

Welcome to our January newsletter featuring a selection of business headlines and funding news in the not-for-profit sector. There is also a list of forthcoming events and training courses.

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Social Enterprise National Conference: 25th January

Voice 05 – the SE National Conference – will bring together practitioners, theorists and policy makers to discuss how social enterprise is providing solutions to 21st century challenges. The conference will focus on areas where social enterprises are going to play an increased role and addresses key building blocks for the successful growth of the sector.

<http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/conference>

Small businesses waste money

Small businesses throw away £1 billion a year by wasting energy, according to the Carbon Trust. Most of the waste comes in the winter months when companies leave heating and lighting on too long. For tips on how to save money by making your organization more energy efficient visit:

thecarbontrust.co.uk

New guidance to deliver renewable energy

The Government's drive to deliver more electricity from renewable sources, such as wind and hydro-power, was boosted today by the publication of new planning guidance from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. To meet targets, positive planning policies are needed to expand the number of renewable schemes and ensure they are sited in appropriate locations.

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2004_0316

(20th December)

£150 million more for reducing homelessness

The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, today announced a £150 million funding package for new action to prevent and reduce homelessness. An extra £90 million will be targeted at improving the condition of hostel accommodation and the vital services they provide, to help rough sleepers make a permanent move away from the streets. Around £60 million will be allocated to local authorities and voluntary sector agencies over 2005/06

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2004_0313

(13th December)

Voluntary organizations must be part of delivering children's services

All sectors must work very closely with charities and community groups when planning vital services for children, says a report out today. The Children Act 2004 will require local authorities to work with a number of different organisations to boost the lives of children.

<http://www.nch.org.uk/news/news3.asp?ReleaseID=319>

(9th December)

Employers warned over staff retention

UK employers could wake up to a New Year hangover unless they make more effort to retain their best workers, a new report claims. Research by HR software group Zynap shows that 59% of workers are on the look out for new job opportunities, with a quarter planning to switch positions over the New Year period.

www.businesslink4london.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.viewItem&intItemID=2886

(2nd December)

DTI launches £80 million R&D fund

If your business is involved in research and development, it could be eligible for a share of £80 million as part of the Department of Trade & Industry's Technology Programme. Companies can apply for funding to carry out collaborative research and development in nine technology areas. The closing date for applications is February 5, 2005.

www.dti.gov.uk/technologyprogramme/

Best wishes,
Richard Litchfield

Eastside Consulting Ltd,
Truman Brewery, 91 Brick Lane, London, E1 6QL
www.eastsideconsulting.co.uk
richard@eastsideconsulting.co.uk
Office: 020 7377 1988