

network news

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Welcome to the fifth edition of the Regeneration South West Network's bulletin.

As the formal launch of Creating:Excellence draws nearer so does the merge of the Regeneration South West Network with Creating:Excellence as the conduit of information between the regeneration centre and what's happening around the region. This edition of network news offers a brief round-up of regeneration news and what to expect over the next few months from the network. Remember, if you have any news, information or practical experiences that you would like to share with others through network news please contact Sue Harding via info@regenerationsouthwest.net

Update 1 Creating:Excellence

LAUNCH EVENTS — AUTUMN 2004

As you may remember, throughout last year the views of many individuals and groups who have an interest in regeneration and renewal in the South West were canvassed at a series of launch events. These events helped to shape the Business Plan and the direction in which Creating:Excellence is now going.

The formal launch of Creating:Excellence is taking place across the region in September and October this year and the emphasis for the launch will be very much on participation and practical demonstrations of how Creating:Excellence will work. Participants will have the opportunity to test drive the new

website and sign up to a new regional regeneration contacts database as well as take part in a whole host of interesting workshops. The Board members will also be introduced as well as the newly appointed Executive Director.

The long term aim of Creating:Excellence is to ensure regeneration brings lasting social, economic and environmental benefits for all. If you have been involved with Creating:Excellence before, the launch will give you an update; if you haven't, it will be a great opportunity to learn about Creating:Excellence and meet other practitioners to help raise standards in regeneration across the South West.

See next page for launch dates.

The Creating:Excellence launch dates are as follows:

Wednesday 22nd September

10.00am – 4.00pm
Poole – Lighthouse Centre

Monday 27 September

10.00am – 4.00pm
Swindon – STEAM

Tuesday 28 September

10.00am – 4.00pm
Gloucester -City Works

Monday 4 October

10.00am – 4.00pm
Falmouth – National Maritime Museum

Tuesday 5 October

10.00am – 4.00pm
Plymouth – Crownhill Fort

Wednesday 6 October

10.00am – 4.00pm
Taunton – SCAT

Friday 8 October

10.00am – 4.00pm
Bristol - Watershed

To book a place or for more information, please call Tom Bowden-Green or Tim Ledeboer at Grayling on 0117 922 7799.

Update 2 Regeneration SouthWest Network

Following the formal launch of Creating:Excellence throughout September and October, the network will be getting stuck straight in to it's Autumn and Winter series of events, learning workshops, working lunches and site visits. In addition, we'll be unveiling our 'Swap Shop' fund which enables community and voluntary groups to visit projects run by other groups throughout the region. As part of the Creating:Excellence launch events we will also be show-casing a regional contacts database ('regenerators reunited') for individuals and organisations working in regeneration.

What's new on the website?

Insight Briefing 3 –

Community Development Finance

With the recent news that government will soon be passing on the commitment to supporting community finance providers to the Regional Development Agencies, it's fitting that this is the theme of the network's 3rd Insight Briefing.

The concept of a 'community development finance institution' despite sounding flashy, is fairly simple: "community development finance (CDF) offers new types of finance and business support that are designed to stimulate economic activity in disadvantaged communities and support the creation of lasting wealth. Services

are tailored to meet the specific financial and business needs of social community enterprises, small businesses, micro-enterprises, community groups, voluntary organisations and individuals in deprived areas". (Insight briefing 3, author: Deborah Harrison)

The South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) says that its strategy for dealing with South-West based CDFIs is "under review" and will emerge with its corporate plan for 2005 – 2008. SWRDA insist that they are interested in working with the sector, but warn that tight budgets mean that it will have to compete with other regional industries for resources.

Read the full briefing at:
www.regenerationsouthwest.net
(click on publications).



Designing our Environment

Towards a better built environment in the South West.

This report highlights one of the core objectives for Creating:Excellence which is: promoting a high-quality and sustainable approach to design, architecture and planning for the built environment of the region, facilitated by a new initiative – Design South West.

The document is a combined effort by the South West Regional Development Agency, The Government Office for the South West and the South West Regional Assembly (coordinated by CABE on behalf of Creating:Excellence) as a first step towards the vision for creating an exceptional built environment for the region in the future.

Download at www.regenerationsouthwest.net (click on publications).

Regeneration News

Single Community Programme to disappear after 2006

Urban Forum have launched an urgent survey in response to the Treasury's recent Spending Review to set out plans to combine the single Community Programme (Community Empowerment Fund, Community Chest and Community Learning Chest) with the Neighbourhood Wardens programme, Neighbourhood Management, the Liveability Fund and the Home Office's Building Safer Communities fund. The new combined pot is to be called the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund.

The Review states that the new fund will "increase capacity at the local level for local authorities, the police and other partners to improve liveability, strengthen communities and augment the contribution made by the community and voluntary sector (VCS) to this agenda". It is not clear exactly what this means for the VCS. However, it also states that it "will allow some local services to be provided by the voluntary and community sector where this makes most sense."

It has been suggested, although not officially stated, that none of this new fund will go directly to the VCS after 2006, but instead be channelled through Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs). LSPs will then have responsibility to distribute funds, presumably including some to the VCS. Urban Forum and other Voluntary Sector umbrella bodies are extremely concerned that recognition of the need to directly support, develop and engage the VCS in LSP workings appears to have been lost. Engagement of the VCS is no longer specified.

To date, feedback to Urban Forum has highlighted that money going directly to the VCS in the '88' areas has been the single most appreciated tool of engagement. It appears to have been the most powerful way for the VCS to increase their influence. Although welcome progress has generally been made, issues of

power and influence between the VCS and other partners persist. Stopping the practice and putting all money through the LSP at this time may cause progress to be lost.

For more information about the Urban Forum survey contact:

Rupa Sarkar, LSP Project Officer, Urban Forum
E-Mail: info@urbanforum.org.uk
Web: www.urbanforum.org.uk
Tel: 020 7253 4816

For more Spending Review headlines see:
<http://www.newstartmag.co.uk/news.html>

State Aid restrictions could threaten regional recovery

The Department for Trade and Industry and regeneration leaders are preparing to tackle European Commission proposals which could prevent many poorer regions from receiving billions in private investment. If the Commission's proposals are accepted, the government would be unable to offer incentives to large employers to locate in many parts of the country (currently a crucial part of the regional regeneration agenda). Overall, the proportion of Britain's population eligible for state aid would fall from almost 31% to 9%. Regional Development Agencies are concerned that the support to non-assisted areas 'tailed off very sharply' under the commission's proposals. Those outside assisted areas aren't all the same and aid surely has to be targeted where it's most needed. The DTI are to hold talks with RDA's soon to formulate an official response to the proposals in time for a summit in September. Consultation on European Commission proposals on regional state aid:
www.dti.gov.uk/ewt/

Renewal fund extended, but targets get tougher

The Government has extended the neighbourhood renewal fund and has suggested that additional areas, beyond the 88 identified as most deprived, could be eligible for help. However, those receiving funding will have to meet tougher targets, including a new target on making public spaces cleaner, greener and safer.

See New Start:
<http://www.newstartmag.co.uk/news667.html>

Do you ever feel that you're being swamped by grants, initiatives and goals?

According to a new report - local communities feel that they are being swamped by funding streams, initiatives and targets from government departments. The Audit Commission says the complex and overlapping nature of schemes such as Sure Start, New Deal for Communities, the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Housing Market Renewal is undermining government priorities. The commission says the result is a "Humpty Dumpty" effect: the initiatives are fracturing when they hit the ground in departmental "silos", with local leaders having to put the pieces back together again.

The best way for delivering improved economic, social and environmental well-being was when national and local priorities were "fully aligned". However, "the current institutional arrangements, the complex interaction of national programmes, initiatives and targets and complicated partnership arrangements confuse lines of responsibility and accountability and hamper successful delivery at local level".

The thinking is that through a more contractual relationship between Whitehall and local service providers, local area agreements would set out in advance the targets and benefits of non-mainstream initiatives, such as regeneration, while local public service agreements would set

outcomes and minimum standards for mainstream services. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has said that the government had been making progress in simplifying funding streams. One example was the recent review of area-based initiatives which "led to a cut in funding streams of almost half without affecting levels of investment. This led to a number of ongoing activities to reduce bureaucracy and increase the effectiveness of delivery". Watch this space.....

Source: Financial Times, June 2004

Rural frontline partnerships promoted

The Government's five year Rural Strategy has been published; its key aims are: *social and economic regeneration* - supporting enterprise across rural England, and targeting resources at areas of greatest need; *social justice* - tackling social exclusion and providing fair access to services and opportunities; and *protecting the natural environment*.

Minister Margaret Beckett intends to "devolve decision-making and funding for economic regeneration to the RDAs to allow decisions to reflect better the needs and pressures in each region."

For more information, please see the press release and strategy documents:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/default.htm>

Funding News

The future is here

The new Futurebuilders fund is now open for business. The Futurebuilders website (below) will tell you all you need to know about this fund and how it operates. Go to <http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk/> and click on 'open for applications'.

Government Funds Website

Voluntary groups can now make online applications for government funding through their upgraded website. Set up by the Directory of Social Change, the website is funded by the Home Office's Active Communities Directorate. It provides details of £120m in government grant schemes.

Community and charity groups can register with the site to receive information on relevant new grants, as well as putting in funding applications online and tracking their progress. The site also contains advice to help guide charities when they are making applications. Further information is available at: www.governmentfunding.org.uk



Lloyds TSB Foundation has issued new guidance for organisations applying for grants in 2004. The mission is to support and work in partnership with recognised charitable organisations who help people, especially those who are disadvantaged or disabled, to play a fuller role in communities.

Thinking about applying?

Telephone Gary Beharrell on 0115 9588745 or see www.lloydstsbfoundation.org.uk

Funding Guide for Community Groups has been produced by West Norfolk CVS called 'A Workbook for workers in Community Groups and Voluntary Organisations'. It includes worksheets, model letters, and templates. It costs £3.60 per hard copy, including postage & packing, or £10 per emailed copy for Funding. For more information contact Alan Crawshaw on 01553 760568 or email <mailto:alan@westnorfolkcvvs.co.uk>

Local Heritage Initiative

Grants of £13,000 to £125,000 are available to community groups wishing to develop heritage projects. To qualify your project must actively involve your local community. Your group can be an established organisation or set up for the project itself. There are examples of projects that have been funded on the website: www.lhi.org.uk

Policy and Consultations

Big is better

As of the 1st June 2004, the New Opportunities Fund and Community Fund have merged to form the Big Lottery Fund. The new organisation will build on the work of both the Community Fund and New Opportunities Fund:
<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/>



Have a Big Say

The Big Lottery Fund wants your views on what sort of funder they should be, what they should do and how they should do it. The consultation is open until September:

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/consultation/>

Culture at the Heart of Regeneration

There is an emerging body of evidence which suggests that culture is a key driver in the regeneration process and can help create sustainable communities. Government is seeking the views of Other Government Departments, Non Departmental Public Bodies, Local Authorities, regional bodies, community groups, private developers, cultural organisations, architects and any other interested bodies. Tessa Jowell, Minister for Culture, has launched a consultation paper on the role Culture in the regeneration process.

If you are interested in responding to this consultation, responses must be made by 15 October 2004.

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/>
click on 'Consultations'.

or to: George Cutts
Department for Culture, media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH
or email: regeneration@culture.gsi.gov.uk

Capacity Building and Infrastructure Framework for the Voluntary and Community Sector

Another reminder that the eagerly awaited Framework has been launched, entitled ChangeUp and is now available from the Home Office website (details below).

'ChangeUp' sets out the Government's aim that "by 2014 the needs of frontline voluntary and community organisations will be met with support which is available nationwide, structured for maximum efficiency, offering excellent provision which is accessible to all while reflecting and promoting diversity, and is sustainably funded".

Whilst the Government's commitment to improving resources for the Voluntary and community sector is welcome, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) have expressed concerns that there is a lack of clarity around an investment plan; whether the strategy will cover a full 5 year period; and that this should be more than just a strategy supporting the delivery of public services.

For more information on ChangeUp:
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/comrace/active/developing/index.html>

A consistent approach towards Egan's mixed bag

There seems to be a common thread between the ODPM's recently announced network of 80 senior regeneration leaders and other agencies networking together in order to shape up the delivery of the Communities Plan and the Regional Centres of Excellence for Regeneration (our regional equivalents) response to the Egan Review on Skills for Sustainable Communities.

It all began when the Deputy Prime Minister charged Sir John Egan with the (initial remit) task of conducting a review of the skills and training that regeneration professionals require to deliver sustainable communities as well as consider how any skills gap can best be bridged.

Egan's approach was to consider:

- The attributes and qualities which make communities sustainable and how these elements can be measured in terms of success and failure;
- The processes necessary to deliver success;
- The professional skills needed for those processes and how they differ from what we have available now; and
- The necessary changes to processes and professional skills.

And what Egan came up with?

- *Common goals* – what should a sustainable community be? (eg. a clean, prosperous, friendly and safe community).
- *50 indicators to measure these* – 46 already in use, 3 in use elsewhere and 1 new one (number of broadband users). Local Authorities (LA's) will be given the choice of which to use (but they will have to publish the details).
- *Responsibility* to be with the LA's – as they are best placed and have mechanisms for partnerships (local strategic partnerships for example).
- *Process* – mainly linked to the planning process. LA's will define the 'vision' which others will 'buy into'. And the output: a

Sustainable Community Strategy as a success of the existing Community Strategy. The idea is a linked vision of economic opportunities, infrastructure requirements and development opportunities.

Skills, Behaviour and Knowledge

A definition of the skills needed were identified (long lists of them), but one key focus on leadership/partnership/appraisal/conflict management/ stakeholder management and a drive to be cross-sectoral.

- A staged approach to occupational involvement – core and associated professionals, as well as wider groups.
- Egan questioned whether there was a shortage of professionals – this applies in some areas of activity.
- The general approach will focus on: building more entrants in key areas, work with schools, publicity to encourage entrants, National Curriculum amendments.
- Gateway education was seen as the key focal point to build the cross-sectoral links and move beyond ‘classroom’ style learning to on job training and developments, secondments, team work, multi-disciplinary team approaches.
- ‘Ways of thinking and acting’ were defined. Looking to focus on creativity, can-do approaches, flexibility, change and respect for diversity.
- Looking to get people to match their skills to the matrices provided in the report and to engage in continuous development to build competencies over time, through ‘knowledge networks’ and on-line tools.

The Delivery mechanisms?

- A National Centre to drive forward the skills agenda
- Developing a world class skills set
 1. National focus for skills R & D
 2. Promoting excellence in skills development
 3. Acting as a catalyst for innovation
 4. Communications and resource hub

The Regional Centres of Excellence response

The emerging Regional Centres of Excellence for Regeneration, (RCEs), are increasingly speaking collectively to influence national policy on sustainable communities, particularly in relation to the Egan Review. The RCE’s embrace the complementary agendas of regeneration, renaissance and renewal and the RCE network provides a means by which diverse regional agendas can be shared and co-ordinated nationally, to drive a common cause.

The aim of the RCE network is to make a considered contribution to how the Egan Review can fulfil its wide aspirations and believes they can assist in the following ways:

Driving a learning culture in each region

The Regional Centres of Excellence for Regeneration will support the National Centre by driving a learning culture in regeneration, renaissance, renewal and sustainable communities in each region, working across sectors to provide demand-led support for skills and good practice development.

Learning, skills and career development

In the skills agenda, the centres will promote learning and skills development, formal and informal, across all relevant disciplines and sectors. In particular, campaigning for new entrants into careers in sustainable communities and drive lifelong learning opportunities which re-skill existing staff in ways which serve local needs.

Good Practice

Will be identified, celebrated and shared appropriately. The RCE’s are well placed to provide virtual and face-to-face sharing of practice, as needed by the wider stakeholders.

Networking

The RCE’s will provide the networking opportunities at a local level which the National Centre will need to draw on for learning to be achieved.

Finally, the RCE's feel its important that the Government's response to the Egan Review focuses not only on a National Centre but incorporates the other recommendations in order to create a package, enabling Sustainable Communities to become a national common cause with locally appropriate and well-delivered activity.

Source: 'Briefing note by Maureen Holkham of the 'Egan Secreteriat' and Sophie Churchill – Chief Executive RegenWM (on behalf of the Centres of Excellence').

The Community Alliance Building on Regional Collaboration

The Government has always encouraged collaboration between National Infrastructure organisations, and this has been reflected in the funding from the Home Office National Exemplar Fund supporting Community Alliance, made up of bassac, the Development Trust Association (DTA), Community Matters, and the Scarman Trust to explore what working together might mean in practice.

The four organisations all share a common vision of sustainable communities. The vision is about building value in communities of place and of interest (not least those which have suffered market failure), through enhancing social capital, community ownership of assets, and community enterprise. They believe the way to achieve this is through effective community anchor organisations working with others, and by a new "deal" between the community and the public sector.

The purpose of the Alliance is for the four organisations to work together (at national, regional and local levels) in order to make greater progress in achieving shared vision.

This exploration includes the following:

- A residential meeting bringing together trustees and staff of the four organisations to identify the extent of shared vision and opportunities for collaboration. This took place on 24/25 May 04 and was successful.
- Pilot studies in three locations: Bristol, London (Lambeth and Southwark) and Hull. The purpose being to start a process of local collaboration towards achieving the vision of an Alliance on the ground.
- A review of key services and products offered by each of the four organisations to examine potential for sharing.

In the South West, South West Forum has secured early spend funding to provide office space for regional and sub-regional workers. This will enable closer working relationships with the DTA and bassac regionally reflecting the Alliance at a national level.

For more information contact Diana Moore (southwest@dta.org.uk).





Become a Trustee for Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales

The Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales is recruiting four Trustees. The Foundation is one of the UK's largest independent grant-making bodies, with an income of £22 million in 2004, and its policy is to enable disadvantaged and disabled people to play a fuller role in the community.

In addition to the primary responsibility as a member of the Board, each Trustee will have special responsibility for grant-making in one of the following regions of England: East and East Midlands (one Trustee), North West, South East, and *South West*.

The successful applicants are likely to have significant experience in the public, private or voluntary sector, an understanding of the voluntary sector at both local and national level, and knowledge of one of the above regions. A strategic approach to current social and economic priorities is important.

The role of Trustee is a voluntary position, and no fees are paid.

The Lloyds TSB Foundation is committed to equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. Registered Charity No. 327114.

The closing date for applications is Friday 20th August 2004. Interviews will be held in London on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st September 2004. The appointments will be effective from 1st January 2005.

For an information pack and application form, please contact: Miss Christine Muskett, Company Secretary, Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales, PO Box 46156, 3rd floor, 4 St Dunstan's Hill, London EC3R 8WQ
e-mail: christine.muskett@lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk
Tel: 020 7398 1702
Fax: 0870 411 1224

Further information about the work of the Foundation can be found at www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk

Neighbourhood Management Website Launch

For a copy of this month's edition of the Newsletter click here: <http://www.renewal.net/Documents/NNMN/Newsletter/Newsletterissue5.pdf>

Find out further news on:

- The launch of the NM website: www.neighbourhoodmanagement.net
- How you can nominate someone for a NM Achievement Award

Diary Dates

(dis) Ability Awareness Day

Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge
Sunday, 12 September – 10 am to 5 pm.
Organised by Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust.
The theme for 2004 is children, and there will be lots there to ensure a good family fun day out.
Exhibition areas – products, services, resources and advice with seminar sessions covering the Disability Discrimination Act and direct payments plus a full entertainments programme.

South West Public Health Residential

School 2004 'Taking Action to Improve Health'.
September 21st - 22nd at Dartington Hall,
Totnes.

This year's South West Public Health Residential School is taking place at Dartington Hall on Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd September. The aim is to promote practical learning about public health in an informal setting. Given the geography of the South West, opportunities to bring the public health community together are infrequent and the Residential School provides one of the key networking and learning opportunities in the public health calendar.

Planned for the 8th Residential School is a series of fascinating, skills-based workshops on topics ranging from fuel poverty to improving public and stakeholder consultation; from using persuading and influencing skills as a means to more effective cross-organisational working to promoting physical activity in the South West.

To make a booking contact: Karen Marshall on 0117 9257100 or via email at enquiries@inanyevent-uk.com

Community Development Exchange Annual conference and AGM 2004

Friday 8th – Sunday 10th October 2004, Harben House Conference and Training Centre, Milton Keynes. The title is 'Going back for the future' and the conference will focus on the opportunities and challenges for community development posed by the current interest in civil renewal and all things 'community'. For more information and to download a booking form:

<http://www.cdx.org.uk/events/cdxevents.htm>

'Funding – the future' South West Forum's annual regional conference and info expo, November 17th, the Loop Centre Exeter. In partnership with Funding South West (Creating:Excellence), this conference is looking at the latest national and regional developments in funding. Stephen Dunmore, Chief Executive of Big Lottery Fund, is the keynote speaker. More information from: admin@southwestforum.org.uk or 01392 254244.



Regeneration South West Network, a core part of Creating:Excellence, is designed to make it easier for people working in the fields of regeneration, renewal and social inclusion to share experience, learn from each other and find out what is going on in the region.

www.regenerationsouthwest.net

For further information or any questions please contact:

Sue Harding on 01392 254244,
info@regenerationsouthwest.net
Meridian House, Retail Park Close,
Marsh Barton, Exeter EX2 8LG

