

Edinburgh Network of Voluntary Organisations
for Children, Young People and Families

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November 2007

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Remember, Remember the 18th December

All Network members* are cordially invited to attend The Edinburgh Network of Voluntary Organisations for Children, Young People and Families' Annual General Meeting. This year's AGM takes place on the 18th of December 2007 from 11.45am to 2pm at the Engine Shed, 19 St Leonard's Lane, Edinburgh. Part of the formal business at this year's meeting will be the election of the Network Executive Committee, including the Chairperson (nominations* should be submitted by 11/12/07). After the formal business of the AGM is concluded, Gillian Tee, Edinburgh City Council Director of Children and Families will give a Presentation. Also, the young people who took part in the development of the first young people's version of the Integrated Children and Young Peoples Services' Plan will be presented with their certificates in acknowledgment of their participation. Hopefully the AGM will provide an opportunity to reflect on how the Network has dealt with the year's challenges and provide members with 'food for thought' on those yet to come.

* Any Network members who have not received an AGM pack (which includes an attendance slip and a committee nomination slip) should contact Jo Simpson on 0131 625 9144 or email her at: josimpson@evoc.org.uk

Awards and Funding

Latest on UK Fundraising Legalities

The implementation date of fundraising provisions of the Charities Act south of the Border by the office of the Third Sector is to be moved back to April 2008 (it was due to come out on 01/01/08). This move has come about because of warnings from the sector that the original deadline would put many charities at risk of breaching the new law.

Meanwhile in Scotland, The Institute of Fundraising Scotland is putting pressure on the Scottish Government to publish the overdue benevolent fundraising regulations (which are part of the implementation plan of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005). These regulations when put in place will control how: face-to-face and house-to-house fundraising is carried out in the Scottish charity sector. The Scottish Government (under the previous administration) public consultation 'CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005: Proposals for Charities and Benevolent Fundraising Regulations' took place over 18 months ago and closed on 10/03/06. The consultation report has as yet, not been published. The regulations on fundraising for 'benevolent bodies' is expected to go before the Scottish Parliament towards the end of 2007.

The first UK cross-border working group on fundraising took place in the middle of November. The group met to discuss the development of protocols for organisations that operate in Scotland, England and Wales. Issues under discussion included: corporate partnerships; dealing with the media; geographical remits; legacies; media coverage and the type of language used in fundraising.

Edinburgh City Council Department of Health and Social Care Mental Health Specific Grant Guidelines 2008 to 2011 (closing date 28/12/07)

The City of Edinburgh Council's Department of Health and Social Care has published grant applications forms and guidance for organisations seeking Mental Health Specific Grant (MHSG) funding from 2008-11 (The MHSG scheme is now moving to a three-year cycle, covering the years 2008/09, 2009/10, and 2010/11. To find out more go to the Edinburgh Compact website at: <http://www.edinburghcompact.org.uk/news/news.asp?item=36>

In Whom We Trust?

Unity Trust Bank (a specialist bank for charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises), in recognition that many voluntary organisations rely on grant funding but often have no control over when said funding will arrive, has launched a new short-term bridging loan for sector organisations that are waiting to receive grant funding. To find out more about the Bank and the services it offers.

<http://www.unity.uk.com/index.cfm?itemid=3732>

It's BIG (closing date for stage 1 applications is 28/02/08)

The Big Lottery fund "BIG" has grants of up to £500,000 to bestow on Third Sector organisations who produce and disseminate evidence-based knowledge that leads to 'better practice and more appropriate services'. The programme will fund high quality social and medical research on issues identified, and considered important, by the charitable and voluntary and community sector; and support the use and dissemination of said research activity. The key point is that beneficiaries and users are involved, in setting the agenda, conducting, managing and disseminating the research. To find out more about the grant programme go to:

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_research_programme?regioncode=-uk&status=theProg

Time to Breathe

The Big Lottery Fund's 'Breathing Places' programme (Phase 3) whose aim is to increase the number and range of people making use of, and help to develop and maintain breathing places, and make lasting improvement to the natural environment of new and existing breathing places. The grant range available is £1k to £10k.

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_breathingplaces.htm

People's Millions (closing date 10/12/07)

Online voting for The People's £50 Million Lottery Giveaway is now open. To cast your vote, visit the site (URL: <http://www.thepeoples50million.org.uk/>) and log in. Once you're logged in, go to the vote section and choose a project you'd like to support.

A Time to Change

The CHANGE it Awards are for young people aged between 11 and 18 who want to speak out about the things that they care about. There are 2 categories; The Innovation Awards for young people who want to get their campaigning idea off the ground; and the Performance Awards for young people who deserve to have their campaigning efforts recognised. To find out more about the awards and how to nominate a young person go to:

<http://www.commonpurpose.org.uk/home/resources/changeit.aspx>

Life, It's a Learning Process (closing date 30/04/08)

The Learning for Life Values Poster Award programme has been designed to help young people identify and examine the core values and qualities needed for a successful life and to put their ideas into their own poster. The programme was piloted in Scotland in 2006/7 and over 10,000 secondary school pupils from 65 schools participated. The programme has now been rolled out across the UK. To find out more go to: www.learningforlife.org.uk

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (02/01/08)

The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust usually funds work that is on a national level and gives no 'ceiling' grant figure. They do stress that any monies applied for must be realistically costed. To find out more about the fund and who is eligible to apply go to: <http://www.jrct.org.uk/>

Awards for Young People (nominations close 20/12/07)

The Young Achievers awards which celebrate inspirational young volunteers aged between 16 and 25 are looking for nominations to receive the awards. For further information on how to go about nominating someone go to: www.youngachievers.co.uk.

I'll Nominate a Friend

Project Scotland is asking their volunteers, past and present to refer their friends towards Project Scotland placements. For every friend that takes up a placement they can earn themselves £55. *For further information, see:* www.moneyforyourmates.co.uk/

An Opportunity Gap

GAP Activity Projects which send young volunteers on placements around the world has received a donation from the Gannochy Trust, which means they can offer a number of bursaries to Scottish applicants, ranging from small top-up grants to more substantial assistance. To find out more about the grant scheme go to: www.gap.org.uk. Or email: lucybrady2@ntlword.com

Get Up and Go (registration date 07/12/07)

The Get Up and Go Challenges whose focus is healthy eating, the environment and physical activity, will offer £50 completion grants and opportunities for young people to have their involvement in the scheme accredited through the Dynamic Youth Awards. They will be available from early 2008 but groups must register by 7th December.

For more information or a registration form, email: joe.mcivor@youthscotland.org.uk

Compact Guidance

Please be aware that voluntary organisations wishing to apply for a grant from the City of Edinburgh Council for next year can now download information and guidance about the

application process and grant application forms from the Edinburgh Compact website at: <http://www.edinburghcompact.org.uk/aboutUs/cityStrategy.asp>

The European Union Lifelong Learning Funding

The 2008 Lifelong Learning Programme 'Call for Proposals' document has now been published by the European Commission and can be found on their website at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/newprog/index_en.html#call

Resources

Mental Health Guidance for Employers

The Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) recently launched new guidance for employers entitled 'Making Reasonable Adjustments at Work for People with Mental Health Problems'. The new guidance document can be downloaded at: <http://www.wellscotland.info/uploads/file.php?serve=1193840937-samh.pdf&action=download>

It's Good to Share

A government funded job share register called 'Jobshare UK' for matching employers with job seekers who want work flexibility has recently been launched. Jobshare UK is being run by the work-life balance charity Working Families, the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology and Equals One Recruitment. At the moment the service is free for employers (but this may change in April 2008). The website can be found at: <http://www.jobshare-uk.com/>

'UK Voluntary Sector Workforce Almanac 2007'

The above almanac was recently published by the UK Workforce Hub and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) on 31/10/07. This 1st edition provides "up-to-date information on the size and characteristics of the UK voluntary sector workforce". It broadly covers 3 themes: Voluntary sector employment; the voluntary sector workplace (including industry types and workplace sizes); the voluntary sector workforce (including findings on gender, disability and qualification levels). For more information on the Almanac go to: <http://www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk/DisplayPage.asp?pageid=11786>

'Voluntary Sector Skills Survey 2007'

The results of the above survey (over 2,500 participants) were released at the end of October by the UK Workforce Hub in association with Skills for Health, Capacitybuilders and the 'Society Guardian'. To find out more about the survey see: <http://www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk/DisplayPage.asp?pageid=11475>, please note that this is the English survey and a Scottish one is due to follow.

Working with Young people with Disabilities

The Children's Workforce Development Council has a web-based resource that could be of use to people who work with children/young people who have some kind of disability. The resource can be found at: <http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/projects/childrenwithdisabilities.htm>.

New Scope Text Service

Scope has launched a new text (SMS) message service that will send information and advice about coping with cerebral palsy to the mobile phones of disabled people and their families. Scope Response can be contacted by phone on 0808 800 3333, email response@scope.org.uk or via Scope's website. It can also be contacted by post at: Scope Response, PO Box 833, Milton Keynes MK12 5NY. To use the SMS service, users need to text SCOPE then the message to 80039.

Hey, what ya got Cookin?

Scotland's Food Standards Agency has launched a 'What's Cooking?' guide to help people set up and run school and community food clubs. To find out more about the guide go to: <http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2007/oct/whatscooking>.

Evaluating your Evaluation

Any voluntary organisations looking for ways to measure and analyse their results may find these tips on Futurebuilders site at: http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk/content/News/SectorSpotlightArticles/article_36_538.aspx?iid=81 useful.

The Baby Borrowers

The Baby Borrowers TV series run early this year on BBC3 (follow up to run in Jan 2008) put five teenage couples in a unique social experiment where they were tasked with 'running a household, looking after the children and maintaining a relationship'. UK youth workers can obtain a specially edited free version of series 1, to request a copy of the pack, email: monica.ho@bbc.co.uk

Health and Safety Starts at the Top

A new 'mini' Health and Safety Executive web site (endorsed by the TUC), that should be of use to all sectors, has been created for "directors, governors, trustees, officers and their equivalents. It can be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/leadership/>.

Witamy (welcome)

A new website created by the TUC may be of interest to organisations that have Polish clients. The site explains in Polish what emigrés can expect at work, including health and safety, working time, holiday entitlement and sick pay. The website can be found at: <http://www.pracawbrytanii.org>

A Passport to Success

The MV Volunteering Passport is a new online resource that has been launched by Volunteer Development Scotland where young people (aged 16 to 25) can record their volunteering hours and claim MV awards after they have completed either 50, 100 or 200 hours of volunteering. The website contains a searchable database of MV-compatible volunteering opportunities managed by VDS or local volunteer centres. The website can be found at: <http://www.mvvolunteeringpassport.org.uk/>

VolunteerGenie

VolunteerGenie is a new website produced by Voluntary Action Media Unit that has been set up to help charities use the power of the media to recruit more volunteers. There's a wealth of material, much of which is applicable to any charity or campaign promotional activity, but has a volunteering slant. The website can be found at: <http://www.volunteergenie.org.uk>

Example Carers Policy

Since the Work and Families Act became law in April this year 'carers' have had the right to request flexible working hours. The new law defines anyone who cares for a spouse, partner, relative or somebody who lives at their address as a 'carer'. Research by Carers UK says that more than 3 million people in the UK meet this definition which equates to 1 in 7 of the UK workforce. In relation to this children's cancer charity CLIC Sargent is promoting its updated policies as a template of best practice in this area. A policy template can be found at: http://www.clicsargent.org.uk/Getinvolved/Campaignwithus/Parentsrighttocare/Foremployers/main_content/goldstandard.pdf

Let's Get Personal

The Information Commissioner office has released a final version of the framework code of practice for sharing personal information (between organisations). The framework can be

downloaded from:

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/data_protection/detailed_specialist_guides/pinfo-framework.pdf

E Learning

Learndirect (Scotland) for business (www.lids4b.com) aims to enhance the competitiveness of small businesses throughout Scotland by embracing training. They are now doing an e-newsletter that aims to keep small businesses up to date with the latest business and training news. To sign up to receive the newsletter go to:

<http://clients.adestra.com/lids/signup/>

Publications

An Evaluation of Two Initiatives to Reward Young People

The above study looked at 2 pilot schemes that were run in Bradford and York that had been designed to increase young people's self esteem and stimulate a greater appreciation of the positive contributions they could make to their communities. Copies of the resulting study report can be downloaded at: www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2119-reward-young-people.pdf

'Volunteering Works'

The above report was produced by the Institute for Volunteering Research for the Commission on the Future of Volunteering. The report attempts to demonstrate the positive impact volunteering can have in 5 key policy areas: development; safer and stronger communities; social inclusion; quality of life and lifelong learning. To find out more see:

<http://www.volcomm.org.uk/news/New+report+provides+strongest+ever+evidence+of+impact+of+volunteering.htm>

Adults Fears about Working with Young People

The Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People's office has recently published a report that says despite the fact that young people in Scotland are consistently calling for more activities to be made available to them, there is a shortage of adults prepared to take on work and/or volunteering roles that involve working with them. The Scotland's Commissioner's report says that the fear of being accused of harming young people is the number one deterrent for adults (48% of adults surveyed) when considering working with young people. Worryingly, this same fear also made the adults surveyed much less likely to help if they saw a young person in danger or distress. On a more positive note, the report found that the adults surveyed, who worked with young people in structured environments tended to have more positive attitudes towards them, and enjoyed seeing them develop through their involvement. However, people reported much more negative attitudes to meeting young people in informal groups, especially in large groups on the street. To find out more about the report see:

www.sccyp.org.uk/admin/04policy/files/spo_164035Adult%20attitudes%20200710.pdf

School Councils and Pupil Participation in Scottish Secondary Schools

Download a copy at:

www.scotconsumer.org.uk/education/SCCFinalPupilCouncilsReport.pdf.pdf

The rules of Attraction!

This second edition of 'Turn Your Organisation Into A Volunteer Magnet' (edited by Andy Fryar, Rob Jackson & Fraser Dyer) is an expanded collection of ideas, written by managers of volunteers for their peers. This second edition can be downloaded as a PDF or ordered in print from <http://www.lulu.com/content/1197018>

Scottish Charities Vital Statistics

OSCR, the Scottish charity regulator, has published 'Key Facts and Figures' which they have produced using the information they have gathered from the Scottish Charity Register. To find out more go to: <http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=bbe789fe-3df8-4867-ae97-468f558cf74c>

Government Publications

Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report Published

Scotland's Chief Medical Officer, Dr Harry Burns has published his second annual report. The report highlights the need for intervention in early life, if the nation is to close the gap between affluent and deprived areas. The report includes sections examining Scotland's performance in relation to amongst others: Smoking and Health; Mental Health; Substance Abuse; Nutrition and The Impact of Learning and Education; The report can be viewed at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/15135302/0>

Dormant accounts bill

The Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Bill has recently been published. If it goes through it will enable unclaimed assets to be invested for community purposes. The full text and notes can be found via the Leader of the House of Commons web site at:

<http://www.commonleader.gov.uk/output/page2155.asp>

The Scottish government has indicated that it will bring forward 'Legislative Consent Motions' in a number of areas so that proposed Westminster legislation applies north of the border, including dormant accounts -

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2007/11/06132546>.

Public Services and Government: Research Findings No.2/2007: Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2006: Core Module

The main findings from a core module of questions are included in the 2006 Scottish Social Attitudes Survey, funded by the Office of the Chief Researcher in order to inform policy development and evaluation. For more information go to:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/21155813/1>

Road Accidents Scotland 2006

This publication presents statistics of the numbers of road accidents in which one or more people were injured or killed in Scotland in 2006. The information presented includes ages of those involved and details on a Regional basis. For more information go to:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/20143740/0>

Volunteering in the Youth Work Sector: An Action Plan

The 'Volunteering in the Youth Work Sector Action Plan' was developed with the support and input of the voluntary youth work sector including Youth Scotland, YMCA, YouthLink Scotland, the uniformed organisations, VDS and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Together they helped identify priority areas for action in an attempt to make a positive difference for volunteers and the organisations they work with. To find out more about the Action Plan go to: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/26110321/0>

Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2004: Information Guide

This information guide has been published to provide practitioners with information about the 'Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2004' and its implementation. The Guide can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/22120443/0>. The Scottish Government has also published a leaflet for Party Litigants in civil court proceedings that can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/14134912/1>

The findings of the Class Sizes, Staffing and Resources Working Group

Please note that the work on this report was undertaken by the previous administration but on 20/06/07 the new Scottish government reaffirmed its plans to reduce P1-P3 classes to a maximum of 18 and to provide access to a fully qualified nursery teacher for every nursery aged child, starting with children in deprived communities. The working group's findings can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/16094326/0>

S1 and S2 Maths and English Class Sizes, Children Educated Outwith School, Pupil Projections and Provisional Pupil Numbers, 2007

The above statistics can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/19125551/0>

Report on the Implementation of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004

Download a copy at:

www.hmie.gov.uk/documents/publication/aslr.pdf

Count Us In: Achieving Success for Deaf Pupils

Copies can be *download at*:

www.hmie.gov.uk/documents/publication/asfdp.pdf

Education and Schooling for Asylum-Seeking and Refugee Students in Scotland: An Exploratory Study

The results of the study can be found at:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/198224/0052995.pdf. The Scottish Government has also published a report entitled 'Learning to Read a New Culture: How Immigrant and Asylum Seeking Children Experience Scottish Identity through Classroom Books' (which can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/10/31125406/0>).

With Inclusion in Mind: The local authority's role in promoting wellbeing and social development: Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 Sections 25-31

The Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003, came into force in October 2005. The Act places a statutory duty on local authorities to promote wellbeing and social development for those who have, or have had, a 'mental disorder'. In terms of the Act, a 'mental disorder' includes mental illness, learning disabilities and personality disorders. The resulting document offers 'aspirational' guidance on the implementation of the duties of local authorities under Sections 25-31 of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003. The guidance can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/10/18092957/0>

Endowment Bill

The Scottish Government published the Graduate Endowment Bill on 23/10/07. The Bill outlines the Scottish Government's plans to scrap the one-off payments (currently £2,289) which can be paid up front or added to student loans that Scottish students, on completion of a higher education course of three years or more have to pay. For more information see: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/02-GraduateEndowAbolition/index.htm>.

Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 2006-07

This bulletin presents statistics on domestic abuse, based on details of incidents of domestic abuse returned by the eight Scottish police forces in 2006-07. The statistics gathered found that from the incidence per 100,000 population, young females are at most risk of being victims of domestic abuse when aged between 22 and 25. To find out more about the bulletin go to: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/22153700/0>

Consultations, Campaigns & Surveys

City of Edinburgh Council Consultation Database

The City of Edinburgh Council has set up a consultation database which lists past, current, and planned consultations being undertaken by Council departments and partners. The database will contain basic details about the consultations, contact details for the person(s) responsible, and links to further information. It can be found at:

www.Edinburgh.gov.uk/consultation

This is not a game

Children with a learning disability are not allowed to compete in the UK School Games. The next games will take place in Bristol in 2008. The reasoning put forward for this is that athletes with a learning disability have been banned from competing in the Paralympics. The charitable organisation Mencap believes that there is no reason why children with a learning disability should be discriminated against because of the Paralympics ban and that children with a learning disability have the same right as any child to compete in elite sports competitions. Therefore Mencap wants the Government to take action so that children with a learning disability can compete in the UK School Games. Anyone who would like to get involved in Mencap's campaign should, in the first instance, email them at: campaigns@mencap.org.uk

Knife Survey

Children's charity NCH wants to ask young people how they have been affected by knife and gun crime, why they think it happens, and how it can be tackled. To take part in the survey, go to www.nch.org.uk. On the same subject, Crimestoppers is targeting young people (aged 11 - 16) with a new improved micro-site against knife crime. The charity aims to raise awareness of knife crime, by and against young people in Britain's communities. www.gameover4knives.com.

What Issue?

The Innovation Exchange is running a poll on what issue they should focus on. They have come up with 5 options which are: Reduction in re-offending by prolific offenders, reducing harm of drug and alcohol misuse in families, Return to work for over 50s on incapacity benefit or job seekers allowance, Reduction in homelessness for young people or improved access to benefits for older people. To take part in the poll go to:

<http://www.innovation-unit.co.uk/content/view/398/786/>

UK Government Consultations

Consumer Protection Review (closing Spring 2008)

The UK Government has launched a review of the consumer protection regime in Britain in response to the complexity (over 100 different pieces of legislation) of the current regulatory landscape of consumer protection. To find out more go to:

<http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/reform/consumer/index.asp>

Revision of Food Standards Agency food labelling guidance on country of origin (closing date 12/12/07)

The guidance sets out legislative requirements relevant to origin labelling and advice on compliance with legislation, as well as best practice advice. The consultation can be found at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/consultations/#ukwideconsults>. All comments should be sent to: Janet McKenzie, Food Labelling and Marketing Terms Branch, Labelling, Standards and Allergy Division, Food Standards Agency, Room 115B, Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NH. Or emailed to: janet.mckenzie@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Clear food labelling (Scotland) (closing date 24/12/07)

The guidance sets out legislative requirements, as well as best practice advice to improve labelling practice with respect to clear labelling and awareness of existing legislation on clear labelling in the manufacturing and retail sectors in an attempt to improve consumer confidence in labelling. The consultation can be found at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/consultations/consultscot/2007/clearfoodguidescot07>.

Comments should be sent to: Christine Green, Food Standards Agency Scotland, 6th Floor, St. Magnus House, 25 Guild Street, Aberdeen AB11 6NJ. Or emailed to:

Christine.Green@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Child Trust Fund (CTF) consultation - voucher requirement for account opening (closing date 25/01/08)

The UK Government are currently considering the following 3 options with regard to the use of CTF vouchers to open CTF accounts: To make it mandatory for providers to open accounts without receiving the voucher from parents (option A); To remove the legal requirement that the voucher must be seen to open an account, but to make the transition to a voucherless account opening system optional for providers (option B); To leave the system unchanged (option C). To access the consultation go to:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pageLibrary_ConsultationDocuments&propertyType=document&columns=1&id=HMCE_PROD1_028029 . Comments on the proposed options should be sent to: HMRC

Child Trust Fund Consultation, Room G54, 100 Parliament Street, London SW1A 2BQ, or emailed to ctfteam.car@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

Draft Agency Guidance Notes on the Infant Formula and Follow-on Formula (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (closing date 13/02/08)

The Food Standards Agency is consulting on draft guidance notes that aim to help industry, enforcement officers and other interested parties interpret the provisions of the Infant Formula and Follow-on Formula Regulations 2007 (further information about the regulations, and the European legislation that they implement, is provided in the details at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:401:0001:01:EN:HTML>).

The consultation can be found at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/consultations/consultscot/2007/infformscotguide2007> .

Comments should be sent to: Carol MacMillan, Food Standards Diet & Nutrition Branch, Food Standards Agency Scotland, 6th Floor, St. Magnus House, 25 Guild Street Aberdeen AB11 6NJ. Or emailed to: Carol.Macmillan@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Scottish Government Consultations

Disclosure in criminal proceedings (closing date 21.01.08)

Proposals for legislation to implement the recommendations in the report of his Independent Review of the Law and Practice of Disclosure in Criminal Proceedings in Scotland, by the Rt Hon Lord Coulsfield. The report recommended legislation to put onto a statutory footing the requirements of disclosure of evidence by the prosecution to the defence. To find out more go to

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/09145246>

Responses should be sent to: Disclosure Consultation, Criminal Procedure Division, GW14 St Andrews House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG. Or emailed to:

disclosureconsultation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Discussion paper on the future direction of housing policy in Scotland (Closing date 25.01.08)

The discussion document 'Firm Foundations: the future for housing in Scotland' describes the Scottish Government's vision of a housing system capable of: Delivering more houses that meet higher environmental standards; Offering more choice of housing that is affordable; Contributing to the creation of sustainable mixed communities; and Achieving better value for public expenditure. For more details see:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/10/30153156/0> or contact Becky Smith,

Social Housing Division, Housing and Regeneration Directorate, 1H - (S) Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ, or you can telephone her on (0131) 244 7753.

The Independent Examination of Proposals for Major Change in NHS Services (closing date 25 January 2008)

The Scottish Government has announced its intention of introducing independent, external scrutiny of proposals for major changes in NHS services before full public consultation takes place and of consultation on what form the independent scrutiny should take. For more details go to: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/10/26111633/0>
Responses to :NHS Independent Scrutiny Consultation ,FREEPOST NATN452, Mailpoint 1, Healthcare Policy and Strategy Directorate, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 0BR Or e-mail to NHSindependentscrutiny@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 Secondary Consultation (closing date 12/02/08)

This consultation document invites public comment on the policy proposals for the secondary legislation required to implement the vetting and barring functions introduced through the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007. The secondary consultation can be found at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/01111737/0>

Intermediaries as a Special Measure for Vulnerable Witnesses (closing date 15 January 2008)

This consultation paper sets out background information and seeks comments and views on the use of intermediaries as a special measure for vulnerable witnesses in Scotland. To view this consultation see: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/10/09143729/0>
Responses to this consultation to be emailed to: elaine.martay@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or in writing to Elaine Martay, The Scottish Government, Victims and Witnesses Unit, Room GW15, St Andrews House, Regent Road, EH1 3DG

Consultation Updates

Scottish Planning Policy 11: Open Space and Physical Activity

The consultation report can be found at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/09143537/0>

Events

Drinkaware Launch

Youth Scotland will launch the Drinkaware Challenges in Scotland at an event hosted by Renfrewshire Council on 6 December. The Drinkaware Challenges have been developed by the Drinkaware Trust and UK Youth to support young people through a structured programme focusing on issues around alcohol use. The project will deliver alcohol education; support youth led action and accredit young people for their achievements. For further information, contact Steven Greig on 0131 554 2561 or email: steven.greig@youthscotland.org.uk

LGBT History Month

LGBT History month takes place in February 2008 and any organisation who would like to organise an event in connection with LGBT History Month should register in the first instance at: <http://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/LGBTHistoryMonth.htm>

Training

Protecting Staff in the Voluntary Sector From Client Abuse

The above conference takes place on 27/11/07 at Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh between 9am and 2pm. Places at the conference are free to those working in the voluntary sector. It will feature contributions from practitioners and highlight the resources available to help protect staff in the workplace. To find out more about the conference email: Linda.shanahan@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Empowering Communities Workshops

The Scottish Government says it is committed to doing more to empower individuals and communities to have more control over their own lives and more choice in how their needs are met. They want to hear the public's views (particularly those people from deprived communities) as part of the debate on how to make this meaningful and useful for communities. Discussion workshops are being held around the country with Edinburgh one taking place on 10/12/07. To find out more about the workshops see: www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpages/cs_006607.hcsp

Listening to Children: Research and Consultation

This is a 10 week training course being run by the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships (CRFR). The course has been designed for those who work with children and young people who want to improve their skills in the areas of research and consultation. It will involve a combination of online learning and classroom sessions based at the University of Edinburgh. Bookings are now being taken for spring 2008. To find out more about the course email: L.marshall@ed.ac.uk

Uncover Learning Support for your Organisation

This free half-day training events (lunch provided) on 6Dec. from 9.00am-2.30pm is designed to explain some of the learning support available to voluntary organisations from learndirect Scotland, ILA Scotland and Learndirect Scotland for Business for the organisations service users, staff or volunteers. The workshop will cover topics such as, how to gain access to e-learning, the marketing support available and working in partnership with ILA Scotland. For further information and how to book a place, please contact events@extra-mile.com.

Drama with Young People with Learning Difficulties

This three-day course takes place between 10 and 12 December and is suitable for anyone working or considering working with young people with learning disabilities, using drama, theatre, music and sound as methods of enabling their clients to develop self-expression, creativity and communication skills. The emphasis will be on simple, innovative and practical techniques to work with young people with all levels of learning difficulties, including those with profound and multiple. For more details Contact: Children in Scotland on Tel: 0131 222 2426, Email: training@childreninscotland.org.uk or see their website at: www.childreninscotland.org.uk

SCVO Training

Charity Accounts

This course will look at the charity accounting requirements under the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. It will cover the different types of accounts - Receipts and Payments/Accruals accounts, with a detailed look at the format and content of each, using worked examples to show how the Regulations apply in practice. It will also cover external scrutiny requirements (audit or independent examination) and reporting to OSCR. Contact: 0131 474 8019 email: jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk

Managing and Supervising People

This course is designed for people new to managing & supervising others or who have been doing so for some time but have not received any formal training. The course will cover the principles, skills and strategies involved when taking on people management roles.

Demonstrating Impact

Organisations are under pressure to demonstrate they are delivering the outputs, outcomes and impacts that they say they do. This course is aimed at those new to the task of demonstrating success and hopes to help participants find a way through the 'fog' of strategy and assessment terminology and help them assess if their current or proposed indicators and measures will really demonstrate their organisation's or project's success.

The above SCVO courses take place at SCVO, Mansfield Traquair Centre, 15 Mansfield Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6BB. To find out more go to:

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/SCVOEvents/SCVOTrainingByMonthHome.aspx>

EVOC Courses

Being a Manager (04 & 05/12/07, 9.30am to 4.30pm)

This two-day course is for new managers in the voluntary sector or for established managers who want to take some time out to reflect on their practice and develop their skills and experience. The course is a mix of short talks, guidelines on tips and techniques, exercises and practise sessions in small groups. Cost: Voluntary £135/ Private £225

Equalities Impact Assessment Training (12/12/07, 1.30pm - 4.30pm)

Worried about all the new equalities legal duties and what it means for your organisation? In partnership with EVOC, Edinburgh Council's equalities staff has developed an equalities impact assessment tool for the voluntary sector and this half day interactive session will hopefully enable participants to utilise this tool. If you are interested please book a place and bring along a specific service or policy you wish to have assessed.

For more information about the above EVOC Courses go to:
<http://evoc.org.uk/learning/programme/detail.asp?id=230>

If you would like any further information about course content, please contact Jenny Haines at jenny.haines@evoc.org.uk