

# TSA News Online



## NEWS FROM TSA

### TSA NEWS ONLINE

Welcome to the new TSA News Online – this will be a regular (twice monthly) bulletin giving information on a range of topics and interests and links to further information. We understand that people need to know what deadlines or timescales are involved in events, training and responses to consultations etc. So, to give a quick visual indication, we are putting an Alert Tab on each news item.

A **RED** Alert Tab means that a response is needed within two weeks.

An **AMBER** Alert Tab means there is a longer timescale (up to 3 months).

A **BLUE** Alert Tab means no deadline or timescale in operation.

We would welcome feedback on how useful you find this, plus any information you wish to be included in TSA News Online – contact Anne Lancaster – details on last page.

### TSA MANAGEMENT GROUP

- The next meeting of the TSA Management Group is on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March in Northwich ( 2 – 4 pm)

Agendas and Notes from the meetings are available on the TSA website (see below) and you can contact your Network representatives or Anne Lancaster to raise issues or ask questions.

### TSA WEBSITE

The TSA website is currently being upgraded and improved. It has details of the TSA

### Issue 6 – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012

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Management Group meetings and representatives, key policy documents and information on consultations and a range of other information including a Contact Form to raise issues or ask questions. The website has 2 addresses:

[www.tsa-cheshirewest.org.uk](http://www.tsa-cheshirewest.org.uk)

<http://www.tsa-cheshirewest.org.uk/>

### **TSA/CWC FURNITURE RECYCLING PROJECT**

TSA has been given access (by Cheshire West and Chester Council and as part of the TSA Furniture recycling project) to spare furniture items at Backford Hall (which is being cleared for sale). At the moment this includes the usual desks (various shapes and sizes) and pedestal drawers, filing cabinets (various sizes - most without keys), some office chairs, odd tables and cupboards (wood and metal) and some meeting chairs though meeting tables are in very short supply as these are being re-used by the council. There are also some filing trays and other small stationery items, etc. All of the items offered will be in good or as new condition. To date almost 40 organisations have benefited from this opportunity.

**THE LAST VIEWING/COLLECTION SESSION** for Backford Hall will be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 1 – 4 pm. It will be (as before) on a mainly collect it yourself basis - unless you have a real difficulty with this.

Please contact Anne Lancaster if you want to go to this session and/or if you have any office furniture needs.

### **TSA / CWC ADULT HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CONSULTATION EVENTS**

#### **TALKING WITH PEOPLE**

**– Your Chance to Influence the Future of Adult Health and Social Care in Cheshire West**

Adult Social Care and Health Services have been subject to major change and influences both nationally and locally over the past few years. The new "personalisation" agenda is aimed at delivering a range of provision with increased choice and control for individuals and communities. This policy is also being driven by a public services move towards service procurement and commissioning (rather than grants), a continued search for efficiency and best value in the current difficult economic climate, and the need to meet the future demographic pressure of increasing numbers of elderly people in our community. Cheshire West and Chester Council's new Blueprint document "Shaping the Future Together" sets the scene for the investment and reinvestment of resources, and service redesign over the next four years.

The Third Sector Assembly is holding 3 "TALKING WITH PEOPLE" events – for voluntary and community organisations and groups with an adult social care and health focus in their work – either by representing particular client groups or as direct providers of services. The events will examine Cheshire West and Chester Council's

proposals for adult health and social care in the future and put forward recommendations on how future services should develop and be commissioned to best meet needs.

The "TALKING WITH PEOPLE" events are being held across the borough. This is unique opportunity for groups and organisations to have a real say in the development of services. Places are limited and you will need to reserve a place or places for your organisation, however, you can reserve places at any of the 3 events wherever your organisation is based, choosing a time and date that suits you. The Ellesmere Port-based event on 17<sup>th</sup> January was very productive and there are still places on the other two events

#### **CHESTER**

**Tuesday 24th January 2012**

**(PLEASE NOTE this was moved from 12th December 2011)**

**2 – 5 pm - venue to be confirmed**

**Tea, coffee and biscuits from 1.30 pm**

#### **WINSFORD**

**Thursday 26th January 2012 1 – 4 pm in the Function Room, Winsford Lifestyle Centre, The Drummer, Winsford CW7 1AD**

**Tea, coffee and biscuits) from 12.30 pm**

To reserve your place please telephone Anne Lancaster on 07801 015261 or 01244 323527

## **NEWS FROM THE NETWORKS**

### **CHESHIRE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLES VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY & FAITH SECTOR HUB**

The Hub is holding its fourth free, annual, multi-agency event "Roots, Risks and Resolutions" on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at the Winsford Lifestyle Centre, the Drummer, Winsford, CW7 1AD, from 10am – 3.30pm.

The programme will include:

- Erika Wenzel, Chief Executive of Cheshire East Council and Steve Robinson, Chief Executive of Cheshire West and Chester Council – both speaking about developments in their Boroughs
- Cheshire Constabulary and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service presenting their recent root cause analysis work

There will also be round table discussions identifying what we think are local root causes of issues in families and what those issues are e.g. adult mental ill health, worklessness, relationship breakdown and drug and alcohol misuse. After lunch we will be examining what you think you know about Britain today followed by Ivan Mathers from Barnardos, co-author of the recent report "Vicious Cycle", who will

Speak about this report on debt and its impact on families. A further round table exercise - the Tree of Life - building on the morning's discussion around root causes and issues in families – will explore how can we work more collaboratively on a local level to address the causes as well as the issues

Refreshments and lunch will be provided free of charge to you. Please come prepared to stay for the whole of the event. The Hub is looking for attendance at this event from people from all sectors – public, private and voluntary, community, faith; from front line workers and volunteers to senior managers; local councillors to MPs.

To book your place please contact Pauline Ruth, the Hub Co-ordinator before the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012, on [ruth9x@tinyonline.co.uk](mailto:ruth9x@tinyonline.co.uk)

## CHESHIRE WEST VOLUNTARY ARTS NETWORK (VAN)

News from the groups .....

The Davenham Players present.....

### ***Laugh Out Loud .....Again!***

A fresh selection of comic readings and sketches for your entertainment

.....  
**27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm**

At Church street, Davenham

Tickets £7 ...tel: 01606 79779

***Chester Theatre Club presents.....Macbeth*** by William Shakespeare

In conjunction with RSC Open Stages Project. To be directed by Hilary Egan

Open Auditions: Tuesday 31 January at 7.30 pm

Thursday 2 February at 7.30 pm

Rehearsals begin: Monday 19 March

Production dates: Saturday 5, then Monday 7 to Saturday 12 May

*Macbeth* is a story of war, witchcraft and bloodshed, with a large cast so it offers to all acting members the opportunity to take on more than one role, including working in a chorus where actors will appear on stage as a group, sometimes speaking as one voice, sometimes individually, but not as a named character.

This production is part of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Open Stage Project. The RSC is providing support and taking an active interest. If you cannot make either of the two audition nights (see above) but you are interested in being involved, or want to know more about Chester Theatre Club, email [info@chestertheatreclub.co.uk](mailto:info@chestertheatreclub.co.uk) giving your name, age, the role you are interested in and a little about any previous experience.

Please note: They also need two young people to take part in this production!



### **CHORAL WORKSHOP 28 JANUARY 2012**

Robert Hollingworth, director of solo voice ensemble, I Fagiolini, will be conducting a one-day choral workshop in Chester. Robert is not only an exceptional musician he is wonderfully entertaining as well. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to polish your vocal/choral skills and work on the music of two composers, Tomas Luis de Victoria, probably the most well-known 16th century Spanish composer and the comparatively unknown Don Fernando de Las Infantas. The music is not available to hire and will be included in the fee for the workshop. It will then be yours to keep. However, the Victoria Tenebrae Responsories (Chesters Edition) can be hired for £1.00.

Date: Saturday, 28th January 2012 Venue: St Mary's Church, Handbridge, Chester CH4

7HL. For more information contact: Cath Glazzard on 01244 383 746 or <mailto:cath.glazzard@virgin.net>

### **VOLUNTARY ARTS NETWORK AGM**

The Annual General Meeting of the Cheshire West Voluntary Arts Network will be held at HQ Building Chester on Tuesday 14th February 2012 at 6pm. This will undertake the business of the Annual Report and Accounts, election of trustees and setting of membership subscriptions. It will also be an opportunity to look back on last years activity and have discussion about the future direction of the network. VAN is particularly keen to have your views on the issues that should be taken up on the networks behalf.

Please contact [Maria Owen](#) for further information on either the Cheshire West Voluntary Arts Network or the AGM.

### **LEARNING TOGETHER CHESHIRE & WARRINGTON (LTCW)**

LTCW's January newsletter and new training calendar digest are now available. The newsletter

includes details of the CAP Money (Financial Literacy) training, Community Learning Grants and other events and courses. Click on the links to access the information. In the training calendar if you click on to any item you should be taken to further details about the training event on the LTCW website.

[Newsletter December/January 2012](#)

[Training Calendar January to March 2012](#)

If the links do not work for you, please contact Simon Brown at LTCW on [simon@learning-together.co.uk](mailto:simon@learning-together.co.uk)

## LTCW ANNUAL CONFERENCE ADVANCE NOTICE

The Annual LTCW Conference will be taking place on Thursday March 22nd at Middlewich Community Church. The theme of the conference will be "Impact — making or showing". Further details on the LTCW website [www.learning-together.co.uk](http://www.learning-together.co.uk) or from [simon@learningtogether.co.uk](mailto:simon@learningtogether.co.uk)

### CHESTER VCFS NETWORK

The next Chester VCFS Network meeting is on Tuesday 20th March 2012 at 10 am to 12 noon in the Quaker Meeting House, Frodsham St, Chester. Further details from Liz Neeves on [enquiries@chesterva.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@chesterva.org.uk) or tel: 01244 323527

### WEST CHESHIRE MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE

Next Mental Health Alliance meeting is on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at Chester Quaker Meeting House, Frodsham St, Chester from 2 – 4 pm. Further details from Liz Neeves on [enquiries@chesterva.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@chesterva.org.uk) or tel: 01244 323527.

### WEST CHESHIRE INTERFAITH FORUM

West Cheshire Inter Faith Forum has been invited to take part in the University of Chester's Diversity Week. The Forum's event will take place on Wednesday 8 February 12 noon – 2 pm, and will involve two sessions, the first lasting one hour entitled "Meeting some Religions, speed dating style". This will involve representatives of six different Faith groups speaking for 10 minutes on key aspects of their faiths.

This will be followed by a 45 minute workshop session. Lunch will be served between the speakers and the workshops. Immediately following the workshops, there will be a session by Anjum Anwar (Muslim Chaplain at Blackburn Cathedral) which the Forum is assured will be well attended.

If you would like to take part in the Forum's event on the 8th February please contact Liz Neeves on [enquiries@chesterva.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@chesterva.org.uk) or tel: 01244 323527 as soon as possible.

## NEWS FROM ORGANISATIONS

### EPNAVCO FUNDING FAIR



Are you a Cheshire West and Cheshire **voluntary organisation** or **small charity** currently applying to funders for grants, or planning to apply for grant shortly?

Would you like to meet Advisors from Grant Making Organisations, and gain advice on bid writing, defining Need and Outcomes, and what makes a successful grant application?

**If the answer to the above is YES, book a place and find out more at our FREE Funding Fair!**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012**  
**Ellesmere Port Civic Hall**  
**10am to 4pm**

Free event attended by Local and National Funders with Information Desks, Grant Workshops, and Presentations.

To book a place on this event and choose workshops groups must contact 0151 356 7358 or email [chris@epnavco.org.uk](mailto:chris@epnavco.org.uk) (Places limited to 2 per organisation)



## GIANTS JUBILEE 2012 – LAST CHANCE FOR GROUPS TO TAKE PART

*The GiANTS are a popular, powerful attraction that create a carnival atmosphere wherever they go.*



### Dancing with GiANTS - Queen's Jubilee 2012

**Would you and your community like to take part in this special celebration of the Queen's Jubilee in Chester on June 4th 2012?**

At **CHESTER THE GIANT CITY** we are looking for at least 60 groups to become the proud owners of a **14ft Queen Elizabeth II GiANT**.

Imagine, your **GiANT Queen Elizabeth**, with members of your community, in the country's only **Carnival of Dancing GiANTS**.

*To learn more or register interest contact us now:*



Email: [info@thegiants.org.uk](mailto:info@thegiants.org.uk)

Tel: 07789 425468



*CHESTER THE GIANT CITY is a community interest company and social enterprise.*

## NEWS FROM THE PUBLIC SECTOR

### CHESTER UNIVERSITY DIVERSITY FESTIVAL 2012

Chester University is very proud of its annual Diversity Festival. The festival has been shortlisted for 2 national awards and is recognised as an example of good practice within the sector. February 2012 will be the 7th year the university has held the festival and the theme this year is 'Active Diversity' to reflect both a link to the London 2012 Olympics and to highlight the importance of taking a proactive approach toward promoting equality and diversity.

The 2012 Diversity Festival is taking place from 6-17th February 2012 with many exciting events taking place throughout the fortnight. It is open to the public, students and staff and provides a unique opportunity to experience different cultures and perspectives. This year the festival includes Paralympic athletes, top academics, inspirational businesswomen, the fight against worldwide poverty and much more, please do find the time to attend some of the great events taking place.

Almost all events at the festival are free but please note a small number of events will

have an entry charge. With only 2 weeks to go, book your places on the events you are interested in as soon as possible to avoid disappointment!

The full timetable and information on the events can be found on the Chester University website. The website will be continually updated. Please click on the link for more information and the programme of events [Chester University Diversity Festival](#). Booking can also be done by email on [equality@chester.ac.uk](mailto:equality@chester.ac.uk)

You can also like the festival on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Chester-Diversity-Festival/22404012546>

### **WEST CHESHIRE TOGETHER (LSP)**

The January issue of West Cheshire Together Newsletter "Partnerships West" is available now. CLICK on [West Cheshire Together January Newsletter](#) to read more.

### **CUSTOMER DRIVEN TRAINING – CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL OFFERS OPPORTUNITY FOR TRAINING**

Cheshire West and Chester Council is inviting third sector organisations to attend a series of workshops aimed at "Developing and Managing Customer Driven Services". These workshops will be delivered between the end of January and June 2012 and consist of two levels. The full programme for each level is available on request.

There will be no charge for attendance but the council may need to limit numbers so please let them know as soon as possible if you would like to attend.

#### **LEVEL 1: "Developing Customer Driven Services" Training**

This series of workshops is aimed at strategic leaders and senior managers in both Cheshire West and Chester Council and partner organisations.

These workshops are designed to help leaders and senior managers to provide leadership in the development of innovative, integrated and responsive local services. Drawing on the current and emerging context from Government, as well as identifying existing best practice from within Western Cheshire, the workshops will provide challenge and encourage you to come up with fresh thinking about how we, together, can truly put the customer at the heart of service delivery.

#### **LEVEL 2: "Managing Customer Driven Services" Training**

This series of workshops are designed to help middle managers to operate customer driven services in both Cheshire West and Chester Council and partner organisations. The programme will help managers focus on how to make customer driven services work, and how to make them impact positively on the customer experience. The workshops will also outline the core ideas behind customer driven services and why they are important in the context of public sector reform. They will help delegates to identify their customers and determine their needs and expectations. The workshops then explore what is currently offered to customers and considers how organisational visions of customer first can be translated into team objectives. Finally, the ideas and practice developed over the programme will be brought together into action plans to

implement customer driven services.

[Download an information flyer for Level 1 Course](#) here

[Download an application form for Level 1 Course](#) here

[Download an information flyer about Level 2 course](#) here

[Download an application form for Level 2 course](#) here

To book a place on these workshops please email the booking forms to: [trainingbookings@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:trainingbookings@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) as soon as possible.

## CONSULTATIONS

### HOME OFFICE CONSULTATION ON STALKING

The government has launched this consultation to ask for views on how victims of stalking can be protected more effectively. The consultation incorporates a number of issues, including current legislation, the effect of police information notices, search powers, the work of existing organisations and alternative measures to tackle stalking.

The consultation seeks the views of key partners and directly affected parties, including the police, practitioners, other government departments and organisations with a direct interest in preventing stalking. Click on the link to take part in the online consultation [Home Office: Consultation on Stalking](#)

Closing Date 5 February 2012

### CHESHIRE WEST TOGETHER/CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL LIVING WELL TOGETHER CONSULTATION

West Cheshire Together (the local LSP) and Cheshire West and Chester Council are inviting views on a joint strategy document which sets out the joint vision for the future wellbeing of everyone living, working and visiting West Cheshire. Recognising that wellbeing is affected by a wide range of social, economic and environmental factors and that creating a sustainable future is strongly linked with activities to improve wellbeing, the strategy incorporates both the Sustainable Community Strategy and the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

It seeks to update the priorities set out in the existing Sustainable Community Strategy using the intelligence from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, what people have said is important in the latest community survey and many other sources. Partners have worked together to consider those key challenges that need to be addressed to make a real difference to the wellbeing of our communities over the next five years, and the approach focuses on tackling the root causes, as well as


dealing with the symptoms, of poor wellbeing. The strategy puts communities at the heart of what it is trying to achieve and maximises the benefits of the many shared assets in West Cheshire.

More information on the consultation can be found by clicking on this link [Living Well Together Consultation](#) The consultation period runs until 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012.

## **BIG LOTTERY FUND – BUILDING CAPABILITIES CONSULTATION**

BIG has as one of its main objectives supporting the voluntary and community sector (VCS) to become more effective. It also wants to support the development of social enterprises as a distinctive element in delivering our objectives. Strong organisations help achieve better outcomes for people and communities most in need. The skills, abilities and resources of grant holders are crucial to the success of the projects they fund.

### **Discussion paper**


To develop their thinking, a  [discussion paper](#) has been published. This paper is for voluntary sector and social enterprise managers working in both frontline and infrastructure support and development organisations. It sets out the BLF approach to building capabilities within voluntary organisations, and gives an opportunity for voluntary and other organisations to influence this approach.

### **Online survey**

This discussion paper includes a number of questions, which you can respond to through an online survey. You will be able to respond to these questions between now and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012. BLF will publish a revised paper after this time, setting out more details of their plans for funding.

Click [online survey](#) to access the online survey.

### **Questions**

A list of  [questions and answers](#) is available. If you have any questions which are not covered by these, please email [supportingcivilsociety@biglotteryfund.org.uk](mailto:supportingcivilsociety@biglotteryfund.org.uk). Helping VCS organisations and social enterprises to become more effective will continue to be a priority for BIG over the next few years. This approach will mean that they are able to get the support they need to do their work and that people and communities most in need will see greater benefits from our funding.

Government has made £30m available for a final national investment in local infrastructure. The Big Lottery Fund has indicated that it will provide at least £20 million to complement this in distinct and additional ways. They have formulated a set of principles which give rise to further questions on which they would now welcome views ahead of finalising details in 2012.

This paper is intended to stimulate debate and thinking to shape, influence and inform our future thinking and investment. We hope you find it interesting, and look forward to your responses.”

**Closing Date 15 March 2012**

## **CWDC EARLY YEARS PROFESSIONAL STATUS REVIEW**

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) is undertaking a review of the Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) standards, following the announcement in the government's policy statement, [Supporting Families in the Foundation Years \(July 2011\)](#).

The aim is to produce a revised set of Standards for implementation by training providers' delivering the [EYPS](#) from September 2012 (click on EPYS link to find out more. The Standards, launched in 2007, are the basis for the assessment and accreditation for the award of the EYPS and set out the national expectations for anyone wishing to gain the status.

Since its launch, over 8,500 Early Years Professionals (EYPs) have successfully achieved EYPS and are working across England, making a positive difference to children's learning and development every day.

The aim of the review is to:

- Test how the Standards can support the concept of teaching in early years and help to spread leadership practice
- Streamline the Standards where possible ensuring that they link with other standards
- Ensure that the Standards properly reflect outcomes of development since 2007

CWDC have completed the first stage of the review. Draft standards have been produced taking into account policy developments, feedback on the current standards from EYPs and training providers, and advice from an external reference group. They are now running a 10 week on-line consultation for anyone wishing to give their views on the proposed draft standards. The consultation will run from Monday 16 January to Friday 23 March 2012. You can take part in the consultation by clicking on this link [CWDC Early Years Professional Status Standards Review Consultation](#)

**Closing Date 23 March 2012**

## **DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT – CONSULTATION ON SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATION**

DCLG has issued a new consultation which seeks views on the new draft statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England. The new guidance is intended to help authorities to take advantage of the provisions in the Localism Act 2011. You can access the consultation by clicking on this link:

[DCLG: Allocation of Accommodation- Guidance for Local Housing Authorities in England](#)

**Closing Date 30 March 2012**

## **HOME OFFICE CONSULTATION ON LATE NIGHT DRINKING**

The Home Office is consulting on two measures in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 that will be implemented through regulations: early morning restriction orders (EMRO) and the late night levy. This consultation seeks views on

certain aspects of early morning restrictions orders (EMRO), and the late night levy, including the process of adopting an EMRO. This will include the categories of business which will be exempt from any EMRO, categories of business which individual licensing authorities may choose to exempt from, or afford a reduction in relation to, the late night levy; and the kinds of services a licensing authority may fund with the 30 per cent of net levy receipts it may retain from the net levy revenue.

The two background papers to the consultation appears as links below.

[Dealing with the problems of late night drinking consultation \(PDF file - 187kb\)](#)

[Impact assessment: dealing with the problems of late night drinking consultation \(PDF file - 1mb - Warning: large file\)](#)

The consultation is an online consultation and closes on **10 April 2012**

## **POLICY UPDATES**

### **£150M COMMUNITY FIRST ENDOWMENT FUND LAUNCHED**

The new Community First endowment, which aims to raise £150 million to be invested to secure the future of local community projects in England, has been launched by Nick Hurd, Minister for Civil Society.

The Government will pay in up to £50 million, giving 50p for every £1 raised from individual, corporate and philanthropic donors. With Gift Aid Tax relief, this will create a pot worth in excess of £150 million. The money will be invested and the return, expected to be up to £12 million per year, will be used to provide grants to local community and social action projects from 2015 onwards.

You can read more about the Fund and the launch [here](#)

### **DWP ATTITUDES TO AGEING REPORT**

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has recently launched a report analysing attitudes to ageing in Britain. This report has been shaped through 2,000 respondents. You can read the report [here](#)

### **NEW DEAL TO SUPPORT ELDERLY TO LIVE AT HOME**

Under the New Deal for Older People the Government is providing funding for home adaptations so older people can live in their own homes for longer, and backing innovative schemes that offer elderly people the assistance they need to live independently.

Housing Minister Grant Shapps also confirmed allocations of an additional £20 million for Disabled Facilities Grants - bringing the total to £200 million this year. The grants enable councils to fund adaptations to peoples' homes, helping people live independently and saving them from an unnecessary stay in hospital or going into residential care. You can read more [here](#)

### **CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER LOOKS AT IMPACTS OF WELFARE REFORM BILL**

The Children's Commissioner for England has published her first Child Rights Impact Assessment assessing the potential effects of the Welfare Reform Bill on children's rights in England. The assessment has found that risks to children's rights include:

- An increase in child poverty as a result of the household benefit cap and housing benefit changes, resulting in poor health and educational outcomes for children
- Families living in poverty diverting money away from necessities for children's health and wellbeing in order to cover their housing costs
- Children becoming homeless as a result of unaffordable housing for their families
- disproportionate impact of some of the Bill's benefit changes on children from some BME groups, disabled children, and children of disabled parents.
- 

Click [here](#) to read the full report

### **ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN - REPORT BY CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER**

The Children's Commissioner has also issued a report looking at the treatment of asylum-seeking children. The [Landing in Dover report](#) found that the, until recently, routine process of sending children back to France if they did not claim asylum within 24 hours resulted in a "significant failure" of child protection. Other continuing concerns include that:

- Too much time passes between children being detained and released into care
- In depth assessment interviews are carried out when children are not fit for them due to ill health, tiredness, hunger and fear
- Children are often not afforded suitable legal representation or able to have an independent Responsible Adult present during screening interview despite the proceedings being used as part of asylum decisions.

Click on the link above to find out more.

## STATE OF THE THIRD SECTOR SURVEY - MORE RESULTS PUBLISHED

Third Sector and nfpSynergy have published the 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of the results from their State of the Sector Survey. Findings include:

- 86% of respondents feel that the public do not understand the way modern charities work
- 68% believe that what it means to be a charity is becoming increasingly blurred
- 60% said that they think there is too much competition between charities
- 69% of respondents felt that the main challenge facing their organisation was creating a sustainable funding base
- 43% said that they are finding fundraising expertise in short supply
- 35% would like to have more web/digital media skills in their organisation.

Click [here](#) to read the report.

## CHILDREN'S SOCIETY PUBLISH TWO NEW CHILDREN'S WELLBEING REPORTS

The Children's Society has published two reports on child wellbeing. "The Good Childhood Report 2012" finds that:

- Choice and family have the biggest impact on children's happiness
- The quality of children's relationships with their families is far more important than the structure of the family that they live in
- Low well-being increases dramatically with age – doubling from the age of 10 (7%) to the age of 15 (14%)
- Children as young as eight are aware of the financial issues their families face.
- Children in families who have experienced a reduction in income are more likely to have low well-being
- Children who do not have clothes to 'fit in' with peers are more than three times as likely to be unhappy with their appearance.
- Children who are unhappy with their appearance are also much more likely than average to experience frequent bullying.

You can read the full report [here](#)

"Promoting Positive Wellbeing for Children" is a partner report to The Good Childhood Report that defines the 6 key priorities for policy makers to consider when making decisions that affects children's wellbeing. Click on each link to find out more.

- [The conditions to learn and develop](#)
- [A positive view of themselves and an identity that is respected](#)
- [Have enough of what matters](#)
- [Positive relationships with family and friends](#)
- [A safe and suitable home environment and local area](#)

- [Opportunity to take part in positive activities to thrive](#)

You can read or download the full [report](#) here.

### **YOUTH JUSTICE REPORT**

The Centre for Social Justice has published a report that looks at the current youth justice system. The report calls for the age of criminal responsibility to be raised to 12, improved training for magistrates and police officers and an increase in the minimum period in custody to 6 months.

You can read the report by clicking [here](#)

### **RESOURCES**

#### **END CHILD POVERTY – LOCALISED CHILD POVERTY MAP**

The End Child Poverty Campaign has this week published a document which maps Child Poverty in the United Kingdom. This research shows that there are currently 2.5 million children living in child poverty.

This report provides a localised map of child poverty on the closest possible measure to that used nationally by the government. The figures presented are for mid 2011.

You can access the map [here](#).

#### **DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION LOCAL AREA INTERACTIVE TOOL**

The Department for Education (DfE) has developed an Excel-based tool that provides easy access to a wide range of data related to children and young people sourced from various departments across government. The system brings together data in areas such as inspectorate judgments, school numbers, social deprivation factors, pupil attainment, health and looked-after-children.

You can access this valuable resource for service planning and funding applications [here](#).

#### **CHILDREN'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL – EMPLOYER GUIDE TO COMMUNICATING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN**

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) has launched a new employer guide to recognise the skills needed when communicating with children and young people.

The guide builds on key learning outcomes from projects funded through CWDC's Participation Fund programme between 2008 and 2010 and contains a number of

insights from children and young people as well as best practice examples.

You can access the guide by clicking [here](#)

## FUNDING UPDATE

### CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL RURAL SUPPORT FUND

The Council's Rural Fund has awarded 28 applications for funding valued at £513,000, helping to deliver capital-based projects with a total value of just over £5.5m within the borough. Rural communities now have a limited time to apply for the final Rural Grant funding awards. There are two further deadlines for submissions this financial year: **31<sup>st</sup> January** and **31<sup>st</sup> March 2012**.

The Cheshire West and Chester Rural Support Fund accepts applications from community organisations, charitable groups and other constituted groups who are carrying out work for the benefit of their local rural community. To be eligible, projects require match funding of 50% and can apply for between £5,000 and 50,000. Projects should be completed within a year after receiving funding. Over the past two years, successful applications have been made for village hall refurbishments, sports facilities, play area schemes and environmental improvements across West Cheshire.

For further information about the Rural Support Funding contact the Rural Agenda Market Towns team on 01244 977475 or e-mail: [ruralsupport@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:ruralsupport@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

## CONTACT DETAILS

To put items and news in the [TSA News Online](#) or if any of the links do not work please contact Anne Lancaster, TSA Co-ordinator on [Anne.Lancaster@chesterva.org.uk](mailto:Anne.Lancaster@chesterva.org.uk) or telephone 07801 015261 (direct line) or 01244 323527 (to leave a message).