

News and information for Wales from:

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Building communities resilient to the impact of climate change

WCVA's next round of regional policy events will focus on how communities and organisations can prepare for the impact of climate change. These events will be run jointly with the Sustainable Futures Network.

With the publication of the new UK climate change projections in 2009, it is clear that the impacts of climate change are likely to be very significant for Wales and the UK as we approach the middle of the 21st century. We can expect:

- increased temperatures across all of the UK with greater warming in summer than in winter;
- more winter rainfall and drier summers for much of the country;
- rising sea levels especially in the south of the country.

As yet our understanding of the consequences of climate change for people living in Wales, and the third sector, is still at an early stage. We need to consider the impacts of the direct and indirect effects of climate change and the short and long term consequences of each in order to respond effectively.

The ability to change to face these challenges, develop community resilience and address equity issues in emerging responses is vital so that some groups are not disproportionately negatively affected. The third sector needs to consider how its beneficiaries will cope with these new challenges and what changes may need to be made to its services to support them.

To help fund the introduction of Gift Aid online filing by 2013, the Government will withdraw Self Assessment (SA) Donate for tax returns from April 2012.

As there is great uncertainty, it is very important that we start building the resilience of our organisations and communities so that we can recover more quickly. We need to build in a high level of robustness, especially supporting people already marginalised. Adaptations to climate change can also offer us opportunities and help us to regenerate our communities.

To support the sector to address these challenges and opportunities, July's round of policy events will offer a day on how climate change will affect our communities, and how the third sector has a key role in building resilience to meet these changes. Participants will come away from the day with an increased understanding of what climate change means for their organisations and their beneficiaries along with a focused set of activities for their organisation to help them build climate change into their planning.

These regional policy events are relevant for all third sector organisations, especially those who may offer services to already marginalised and disadvantaged groups who are most vulnerable to climate change, such as older people, disabled people, people living in poverty. It is also relevant to third sector organisations who offer services which will be impacted by the change in weather patterns, for example health and social care organisations and housing associations.

The regional policy events will take place in Carmarthen on 5 July, Newport on 6 July, Llandrindod Wells on 13 July and Rhyl on 14 July. For more information on venues and to make a booking visit www.tinyurl.com/wcva-policy-policyevents or contact Sarah Baker at policy@wcva.org.uk.

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Nominations for campaigning awards begin

Voting is now open for an awards programme set up to honour outstanding grassroots campaigners.

The 2011 Sheila McKechnie Foundation Campaigner Awards feature nine nomination categories - Consumer Action, Environment, International Campaigner, Local Campaigner, London Social Justice, Social and Economic Justice, Take Action, Transport and Shout Out - an award for 14-18 year-old campaigners based in London.

The awards are for individuals who are new to campaigning or operate with few resources, yet show passion, tenacity and the potential to create change - locally, nationally or globally.

SMK runs programmes for individuals and groups providing support, advice and a place to share information on key areas of effective campaigning: from strategy, tactics, and targets to evaluating successful campaigns

Award winners receive a bespoke package of support for their campaigns, which includes one-to-one coaching from experienced campaigners, a residential skills-building weekend, public affairs and media coaching and mentoring sessions with field experts.

Voting for the SMK Campaigner Awards is open now. Nominate a campaigner www.smk.org.uk/nominate-a-campaigner. The deadline for votes is 20 June.

Charity Commission updates its 'trustee toolkit'

The Charity Commission has published the third chapter of *Protecting charities from harm*, its online compliance toolkit for charity trustees.

The toolkit, developed in partnership with the third sector, is a guide for trustees, giving them practical guidance to help manage risk and protect their charity and its property from harm.

Trustees have a legal duty and responsibility under charity law to protect the funds and property of their charity so it can be used for beneficiaries. The guidance in the toolkit update highlights some of the types of fraud and financial crime to which charities are vulnerable and provides practical guidance on how to tackle it.

The guide also highlights the warning signs of fraud, money laundering and other financial misconduct, explains what the Commission's role is in dealing with fraud and offers practical

advice on anti-fraud measures. The new chapter also provides information on when an effective fraud action and response plan could be necessary, and how to implement one.

Anna Lewis, WCVA Legal Services Officer, said: 'This toolkit offers clear guidance to trustees to make them aware of what they can do to avoid the types of fraud that charities can be susceptible to. The use of real-life case studies which show what can go wrong is a particularly effective way of highlighting why those working in the voluntary sector need to be vigilant.'

The first chapters of *Protecting charities from harm* covered charities and terrorism, and due diligence and monitoring. The last chapter of the toolkit, to be published soon, will offer advice on holding, transferring and receiving funds safely in an international context. The new chapter can be found on the Charity Commission's website, www.charitycommission.gov.uk.



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