

## Hidden Gem Turns 10

St Mary and St Peter's Community Project was the vision of the then parish priest Father Kevin Walton, and evolved through evidence of need after a feasibility study was undertaken during the summer of 2001. A management committee was formed and the project was registered as a charity in March 2002 with The Bishop of Durham, The Right Reverend Michael Turnbull as Patron.



The church hall was refurbished and officially opened in September 2002 by the Bishop of Jarrow and Chris Mullin MP. St Mary and St Peters Community Project then began to serve and support the local community.

Since its inception The Project has become a hub of local community activity, perfectly situated geographically; boasting first rate travel links, full accessibility to all, and a free car park large enough to accommodate ten vehicles. What more could you ask for?

On entering the project you will be met by worker Sarah Hindley and greeted by a warm, vibrant and friendly atmosphere being exuded by both staff and users. The management committee and staff here work tirelessly to cater to the many and varied needs of the community, nevertheless as Sarah pointed out there is always room for further development.

As the project will be celebrating its 10th birthday later this year, the management board have decided this is the perfect time to re-evaluate its current delivery. In order to continue offering services and activities identified by the community. Any group or individual looking to run a course, rent an office or hold an event of any description, be it a large conference or small gathering, every effort will be made to accommodate them.

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Sarah ensures that all members of the community are encouraged to participate irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity or ability as the overall aim is to be responsive to identified community need. The Project aims to provide something for everyone.

The day I visited the centre a very busy craft class and a meeting of the Stroke Association were in progress. These sessions emphasised the generous flexible use of the space available and welcoming atmosphere of the project. A variety of activities are catered for, including educational and leisure courses, a community wellness centre encompassing fitness classes such as Pilates, Feel in Trim, B Active n B Fit, Body Blitz, Karate and many more.

The project can also help with healthy eating options. You can order your '5 a day' of fresh fruit and vegetables direct from local farmers and suppliers. The produce will then be available for you to collect each Wednesday through 'Food Chain' a community fruit and vegetable service ran at the project. When the weather gets warmer, why not take a stroll around the beautiful Community Garden which has won prestigious awards from both Britain and Northumbria in Bloom. With a children's play area for the little ones to enjoy, open daily from 9am until 3pm, the centre functions as a valuable resource to local families and is always ready to welcome new beneficiaries.

Relate, who provide relationship counselling for individuals and couples; family counselling; counselling for children and young people and sex therapy, are also situated within St Mary and St Peters Community Project. Please telephone **0191 384 1198** for further information about their services.

Sarah would like to hear from any organisation interested in utilising any of the fantastic facilities on offer here at St Mary and St Peter's.

## St Mary and St Peter's Community Project, Springwell Road, Sunderland AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

A first rate large hall space, which can be divided in two if desired.

A large meeting / training room.

A therapy suite complete with all the necessary equipment

## AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL

Two light and airy office spaces upstairs (15ft x 16.5ft)

Anyone wanting information on any of the above should contact Sarah Hindley via  
0191 522 8979 or [sarahcornish.project@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sarahcornish.project@yahoo.co.uk)

### Current Centre Activities Include:

**Monday:** Lets Go Gardening, F.I.T (Feel in Trim), B Active n b Fit, Pilates, Body Blitz and Karate

**Tuesday:** F.I.T (Feel in Trim), Stop Smoking Clinic, Art Club and Slimming World

**Wednesday:** Lets Go Gardening, Toddler Group (Term Time Only), Stop Smoking Clinic, Friendly Club, Pilates, Body Blitz and Complementary Therapies

**Thursday:** T.N.T. (Tone n Trim), Craft Club, Stop Smoking Clinic and Bingo

**Friday:** B Active n b Fit

## NAVCA Resources

As you plan for 2012/13, we here at VCAS know that many of our members face another challenging year. So, let us be positive and remind you of the tools and resources available from NAVCA that can help you.

In September 2011 the Government issued 'Best Value Statutory Guidance' to all local authorities. This powerful piece of Statutory Guidance aims to stop councils from cutting the voluntary sector more deeply than they cut their own services. If it is ignored by your council it could form the basis of a legal challenge. You can access the one page document here: [www.navca.org.uk/best-value-statutory-guidance](http://www.navca.org.uk/best-value-statutory-guidance)

You should not underestimate the importance of your local Compact. The Best Value Statutory Guidance refers to The Compact and thereby gives The Compact some much needed clout. The Public Law Project said in December that 'breach of The Compact in a best value context is now arguably a breach of statutory guidance with potential legal consequences'. You can download the PDF article by the Public Law project using this link: [www.navca.org.uk/downloads/generate/2817](http://www.navca.org.uk/downloads/generate/2817)

There are also useful resources on NAVCA's website if you want to help the local sector to challenge and deal with the cuts. Take a look at the following page for more information: [www.navca.org.uk/localvs/cuts](http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/cuts)

## Big Lottery's £20million Infrastructure Programme



The Big Lottery Fund has published a discussion paper, Building Capabilities for Impact and Legacy, about its new £20m infrastructure programme which will complement the Transforming Local Infrastructure fund. The consultation is for local voluntary organisations as well as infrastructure providers.

BIG want their paper to stimulate debate and thinking to shape, influence and inform their future thinking and investment. They want to be more purposeful in their investment and leave a legacy that demonstrates the measurable impact of this form of investment and to help organisations to be able to do this as well.

The discussion paper is available here: [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/buildingcapabilitiesv2.pdf](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/buildingcapabilitiesv2.pdf)

As well as thinking about how you can respond, please send in your thoughts to [peter.horner@navca.or.uk](mailto:peter.horner@navca.or.uk) so they can be considered as part of NAVCA's response.

## Pat's Petition

This is a petition placed on the Government's own website. It calls for the government to "Stop and review the cuts to benefits and services which are falling disproportionately on disabled people, their carers and families". This petition has come from a group of ordinary volunteers, who are carers and/or disabled people who are alarmed by the number of changes taking place and their effect on society's most vulnerable people.

To find out more visit: <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/20968>

## Funding Workshops

**If you are planning to do any training in 2012, getting the right training to meet your needs is essential.**

VCA Sunderland has sourced the very best for you in 2012, delivered in partnership with Newcastle CVS we can highly recommend the following sessions to ensure you are at the top of your game when it comes to Funding – Are You?



**THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2012**

**10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. (6 hours including 30 min lunch plus 2 short comfort breaks)**

**(1) Need, outcomes, monitoring and impact**

At all levels the most successful projects are those that can demonstrate:

- That they understand and have robust evidence of the need for their work
- That they have identified outcomes that both meet this need and are realistic
- Have effective monitoring systems in place
- Understand and can demonstrate the wider impact of their work

This **full day session** gives you the chance to explore what this means in the context of your project and how to bring these elements together to not only improve your applications but help your organisation develop in an effective way.

**THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2012**

**10.00 A.M. – 1.00 P.M. (3 hours including tea break)**

**(002) Writing Better Funding Applications**

- Do you know what makes the difference between a good and bad application?
- Are you confident in your ability to understand funding guidance?
- Do know what is likely to put funders off?

This **half day session** is aimed at those with some experience in preparing applications who want to improve their technique and chances of receiving a positive response.

**(003) THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2012 - 10.00 – 11.30 A.M.**

**Sustainable funding**

What does it mean? Can it be done? Is it possible for your project to become more sustainable?

This **90 minute** session will help you to answer these questions in the context of your own organisation.

To book a place on any of the above sessions taking place at VCAS Offices please contact Audrey Thompson at VCAS on **0191 5651566** or [audrey.thompson@vcasunderland.org.uk](mailto:audrey.thompson@vcasunderland.org.uk)

**Course 001 - FULL DAY:** Members £25, Non-members £35, Private £40, Non Sunderland Organisations £45  
(Lunch provided)

**Course 002:** 3 Hour session - £10 members, £20 Non-members (Refreshments provided)

**Course 003:** - £10 Members, £15 Non Members (Refreshments provided)

## Don't Bin You Unwanted Resources... WARPit



- Setting up a new organisation or a new office?**
- In need of new furniture or office equipment?**
- Have old furniture and goods you no-longer need but are too good to be thrown out?**
- Want to help offset the carbon footprint for Sunderland?**
- Then look no further.....**



Working in partnership with Sunderland City Council and the Sunderland Partnership, Voluntary & Community Action Sunderland have subscribed to a resource redistribution system called WARPit on behalf of the Voluntary & Community Sector here in Sunderland.

WARPit is a corporate Freecycle / Ebay which allows members to access surplus resources which are not required by other organisations in the area. It also allows members to upload resources for redistribution to others and offers the opportunity to loan equipment. Resources include furniture, fixtures and fittings, office consumables - anything really. This is for our members only and is strictly only to be used for charity purposes.

We are encouraging all VCAS members to join the scheme and in doing so share the cost savings and benefits of WARPIT, at the same time, making great savings so you can use funding bids for alternative uses. Here at VCAS we assist hundreds of organisations each year to complete funding applications for office equipment and furniture. This year why not look at the alternative... Sign up today.

To see how it works visit: [www.warp-it.co.uk](http://www.warp-it.co.uk) or watch the scheme in action at: [tinyurl.com/7vhq2hx](http://tinyurl.com/7vhq2hx)  
Any local organisations who are interested should contact Gillian McDonough: [gillianmcdonough@aol.com](mailto:gillianmcdonough@aol.com)

## Charity Awards 2012



Hundreds of charities enter The Charity Awards each year. For many it is the chance to have their work validated by a judging panel of leading names. For others it is the lure of national and local press attention. Perhaps completing the entry form is the excuse they need to gather evidence that builds a narrative which can be used again and again in funding applications. Or maybe it's a chance to say to their staff, successful or not, I'm going to recognise your hard work.

Or maybe it's the chance to spend a black tie evening at London's world famous Grosvenor House Hotel's Grand Ballroom, rubbing shoulders with celebrities and dignitaries, enjoying a champagne reception and dinner, seeing your work played out on the big screen, speech in hand in case your name is called! Whatever your reason, make 2012 your year. The closing date to submit your entry form is **9th March**.

For more information and to download an application form visit: [www.civilsociety.co.uk/charityawards](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/charityawards)

## Europe gives Big Society Capital the Green Light

The European Commission has given the go ahead for the use of up to £400m from dormant bank accounts to set up **Big Society Capital**, declaring it an 'innovative project'. The object being to invest in social companies, mainly Social Investment Finance intermediaries that have difficulties in procuring affordable funding from the markets.

It was feared that a decision from the Commission could take up to 18 months, so the speed of the decision is seen as a positive indication of Brussels' engagement around the social investment agenda.

## Value of Big Lottery Fund Applications Sees Rise

Speaking at the Institute of Fundraising's Trust Fundraising 2011 conference, in December, Veronika Karailieva, Development Officer at the Big Lottery Fund (BLF), announced that the total value of BLF grant applications almost trebled between 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Additionally Third Sector reported that the total value of grant requests for all programmes was up from £1bn in 2009/10 to £2.8bn in 2010/11. This reflects the clear need for support that the sector requires in the current economic climate.

## ACEVO launches Guide to Improving Equality & Diversity

ACEVO has launched a **new guide** offering practical advice on how equality and diversity can be mainstreamed in third sector organisations. It has been designed to help third sector organisations tailor action on diversity to their particular organisation.

The guide is arranged in sections spanning the case for equality and diversity; the legislation; the role of leadership; integrating equality with policy and procurement; and what to monitor. Primarily for chief executives of any small or medium-sized third sector organisation, it can also be useful to trustees or members of boards; chairs of trustees; and staff who work with boards and trustees.

For more information please visit: [tinyurl.com/7sx85bh](http://tinyurl.com/7sx85bh)

## Take part in NCVO's policy consultation

The NCVO is reviewing the policy areas that it is working on, and is keen to hear your suggestions on which areas to focus. As an organisation which aims to positively influence public policy on behalf of its members and the sector as a whole, NCVO wants decision-makers to understand the consequences that their decisions have on the voluntary and community sector.

1. If you don't have much time it is recommended that you share your most pressing issue at [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/tellncvo](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/tellncvo) - whether it's small or large, local or national.
2. If you have a bit more time you can fill out their full policy survey at [tinyurl.com/7t2x7zd](http://tinyurl.com/7t2x7zd).

## Youth Contract Subsidy for Voluntary Organisations

Voluntary organisations are eligible to apply for subsidies to employ young people as part of the government's new £1bn Youth Contract. The Youth Contract will provide nearly half-a-million new opportunities for young people, including apprenticeships and work experience placements.

For more information please visit: [tinyurl.com/bq6trnm](http://tinyurl.com/bq6trnm)

## Young Persons' Volunteering Fund

The fund supports volunteering projects led by 14-25 year olds that transform community amenities and green spaces. Grants are available in England and Wales and can provide up to £10,000 towards project costs.

For more information please visit: [www.sitatrust.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.sitatrust.org.uk/volunteering)

## Starbucks Youth Action

This opportunity offers young people aged 16-24, from 10 cities across the UK, the chance to receive grants of up to £2,000 to run a community change project in their local area. Along with the funding, Starbucks can also provide staff volunteers and help with refreshments.

For more information and to apply please visit:

<http://www.ukyouth.org/our-work-with-young-people/corporate-responsibility/youth-action.html>

## International Citizen Service

Skillshare International are offering 18-22 year olds the opportunity to spend three months volunteering in Africa or India learning new skills and fighting global poverty. ICS helps young people develop important skills such as team-working, communication and decision-making; important skills for finding a job. Back in the UK young people are encouraged to continue volunteering.

For more information please visit: <http://www.skillshare.org/ICS>

## The Capital Development Toolkit

The 'An Introduction to Capital Development' online course has recently been revamped. Designed to support Voluntary Sector organisations that are exploring the option of capital development, the toolkit aims to help you understand the process and consider how it can best overcome the barriers you face.

For more information visit: [www.globelearning.org/ecs/product/an-introduction-to-capital-development](http://www.globelearning.org/ecs/product/an-introduction-to-capital-development)

To view the newest version visit: [www.placesforeveryone.org/resources](http://www.placesforeveryone.org/resources)

### Sunderland Headlight Keeps Shining Brightly

Headlight Advice, Information and Advocacy Service aim to deliver a high quality, effective and impartial quality service to help improve the life chances and choices of people with mental health issues. Headlight has been established in Sunderland since 2002, in 2009 they received support from the Secret Millionaire Jonathan Hick and now celebrating their tenth anniversary have continued to develop through the years building an effective and empowering service for its users.



Headlight offers a broad range of information and support that includes Welfare benefits, housing, employment and health. Whatever the clients issue may be Headlight aim to offer confidential, independent and non judgmental advice. If necessary clients will be signposted to other organisations for specialist support, and if required Headlight advice workers will act as advocate for their clients.

Headlight also offer a variety of courses and recreational activities, encouraging members to build confidence and self esteem helping integration into the wider community. The ethos of Headlight is to promote positive mental health address all issues of stigma and encourage engagement and participation.

If you would like to contact Headlight advice, information and advocacy service call into the office on a Monday between 10.30am and 4pm

Sunderland Headlight, 14 Mary Street, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear SR1 3NH

Tel: 0191 5101494

Email: [Sunderland.headlight@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Sunderland.headlight@hotmail.co.uk)

[www.headlight.org.uk](http://www.headlight.org.uk)

### Limestone Festival

Limestone Landscapes are hosting a series of events designed to help residents and visitors enjoy the wealth of natural beauty and built environment on the Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of June. This year a range of partners from across the area are offering a wide choice of guided walks and activities designed to promote family fun and fitness, to showcase the area's magnificent Magnesian Limestone and to encourage everyone to learn more about it in a fun way.

*"We are all very excited about developing our festivals which are being made possible thanks to generous support from the Heritage Lottery Fund."*

*Ian Moran, Community Engagement Officer for the Limestone Landscape Partnership*

The events and activities are designed to showcase the variety and beauty of the flora, fauna and built heritage that make the Magnesian Limestone area so special. The programme is all themed to deliver family fun with activities taking place in South Tyneside, Sunderland, Durham and Hartlepool. The Magnesian Limestone Plateau is a wide area stretching almost from Tyne to Tees and from the coast to central Durham. The area is unique, with common themes and patterns in the landscape and strong links between natural and cultural heritage. This extensive plateau formed 290 million years ago, when a shallow tropical sea submerged the area. During the last 10,000 years, following the last ice age, the cultural influences of the people have created a distinctive landscape.

For further information about Limestone Landscapes and the upcoming events visit:

[www.limestonelandscapes.info](http://www.limestonelandscapes.info)

## John Laing Fund

**Open to:** VCSE  
**Deadline:** 7th March  
**Source:** Direct / FINE

The John Laing Fund supports projects that help people who are homeless, or are at risk of becoming homeless, with grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 available for revenue and/or capital projects. The fund is interested in supporting applications that broaden the range of services that are offered, increase the quality of services or allow a organisation to try a new idea.

In particular they would particularly encourage applications from organisations working to prevent homelessness, help people in crisis, develop day centre provision for homeless people, make permanent accommodation available and sustainable, develop people's soft skills and social networks, provide training and employment opportunities, build capacity in the sector or run day centres.

For further information and to apply visit  
[www.communityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.communityfoundation.org.uk) or contact on  
**0191 222 0945 / gl@communityfoundation.org.uk**

## Best Start Breakfast Club Grants

**Funding:** £650 / training  
**Deadline:** None specified  
**Source:** Grants Online / FINE

School staff, parents and group leaders that wish to set up a new breakfast club in a school or community facility can obtain free training to equip staff with the skills they need. Schools and settings who do not have a breakfast club can apply to join the programme in order to establish new provision and will receive:

- a free, one-day workshop for two members of staff to support the setting up of a new breakfast club
- a £650 grant towards the cost of setting up a new club

Following the training leaders will be able to apply for a Best Start Breakfast Club grant of £650 to get their new breakfast club up and running.

For more information visit:  
[tinyurl.com/7k8hkx4](http://tinyurl.com/7k8hkx4)

## UK Land Estates Fund

**Open to:** VCSE  
**Deadline:** 7th March  
**Type of funder:** Charity  
**Source:** Direct / FINE

The corporate fund is focused on supporting projects in Gateshead, although applications from Sunderland will also be considered. A broad range of projects within this geographical area will be considered, although the emphasis will be on supporting local people. Grants awarded are usually for £1,000 or less although occasionally higher awards are made.

For further information and to apply visit  
[www.communityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.communityfoundation.org.uk) or contact on  
**0191 222 0945 / gl@communityfoundation.org.uk**

## Healthy Hearts Grants

**Funding:** Up to £10,000 (£50,000 total fund per round)  
**Open to:** VCSE / researchers  
**Deadline:** 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012  
**Type of funder:** Charity  
**Source:** Grants Online / FINE

Heart Research UK has announced that its next funding round under its Healthy Heart Grants Scheme is open. Grants support innovative projects designed to promote heart health and to prevent or reduce the risks of heart disease in specific groups or communities.

Grants are available to community groups, voluntary organisations and researchers who are spreading the healthy heart message. Projects typically run for 12 months. The types of projects supported in the past have included:

- the Foresight Project helps visually impaired people undertake regular exercise,
- the Ross-shire Bravehearts project in Inverness which educates adults with learning difficulties about heart health,
- Superleague team, Wakefield Wildcats, which uses rugby players to educate about heart health.

For more information and to apply visit:  
[www.heartresearch.org.uk/grants/healthyheartgrant](http://www.heartresearch.org.uk/grants/healthyheartgrant)  
or contact **0113 2976206**  
[lifestyle@heartresearch.org.uk](mailto:lifestyle@heartresearch.org.uk)

## Football Foundation: Grow the Game

**Funding:** Up to £5,000

**Open to:** Not for profit; see text

**Deadline:** 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**Source:** Funding Insight / FINE

Funding is available for projects that increase participation by both players and volunteers within the game. Applications are welcome from organisations that are 'not for profit' and planning to set up two new football teams over the next two years.

To be eligible for funding organisations must have a signed constitution (with a dissolution clause), child protection policy, equal opportunities policy, bank statement and income and expenditure records.

The type of activities that can be funded include:

- facility hire
- hire of FA qualified coaches
- referees fees
- CRB checks
- affiliation fees
- promotion and publicity

For more information and to apply visit:

**[www.footballfoundation.org.uk/apply/grow-the-game](http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/apply/grow-the-game)**

## Kelly Family Charitable Trust

**Funding:** £1,000 - £5,000 (higher may be considered)

**Open to:** Registered charities

**Deadline:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012

**Source:** FINE

The Trust supports activities that involve all or most family members in initiatives that support and encourage the family to work as a cohesive unit in tackling problems. By nurturing empathy and understanding within the family unit the Trust seeks to encourage an environment in which family members can support each other in their efforts to deal with problems. Applications are also welcomed from sports and health-related charities whose activities comply with these criteria.

For more information contact **[s.armstrong@kfct.org](mailto:s.armstrong@kfct.org)**

## Sport Relief Community Cash Grant Programme

**Funding:** £500 - £1,000

**Deadline:** 9th March

**Source:** Community Foundation

The Sport Relief 2012 Community Cash Grant Programme will provide grants to support community groups undertaking work that helps people of all ages feel more included in their community, builds their skills and increases their sense of achievement. The programme is particularly keen to ensure they reach groups of people who often miss out and will accept applications from:

- constituted voluntary and community groups
- charities
- social enterprises
- co-operatives
- faith organisations
- community interest companies
- Groups established for less than 12 months.

To be eligible for a grant groups need to work in a disadvantaged or deprived area, be small local groups ran by local people with an income of less than £100,000 in the last reporting period and have limited access to other sources of income.

The Sport Relief Community Cash Grant Programme will fund parent and toddler groups, equipment and material for sport groups, community festivals, cross generational work, sport tournaments or competition costs, lunch clubs, running costs for self help groups, committee and volunteer/staff training or the hire of sports facilities.

Grants will NOT be available to groups already in receipt of any Comic Relief funding (either directly through Comic Relief or via CFN).

Applications must be made online. Eligible applications will be considered by a grants panel and applicants notified of its decisions the week beginning 23rd April 2012.

For more information visit: **[tinyurl.com/837xmcw](http://tinyurl.com/837xmcw)**

To apply for a grant visit: **[tinyurl.com/7q47hxn](http://tinyurl.com/7q47hxn)**

## Arts Council: Strategic Touring Programme

**Funding:** £10,000 +

**Open to:** See text

**Deadline:** Next deadline 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012

**Type of funder:** Lottery

**Source:** Direct / FINE

The programme aims to ensure that people across England have improved access to great art visiting their local area. This includes better access to high quality work for people in places which rely on touring for much of their arts provision, more high quality work to reach people and places with the least engagement and more work on tour connecting more effectively with people across a wide range of venues

Any individual or organisation can apply to the programme. Partnerships, networks and consortia can also apply. These groups can include promoters, producers, artists, agencies, companies, marketing or audience development specialists, local authority representatives or any other kind of organisation or individual.

The application must include at least one promoter within the group, must have one individual or organisation who will have the main responsibility for managing the application and any grant and must include individuals or organisations who will act as the main lead for audience development activity on behalf of the group, or else explain how they would address this deficit within the project.

For more information on the scheme visit:  
[tinyurl.com/89q886j](http://tinyurl.com/89q886j)

In order to explain the scheme Arts Council England is holding a **briefing event** on the **21<sup>st</sup> February 2012** from 1–4pm (registration from 12:30pm) at Arts Council England, Central Square, Forth Street, Newcastle upon Tyne.

To find out more about the briefing or to book a place please visit:  
[newcastletouringbriefingfeb2012.eventbrite.co.uk](http://newcastletouringbriefingfeb2012.eventbrite.co.uk)

## Community Sustainable Energy Programme (CSEP)

**Deadline:** 29th February

CSEP is an open grants programme run by BRE as an award partner of the BIG Lottery Fund. BRE carries out research, consultancy, training and testing to help create better buildings and communities. Applications will be accepted for heat generating technologies and energy efficiency measures only.

Details of all aspects of the grant application process, installers and technologies are available online.

The Community Sustainable Energy Programme has to date awarded £8.5 million to community-based organisations for the installation of microgeneration technologies, such as solar panels or biomass boilers and energy efficiency measures including loft and cavity wall insulation.

CSEP has provided £1 million for project development grants that has helped community organisations decide if they could benefit from a microgeneration and energy efficiency installation. The programme aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Increased community awareness of climate change and how changes to our behaviour can reduce it
- Increased skills base of local trades (for example, local builders and building-service subcontractors working on renewable energy projects for the first time)
- Reduction in energy bills
- Reduction in reliance on imported energy and increased independence from commercial energy suppliers
- Stronger partnerships within local communities with lasting social benefits
- Growth of local enterprise in new technologies.

For more information or to apply visit  
[www.communitysustainable.org.uk](http://www.communitysustainable.org.uk) or alternatively contact the Changing Spaces helpline on **0845 3671 671** or email [info@communitysustainable.org.uk](mailto:info@communitysustainable.org.uk)

## Steven Gerrard Foundation

**Funding:** Up to £10,000 p/a up to 3 years

**Open to:** Registered charities

**Deadline:** 9<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**Source:** Funding Insight / FINE

Registered charities within the UK that run projects working with disadvantaged children can apply for grants through the Steven Gerrard Foundation. The primary goal of the Foundation is to support:

- disadvantaged children including their education and health
- children with disabilities
- street children
- children going through family breakdown

The Foundation places emphasis on supporting projects which involve children in identifying their own issues and solutions, designing and monitoring projects.

Projects should be able to demonstrate need, excellence in meeting need and sustainability.

For further information and to apply visit  
[www.stevengerrardfoundation.org/grants.htm](http://www.stevengerrardfoundation.org/grants.htm) or  
contact [grants@stevengerrardfoundation.org](mailto:grants@stevengerrardfoundation.org)

## Naturesave Trust

**Open to:** VCSE

**Deadline:** None

**Source:** Funding Insight / FINE

The Naturesave Trust is funded through contributions from a commercial insurance business. The Trust funds environmental and conservation projects within the UK, particularly those encouraging sustainable development.

It prefers to provide start-up capital to small projects to get them going, rather than to contribute to the general administration costs of a larger charity or company. There is a general fund, and separate seedcorn Community Renewable Energy Fund. The Trust does not fund 'research' projects.

For more information and to download the application form visit:

[www.naturesave.co.uk/trust\\_naturesave.html](http://www.naturesave.co.uk/trust_naturesave.html)  
or contact **01803 864390** or [mail@naturesave.co.uk](mailto:mail@naturesave.co.uk)

## Help the Hospices One-off Capital Grant Programme

**Funding:** £579,000 (total amount for the programme).

No maximum level of grant that can be applied for

**Open to:** Hospices (see text)

**Deadline:** 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**Type of funder:** Charity

**Source:** FINE

Help the Hospices is pleased to announce a one-off grant programme to support the establishment of new hospice building(s) and start-up costs, such as the equipping of new hospices.

The programme is open to both adult and children's hospices that are full members of Help the Hospices. The level of hospices' free reserves will not be considered when analysing applications.

Any work involving the establishment of new hospice building(s) will be considered. For example, this could be:

- new building capital costs (including VAT in relation to the proposed work and professional fees – such as architect, consultancy or external project management)
- capital equipment costs related to new builds

Applications for funding towards new builds and large capital projects that are not yet completed are eligible. However, planning permission must be applied for or be in place by **1<sup>st</sup> April 2012**.

The full grant must be claimed and spent before the end of **March 2013**.

For more information and to apply visit:  
[tinyurl.com/7epsec8](http://tinyurl.com/7epsec8)

## WWF Earth Hour Funding

**Funding:** £1,000

**Open to:** VCSE

**Deadline:** 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012

**Source:** UK Fundraising / FINE

WWF is running a nationwide competition to find one community which will be given the honour of leading the Earth Hour switch off in the UK. The winning community will win a £1,000 grant to make sure that their 'switched off' event goes with a bang. Entries for the prize are being invited from schools, workplaces, streets, villages, pubs and clubs.

The annual event asks communities around the world to turn off their lights at home for an hour and will take place on 31<sup>st</sup> March. The winner will lead the switch off, and will be followed by major landmarks including Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and Edinburgh Castle.

To stand a chance of being selected applicants need to explain in no more than 300 words why their community should lead the switch off.

For more information and to apply visit  
[earthhour.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/competition-to-lead-uk-switch-off](http://earthhour.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/competition-to-lead-uk-switch-off)

## Creme of Nature Community Action Award 2012

**Open to:** VCSE

**Deadline:** 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

**Type of funder:** Company

**Source:** Grants Online / FINE

Now into its fifth year, the Award is focused on those voluntary, faith and community groups, who make a difference to their community. The 2012 Award will be £10,000. The first runner up will receive a cash award of £5,000. The money can be used for a wide range of projects and activities. Each finalist must promote their cause and the one that gets the most online votes between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 18<sup>th</sup> May wins.

For more information and to visit  
[www.communityactionaward.com/award.html](http://www.communityactionaward.com/award.html) or  
contact on **02071 483 933 /**  
[chris@communityactionaward.com](mailto:chris@communityactionaward.com)

## Church and Community Fund

**Funding:** £10,000+ (see text)

**Deadline:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**Type of funder:** Charity

**Source:** Grants Online / FINE

The Church of England's Church and Community Fund has announced that it is now accepting applications under its new funding schemes. The overall aim of the fund is to grow the Church of England and develop its capacity to engage. Through the new funding themes, community projects run by parish churches, deaneries, dioceses and other bodies connected to or working in partnership with the Church of England can apply for funding for projects that:

- significantly expand the Church's engagement with neighbourhood renewal (£10,000 - £20,000)
- seek innovative ways of developing established community projects so that they either grow existing or evolve into new communities of Christian Faith (£10,000 - £20,000)
- replicate models of successful community engagement across the wider church (£20,000 +)

Projects must demonstrate that they are responding to proven needs or opportunities. Normally applications will only be accepted from the 50% most deprived parishes according to Index of Multiple Deprivation rankings. The organisation applying must commit some of their own resources. The CCF will fund at least 10%, and usually not more than 75%, of the total project.

For more information and to apply visit:

[www.ccfund.org.uk/apply/information](http://www.ccfund.org.uk/apply/information)

or contact: [ccf@churchofengland.org](mailto:ccf@churchofengland.org) / **0207 898 1541**

## B&Q Waste Donation

B&Q donate unsaleable products and waste materials for re-use by recognised community groups. They donate items such as slightly damaged tins of paint, off cuts of timber and broken tiles for mosaic projects. The items are donated on the understanding that they will be re-used. Items available for donation will vary from store to store.

For more information please contact your local store directly and speak to a duty manager.

### Sunderland's Voluntary Sector Successes

In spite of the negative funding climate, VCAS are glad to report its not all bad news. Over the past year we have provided support and development services around funding to the sector throughout the 5 areas of the city and have assisted in securing approximately £1 million from various funding sources. With the help of our dedicated funding officer, each group was provided with information on the funder most relevant to their need and guided through the full application process to ensure a robust funding application could be completed. We have assisted the organisations to demonstrate their evidence of need and ensure they are clear in identifying the impact their project would make.

Here are just a few of the successful organisations - All Friends Together received £5,472 from Awards for All for sessional tutors and hall hire. EVOLVE who provide young people with new opportunities to improve their health; wellbeing and employability were successful in securing £297,450 from Reaching Communities. This funding will provide their beneficiaries with continued provision of service for the next five years. Easington Lane Community Access Point secured funding of £4000 from Sherburn House Charity towards their Administrators post while Washington Village and District Sequence Dance Group were awarded £750 from Co-op Community Fund towards a dance trip for their members.

We recognise that the sector is diverse and therefore tailor our service to meet the needs of the organisations regardless of size. Some of the smaller community groups have also been successful in securing funds that will take place in local communities including Ryhope Indoor Carpet Bowls Club who received funding from both Aspire and Sir James Knott Trust for much needed equipment, while Doxford Park Tiddlers received a total of £822 from the Community Foundation for sensory toys. SHARP secured £2928 from Awards for All which enabled them to complete the refurbishment of their kitchen facilities for their Community Café project together with match funding they had received from the Sir James Knott Trust.

We would like to congratulate all of the groups on their success and ask if you have secured funding throughout 2011/12 that you let us know. We would also like to take this opportunity to inform you of VCAS next steps for Funding in 2012.

We have listened to our members and colleagues and have taken on board your comments regarding delivery of Funding Information, Advice and Guidance and we recognize that it is not always possible for you to come to us, so we have arranged for Outreach provision to be made across the five areas of the city. VCAS staff will be based in Community Venues throughout the month on a particular day of the week for ease of access. The funding officer will contact you in advance of the session to gain an understanding of your needs, so when you do meet you can complete the funding application there and then. We hope that this will bring about a much speedier service for VCAS and also you as an organisation, enabling you to get on with what you do best – running your organisation, project or activity.

**Watch out for VCAS coming to your area real soon!**

### Youth Music Funding Workshop

Youth Music's funding programme offers the opportunity to bid for between £5,000 - £250,000 for activities which support young people's music making. Gwyneth Lamb from Youth Music will deliver one to one meetings on **Thursday 1st March 2012**, 11:00 - 16:00 at VCAS, 21 Frederick Street, Sunderland, SR1 1LT. Please note this workshop is by appointment only.

Further information can be accessed by visiting: [network.youthmusic.org.uk/funding](http://network.youthmusic.org.uk/funding)  
To book an appointment and find out more about the fund then please contact Mary at VCAS on 0191 565 1566 or email [mary.pattinson@vcasunderland.org.uk](mailto:mary.pattinson@vcasunderland.org.uk)

## Children England Free Membership Offer

Children England are celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and until April are offering you the opportunity to join the organisation as a member free of charge. They are a leading membership organisation and collective voice for the children, young people and families voluntary sector representing a sector network of over 100,000 like minded people.

Membership benefits include a highly acclaimed information service, practical resources, networking opportunities, discounted training and events, the ability to promote your services, representation at the highest levels, member discount scheme including up to 30% off Children & Young People Now Magazine (15% exclusive discount plus additional 15% when you pay by direct debit).

Children England also provide consultancy support to voluntary and statutory sectors and in house training and public courses.

To find out more visit [www.childrenengland.org.uk/joinus/452](http://www.childrenengland.org.uk/joinus/452) or call **0207 8333319**

## Get Sported Free

Sported exist to develop communities and individuals through sport. It is a free membership organisation to those who work with young people aged 11-25. To become a free member of Sported you must focus on using sport as a vehicle for development rather than participation, using it as an effective tool to help improve the lives of children, families and communities.

Once you've been accepted as a Member of Sported you can access their range of services including grant schemes, mentor support to improve organisation sustainability, online resources, an online expert team, an insurance offer and on-going signposting support. As a member you can also discuss funding options with your Regional Manager.

Sported can offer a small one-off grant of up to £2,000 to all members, with applications being reviewed every 3 months. Your Regional Manager provides you with the application form and guides you through this process. Large grants can also be awarded. Most will be between £2,000 and £10,000. Larger amounts are occasionally considered but this involves a longer process.

You can also receive assistance to apply for external funding. Members will receive support from the Regional Managers, Mentors and Experts who will help you with the application process. Sported can also act as a referee for your bid or in some cases help fast track your application.

Sported will consider funding salaries, running costs or overheads and programme delivery costs. They will also consider supporting projects for more than one year, but funding will always be offered as part of a wider support package to ensure the ongoing development of your project or organisation. Generally they will not help fund large capital expenses such as building facilities.

To find out more visit [www.sported.org.uk](http://www.sported.org.uk).

The North East area manager, Sandra Hillyard, can be contacted via **07775 602137** or [s.hillyard@sported.org.uk](mailto:s.hillyard@sported.org.uk) for more information

## VCAS Funding Workshop

**Wednesday 7th March 2012 10:00 – 13:00**

at

**Pennywell Community Centre, Portsmouth Road, Pennywell,  
Sunderland, SR4 9AX**



If you want to find out more about different funding available for your Voluntary and Community organisation or group then this funding workshop event is just for you!

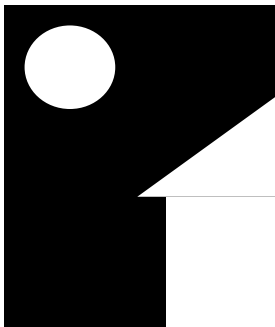
Workshops are available with a wide range of funders including:

Aspire Grants, Awards for All, Comic Relief, Community Foundation, Co-op Community Fund, Gregg's Foundation, Sir James Knott Trust, Rothley Trust, SportEngland through Tyne Wear Sport, and Yapp Charitable Trust.

Groups will be able to book a place to attend two workshops with the chance to network with all funders attending following the end of the workshops. A small buffet lunch will be provided at the close of the event.

For further information or to book a place contact Mary on  
0191 565 1566 or email [mary.pattinson@vcasunderland.org.uk](mailto:mary.pattinson@vcasunderland.org.uk)

## VCAS Out Of Hours Training Opportunities



You told us a major factor in attending training is organisational capacity, to counter this VCAS are offering a pilot of training outside regular office hours

### **Risk Assessment: Wednesday 22nd February 2012 6:00pm - 8:00pm**

All groups and organisations are legally bound to ensure that users, volunteers and paid staff have a comfortable, safe environment in which to participate and operate in. This course will provide you with vital tools to make you aware of the issues and allow you to take steps to minimise harm.

### **Introduction to Community Development: Saturday 10th March 2012 10:00am - 3:00pm**

Community Development practice and principles are something we should all be aware of and consider in delivering our day to day projects. This course will cover what community development is, what we mean by community, the National Occupational Standards and will underpin the key aims of community development work.

### **Time Management: Tuesday 20th March 2012 6:00pm - 8:00pm**

Time management is a vital workplace skill. During this session you will examine the benefits of individual time auditing, planning around energy cycles and effective project based to do lists.

If you require any additional information regarding session content please contact Rob Charlton on  
[rob.charlton@vcasunderland.org.uk](mailto:rob.charlton@vcasunderland.org.uk).

If you wish to book a place please contact Audrey Thompson on 0191 565 15 66 or  
[audrey.thompson@vcasunderland.org.uk](mailto:audrey.thompson@vcasunderland.org.uk)

## Commissioning for Health Event



**Understanding NHS Health Care Reforms and what they mean for VCSE organisations in the North East**

**Thursday 22nd March 2012: 10:00 - 15:00**

**Venue – TBC**

Are you a senior manager, practitioner or trustee from a children, young people and families VCSE organisation with responsibility for the strategic direction of your service? Are you interested in exploring the implications of the proposed health reforms and what they mean for the VCSE? Do you want to hear examples of how VCSE organisations can engage with Health & Well Being Boards and Clinical Commissioning Groups to help improve outcomes for children, young people and families?

The event aims to increase confidence and awareness of the emerging health agenda and how this impacts on VCSE organisations providing services for children, young people and families, including providing:

- Increased understanding of the changing landscape in health and social care commissioning (the NHS and the NHS procurement process).
- Raised awareness of the implications of the transfer of responsibility for Public Health to local authorities.
- Opportunities to hear examples of voluntary sector organisations engaging with the health agenda, including emerging Health and Well Being Boards, the development of joint strategic needs assessments (JSNA) and joint health and well-being strategies (JHWS).
- Knowledge of recent research with service users, GPs and Clinical Commissioning Groups undertaken by VCSE organisations.

To book a place on this event please visit [www.eventelephant.com/commissioningforhealthevent](http://www.eventelephant.com/commissioningforhealthevent)

## Personalisation, Risk and Safeguarding Adults The Legal Implications

**Thursday 19 April 2012**

**at**

**Disability North, The Dene Centre, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne**

**Disability**



Disability North is delighted to announce a Michael Mandelstam Course entitled "Personalisation, Risk and Safeguarding Adults: The Legal Implications" which will consider personalisation, self directed support and personal budgets in adult social care (and the NHS).

It looks at these in relation to risks to vulnerable people including health and safety, abuse and neglect – and what this means for the policy and practice of safeguarding adults.

To find out more about the course and access a booking form please visit: [tinyurl.com/7bc5z2t](http://tinyurl.com/7bc5z2t)

For more information or to return your booking form please you can contact:

**[events@disabilitynorth.org.uk](mailto:events@disabilitynorth.org.uk)**

## Age UK Sunderland Rally Support for Care in Crisis Campaign

Age UK has launched a Care in Crisis petition calling on the Government to reform the care system for older and disabled people so that everyone gets the care they need to live with respect and dignity. Age UK Sunderland is urging people to support the campaign in its goal of acquiring 100,000 signatures.



The petition aims to ensure everyone who needs care receives it and the respect they deserve, that no one is forced to sell their home or sacrifice all their savings to pay for the care they need and that people are able to plan and prepare for care in advance. The issue of care reform has been repeatedly shelved and recent budget cuts coupled with a growing older population has left the system confusing, unfair and unsustainable. The quality of care is often poor, funding is hugely unfair and care packages are frequently inadequate, all leaving people to struggle on without the help and support they need to lead independent lives.

“Too many people rely on the care system on a daily basis for it to be sidelined as too ‘difficult’ or ‘costly’ to fix. Many of those who need help and support are being badly let down by a system that is at breaking point, while others find themselves forced to sell their homes in order to pay for support they need. We need to create a big noise to make sure the Government listens to our concerns and takes action now but we cannot do it without your support.”

Alan Patchett, Director of Age UK Sunderland

The charity aims to collect 100,000 signatures by **1st March 2012** and will deliver them to the Government ahead of the planned White Paper on the future of long term care. A mass lobby of Parliament will also be held on **6th March** at Westminster, London to demonstrate public support for care reform.

To access the Care in Crisis report or sign the petition you can visit [www.ageuk.org.uk/careincrisis](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/careincrisis) or call in to the Age UK Sunderland offices at The Bradbury Centre. If you want to get involved you can also contact Age UK Sunderland at [enquiries@ageuksunderland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ageuksunderland.org.uk) or call **0191 5141131**.

## Final Year of Analogue as Countdown to Digital Begins

With the arrival of 2012, it is only a few short months until analogue TV switches over to digital. Although most people already have digital on at least one household TV, there is still plenty of time for those who have yet to make the switch.

Area Served	Transmitter Group	Stage 1 (BBC2 Analogue Switched Off)	Stage 2 (All Other Analogue Switched Off)
Tyne & Wear	Pontop Pike	12th September 2012	26th September 2012

Digital UK is also reminding viewers to check out **all** their sets, including those in bedrooms, kitchens – and even garden sheds – before the September switch.

For technical advice and information about how to convert individual televisions to digital contact the Digital UK Advice Line on **08456 505050** or visit [digitaluk.co.uk](http://digitaluk.co.uk). For advice about the Digital Switchover Help Scheme call **0800 40 85 900** or visit [helpscheme.co.uk](http://helpscheme.co.uk)

## NAO report Government's Implementation of the Compact

The National Audit Office (NAO) has published the findings from their inquiry into how government departments are implementing the Compact in their work. The National Audit Office's new report 'Central government's implementation of the national Compact,' states that Government departments should ensure that implementation of the Compact is monitored and reported, and that rationale for funding decisions is clear to civil society organisations.



The inquiry - announced as part of the accountability and transparency measures which accompanied the renewed Compact in 2010 - highlights some key issues and made a number of recommendations to improve departmental activities.

The report found that government departments were supportive of the Compact and that overall there was little evidence that the implantation of the Compact in central government was fundamentally flawed, with several good examples of it being applied.

"We are delighted that the Compact is supported by government departments and that the NAO have found good examples of it being applied. However the report also identifies gaps that must be addressed. We expect the government to implement the recommendations in full and we will be pressing the minister on this. In particular the report highlights that there needs to be more visible leadership on the Compact both in OCS and across Whitehall. We will also expect government departments to undertake work to identify the degree of their Compact compliance, as it is important that government departments know whether they are successfully implementing the Compact."

Simon Blake, Chair of Compact Voice

The National Audit Office found departments faced a challenge in identifying and monitoring Compact compliance, and its analysis of complaints about the Compact's implementation indicates that there is scope for improvement.

Over the last six years funding was the most common reason for civil society organisations notifying the Compact Advocacy Programme of potential non-compliance with the Compact. The NAO recommended that government departments have clear leadership on the Compact, strengthen its implementation and make sure the reasons for funding decisions are made clear to charities.

Additionally the report urged government departments to make sure they meet the 12-week consultation periods, after finding that the consultation period was not met in 40% of issued consultations. If Compact fails to offer this 12 week period then they should offer an explanation for this. Finally, concerns were raised about the lack of clarity about the Office for Civil Society's role regarding the Compact, due to the lack of a full time staff member dedicated to it.

NAO's findings have been based on work at nine departments, representing 98 per cent of central government's expenditure on civil society. It also consulted the civil society sector.

For more information you can download the full report via: [tinyurl.com/6lj5xtk](https://tinyurl.com/6lj5xtk)

## VCAS News, Funding & Commissioning

Every care has been taken to provide accurate information. Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland accepts no responsibility for any error or omission in items in this publication or those provided by third parties. You are welcome to copy any item from this bulletin for use in the promotion of voluntary sector activity so long as VCAS is acknowledged. Some time sensitive information may be contained in this Newsletter and it is advised that it is read as soon as possible to avoid missing deadlines.

Any organisation wishing to celebrate successes, promote their projects or activities should telephone **(0191) 565 1566** or e-mail [mathew.gleghorn@vcasunderland.org.uk](mailto:mathew.gleghorn@vcasunderland.org.uk)

## Insert Service

All of our eBulletins & publications reach over 200 voluntary & community sector organisations.

We offer an:

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## Alternative Formats

**If you would like the VCAS News, Funding & Commissioning in bigger print, please call 0191 565 1566 or 08456 009577 (low cost line)**

## Thank you to our funder

Voluntary & Community Action Sunderland (VCAS) would like to thank Big Lottery Fund for their continued support and investment



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