

Welcome to our March 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.

Headlines:

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Deadline for "Plug Into Music" funding: 31st March

National Foundation for Youth Music is offering financial assistance up to £20,000 to support projects aimed at developing the use of modern technology in music-making. Deadline for this year's application is 31st March.

www.thesoundstation.org.uk/adult_site/

[Downloads/Plug%20into%20Music%20Guidelines%202002-6.rtf](#)

IT equipment available for UK charities

The Charity Technology Trust (CTT) has partnered with Tech Soup to deliver donations of CISCO systems networking equipment to UK charities. To qualify charities must be pre-approved by CTT.

<http://www.ctt.org/techsoup/>

New Acas guide on employment matters

Acas has produced an updated version of its comprehensive guide to employment matters affecting businesses in the UK. The A-Z can be found at:

<http://www.acas.org.uk/publications/h03.html>

Corporate sponsorship for 300 sports facilities across UK

A partnership between Barclays, Groundwork and the Football Foundation, Barclays Spaces for Sports is a new three-year £30m community sponsorship programme funded by Barclays. The scheme will deliver more than 300 sports facilities over the next three years.

<http://www.groundwork.org.uk/news/docs/040215-barclays-s4s.doc>

(24th February)

Charity Commission warns against new scam

The Commission warns that charities risk having their bank accounts emptied in a new scam. Fraudsters obtain charities' bank account details from GiftAid forms and use this information to set up standing orders, diverting funds out of charities. The Commission urges charities to check bank statements thoroughly for rogue payments and to consider deposit-only accounts for charitable donations.

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=147828&NewsAreaID=2>

(24th February)

Cheap mobiles resold to developing countries

A report by Forum for the Future highlights that almost 3 million refurbished phones from British consumers are being resold in developing markets like Africa and Eastern Europe.

http://www.forumforthefuture.org.uk/news/rtv2_page2119.aspx

(21st February)

Landmark decision for charities delivering public services

Charity Commission has announced that charities can now deliver public services which public authorities have a statutory duty to provide. Previously, charities could not usually use charitable funds to deliver public services which a public authority had a duty to provide. For full guide lines on the new legislation see:

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/detail.asp?ReleaseID=146969&NewsAreaID=2>

(21st February)

Big Lottery funding for volunteering projects

The Fund is giving £15.2m to support projects that encourage volunteering in the community. The Big Lottery Fund expects to launch its new funding programmes throughout 2005 and will announce a timetable in the spring. The Fund's current Large, Medium, International, Strategic and Research programmes are winding down. The final deadline for receipt of applications is 31st May 2005.

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=144332&NewsAreaID=2>

(3rd February)

Free health and safety advice for businesses

A ground-breaking £20 million pilot scheme to give free health and safety advice to smaller businesses was announced today. Workplace Help Direct will give free expert advice as well as offering support on preventing work-related ill health and getting people back to work. The project will be rolled out in early 2006.

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=144281&NewsAreaID=2>

(2nd February)

Micro finance lessons from Street UK

Street UK has released a report detailing lessons from their first three years in business. The report emphasizes high volume, repayment rates and low transaction costs as essential for micro-credit organizations.

www.street-ukfoundation.com/Work&News.htm

Best wishes,
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