

Voluntary Sector Update

Charity Commission Consultation

The Charity Commission has opened an online consultation on what information charities must submit in their annual return form. All registered charities with incomes over £10,000 have to submit an annual return to the Charity Commission, in order to make sure the information published on the public register of charities is up to date.

The consultation document suggests that fundamental information about a charity should be up to date all the time, and that charities will be asked to make amendments throughout the year and then confirm the information is still accurate when they file the annual return. It also considers more focused questions so that they reflect the Commission's regulatory risk priorities and are targeted at only the relevant charities.

This means that questions would be asked based on a charity's activities and not determined only by the level of income of the charity as previously. For example, a trigger question could be used to find out if charities have vulnerable beneficiaries. Those charities which do will be asked further questions on safeguarding but other charities will not receive these questions.

Looking After Each Other (LAEO)

NCVS continues to be a keen promoter and supporter of LAEO and has been actively involved in its marketing and promotion especially throughout the month of December; identifying individuals to take part in the Wall of champions in the Old Market Square.

We continue to work with NCC to develop the reach of LAEO and are currently considering a kite marking scheme for organisations that want to be identified as 'great places to volunteer' and alongside this a Volunteer Passport which will identify individuals who have received a designated level of support and development around volunteering. The Passport will add to the individual's personal development as well as make it easier to take up giving roles whether formal or informal.

Update on Commissioning Event

Regarding the joint event with the CCG and NCC which took place on Friday 9 December 2016 at NCVS, we would like to report that the evaluation will be available soon and we will be happy to share with interested parties.

Additionally we would like to thank Katy Ball and Dawn Smith for taking part in the event and helping to make it a success.

CYPPN and VAPN Meetings

Next CYPPN meeting (12/01/17) is looking at the refresh of the family pathway which is being reviewed and the next VAPN meeting (26/10/17) has Cllr Norris and Dr Marcus Bicknell attending to talk about the health and wellbeing plan.

Sustainable Transformation Plan (STP) Update

There is a meeting being planned to bring together some of the key players around the input from the VCS. Still working on the workforce element of the STP, but also looking at what the sector contributes to all of the STP areas. Northampton actually has a whole chapter on how the VCS will contribute to the STP and we are looking at recreating similar across the county – with support from the STP team.

Life Chances Fund – launch and information event – 17th February

The Life Chances Fund (LCF) is an £80 million top-up fund, whose objective is to help those people in society who face the most significant barriers to leading happy and productive lives. The £80 million has been committed by central government to provide contributions to outcome payments for payment-by-results contracts, which involve socially minded investors - i.e. towards Social Impact Bonds (SIBs).

These contracts must be locally commissioned and aim to tackle complex social problems. The fund is particularly focused on outcomes in early years and for young people.

The second call for Expressions of Interest opens in January. A launch event will take place from 9.30 until 12.30 on 17th February 2017 in Nottingham. The event will be delivered by the Head of the Fund and will include:

- an overview of the fund and how it works;
- eligibility
- how to put together a good EOI.

The event is for providers and commissioners of early years and young people's services.

Note: Payment-by-results contracts can be a challenging concept for VCS organisations especially for those deploying a paid in advance grant funding model. We will be attending the event to ensure knowledge is cascaded through the VCS and to ensure content for our Tender Readiness accredited training reflects these new delivery models.