
eke.bulletin

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Charity News

To see ourselves in Profile!

The latest 'profile' of the Scottish charity sector i.e. 'Scottish Charities 2008' has been published by The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). The 'sector profile' is based on information collected from charities annual returns to the regulators during its first two full years of operation. Amongst other information contained in 'Scottish Charities 2008' it says that there are 23,806 charities on the Scottish Charity Register and that almost 10,000 charities have been removed from the register. To find out more see: <http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=22cdfd6b-6aa5-4d3e-8149-bf093be57e1b>

Nursery education

The current Scottish Government may have pledged to increase access to nursery education from 475 hours per child each year to 570 hours by 2010. As far as Edinburgh is concerned, however, meeting that pledge may just not be feasible due to budget constraints. The reason being quite simply, the extra costs that would be involved, which the city's education leaders estimate could be around £800,000.

Network News

Juliet Wilson who previously worked with our Network member, The Scottish Playbus Association, has now taken up a new post as Scottish Development Officer with the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens and her new office is at our network member, Gorgie Farms premises. You can contact her on 0131 623 7058 or e-mail: juliet@farmgarden.org.uk

Project Profiles etc

Any of our network members who are interested in being 'Profiled' in the Eke Bulletin should contact Catriona Straine on 0131 555 9133 (email: katestraine@evoc.org.uk) or Jo Simpson (email: josimpson@evoc.org.uk) and do not forget if you have any training, events or consultations/surveys etc that you would like us to circulate to the Network just contact Catriona or Jo at the above in the first week of the month if you want it to be circulated with that month's Bulletin.

Legislation

Amendment to the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003

All organisations who work with children should be aware that there has been an amendment made by the Scottish Parliament to the 'Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003' which came into force on 01/07/08. The new amendment to the Act concerns certain changes to the definition of a 'child care position'. Details about the amendment can be found in 'The Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003 (Amendment of the Definition of Child Care Position) Order 2008' at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2008/pdf/ssi_20080260_en.pdf

Vetting and barring system for adults working with children and vulnerable groups

Following a consultation on the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PGV)(Scotland) Act' (responses published 27/06/08). The Scottish Government plans to introduce a new vetting and barring system for adults working with children and vulnerable groups. The proposed changes, if adopted, will be implemented under the 'PGV (Scotland) Act' by way of introducing secondary legislation to try and ensure that those working with and caring for children and vulnerable people are not unsuitable to do so and the checks will include those in both paid and voluntary work. It is hoped that the proposed changes to the vetting system will reduce bureaucracy, streamline the disclosure process and deliver a clearer, more consistent system.

VAT are you saying?

A new tribunal ruling has raised the hope that charities involved in non-business activities could be able to use VAT saving schemes when renovating property. Until now HM Customs has said a VAT saving scheme is only available to charities if they are buying or constructing new buildings, but not if they are renovating existing buildings. However, a recent VAT tribunal has said this contravened EU law. However, whether this ruling will take hold rather depends on the EU as it has been looking at removing VAT saving schemes from land and building altogether.

Happy Birthday sweet 60

The 60th anniversary of the NHS has been given a lot of press recently but there is another landmark piece of legislation that is also celebrating its 60th birthday i.e. the Children Act (brought in July, 1948). The Children Act obliged local authorities to set up Children's Departments to ensure personal care for children deprived of a normal home life. The main upshot of this radical piece of legislation was that the number of children in institutions reduced and the number of children placed in foster homes increased. This Act was the forerunner for much of the legislation that has replaced it, the ideal being

after all to improve the lives of the country's children (regardless of the law's efficacy in doing so).

School Dinners -The chips are down!

From August 2008 Scotland's primary schools will have new-look 'school meal menus' with snacks that are considered to be unhealthy being removed from school dining rooms. The Scottish Government school meals regulations aim to transform school meals and help young people make healthier food choices. The statutory guidance was issued by the Scottish Government under section 2A (4) of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000. School Meals in Scotland, 2008, Information on the uptake of school meals, registration for free school meals and various healthy eating policies can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/24125730/0> . Also in relation to the nation, as a whole's diet the Scottish Government has released the following action plan. 'Healthy Eating, Active Living: An action plan to improve diet, increase physical activity and tackle obesity (2008-2011)' this can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/20155902/0>

Parking Fees at Hospitals

Labour backbench MSP Paul Martin has launched a Member's Bill about the abolition of hospital parking fees. He has done so because he feels that it is morally wrong to charge sick people or their relatives for visiting Scotland's hospitals. The Bill proposes a ban on charging that would apply to all Scotland's hospitals(including those created through private funding initiatives) and would apply to patients, visitors and staff (Unison, the NHS staff union has backed the Bill). The Scottish Government has already introduced a £3 'daily' cap on parking at Scottish hospitals this year but this does not currently apply to PFI hospitals (who currently charge up to £7 a day for parking).

Information act could be widened

Reform to the current 'Freedom of information' laws could be afoot in Scotland as Scottish ministers are currently looking at possibly extending the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2005 (this Act sets the limits of public access to information). They are looking at the possibility of extending its coverage to include the likes of housing associations, private finance projects and private prisons in the country. However, it should be noted that any amendments to the Act would have to be subject to a formal consultation.

Scottish Youth Parliament Elections

At the recent Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) elections for the new Board of the Scottish Youth Parliament, Kieran Collins from Edinburgh South was chosen as the organisation's new Chair (he replaces, John Loughton) Connie Bennett is the Vice Chair, Robin James is SYP Secretary and Hilary Lynn is the Treasurer. For a full list of the SYP Board see: www.syp.org.uk

Resources

The power of positive thinking

The British Red Cross has launched an online resource 'Wee Positive Images' called for Scottish primary school children aged 8-10 years to try and help tackle growing asylum and refugee issues in Scottish classrooms. The 'Wee Positive Images' resources can be accessed at www.redcross.org.uk/weepositiveimages

The wheels on the bus go "Cook, cook, cook"

The Scottish Government launched Scotland's first 'Cooking Bus' on 26/06/08. The bus is basically a kitchen on wheels which aims to help teach cooking and healthy eating skills to children, parents, teachers and community groups around the country. So far, 200 schools have requested a visit from the Cooking Bus and applications are invited from

other Scottish schools. Requests can be submitted online at www.focusonfood.org or by phoning 01422 383 191.

Sustrans

Sustrans, School Travel website is now sitting on the main Sustrans site (but you can still use www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk URL to get to it). The organisation hopes that the site provides relevant resources, news and information that relates to current school travel issues and initiatives. It also provides direct links to all of Sustrans' work, such as the Bike It project and National Cycle Network.

LGBT Youth Scotland

LGBT Youth Scotland has released a research report called 'Our Journey' which explores child protection policy and practice in relation to the needs of LGBT young people. To access the report go to:

<http://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/information-centre/research-and-reports/working-with-lgbt-young-people.htm>

SVQ Update

An SVQ update is now available in a new online format which has a range of qualification details, address listings and general information that relate to SVQs. It can be accessed at: www.sqa.org.uk/accreditation

Updated quality assurance model

The Charities Evaluation Services has published a third edition of their 'Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations' (PQASSO). Changes to the previous edition include a greater emphasis on the importance of planning and marketing of services, better support for working in partnership and greater focus on environmental and sustainability issues. For more information go to: <http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=339>

Developing services for vulnerable groups

The Social Exclusion Task Force, in partnership with Barnardo's, Research in Practice and the National Foundation for Educational Research have released a guidance document called 'Think Research: Using research evidence to inform service development for vulnerable groups' for professionals who have direct responsibility for designing, commissioning, providing or managing services for vulnerable groups. It is available via the UK Cabinet Office at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/think_research.aspx

'What Community Development Does: a short guide for decision makers to how it achieves results'

The above guide, it is hoped, will be a useful tool that could be used to spread awareness of the contribution of community development amongst people at all levels who are taking decisions about how to achieve national and local outcomes.

<http://www.communitydevelopmentalliancescotland.org/WhatCDDoes.asp>

e-Learning resources: Poverty, parenting and social exclusion

There are 9 e-learning training resources available to help people working in the social care field to understand the link between poverty, parenting and social exclusion. The resources include quizzes, videos and case studies of families affected by poverty. Copies can be downloaded from:

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/elearning/poverty/index.asp>

Resource guide 11: Children of prisoners - maintaining family ties

This report brings together resources and research about the problem of maintaining family ties for children of prisoners. The findings highlight the negative impact parental imprisonment can have on children, and where to find guidance on developing support

services. Copies can be downloaded at:

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/resourceguides/rq11/index.asp>

It's all foreign to me!

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has some useful health and safety guidance that is aimed at workers from overseas and their employers. It can be downloaded at www.hse.gov.uk/migrantworkers/index.htm (the information is available in Chinese, Portuguese, and a number of eastern European languages).

On the subject of overseas workers, The Scottish Government's Health Workforce Directorate recently produced a guidance document on 'overseas criminal record checks' (see: [http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/PDF/Overseas Disclosure checks-NHS Scotland Guidance.doc](http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/PDF/Overseas%20Disclosure%20checks-NHS%20Scotland%20Guidance.doc)) to supplement its policy document "safer, pre and post employment" (see: <http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/publications/j9227.pdf>) Albeit these guidance documents were developed for NHS Scotland, certain elements of them may be helpful for other sectors who may consider taking on overseas workers or volunteers.

Anti-Bullying

The not-for-profit section of trade union Unite (formerly Amicus and T&G) says that bullying is the major issue facing voluntary sector staff and to address this perceived problem they have set up an anti-bullying "hot mail". People who feel they are victims or witnesses of workplace bullying can report it there. To find out more see: www.amicustheunion.org/Default.aspx?page=7298, the dedicated email address is banbullying@unitetheunion.com.

Funding News

Investing in an enterprising Scottish third sector

The Scottish Government is setting up a £30 million fund called the 'Scottish Investment Fund' with the main aim being to help trading charities and social enterprises increase their turnover or become financially sustainable. The fund is to provide a mixture of loan/repayable financing and grant funding to 'mature established social economy organisations' that have been trading successfully for at least three years. For more information see: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/06/18150321>. However those organisations who are at an earlier stage of development, can apply to the separate 'Third Sector Enterprise Fund' (£12 million available over three years) which can fund up to a maximum of £100,000. Full details about these funding streams will hopefully be available in the next few months. In relation to this subject The Scottish Government has also published the 'Enterprising Third Sector Action Plan, 2008-11' saying that it hopes that the action plan will "help to create the right conditions in which an enterprising Third Sector - including social enterprises - can thrive, enabling the Third Sector to play a full role in the development, design and delivery of policy and services in Scotland." see <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/19085003/0> for more information.

Funding for rent deposit schemes

The Scottish Government has announced that it plans to make available another £100,000 of funds over the next two years to voluntary sector organisations who wish to develop rent deposit schemes with landlords and local authorities to help homeless people access and sustain private tenancies. At the moment rent deposit schemes are thought to help around 1,500 households in Scotland each year. Please note that the Scottish Government is currently developing national guidance on preventing homelessness.

Here's looking at EU!

The current credit crunch being felt in the UK may result in a downturn in UK funding for charitable organisations, which in turn could see more UK charities looking to apply to the European Union for grants. There are 300 different grant programmes with significant amounts of money available through them (some match money provided by domestic grant

schemes whilst others offer 100 per cent funding or loans, particularly for social enterprises). Any organisation or group of organisations considering an EU bid should visit the European Commission website for details of available grants (see: http://ec.europa.eu/grants/index_en.htm) However organisations should be aware that the administrative burden, especially for smaller charities can be overwhelming when going for EU funding.

Funding

Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Trust (closing date 31/08/08)

In broad terms the above trust operates in the area of social welfare and is geared towards assisting voluntary organisations in their work. Most of the funds are distributed to organisations (usually up to around £2000) and individuals (usually under £200) within the Edinburgh area. For information and criteria please go to: <http://www.evoc.org.uk/evot/index.htm>

Historic Scotland - direct funding to the voluntary sector 2009-12 (closing date 30/09/08)

Historic Scotland's annual funding application round covering the three financial years beginning 2009/10 is now open. However, they have issued a statement saying that anyone considering applying should be aware that there continues to be a heavy demand for and that the application appraisal process will involve priority being given to those applications that clearly demonstrate activities that assist or complement Historic Scotland's own activities, especially with regard to meeting its ongoing corporate plan targets. Initial decisions on the award of grants are scheduled to be made by November 30 2008. For an application form go to: www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/grants/grants-voluntary-sector-funding.htm

CashBack for Communities Fund Round Two (extended to 26/09/08)

YouthLink Scotland has been asked by the Scottish Government to extend the closing date for Round Two of the 'CashBack for Communities' applications until 26/09/08. The 6 Assessment Panels will then meet the week beginning 06/10/08 to assess received applications with the successful recipients of the awards expected to be announced during Youth Work Week, which is on the 1-7th November 2008. Please be aware that organisations in East Lothian will not be able to apply in round two as it is one of the areas that has exhausted its allocation of funding,

The Lefevre Trust

The Lefevre Trust which supports joint projects between young people in the UK and France is offering young people aged 11-19 the opportunity to visit a partner group and further develop a joint venture. to embark on a collaborative venture. The scheme is open to schools, youth groups, sports teams and extra curricular clubs. To find out more go to <http://www.britishcouncil.org/schoolpartnerships-france-lefevre-trust>

Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council Grant Aid (closing dates 03 & 31/10/08)

The CYEC provides information, advice and grant funding for local groups of young Britons aged 15-25 who plan to undertake reciprocal exchanges with a partner group in a Commonwealth country (particularly Africa, Asia and the Caribbean). Please note that for 2009/10 CYEC is keen to give priority to projects which demonstrate a link to Citizenship. For an application form, starter pack and Guidelines for Funding please send an A4 self-addressed envelope with four 1st class stamps to: Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council 7 Lion Yard, Tremadoc Road, London SW4 7NQ or Tel: 020 7498 6151 Email: mail@cyec.org.uk

Funding for part-time students

Around 20,000 part-time students across Scotland will be able to apply for new support from 01/07/08 in the form of a £500 grant. It will be open to new and existing higher education students earning £18,000 a year or less and studying at 50 per cent or more of a full-time course. The new support system is to be delivered through ILA Scotland. For more information on the scheme see:

<http://www.ilascotland.org.uk/What+is+ILA+Scotland/ILA+Scotland+£500+accounts.htm> .

The Scottish Government have said that they are also intending to launch a consultation paper later in the year that will seek views on their proposals to replace the current system of student loans with an 'affordable' system of means-tested grants.

Community technology innovation awards (closing date 30/09/08)

This year's TalkTalk Innovation in the Community Awards are open for entries. This enables charity and community groups throughout the UK to harness the power of the internet, with 30 winners receiving grants of £2,000 each to fund technology related projects, and five overall winners will also get technology equipment of their choice. Last year's winners ranged from chat rooms on health issues to web-based support networks.

See <http://www.talktalk.co.uk/innovation>

Community Food and Health - Small Grant Scheme 2008

Groups working with Scotland's low-income communities to improve access to and take up of a healthy diet can apply for the above funding with grants of between £500 and £3000 being available for successful applicants. For more information go to:

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

Scottish Community Projects Fund

As part of a drive to promote the involvement of local people in not only the design, use and management of buildings and spaces as well as in the decision-making process which affects their local environment, The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, in association with the Robertson Trust through the 'The Scottish Community Projects Fund' can award grants up to a maximum of £2,000.00 or half the cost (whichever is the lower) for a local community group to employ an architect or any other building professional, to prepare a feasibility study for building or environmental improvement projects or employment or other initiatives which have social benefit. To find out more about this scheme contact Charlene Byrne, Client Services Manager at the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland on 0131 229 7545 or cbyrne@rias.org.uk.

HILTON IN THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

AIMS: The Foundation makes grants to a wide range of charities and organisations that meet one of our three chosen areas of focus:

Young People - Education;

Young People - Health;

Disaster Relief and International Fund.

GRANT SIZES & APPLICATION

PROCESS: Completed applications are first assessed by the Foundation office, with grants of up to £5,000 approved by the Director. The Director will also assess Sponsored Grant requests received from Hilton hotels and offices. Applications for more than £5,000 are reviewed by the Grants Committee, with a shortlist of approximately 20 of the strongest and regionally representative applications put forward by the Foundation office for their consideration. If favoured, grant applications for up to £10,000 can be approved by the Committee, and applications for more than £10,000 are recommended to the Trustees for final approval. However, the Foundation is a small charity and generally will not make awards of over £50,000 (per year). Funding can be requested for up to 3 years for any particular project. Guidance and application forms are available on website below.

CONTACT: Hilton in the Community Foundation, 179-199 Holland Park Avenue, London W11 4UL Tel: 020 7605 7733 Fax: 020 7605 7736 Email: info@hiltonfoundation.org.uk

Website: <http://www.hilton-foundation.org.uk>

DEADLINES: Remaining application deadlines in 2008 are: 4 August 2008 for Grants Committee

Meeting 3 September 2008; 28 October 2008 for Grants Committee Meeting 29 November 2008.

Publications

Disclosure Scotland's Annual Review

The above review can be accessed at:

<http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/PDF/Annual%20Review%2020072008.pdf>

Step Inside Our Shoes: Young People's Views on Gun and Knife Crime

The above publication from NCH can be downloaded at:

www.nch.org.uk/uploads/documents/step-inside-our-shoes.pdf

Delivering benefits, tax credits and employment services: Problems for disadvantaged users and potential solutions (published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation)

This is a review of problems (with suggested solutions) in the UK benefit delivery system. Key areas highlighted in the review are: the system's complexity, lower than anticipated take-up rates; poorly developed ICT systems; weak coordination of services and reduced options for face-to-face contact. The review can be downloaded at:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2215-welfare-service-delivery.pdf>

Parenting 'mixed' children: negotiating difference and belonging in mixed race, ethnicity and faith families (published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation)

The Britain of today has many families which are made up of varying racial, ethnic and faith backgrounds. This report however actually looks more at this diversity from the parents/carers backgrounds, for example, who they are and what their experiences are of bringing up their children in the UK? The report can be downloaded at:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2231-parenting-children-difference.pdf>

Edinburgh City Council

Single Outcome Report - This can be downloaded at:

http://cpol.edinburgh.gov.uk/getdoc_ext.asp?DocId=112416 . The Appendix can be downloaded at:

Strategic Direction of the Council 201 1/12: "Achieving Excellence" - This can be downloaded at: http://cpol.edinburgh.gov.uk/getdoc_ext.asp?DocId=112424

Fairer Scotland Fund - Progress Report - This can be downloaded at:

http://cpol.edinburgh.gov.uk/getdoc_ext.asp?DocId=112446

Assessment of Primary Class Sizes - This can be downloaded at:

http://cpol.edinburgh.gov.uk/getdoc_ext.asp?DocId=112168

Child Protection Action Plan and Progress Report - This can be downloaded at:

http://cpol.edinburgh.gov.uk/getdoc_ext.asp?DocId=112172

Anti-Bullying and Anti-Discrimination in Schools - This can be downloaded at:

http://cpol.edinburgh.gov.uk/getdoc_ext.asp?DocId=112174

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Service Pressures and Priorities - This can be downloaded at: http://cpol.edinburgh.gov.uk/getdoc_ext.asp?DocId=112182

Disclosure Scotland Annual Review (2007/2008)

Disclosure Scotland's latest annual review can be found at:

<http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/PDF/Annual%20Review%2020072008.pdf>

UK Government Publications

'Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities: a caring system on your side, a life of your own'

The above carers' strategy sets out the UK Government's short-term agenda and long-term vision for the future care and support of carers it can be found

at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_085345

Scottish Government Publications

Evaluation of the Futurebuilders Scotland Funding Programme

A full evaluation report on Futurebuilders Scotland which was established in 2004 as a programme of investment and support for Scotland's social economy sector. The evaluation is available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/07/01091406/0>

Scoping Study: Support for Social Enterprise Start-Ups

The Scottish Government's commitment to support social enterprise was set out in early 2007. This was followed by a programme of investment in the development of the sector. This study was commissioned by the Scottish Government to help inform its approach to the sector, including the spending priorities for the sector; particularly the Government's interest in promoting the start-up of new social enterprises in Scotland. The study report can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/24161705/0>

Review of Data Handling in Scotland

The Scottish Government has published a report reviewing information security policies and the handling of data in Scotland. The report is available from:

Labour Market Statistics Published

The Scottish Government has published statistics on the labour market, education and training as taken from the Annual Population Survey in Scotland 2007. The report is available from:

Review of Major Public Sector Capital Projects

A review of major public sector capital projects reveals that a more strategic approach to management is needed in order to improve value for money. The report is available from:

Offending by Young People

A Youth Justice Framework, whose focus is on strengthening prevention, early intervention, managing high risk, victims and community confidence and planning and performance improvement has recently been published and can be found at:

Care of Arrested Children

The above report by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary is about the care of detained and arrested children. It makes a number of recommendations that are aimed at ensuring a

more robust and consistent use of procedures across Scotland. The report can be accessed at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/24085717/0>

Helping you meet the costs of learning: Students with Dependent Children (including lone parents) 2008 - 2009

The above guide gives an overview of the funding available for learners, or those thinking about learning who have dependent children. It is however also of interest to practitioners giving who give advice to learners. The guide can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/26131431/0>

Follow up of school leavers 2006-07

The above statistics show the follow up destinations of young people who left school in school year 2006-07. They can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/followupsurvey>

Consultations/Surveys

Tell us what you think - Parks and Greenspace Survey

Edinburgh City Council is running a survey to try and establish what the green spaces in the city mean to Edinburgh's citizens. The Council wants to know what the public thinks about their local parks and greenspaces. For instance are they wildlife havens or just pieces of waste ground? The survey can be found at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=TqkHIEwMGjFifVoHe_2bj8mQ_3d_3d Everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a prize draw to win high street vouchers and spending sprees at the Council's Inch Nursery plant sale.

Making Edinburgh Healthier: a discussion paper towards a Joint Health Improvement Plan for Edinburgh (closing date 18/07/09)

The Health Inequalities Standing Group (HISG) is seeking views on actions to improve health and tackle health inequalities in Edinburgh and they have produced a discussion paper on the subject (see: http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/Attachments/Internet/Council/Campaigns_and_projects/Campaigns/Making_Edinburgh_healthier_reference_papers.doc) The online survey can be accessed at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=poJYo7ugi8As1Znuw0iKZg_3d_3d

Volunteer Centre

Every two years our Network member, the Volunteer Centre conducts a survey of volunteer involving organisations that are registered with them. They use the results to help them deliver and develop their services. The answers to the questions they are asking will be used to feed into an event that they have planned for December 2008 (details to be announced shortly). To access the survey go to: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Ne5c0GCRM05tASaplrp12Q_3d_3d

Scottish Government Consultations

Landlord Registration (closing date 10/10/09)

The Scottish Government is seeking views from private landlords and tenants' groups on proposed changes to its landlord registration scheme. The landlord registration scheme was brought in to try and help reassure tenants that their prospective landlord/s were bona fide landlords. (The table below shows the number and percentage of approved applications in the Edinburgh City Council local authority (up to July 16, 2008):

Local Authority	Registrations approved	Percent approved	Total applications
Edinburgh, City of	17909	72.14	24825

Now, following a recent review of how the registration process works in practice, the Scottish Government wants to hear from a wide spectrum of interested parties as it prepares amendments to the secondary legislation to further improve the system. The consultation can be accessed at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/07/17092436/0>

Changing Scotland's relationship with alcohol: a discussion paper on our strategic approach (closing date 09/09/08)

This consultation is inviting public comment on how the Scottish Government proposes to tackle alcohol misuse in Scotland. The discussion paper outlines a package of measures that are aimed at reducing alcohol-related harm in Scotland. In particular, the Scottish Government is seeking views on the following measures;

- further action to end 'irresponsible promotion' and below-cost selling of alcoholic drinks in licensed premises;
- the introduction of minimum retail pricing of alcohol;
- what particular information parents would find helpful in relation to alcohol;
- raising the minimum purchase age to 21 in off-sales;
- the introduction of a 'social responsibility fee' applied to some alcohol retailers to offset the costs of dealing with the consequences of alcohol misuse;
- further restrictions on promotional material in licensed premises; and
- the desirability of separate checkouts for alcohol sales.

The consultation can be accessed at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/16084348/0>

Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Bill (closing date 08/09/2008)

The Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Bill is currently progressing through the UK Parliament. The money that will be released from these dormant (defined as a period of 15 years during which the customer has not initiated any activity on the account) accounts is to be exclusively invested in the third sector, if the Bill is adopted. In England the assets will be distributed among defined priority areas of providing opportunities for young people, improving financial inclusion and supporting institutions involved in social lending. However, as far as Scotland is concerned, it is for Scottish Ministers to set the priorities for the country's share of the funds. Therefore, they have initiated a consultation process. To access the consultation go to:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/ACCOUNTS>

The Next Generation of National Qualifications in Scotland (closing date 01/08/2008)

The 'Curriculum for Excellence' is supposed to be about promoting a fresh approach across the whole of the Scottish education system and has attracted international interest. The Scottish Government is seeking to ensure that the country's qualifications system helps to deliver the values, purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence. This consultation document should be read in conjunction with Building the Curriculum 3: A Framework for Learning and Teaching. The consultation is to be accompanied by a series of events and seminars to give the education and wider community a chance to discuss the issues involved. The consultation can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/09084232/0>

The Adoption Agencies (Scotland) Regulations: Consultation on Draft Regulations (closing date 29/08/08)

This consultation is on the Adoption Agencies (Scotland) Regulations and is the 2nd in a suite of consultations on 'Regulations supporting the implementation of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007'. The consultation can be accessed at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/07/01141306/0>

Independent Healthcare Services Regulated by the Care Commission. Consultation on additional Regulations (closing date: 01/09/2008)

The Purpose of this consultation is to seek agreement on proposed regulations which will place requirements on providers of independent healthcare services regulated by the Care Commission. The consultation can be found at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/07/Consultation1043>

Consultation on Regulations made under Section 32A of The Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 (closing date 19/09/08)

The consultation seeks views on proposed changes to homelessness legislation (which will be made (if adopted) under section 32A of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987). The consultation sets out the circumstances in which non-permanent accommodation can be provided for unintentionally homeless households in priority need.

The consultation can be found at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/20080300/0>

UK Government Consultations

Tax Credits (closing Date 05/09/08)

The Government has published a document entitled 'Tax Credits: Improving Delivery and Choice a discussion paper'. This paper outlines the UK Government's strategy that it hopes will improve the tax credits system. Views from stakeholders are being invited; the consultation can be accessed at. http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/D/3/tax_credits_no12.pdf

Right to Request Time off for Training (closing date 10/09/08)

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is consulting on a new statutory right allowing employees to request time off for training that would benefit them and the employer. This new right, to be called 'time to train', will be similar to the right to request flexible working. It is proposed that the time off would not have to be paid if the training is "off the job" (as opposed to on the job training), and that employers would not be obliged to contribute to the cost of the training. The right would not apply to employees with less than 26 weeks' continuous service with the employer. The consultation document can be found at

www.dius.gov.uk/consultations/con_180608_timetotrain.html.

Tax Payers Charter (closing date 11/09/08)

In the 2008 Budget the Chancellor announced that Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is to begin work on developing a new taxpayer's charter (a launch date for the new charter should be announced in the 2009 Budget). The new charter, it is expected, will cover 'all' customers, including taxpayers and people receiving benefits and tax credits. The HMRC has now published the first formal consultation document on the scope of the new charter and the shortened version can be found at:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/downloadFile?contentID=HMCE_PROD_1_028674

Simplifying VAT partial exemption rules (closing date 30/09/08)

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has launched a consultation on ideas on how to simplify the VAT partial exemption rules. HMRC is inviting comments on the three partial exemption areas. According to the Charity Finance Directors' Group 'partial exemption' is important to many medium and large charities and is therefore encouraging responses and has issued a helpful briefing note on the subject at:

http://www.cfdg.org.uk/cfdg/inf_con_partialexemptioncaptialgoods.as The HMRC briefing can be found at <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/briefs/vat/brief3008.htm>,

NHS Constitution (closing date 17/10/08)

The proposed NHS Constitution marks 60 years of the NHS and says it is about 'safeguarding its core principles and values for the next generation, whilst setting a clear direction for the future'. The new Constitution reaffirms the public's right to NHS services, free of charge and equal access for all and it enshrines patient rights to choice and to NICE-approved drugs recommended by clinicians. The consultation can be found at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_085814?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=143683&Rendition=Web

The Food Standards Agency's (FSA) nutrient profiling (NP) model

The Food Standards Agency (FSA)'s NP model was developed as a tool for Ofcom to use to differentiate foods that were high in fat, salt or sugar (HFSS) content from those which are not, in the context of strengthening the broadcast advertising restrictions to improve the balance of food and drink advertising to children on TV. Now one year on from its introduction in April 2007 its impact is being reviewed. The focus of this subsequent consultation is on the outcome of the review process and the review panel's conclusion that the nutrient profiling (NP) model is a scientifically robust tool which is fit for its intended purpose. The consultation can be found at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/consultations/ukwideconsults/2008/nutrientprofiling>

Impact of Freedom of Information

An online survey for the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on the impact of the Freedom of Information Act is being conducted by University College London. Views from anyone who has requested information from a central government department are welcome. MoJ announcement with link, <http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/announcement080508a.htm>.

Driving Test

In response to the rising death and injury toll on Britain's roads especially amongst the new young driver's section new proposals to reform the way people learn to drive and how they are tested were announced by UK Transport Secretary Ruth Kelly on 07/05/08. The consultation can be accessed at: <http://learningtodrive.dsa.gov.uk/pages/home>

Events

Youth Scotland

Youth Scotland have announced that this year's 'Girls on the Move' conference will take place on 5th and 6th September and that their National Training Conference - Practical Problems, Sensible Solutions will take place on 1st and 2nd November. Both events will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Edinburgh Airport. Booking forms and information available from www.youthscotland.org.uk

The Social Enterprise World Forum

The inaugural Social Enterprise World Forum is being held in Edinburgh from September 2nd to 5th 2008. The event is being delivered in partnership with The Scottish Government, The Social Enterprise Alliance (USA), Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Social Ventures Australia, Scottish Enterprise, The Social Enterprise Coalition, Office of the Third Sector (UK), Enterprising Non-Profits (Canada), the Department for International Development, Social Investment Scotland and a range of international and local partners, sponsors and supporters. The Forum will be the first international gathering of practitioners and support agencies dealing exclusively with social enterprise and will bring together social enterprise leaders and champions from all continents to collaborate, share best practice and plan future developments. To find out more about the event go to:

<http://www.ceis.org.uk/events/sewf>

Training

News - The new Childhood Practice awards

The first degree level qualifications for early years and child care professionals based on a new professional standard are expected to be available throughout Scotland by Autumn 2008. The new qualifications are the result of the Standard for Childhood Practice which was launched last year by the Minister for Children and Early Years, Adam Ingram. For more information about the subject (and a list of training providers) go to:

<http://www.sssc.uk.com/NR/rdonlyres/A9FB5674-3C06-4DCB-9197-7644CAE9938A/0/SSSCChildhoodPracticeNewsletter.pdf>

Please also be aware that support workers in day care of children services are expected to begin registering with the Scottish Social Services Council in October 2008. To find out more detail about the subject and registration requirements go to:

<http://www.sssc.uk.com/Registration/Other+social+service+workers/Day+care+of+children+services/Early+education+and+child+care+workers.htm>

Bullying... It's Never Acceptable - Training for Trainers 22-23 July, Edinburgh

This generic training on bullying is for parents, carers, teachers, youth workers etc, and it hopes to equip the people attending with the practical skills and confidence to deal with bullying behaviour, wherever it occurs. To find out more contact: respectme on 0141 420 597, Email: lesley.lamont@respectme.org.uk or see the webpage:

www.respectme.org.uk//training/training_calendar/training_calendar.html

A tall Story

On Wednesdays throughout July the Storytelling Centre is holding live storytelling evenings from 7 to 9pm, tickets cost £3 to find out more contact the Scottish Storytelling Centre box office on 0131 556 9579.

Would ye (ac)Credit It!

EVOC have announced two new accredited courses as part of their new Autumn Programme. They are:

Counselling: An Introduction

The course (costs £95) will take place at Stevenson College on every Wednesday from 10th September to 3rd December, 1:15pm to 4:15pm (12 half days) with a 20th of October break

The course itself relates to three main themes: knowledge; skills and self awareness. It covers an explanation of the counselling relationship and an exploration of the different settings where counselling takes place. For more details see:

<http://www.evoc.org.uk/learning/programme/detail.asp?id=261>

Introductory Award in Management

This course, costing £290, takes place at Stevenson College every Wednesday from 29th October to 26th November, 9.30am - 4.30pm (5 full days). The course itself is very much a first step to management and is designed for individuals with no previous training. It focuses on dealing with people, problems and performance. For more information see: <http://evoc.org.uk/learning/programme/detail.asp?id=157>

Details of EVOC's new Autumn Programme will be included in next month's Eke Bulletin and the new autumn schedule will be going up at:

<http://www.workwithus.org/CampaignHelper/EmailLinkRedirect.aspx?param=jqPpiyhswtJ5od4uAe10tPqpNb1IF%2bCA> very shortly.

