in Scotland. It affects all agencies and services that provide care and support for children and their families. This includes local authorities, police, NHS Scotland and voluntary

Consultations/surveys cont.

sector organisations. The Draft Bill and explanatory notes can be found at

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/12/18140606/7>

Responses to the consultation should be sent to Children's Services (Scotland) Bill Team, Scottish Executive, 2B (South) Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ. Responses can be emailed to gettingitrightforeverychild@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

An online response form is also available at www.scotland.gov.uk/childrenservicesbill

The European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) (closing date 15/03/07)

The European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) is a new proposal from the European Commission designed to facilitate the transfer, accumulation and recognition of learning outcomes. The consultation can be accessed at:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conRespond.cfm?consultationId=1430>

A Strategy For Scotland's Languages: Draft version for Consultation (closing date 19/03/07)

In A Partnership for a Better Scotland Scottish Ministers gave the commitment to introduce a national language strategy to guide the development and support of Scotland's languages, including British Sign Language and other minority languages. The consultation can be accessed at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/01/24130746/0>

Equality for Disabled People: how will we know we are making progress? (closing date 09/05/07)

This consultation is looking at how progress towards achieving equality for disabled people can be measured and whether progress is being made in areas which are most important to disabled people. The ODI is organising a series of consultation events with the Edinburgh date being 27/03/07. The consultation can be accessed at:

<http://www.officefordisability.gov.uk/consultations/>

Training

EVOC Training

Recruitment and Selection

This course is designed to offer new and established managers the opportunity to examine recruitment practice and selection techniques. It will offer an opportunity to focus on the process of interviewing and the skills involved in effective decision making. The course takes place on the 19th and 20th of March at EVOC and costs £95.

Training for Trainers

Focusing on the theories, principles and techniques of accelerated learning, this practical and stimulating course will support you to plan and facilitate training sessions that are high impact, effective and engaging. Based on the latest research into how adults learn, the course provides an excellent starting point for people new to training, but will also be of interest to more experienced trainers who would like to update their knowledge and skills. The 3 day course takes place in Update on the 27th to the 29th of March and costs £135.

Managing Critical Situations

This course is designed for managers in the care sector who wish to develop their skills in supporting staff who are required to deal with challenging, angry or aggressive behaviour in their day-to-day work. It will place particular emphasis on the analysis of critical situations and appropriate responses to events of this nature. The 1 day course takes place in Update on 02/04/07 and costs £55.

Training cont.

Better Graphics for Beginners

Graphics are a highly effective way of recording the process and outcomes of any group or meeting. Graphic recording combines words, pictures and symbols on large sheets of paper, and has become popular in human services through its application in person-centred planning. However, graphic facilitation can improve the accessibility, creativity, level of participation and overall effectiveness of any meeting. This highly participative one-day course will interest anyone who wants to get more out of meetings. It is delivered by staff from Edinburgh Development Group who have experience of applying graphics to a range of work situations. The 1 day course takes place in Update on 10/04/07 and costs £55.

To find out more about the above courses go to www.evoc.org.uk/learning or contact Julie Anne Hill on 0131 555 9127 or e-mail julieannehill@evoc.org.uk

Practical Problems - Sensible Solutions 2007

The Part Time and Voluntary Youth Workers' National Training Conference is due to take place in Edinburgh on the 24 & 25 March 2007. It is hoped that the event will help address some of the practical problems faced by part-time and voluntary youth workers who deliver grass roots youth work. Delegates will have the opportunity to take part in four workshops selected from 14 key and topical issues facing youth workers. To find out more about the conference contact: Youth Scotland on 0131 554 2561 or Email:

joe.mcivor@youthscotland.org.uk

Feelin Groovy: Self Esteem, Emotional Resilience and Young People

This one day training course takes place in Edinburgh on 23/03/07. Its aim is to assist those working with young people understand the role that self esteem plays with regard to health and lifestyle choices. For more information contact: Fast Forward (web address: www.fastforward.org.uk) on 0131 554 4300 or Email them at: admin@fastforward.org.uk.

Scottish Child Law Centre

The Scottish Child Law Centre (SCLC) have arranged two training seminars on the subjects of Children's Hearings in Edinburgh on 25/04/07 and Rights of Children and Young People in Glasgow on 16/03/07. For more information contact the SCLC on 0131 667 6333 or Email them at: training@sclc.org.uk. Their web page can be found at: www.sclc.org.uk

Introduction to the Scottish Parliament and to Lobbying

This one-day training session costing £15.00, including lunch takes place on 22/02/07 at The Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL from 09.30 am - 3.30 pm. The course is for voluntary sector organisations that need an introduction to how the Scottish Parliament operates and the ways in which they can get involved. For more information see:

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/SCVOEvents/ViewSCVOEvents.aspx?al=t&EID=637&from=t&f=0>

Become part of the Powerof5: LIVE

Volunteer Centre Edinburgh is offering a unique opportunity for those aged 15-26 who have had experience in volunteering to be come part of the Powerof5: LIVE team, to encourage others to volunteer. The volunteers will go into schools and young agencies to promote volunteering to other young people. Anyone interested in taking part should call 0131 225 0630 or email lorna.main@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk

Coming to a radio near you!

Does your organisation have any budding radio stars? The Festival Radio Project could give them the opportunity to take part in the Edinburgh Festival, reviewing shows, interviewing stars and learning how radio programmes are put together. The programme is suitable for groups of all abilities aged 14 and over and the challenge is for teams to produce their own radio programmes and get them broadcast on air. The programme is expensive at £4000 but up to 14 people are allowed in each team. The dates are: 6th - 10th August;

Training cont./Events/Funding

13th - 17th August and 20th - 24th August. Any organisation that is interested should contact Media Education's team for further information on 0131 662 8844 or festivalradio@mediaeducation.co.uk

Events

World Book Day 2007

The 10th World Book Day (WBD) takes place on 31/03/07. School children are entitled to receive a WBD £1 book token, which can be exchanged for one of ten specially published World Book Day 10th anniversary £1 books or any book or audiobook at a participating bookshop or book club. For more information go to: <http://www.worldbookday.com/>

100 Not Out

Edinburgh Volunteer Centre and the Living Memory Association are putting on "A century of change" exhibition at the Museum of Edinburgh, 142 Canongate, Monday to Saturday 10am - 4.45pm now until 03/03/07. The exhibition celebrates 100 years of work by volunteers in Edinburgh.

For further information, contact the Museum of Edinburgh or see:

<http://www.cac.org.uk/>

Why be Good, when You Can be Great!

A G2G programme event for Management Committee/Boards takes place at Update, Beaverhall Road on 24/03/07 from 10.00am to 4.00pm. The G2G programme aims to help organisations become more effective by supporting the Management Committee or Board to fulfil its role in the hope of leading the organisation forward. The programme focuses on leadership and development and is based around the National Occupational Standards for Trustees and Management Committees/Boards of voluntary organisations. Bookings can be made on line at www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk or by contacting Jean Cuthbert on 0131 225 0630 or by emailing: jean.cuthbert@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk

Funding

Help Yourselves! (closing date 23/03/07)

Save the Children and British Gas have announced the next round of funding for the Help Yourselves award scheme, with awards of £1,000 and small grants of £3,000 available. The scheme aim is to encourage young people and adults to work together to improve their communities. Funded projects should take place between June and September 2007 and more information on the scheme is available at: www.helpyourselves.org.uk .

Providing access to collections (closing date 30/04/07)

Nominations are now being sought for the Jodi Awards 2007 which recognises excellence in web site accessibility of museum, gallery, library, archive or heritage projects, will now also include any project that uses technology to provide access to collections for disabled people. For more information about the awards go to:

[http://www.mla.gov.uk/webdav/harmonise?Page/@id=73&Document/@id=23090&Section\[@stateld_eq_left_hand_root\]/@id=4302](http://www.mla.gov.uk/webdav/harmonise?Page/@id=73&Document/@id=23090&Section[@stateld_eq_left_hand_root]/@id=4302)

e-ffective Connection Award

Those organisations that have been BT Community Connections award winners are eligible for the e-ffective Connection award. Application for the enhanced package of IT equipment can only be completed online. For further information on the awards go to

<http://www.btcommunityconnections.com/>

