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## eke.bulletin

June  
2008

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### Network News

The Eke-Out project is hoping to hold a meeting at the end of August (week the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>) for all the Network representatives who attend various partnership groups around the city on behalf of the Network. The main purpose of the meeting is to allow the representatives to meet and find out about what is happening in the various partnership groups around the city. However the Eke-out project would like to invite any Network members who may be interested in finding out about becoming a network representative and what that entails, along to the event. Interested parties should register their interest with either Kate Straine on 0131 555 9133, e-mail: [katestraine@evoc.org.uk](mailto:katestraine@evoc.org.uk) or Jo Simpson on 0131 625 9144, e-mail: [josimpson@evoc.org.uk](mailto:josimpson@evoc.org.uk)

### Change of e-mail

Network group, 'Resource Group for Work with Girls and Young Women' has a new e-mail address which is [girlsworkresource@googlemail.com](mailto:girlsworkresource@googlemail.com)

## Charity Updates

### 60 days

The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator warned that submitted annual accounts for accounting periods ending 31st March 2008 and later, from charities that did not meet the required standard, would be returned to said charities. Charities would then have to make any necessary changes to the accounts and re-submit them within 60 days (to find out more see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/AnnualReturn.stm> )

### Water, water everywhere, not a taxing site!

The Scottish Government has announced that small charities, churches and voluntary organisations will continue to be exempt from paying water charges. This is part of the principles which will be used in determining water service charge levels for 2010 - 2014. For more information on this see:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/05/30114338>.

### What's in a name?

NCH Scotland (founded in 1955 to support vulnerable and excluded children and young people) is changing its name to 'Action for Children Scotland' from September 2008, as a result of research on the public's knowledge of the charity and its work. This name change is part of a UK-wide NCH plan to raise the awareness of the charity and to increase the campaigning work it does.

## Legal Updates

### "Weekly Pay" and Unfair Dismissal Awards for 2008-09

From 01/02/08 "weekly pay" for calculating redundancy pay and certain other entitlements was increased from £310 to £330. In the case of 'unfair dismissal' any claims, where the effective date of termination was on or after 01/02/08, the minimum basic award has been increased from £4,200 to £4,400, with the maximum compensatory award being increased from £60,600 to £63,000. The regulations setting out these and other limits can be found at: [www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/20073570.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/20073570.htm).

### Minimum Wage

The minimum wage will be increased from 01/10/08 from £5.52 to £5.73 per hour for over-21s, from £4.60 to £4.77 for 18-21 year olds, and from £3.40 to £3.53 for 16- and 17-year-olds who are above school leaving age and are not apprentices (subject to parliamentary approval). The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's national minimum wage website can be accessed via:

[www.berr.gov.uk/employment/pay/index.html](http://www.berr.gov.uk/employment/pay/index.html).

### PAYE Form Filing

From 06/04/09 all employers with 50 or more employees, and from 6 April 2011 employers with fewer than 50 employees, must file certain PAYE forms online. These are P45 (1) when an employee leaves, P45 (3) when an employee starts work and P46 when an employee starts work and does not have a P45. When an employee of any age starts to receive a pension, a new form P46 (Pen) or a P45 (3) will have to be submitted. P46 (Pen) will replace the current pension notification forms P160 and PENNOT.

### Tax Allowances and National Insurance Thresholds

From 06/04/08 the basic personal allowance was raised to £5,435 and the 10% starting rate for tax was abolished. The basic tax rate has changed from 22% to 20% for earnings from £0 to £36,000 whilst the higher tax rate of 40% has been retained for earnings above £36,000.

The starting point (the primary threshold) for national insurance contributions(NIC) has increased from £100 to £105 per week, and the upper earnings limit for employee's NIC

has risen from £670 to £770 per week. Employee's NICs remain 11% between the primary threshold and upper earnings limit with an additional 1% on earnings above the upper earnings limit. Employer's NICs remains at 12.8%.

The lower earnings limit (the lowest level of earnings that can count towards entitlement to contributory benefits such as statutory sick pay, maternity, paternity and adoption pay and statutory redundancy pay) has increased from £87 to £90 per week. To find out more about tax and national insurance rates etc go to: [www.hmrc.gov.uk/rates/index.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/rates/index.htm).

### **Consulting Employees About Pensions**

From 06/04/08, employers with at least 50 employees, now have an obligation to consult pension scheme members and potential members before they make any significant changes to occupational or personal pension provision. For more information about pensions see: [www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/20060349.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/20060349.htm)

### **Flexible Working to Care for Children**

The government announced on 15/05/08 that the right to request flexible working hours is to be extended to parents and adopters of children aged under 17. It is thought that this is likely to come into effect from 04/09. To find out more about the subject see: Flexible Working (Eligibility, Complaints and remedies) (Amendment) (no.2) Regulations 2007 at [www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/20072286.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/20072286.htm).

### **Reform of law on rape and sexual offences**

The Sexual Offences (Scotland) Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament in June 2008. This Bill, based on proposals from the Scottish Law Commission, if adopted, will reform the current law on rape and sexual offences. Some of the changes that could be put in place include: defining 'consent' in law; replacing the common-law offence of rape with a broader statutory offence (including male rape); introducing new statutory offences that would deal with sexual exposure (particularly in non-public places) and the 'spiking' of drinks for sexual purposes and coercive sexual conduct, including sexually offensive emails or texts; the inclusion of 'protective offences' to guard against sexual activity with those whose capacity to 'consent' is either entirely absent or not fully formed either due to age or a mental disorder.

## **Resources**

### **Brand 'Edinburgh'**

A new website about Edinburgh has been launched. This new resource provides access to over 350 downloadable images and hosts an online shopping facility from which users can order branded delegate materials and event dressing materials. All materials and images are free to order and the 'shopping cart' process is fairly easy to use.

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

### **It's good to text?**

CashBack is a fund that uses the proceeds that have been seized from criminals' activity to fund projects all over country, for example, football training, music, rugby or acting classes. Young people aged between 10-18 can sign up to CashBack text service to get information on free things that are available in the individual's local area. To sign up for the service text 61611 (1<sup>st</sup> text will cost 4.5p but subsequent ones will be free) or see: [www.cashbackscotland.com](http://www.cashbackscotland.com). Young people applying to join should get an adult's permission to do so.

### **Spotting mental health problems at work**

The employment advisory body Acas has released an advice sheet on how to spot and deal with mental health problems at work -

<http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2053>. They have also released a guide

entitled, 'Health, work & wellbeing', which includes a checklist of how to assess how well you are doing against key indicators. The guide can be downloaded from <http://www.acas.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=854&p=0> .

### **People Management**

The web site of People Management magazine, from personnel body CIPD, has recently been revamped; it now includes daily news stories, regular employment law updates and an extensive archive. However, be aware that some of the information will only be accessible to subscribers. For more information:

<http://www.peoplemanagement.co.uk/pm/>

### **ME Website Launched**

Edmesh, (a group that supports ME sufferers) has launched a new website in response to the growing number of people in the Lothian's who suffer from the illness. The website address is: [www.edmesh.org.uk](http://www.edmesh.org.uk)

### **Youth Scotland**

The Youth Scotland website has been redesigned and now includes a Youth Group Finder with links to the Young Scot WOW database, and the Resources Bank. It is hoped that an online forum for members, online event booking, and online ordering for publications will also soon be added. Visit the new site at: [www.youthscotland.org.uk](http://www.youthscotland.org.uk)

### **Scottish charity sector complaints**

The Scottish Consumer Council has released a research report entitled 'Complaints in the Charity Sector' based on a survey of 185 large registered charities, with incomes of over half a million pounds each. The Scottish Consumer Council report says that they found that three quarters of those groups who took part, actively provided information for consumers about how to complain. However, they said those who took part were less good at encouraging consumers to come forward with a complaint in the first place. To find out more see: <http://www.scotconsumer.org.uk/consumerrights/publications.htm>

### **Saving Energy**

A new advice network called 'Energy Saving Scotland' (funded by the Scottish Government and managed by the Energy Saving Trust.) to help Scotland's inhabitants cut their fuel bills has been launched. It will offer free advice on energy efficiency, small scale renewable and sustainable transport. The network's internet site can be found at:

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

### **Multi-lingual Health and Safety**

The Health and Safety Executive has enhanced its multi-lingual migrant worker web site as its contribution to International Workers' Memorial Day (28th April). The guidance for workers from overseas and their employers is available in 14 languages at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/migrantworkers/>.

### **Wee Three**

3 new publications from NCVO are now available online:

'How are social attitudes changing?' - this guide has been published to help the reader understand how changing social attitudes may affect their organisation in the future, and think about the opportunities and challenges these changes could present. See:

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/publications/publication.asp?id=8748>.

'Consortia delivery of public services' - this publication explores three consortia models for voluntary and community organisations. See: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/collaborativeworkingunit/index.asp?id=7054>.

'Is your campaign making a difference?' - this 3 part guide shows how simple and

effective monitoring and evaluation can be. See: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/publications/publication.asp?id=8612>.

## Publications

### Youthful Volunteering

The independent 'Morgan Inquiry', on the future of young adult volunteering between the ages of 18 and 24, produced its report for the start of Volunteers Week. The report looked at the reasons for encouraging more young people to volunteer, the barriers that prevent them from doing so and makes practical recommendations for change. The report can be downloaded from the inquiry site at: <http://www.morganinquiry.org.uk>

### Youth homelessness figures

A report on youth homelessness was published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on 09/05/08. The report is the 1st UK-wide review of youth homelessness for a decade, it says that the number of young people accepted as homeless has fallen in England and Wales in the last three years, but has remained unchanged in Scotland and Northern Ireland. However encouraging the figures are it should be tempered by the fact that at least 75,000 young people are in contact with homelessness services every year. The full report and findings of 'Youth Homelessness in the UK' by Deborah Quilgars, Sarah Johnsen and Nicholas Pleace of York University, is available at:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/2221.asp>

Another interesting report has also been published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in relation to housing in Scotland. The report is called 'Housing policies for Scotland: challenges and changes' and it was written by Duncan Maclennan and Tony O'Sullivan. This report points out that there have been major changes in housing tenure in Scotland over the last 25 years. These changes mean that nowadays, two out of three people in the country are home-owners and that half of Scotland's social housing is provided by independent non-profit organisations. The report says that longstanding challenges still remain to be met, and that the changes are bringing about a whole new set of challenges to be met.

### 'Community Leadership Approaches to Street Crime'

'Community Leadership approaches to Street Crime' is a report published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation that shows that disadvantaged communities are keen to reduce street crime in their neighbourhoods, but they feel unrecognised and marginalised by statutory bodies. The report can be accessed at:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/details.asp?pubID=955>

### Benefit adjustment rules

The findings in another Joseph Rowntree Foundation report (published on 09/04/08) say that the steady growth in income inequality is being aided by the annual adjusting of benefits, tax credits and tax allowances. This study is thought to be the first that attempts to analyse the long-term impact of adjustments to both the benefit and the tax systems. The report can be accessed at:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/details.asp?pubID=950>

### Domestic Abuse

'The National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan' is the new Scottish government's 'blueprint' to tackle domestic abuse, which is to be backed up with 10 million pounds worth of funding. National estimates indicate that over 100,000 children and young people in Scotland are affected by domestic abuse so the spotlight of the plan is on children and young people. The plan sets out 13 priorities for action over the next three years and is focused on 4 main themes: protection; provision; prevention and participation. In relation to the plan the Scottish Government has also recently released a report entitled

**'Consultation with Children and Young People with Experience of Domestic Abuse on The Scottish Government National Domestic Abuse Delivery Group Draft Proposals'**  
This is the report on the consultation that has been used to help develop the action and implementation plan for the 3 year National Strategic Delivery Plan that hopes to address the needs of children and young people affected by domestic abuse. The report can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/17121756/0>

### **Drugs and Young People**

Mentoring and Befriending Projects, April 2008

Download a copy at:

[www.mandbf.org.uk/fileadmin/filemounts/general/Publications/Frank/FINAL\\_-\\_FRANK\\_Mentoring\\_A4.pdf](http://www.mandbf.org.uk/fileadmin/filemounts/general/Publications/Frank/FINAL_-_FRANK_Mentoring_A4.pdf)

**The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children**

CAHRU, 2008

Download a copy at:

[www.education.ed.ac.uk/cahru/publications/HBSC\\_National\\_Report\\_2008.pdf](http://www.education.ed.ac.uk/cahru/publications/HBSC_National_Report_2008.pdf)

## **Scottish Government Publications**

### **Enterprising Third Sector Action Plan 2008-2011**

This publication is an action plan that hopes to help create an environment in which the third sector can thrive in with the intention of helping the sector contribute to the Scottish Government's purpose. The action plan can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/19085003/0>

### **Food and Drink in Scotland: Key Facts**

This booklet was published to coincide with the release of the findings from the 'National Discussion on the Future for Food in Scotland'. It draws together key facts and figures on food and drink in Scotland. The 'facts' have been taken from a range of sources including official statistics, research and consumer surveys. The booklet can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/19084510/0>

### **Preventing Offending by Young People: A Framework for Action**

This framework outlines the Scottish Government's ambitions to enable young people to realise their potential by providing the appropriate opportunities and support at the right time. The document can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/17093513/0>

### **Scottish Households below Average Income, 2006/07**

A National Statistics Publication for Scotland on the 'Scottish Households Below Average Income' which estimates of the number of children, working age adults and pensioners living in absolute and relative poverty in Scotland. This can be accessed at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/09143258/0>

### **Early Years and Early Intervention Framework - HMIE briefing**

This briefing document presents research and inspection information in relation to the Early Years and Early Intervention Framework. The included papers cover HMIE inspection and task activities since November 2007 until the end of April 2008. They outline areas of good practice, identify some general issues in relation to the framework themes and offer some possible ways forward and can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/hmie-briefing>

**Early Years and Early Intervention Framework - Case study: Hailesland Child and Family Centre, City of Edinburgh**

The Hailesland Child and Family Centre (opened in 1989), situated in the South West of Edinburgh in the housing estate of Westerhailes has been the subject of a case study whose results have recently been released and can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/case-study-edinburgh>

### **Early Years and Early Intervention Framework - Case study: Sighthill Child and Family Centre**

The Sighthill Child and Family Centre which has been in operation for around 26 years is situated in the south West of the City of Edinburgh and has been the subject of a case study whose results have recently been released and can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/casestudy-sighthill>

### **Support and Services for Parents: A Review of Practice Development in Scotland**

This review looks at the 3 years of the national evaluated pilot that was intended to focus on systems and practice for the operation of Parenting orders. The review can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/04/07085645/0>

## **Surveys/Consultations**

### **Scottish Government**

#### **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 are 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 (if the Bill is adopted) are to be exclusively invested in the third sector. 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>

### **Safeguarding Children in Scotland who may have been Trafficked (closing date 03/07/08)**

This guidance document seeks to provide agencies and professionals with guidance to ensure that they can identify, assess and support the needs of children who may have been trafficked. The guidance document can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/04/08133832/0>

## **UK Government**

### **Fair play for children (closing date 18/07/08)**

'Fair Play: A consultation on the play strategy' is a consultation on how the government can help make public space more child-friendly and includes placing a stronger focus on spaces for play in the planning system and supporting local community ownership of space suitable for play. <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1543>.

### **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>

## **Funding**

### **Potential funding**

Please be aware that The Scottish Government has begun consulting on how monies collected from dormant bank accounts will be spent. The money (could be as much as £40million) is to be distributed by the Big Lottery Fund, (<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/>) There has already been a seminar hosted by the SCVO, involving the Big Lottery Fund, umbrella bodies and voluntary sector networks. The seminar is to be followed by public events, an online web survey and a consultation exercise. Full details are expected soon.

### **CashBack for Communities Fund (2<sup>nd</sup> round deadline 29/08/08)**

A large number of 1<sup>st</sup> round applications to the CashBack for Communities Fund were found to be incomplete i.e. they did not have appropriate or complete financial information so therefore they could not proceed to the next stage. For this round, Youthlink is holding local surgeries for youth work organisations throughout Scotland, in each of the six Assessment Panel Areas prior to the closing date for round two. Applicants who did not secure an award in round one are being advised to attend one of the surgeries where advice and assistance will be available. Watch the YouthLink Scotland

website for further details on how to book places at the local surgeries, application forms and notes of guidance.

### **Climate Challenge Fund**

A Climate Challenge Fund (the fund total is around £18million) has been launched by the Scottish Government. It will be open to a wide variety of organisations to deliver innovative solutions to reduce carbon emissions significantly at a local level. To find out more about this fund see:

[http://www.itsourfuture.co.uk/climate\\_challenge\\_fund/index.html](http://www.itsourfuture.co.uk/climate_challenge_fund/index.html).

### **Playground Partnership 2008 (closing date 18/07/08)**

UK Schools that wish to improve their play spaces have the opportunity to apply for funding through the Playground Partnerships Initiative 2008. There is a total of £500,000 funding available to fund specific improvements and developments school play environments. Schools can apply for awards of £1,000, £2,000, £5,000 or £10,000. All schools that are shortlisted will receive at least £250. Schools wishing to apply will first of all need to order the free Playground Partnerships resource pack. More information and application forms can be found at: [www.playgroundpartnerships.org/staff-room.php#awards](http://www.playgroundpartnerships.org/staff-room.php#awards)

### **Barrow Cadbury Trust**

The Barrow Cadbury Trust fund has launched a new funding stream (£750,000 fund) for community projects that work to improve relations between different ethnic and religious groups. Funding will be offered to projects that promote solidarity between people of different ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds. It is hoped that it will provide voluntary and community projects with grants worth around £30,000 over a two-year period. To find out more see: <http://www.bctrust.org.uk/news/detail.php?nid=44>

### **The Community Food and Health (Scotland) Small Grant Scheme (closing date 27/06/08)**

Organisational groups and agencies who want to develop new or existing activities to try and improve food access or take up of a healthy balanced diet with or within low-income communities can apply to this fund. Funding available is between £500 and £3000. Anyone interested should go to: [www.communityfoodandhealth.org.uk](http://www.communityfoodandhealth.org.uk) or applications packs can also be obtained by calling 0141 226 5261.

## **Training**

### **Oxgangs Care Scotland's Mental Health First Aid Course**

Oxgangs Care is running a 2 day first aid course 10.15am to 4.45pm on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August & 4<sup>th</sup> September 08 at Oxgangs Library. The free course is open to anyone over 18 with an interest in mental health. For further information please contact: Catherine Dodds SMHFA Trainer on 0131 445 3332 or E Mail - [cathdodds35@hotmail.com](mailto:cathdodds35@hotmail.com)

### **Effective Presentation Skills**

This one-day course at EVOC, 14 Ashley Place Edinburgh EH6 5PX ,on 22/07/2008 from 10:00am - 4:00pm is aimed at anyone who would like to feel more confident giving both formal or informal presentations. This course is particularly geared towards those who are new to giving presentations, but would also be a useful refresher to anyone who would like to brush up on their skills and techniques, or may be particularly nervous. To find out more contact the EVOC training department on 0131 555 9100.