

From: [Penny McLean](#)
To: [Tom Green](#)
Subject: RCO Connect from the Basis Project
Date: 10 June 2011 18:22:22

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E-Bulletin to help RCOs to develop their organisations and learn from each other

[News](#) [Training and resources](#) [Fundraising](#) [Events](#) [Jobs](#)

Dear Tom

Welcome to RCO Connect

RCO Connect is an opportunity for you to share learning from your RCO, and get inspired by learning from others. It will include some features previously covered in RCO e-news about fundraising, resources, events and changes in the UK policy environment. We want RCO Connect to be as useful as possible for RCOs so if you have any comments or ideas about it, please contact Penny McLean at development@refugeecouncil.org.uk. If you do not want to receive RCO Connect you can unsubscribe at any time.

News

Bradford RCO showcases amazing work of African people worldwide

The African Achievers Awards, hosted by Nile African Development (NAD) <http://www.nileafrica.org/> on 27 May 2011 was a huge success. The event celebrated the achievements of African people in the UK and internationally. Read Jonathan Ellis' blog here <http://refugeecouncil.typepad.com/poliblog/> and see a case study about NAD here <http://www.thebasisproject.org.uk/casestudies/NILE+African+Development+Organisation>.

Big Society Update

David Cameron recently relaunched his idea of the Big Society for the fourth time following criticism from a senior government ministers who said that it had failed to articulate what it stood for. Read more here: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/pm-seeks-to-relaunch-big-society-idea-ndash-again-2287794.html>.

The Government have also released Big Society Bank - outline proposals for the future <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/big-society-bank-outline-proposal>. NAVCA have compiled useful documents about the Big Society here <http://www.navca.org.uk/stratwork/big society>.

Localism Bill update

The Localism Bill has now passed through parliament <http://www.localgov.co.uk/index.cfm?method=news.detail&id=98970>. A briefing from NAVCA about the bill is here <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/view-article/navca-campaigning-to-make-the-localism-bill-good-for-local-communities>

Linked to this there has been progress on the neighbourhood plans proposed in the Localism Bill. A number of pilot projects are underway called the Business Neighbourhood Frontrunners http://www.communicationsjournal.co.uk/news/9042193.Business_and_communities_to_unite_in_driving_neighbourhood_growth/.

Commissioning opportunity for RCOs in East of England

The Basis Project East of England is commissioning two RCOs based in the East of England, to write a skill-sharing report based on their experience(s) in partnership working, commissioned work delivered for a Local Authority, a public body or other agency or running a trading arm or social enterprise. Payment of £750 per report is offered. If you are interested please click [here](#).
www.thebasisproject.org.uk/about/east-england-commissioning

Deadline for expressions of interest: 24 June 2011.

Training and resources

The Sheila McKechnie Foundation Campaigner Awards 2011 – apply now!

Are you campaigning to make a positive change in society? Apply now and you could win a Campaigner Award, which will equip you with the right skills to become a more effective campaigner. It is free to apply! For further information visit www.smk.org.uk/smk-awards-2011

Deadline for applications: 1pm Monday 20 June 2011.

VSO Diaspora training Various dates

Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) is currently recruiting partners to benefit from capacity building initiatives for organisations who are running or looking to start community projects in the UK or internationally. VSO offer training, mentoring and access to small grants to ensure your programme reaches its full potential. For more information email Rashpal.Saini@vso.org.uk.

Application deadline: 20 June 2011

Paying People Who Do Work For You 27 June 2011, 10am – 3.30pm, Bedford

An introduction to the dos and do nots when paying people who work for you, including employees and workers, volunteers and contractors, so that you comply with the legal requirements. Delivered by the Basis Project in partnership with Cash On-line.

To book or for information contact Shpetim Alimeta on 01473 297 912, or 07908 952 405, or email: shpetim.alimeta@refugeecouncil.org.uk or odo.east@gmail.com by 22 June 2011.

Free evaluation training for RCOs, 4 and 5 October 2011, London

A free two-day training course for London based RCOs on 4 and 5 October 2011. The course, delivered by Charities Evaluation Services, will help you to make your services more effective and show your achievements to others. For more details email training@ces-vol.org.uk or call 020 7713 5722.

Social enterprise explained

Social Enterprise Coalition have produced a guide to social enterprise 'for beginners, wonderers and people with ideas, big and small' http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/data/files/publications/Social_Enterprise_Explained_-_May_2011.pdf.

National Community Activist Network

A new national network has been set up to enable community activists to get advice and support on work you are doing to improve your community. You can sign up to the network or join the discussion group for your region, and start comparing notes with other activists around the country. See: <http://nationalcan.ning.com>.

Fundraising opportunities

Youth Action During 2011

UK Youth will be rolling out a programme called 'Youth Action' <http://www.guardian.co.uk/starbucks-youth-action> in major cities across the UK and Ireland. The programme will offer young people, who have ideas of how to improve their communities, the opportunity to access up to £10,000 seed funding and volunteer time from local Starbucks staff. Deadline: 24 June 2011.

BBC Performing Arts Fund- Community Dance

The BBC Performing Arts Fund <http://www.bbc.co.uk/performingartsfund/> is accepting applications for community dance projects. The scheme has up to £200,000 to award, with grants of £500 - £5,000 available. Applications are welcomed from groups working across the UK with all age groups and dance styles. Deadline: 12 July 2011

ACT Foundation

Provides grants for charities (<http://www.theactfoundation.co.uk/applying-for-a-grant-mainmenu-4>) that enhance the quality of life for people in need, especially those focused on mentally and/or physically disabled people. There are no minimum or maximum grant amounts and funding can be used for building modifications, equipment such as mobility aids and financial assistance for things like short-term respite breaks.

You can apply at any time

Peter Cruddas Foundation

Registered charities helping disadvantaged young people into pathways towards education, training or employment you can apply to this foundation. For further information visit the Peter Cruddas Foundation website <http://www.petercruddasfoundation.org.uk/about.htm> .

You can apply at any time

Events

Employment and Volunteering Information Day, 13 June 2011, midday-2pm, Piper Hall, Kingston

Refugee Action Kingston is hosting an event open to all refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in South West London. There will be information sessions with interpreters, as well as an employment workshop. For more information contact Heather Knight on 020 8547 0115 or heather.knight@refugeeactionkingston.org.uk

Multiculturalism in the UK 15 June 2011, 6.30pm, the Seven Dials Club, London

A deep democracy conversation and debrief for coaches or trainers who are interested in how the deep democracy process works.

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1696643707/?invite=&err=29&referrer=&ebtv=D&discount=&affiliate=&eventpassword=>

African health celebration, Nottingham 17 June 2011, 5pm -8pm the Vine Community Centre, Nottingham, NG7 5GZ

Free information advice and medical tests and checks, followed by live music and food (until 10pm). Organised by the African Institute for Social Development (AISD) <http://www.africaninstitute.org.uk/#> in partnership with NHS Nottingham City, the Terrence Higgins Trust and Nottingham Refugee Forum with sponsorship from Abbott Laboratories UK. For more information call 07834459076.

Refugee Week, 20 - 26 June 2011

To find out about Refugee Week events, and advertise your Refugee Week event please click here <http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/>

Umbrella Parade 2011
Sunday 19 June 2011, 1.30pm-3.30pm

Meeting point: Victoria Embankment Gardens, Westminster, London, WC2 (nearest tube: Embankment/Charing Cross)
End point: Celebrating Sanctuary Festival, Coin Street (nearest tube: Waterloo/Southwark)

This year Refugee Week is celebrating the protection and contribution of refugees in the UK, since the UN Convention for Refugees was created in 1951. Similar umbrella marches will be taking place throughout that week to celebrate World Refugee Day in countries across Europe. The parade will kick off Refugee Week 2011.

If you plan to attend, please reply to umbrellaparade@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Job vacancies and volunteer opportunities

Training and Development Support Officer, the Basis Project

<http://www.thebasisproject.org.uk/about/vacancy-training-and-development>

The Training & Development Support Officer will support the Organisational Development Officers' (ODOs') delivery of advice and training to RCOs by means of sourcing support and materials required, and by supporting the ODOs in their delivery of training. S/he will lead on the Project's second National conference.

Closing date: Thursday 16 June 2011

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