



Daventry Volunteer Centre wish you all
a very Happy Christmas from Staff,
Volunteers & Trustees



DVC News Bulletin for VCSE Groups
December 2017

1. Local Charities Day

Local Charities Day 15th December



Local Charities Day 2017 will take place on 15 December. The aim of the day is to “highlight the work of small charities that are making remarkable differences in their communities. It will also shine a spotlight on the unsung heroes and celebrate the commitment of those amazing volunteers who devote their time to improving the lives of others,” according to **Minister for Civil Society Tracey Crouch.**

DCMS are publicising the event, publishing information and trying to get as many local charities as possible to get involved and to share content with the hashtag #LocalCharitiesDay.

For more information visit the blog at: <https://dcmsblog.uk/2017/09/local-charities-day-2017/>

2. Funding Opportunities

BBC Children in Need Main Grants Programme 2018



Charities in the UK that are seeking funding for their work with disadvantaged children and young people aged 18 years and younger can start the application process for funding in 2018. The BBC Children in Need Main Grants programme will consider applications requesting grants of over £10,000 to support projects for up to three years.

Registered charities and not-for-profit organisations in the UK can apply if they are supporting children and young people of 18 years and under who are experiencing disadvantage through:

- Illness, distress, abuse or neglect.
- Any kind of disability.
- Behavioural or psychological difficulties.
- Living in poverty or situations of deprivation.

Organisations must be working to combat this disadvantage and make a real difference to children and young people's lives.

Organisations that already hold a grant from Children in Need can apply for further funding providing the current grant is coming to an end within the next 12 months. Applicants will need to be able to provide convincing evidence of the differences the grant has made to the lives of the disadvantaged children and young people the organisation has worked with.

There are three deadlines for initial applications in 2018: 16 January 2018, 17 May 2018 and 13 September 2018 (midnight).

3. Architectural Heritage Fund Project Development Grants 2018

Architectural Heritage Fund Project Development Grants 2018



The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) is an independent charity that offers grants to help it deliver its overall strategic objectives and outcomes for heritage and communities.

AHF offers grants of up to £25,000 to registered charities and social enterprises in the UK that need financial assistance to cover some of the costs of developing and co-ordinating a building project and taking it towards the start of work on site.

The grants are intended to support project development costs only and not for on-site capital works. Funding is available for any work that is essential for taking the project forward towards the goal of revitalising an historic building.

Applicants must explain how a particular piece of work or activity will enable this. Examples of eligible costs include:

- The employment of a project co-ordinator.
- Fees for consultants to help progress the organisation's plans.
- Property valuation by a RICS registered valuer.
- Fundraising consultants.
- Business planning consultants.
- Costs associated with developing a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund or other capital funders.
- Costs of community engagement work.
- Legal costs where this is critical in establishing ownership or the viability of proposed uses or for advice on governance.
- VAT costs that cannot be reclaimed.

- Organisation's overheads/administration costs.
- Costs associated with converting an existing charity or social enterprise into a Community Benefit Society.

Applicants are generally expected to cover at least 50% of the cost of the work.

The 2018 deadlines for applications requesting more than £5,000 are 16 February, 11 May, 24 August, and 2 November 2018.

4. Charity Governance Awards

Charity Governance Awards 2018



Entries are now open to the Charity Governance Awards 2018. The awards recognise and reward charities achieving great governance. They shine a spotlight on the trustees, staff and volunteers who make change possible day after day by showcasing the stories that demonstrate how effective governance can transform lives.

You can enter one of seven categories; focusing on impact, board diversity, harnessing risk, turnarounds and embracing digital. The awards are free to enter and you will find some categories ideal for smaller charities. Each of the seven categories offers a £5,000 cash prize. You can enter online for free until 12 January 2018. The winners will be announced at a complimentary invitation-only reception on 24 May 2018.

Go to: <https://www.charitygovernanceawards.co.uk/>

5. Training Opportunities

Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery Training.



Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council presents a facilitated session to aid attendees in identifying victims of human trafficking & modern slavery to enable them to refer them to appropriate support services. Training will be presented by Hope4Justice.

This training is a must for **anyone working or volunteering with vulnerable people, migrants, refugees, child protection services, victims of sexual abuse etc.** Victims are rarely in positions to report their abuse so it is important that key workers that may come into contact with them are able to identify victims quickly and are able to refer them to the most appropriate support services before they are put in further danger or re-trafficked.

Free tickets are available for Community and voluntary sector stakeholders. There is limited availability. Find out more at: <https://northantsrec.org/human-trafficking-modern-slavery/>

6. VCS Support Information

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – new Guide



The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has launched a new guide to the GDPR which come into force in May 2018. The guide is designed for those dealing with day-to-day responsibility for data protection and includes a useful '12 steps to take now' section. Find can be found at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>

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7. Using PQASSO to improve your governance

Using PQASSO to improve your governance



PQASSO or Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations is a performance evaluation system and quality mark for charitable organisations in the UK. Evaluations use a system of peer review between small charities.^[1] The system was created by Charities Evaluation Services, itself a registered UK charity.^[2]

Organisations being assessed as meeting a level of compliance with level 2 or above are eligible to carry an official stamp of endorsement by the UK Charity Commission demonstrating that the charity is well managed.^[3]

There are 3 incremental levels of organizational maturity recognized by PQASSO (levels 1 to 3) and defined by a series of management indicators.^[4]

Over 100 UK charities currently have a published quality mark under the scheme.

PQASSO has good governance at its core. Quality area 1: Governance, sets the standard for an effective Board and well informed trustees who are meeting all of their legal and regulatory requirements.

Ignoring governance or being ignorant of governance responsibilities can cause your organisation a number of problems including operating with unnecessary risk, lack of transparency, and even operating illegally.

Using PQASSO gives organisations a framework within which to review and improve governance, but you also need to understand your own requirements and responsibilities.

Read and review your charitable objects (at the top of your governing document), and make sure that all the work you are delivering is still within these.

Read carefully **all** rules in your governing document, and make sure you implement them in practice - from electing and resigning trustees, to quorums, eligibility for trusteeship, sub-committees, roles of officers, and so on.

Make sure all proceedings – meetings, decisions, conflicts, etc – are undertaken in a transparent way.

If you would like to find out more about how PQASSO can help with your governance or any other area of your organisation, NCVO run a two-hour workshop for staff and/or board members. For more information email NCVO at: pqasso@ncvo.org.uk.

8. Budget Points for the VCS

Budget 2017 – What do Charities need to know?



How the Budget could support charities



The 2017 Autumn Budget seems to focus on some of the opportunities and challenges posed by the technological revolution, as well as the typical tweaks to taxation and government funding.

Here are the key highlights for charities:

- The enormity of the technological revolution sees the proposal of a new Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation to ensure that ground-breaking innovation in AI (Artificial Intelligence) and data-driven technologies is ethical.
- There is also the promise of new funding for continuous education to help people adapt to the changing workplace, with many organisations struggling to keep pace with technological development. Charities must be able to access this sort of information too, making sure that the sector is able to upskill and embrace the potential of the digital revolution.
- The devolution agenda remains key, with the promise of an additional £1.7 billion for metro mayors and cities, a £2 million fund from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport for place-based cultural development, and an extra £21 million to develop regional tech hubs around the UK.
- As in previous budgets, the Chancellor committed £36 million from LIBOR fines to support Armed Forces and Emergency Service charities over the next three years. However, this completes the LIBOR Charity Funding scheme.
- There will be an exploration of how the tax system can be used to cut down on single-use plastics, through levies. This builds on the success of the plastic bag levy, which raised £29 million for good causes in the first six months.

As well as the bigger picture policies announced by the Chancellor, there are a number of additional proposals that will affect charities, including:

- A change following the review of the Gift Aid donor benefit funds to simplify the current monetary thresholds for charities, implemented from April 2019

- A grant to help accident rescue charities meet the cost of normally irrecoverable VAT
- £3.7 million to be used to modernise the Poppy Factories in Richmond and Edinburgh, which will help to boost the Poppy Appeal and donations to the Royal British Legion
- A £28 million fund to help people affected by the Grenfell Tower tragedy – this builds upon the generosity of people who donated so generously in the aftermath of the fire earlier this year
- Finally, £5 million will be made available for projects to celebrate the centenary of voting rights being extended to women for the first time in 1918, a policy success that came about in no small part because of the commitment and advocacy of charities and voluntary organisations

9. Next Daventry VCS Forum – Friday 8th December 2017

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Dear Colleagues,

Please see below an agenda for our next **Daventry VCS Forum meeting on Friday 8th December 2017 from 1.00 pm to 2.30pm** at The New Street Centre, DDWF Building (Next to Tesco's), 13, New Street, Daventry NN11 4BT. **Please note change of time!** You can park free of charge in Tesco car park for up to 2.5 hours.

Please can you let DVC know as soon as possible if you would like to attend, *and if you would like a free lunch ordered?* Call DVC on 01327 300614 or email to: info@daventryvolunteers.org.uk.

Many thanks,

Carella Davies, Manager Daventry Volunteer Centre .

Daventry Voluntary and Community Sector Forum

Friday 8th December 2017, From 1.00pm – 2.30pm

**At The New Street Centre, DDWF Building (next to Tesco's), 13 New Street,
Daventry NN11 4BT**

AGENDA

1. Lunch available on arrival (please pre-order)
2. Welcome, introductions and Apologies: Carella Davies (Chair)
3. Minutes of last meeting 15th September 2017 and Matters Arising
4. Speaker: Futures Housing
5. VIN : Countywide Forum and Commsortia updates
6. News round-up from Members
7. Best "Good News" story
8. Any Other Forum Business
9. Date and Time of next Forum meetings in 2018: To be Agreed
10. Networking