



Charitable Trusts West Midlands

E -Bulletin

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Regional News

2013 Annual Meet the Funder Event

Following on from last year's hugely successful Meet the Funder Event, SCVO and Sandwell Council External Funding Team are making this year's event even bigger and better. The event will take place on Wednesday, 27th November 9am to 4pm at The Public, West Bromwich. Click here for further information, how to book and costs. Please note if you elect to complete and return the booking form, your cheque for payment must be included with the form.

Birmingham Community Law Centre

On September 11th the new Birmingham Community Law Centre opened. Based at the Bangladesh Centre, Sparkbrook it has so far seen 46 clients and receives management and governance support from Coventry Law Centre. To read more click here.

National News

Lobbying Bill could undermine Democracy

The Commission on Civil Society and Democratic Engagement calls for a pause in the legislative process to allow for a joint committee to consider whether changes are needed. The lobbying bill risks "profoundly undermining the very fabric of our democracy" by limiting the right of campaigners to speak out on important issues, according to a report published today by a coalition of charities and other organisations.

The [Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill](#) contains proposals restricting political activity by third parties in the run-up to elections, which charities fear will limit their ability to campaign. The bill returns to the committee stage in the House of Lords next week.

The commission said that the current debate had revealed a lack of clarity on the right of charities to engage in political activity, even under existing election laws. "The result is a fundamental uncertainty that will inhibit charities from campaigning for fear of breaking the law," the commission says in its report.

CTWM latest News

Autumn Seminar- On the 23rd October 2013 **Debra Allcock Tyler** was the guest speaker for the annual autumn event, kindly hosted by Chantrey Vellacott, Edgbaston. A dynamic speaker and champion of the voluntary and community sector, Debra was asked to talk about 'the challenges facing charities and the Charity Commission'. To read more: www.ctwm.net

Executive Committee meeting - 4th January 2014 - followed by **roundtable discussion**. We are organising a discussion about the different charitable legal structures that are available and their advantages and disadvantages. The speakers are to be confirmed. **It will be held from 12.30pm - 1.45pm @ Anthony Collins Solicitors 134 Edmund Street, B3 3UB**

Links:

Recycled IT equipment

IT disposal firm offers free recycled computers to charities. Prism Disposal, based in Congleton, Cheshire, disposes of unwanted IT equipment and launched the scheme in August to reuse some of the tens of tonnes of electrical goods it deals with every year. To find out more go to <http://www.prismdisposal.com/>.

'Micro-volunteering' growing

According to a study by the NCVO, more organisations are creating and advertising 'micro-volunteering opportunities. Micro-volunteering involves participants taking part in short, one-off activities, such as tasks that can be completed online, including signing a petition or submitting details of birds spotted in gardens. The report, Value of Giving a Little Time: Understanding the Potential of Micro-volunteering, can be found here: http://www.ivr.org.uk/images/stories/micro_volunteering_full_report_071113.pdf

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.