



Charitable Trusts West Midlands

E -Bulletin

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Regional News

Neighbourhood Community Budgets

Birmingham has been selected by Government to be one of ten neighbourhood-level community budget pilots, DCLG announced today (21 December).

The Birmingham pilot will include Shard End, Castle Vale and Balsall Heath. contact Sue Smith, Senior Partnership Officer, Be Birmingham sue.p.smith@birmingham.gov.uk

National News

New Charities SORP - Social Investment

The Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) have today launched a consultation on a new draft Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). <http://www.charitySORP.org/>

The SORP provides a comprehensive framework for charity accounting and reporting that enables charities to adopt a consistent interpretation of financial reporting standards and to account for those transactions that arise when undertaking charitable activities. All charities that prepare their accounts on an accruals basis to give a 'true and fair' basis must follow the SORP. Within the new draft SORP there is a module addressing accounting and reporting of social investments. <http://www.lawcommission.justice.gov.uk/areas/charity-law.htm>

The Transparency of Lobbying, non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill

Views across the Third Sector is that the Government pause to consult more widely has not been long enough. Part two of the Bill reached Committee stage on 16th December. There remains a worry that Bill will restrict political activity by third parties in the run-up to elections, which charities fear will limit their ability to campaign.

There is a coalition of civil society organisations who are working together to register concerns and suggest alternatives. ACF is a member. Another important channel to register concerns is the Commission on Civil Society and Democratic Engagement where trusts and foundations can contribute: <http://civilsocietycommission.info>. To read the progress on the bill click here: <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/transparencyoflobbyingnonpartycampaigningandtradeunionadministration.html>

About Charitable Trusts West Midlands

Established in 1975 it is the leading membership association for trusts and foundations in the West Midlands. With 50 members ranging from large national trusts that give grants in the region to local grant givers and individuals. Charitable Trusts West Midlands is an unincorporated not for profit organisation. It provides charitable trust funders with an opportunity to share and learn from each others experience of grant giving and develop good practice in grant making; explore matters of common concern, and forge productive relationships that contribute to the wider benefits and overall sustainability of the region's voluntary and community sector. The organisation also aims to provide a route for charitable trust funders to be able to engage formally with private and public funders and their networks to increase opportunities for co-ordination and collaboration to better meet the needs of the diverse communities in the region.

CTWM latest News

Roundtable Discussion: 30th January 2014.

Legal Structures for charitable activities and Social Enterprise – what can trusts fund?

Shivaji Shiva, Senior Associate, Anthony Collins Solicitors and Sallie Ryan, Social Enterprise WM facilitated a discussion on different legal structures that exist for undertaking charitable activities including Community Interest Companies and other not for profit structures that are not in themselves charities, but can carry out charitable activity and social enterprises. To read more go to: www.ctwm.net

Annual General Meeting - On the 27th March 2014. Dr Rob MacMillan Research Fellow, Third Sector Research Centre will speak.

Rob is undertaking a literature review of research on the current state of the voluntary and community sector. Following the AGM, Rob will draw on some of the current research findings and facilitate a discussion on the state of the third sector in the West Midlands guest speaker for the annual autumn event, kindly hosted by BBC Children in Need, Mailbox, 102-18 Wharfedale St, B1 1AY from 6pm. To read more: www.ctwm.net

Links:

Open Data Day 2014 is on Saturday February 22nd Birmingham City University 4th Floor, Millennium Point Curzon St, B4 7XG

The Open Data Day event in Birmingham, organised by Open Mercia and RnR Organisation is running from 10am to 6pm. Open Data Day is a gathering of citizens in cities around the world to write applications, liberate data, create visualizations and publish analyses using open public data to show support for and encourage the adoption of open data policies by the world's local, regional and national governments. The event is open to all.