

eastside

Newsletter



February 2006

Welcome to the February newsletter featuring funding news and a selection of headlines affecting charities and social enterprises. We also run an editorial piece on the government's new policies on business support for the sector.

Funding Alerts:

- DfES Parenting Fund Application Deadline: 8th March 2006
- Futurebuilders funding round opens: 1st May 2006
- New Big Lottery Fund grant programmes opening soon

Headlines:

- A quarter of British adults are poor
- IT Conference for Charities
- Nestle launches fair trade coffee
- Legal structure for social enterprise reaches 100
- New reporting requirements for charities

EDITORIAL**Will social enterprises benefit from mainstream support?**

Voice 06, the annual conference organised by the Social Enterprise Coalition last month, was attended by more than 800 delegates.

The sector seems to be rising up the political agenda: Tony Blair delivered a pre-recorded message and Alun Michael, Minister of State for Industry and the Regions, gave the opening speech in which he talked about Labour's commitment to the sector and its vision to "mainstream" social enterprise.

As a result, business support will now be made available to social enterprises through the Business Links, the existing agencies which provide support to all SMEs in England. Social enterprises will therefore be treated as conventional businesses.

However, are social enterprises conventional businesses?

In a sense, the answer is yes. Social enterprises must deliver a quality service/product, offer choice and have competitive advantage like any other company. This is a pre-requisite for long-term success and sustainability. The Big Issue, Café Direct, Jamie Oliver's Fifteen are all good examples. They all strive to deliver quality to customers.

However, social enterprises are also particular. They typically involve vulnerable people – for example, the homeless, marginalised or disabled. And these people have very different support needs than a regular business could typically provide.

And furthermore – this is the nub – social enterprises have access to a far wider (and more complex) range of funding sources than regular businesses including grants, contracts, sponsorship, community development loan finance, traditional bank finance, business angels and venture capital.

Time will tell whether the Business Links are the best placed to co-ordinate business support to the sector.



Eastside Consulting promotes enterprise and innovation in order to support social enterprises and charities become sustainable.

SQUARE EYE

Square Eye is a web and print design company which provides an affordable and high quality service to the arts and voluntary sector. www.squareeye.com

**Funding Alerts****DfES Parenting Fund Application Deadline: 8th March 2006**

The Parenting Fund assists charities and not-for-profit organisations undertaking parenting support work. The minimum application amount is £50k – no upper limit. <http://www.parentingfund.org/>

Futurebuilders funding round opens: 1st May 2006

The next round of Futurebuilders funding will open on the 1st May. The organization provides a mix of grant and loan funding to social enterprises. <http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk/makingapplication/content.asp>

New Big Lottery Fund grant programmes opening soon

The Big Lottery Fund will give out more than £2.3 billion between 2006 and 2009. A new list of programmes for England has been agreed and will be launched soon. <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/programmes/updates/index.htm>

Headlines**A quarter of British adults are poor**

3 million adults and 400,000 children are not properly fed by today's standards, according to a comprehensive survey of poverty and social exclusion. https://www.policypress.org.uk/images/upload/casestudies/pse_pr_0_82.pdf

IT Conference for Charities: 22nd February 2006

The Charity Finance Directors' Group Conference in London will focus on the value of IT for charities. Christian Aid, WWF and Amnesty are speakers. <http://www.publictechnology.net/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=4282>

Nestle launches fair trade coffee

The multinational coffee maker has launched its own fair trade coffee brand carrying the Fairtrade Mark. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/4318882.stm>

Legal structure for social enterprise reaches 100

Social Enterprise London became the one hundredth Community Interest Company (CIC) to register. The CIC form has been available since July 1st 2005. <http://www.cicregulator.gov.uk/>

New reporting requirements for charities

Charities will soon be expected to prepare accounts in line with the Charities SORP 2005. To help charities meet these new requirements, the Charity Commission has published a package of guidance material www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=186229&NewsAreaID=2



The Old Truman Brewery - 91 Brick Lane - London E1 6QL
(t) 020 7770 6144 - (f) 020 7770 6144
richard@eastsideconsulting.co.uk - www.eastsideconsulting.co.uk