



Spring 2011

CAVOS

consultation pages

We've been listening.....

We have had some great feedback from you recently about our new approach to developing training and resources in line with what YOU need

CAVOS is here to support YOU so we've been listening to what you tell us and we've done our very best to make things happen. For example:

- ★ CAVOS understands that volunteers don't always have time to attend training during the day so we have organised some evening training to offer better access for those who have daytime commitments.
- ★ Some groups are concerned about their legal responsibilities when employing staff and want to know if what they're doing is right so CAVOS have arranged a basic, free course on *Employment Law* (see yellow training programme for details)
- ★ Funding and Governance can cause major concerns for groups and more and more people want to access training on these topics as a result. In response to this, CAVOS will be offering courses to help you learn '*Everything you need to know about Funding*' and '*How to be a Brilliant Organisation!*' We'll even be running each course twice...absolutely free! (see yellow training programme for details)
- ★ To help make training more accessible to groups CAVOS has linked with several community buildings spread across the area to hold the training.
- ★ Safeguarding is becoming an increasingly important topic for many groups so CAVOS has developed a fantastic, free Safeguarding Support Pack that is loaded with useful information and resources. The pack also includes a training brochure that lists the various courses available on the topic of Safeguarding.
- ★ Many of you don't have time to access training and support because of other commitments so we've found a way round that for you too! The CAVOS 'How to' Guides are short, snappy and incredibly handy resources that offer basic information on a range of topics including Gift Aid, Commissioning, Grant Funding, Minute Taking, Policies, CRB checks, Constitutions, Setting Up a New Group, Social Fundraising.....and many more.

As you can see, CAVOS is certainly listening, so please keep telling us what you need!

If you have any queries relating to this newsletter, or would like an article published in the next issue please contact us:

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State Pension: proposals for reform unveiled

Proposals for reforms to the State Pension have been unveiled. The aim is to ensure the State Pension can meet the needs of future pensioners and to tackle complexities within the current State Pension system. The Government has planned some changes to tackle these complexities and make the system easier to understand.

Future pensioners will be working and living longer, so there is a need to think about finances and how they plan for their retirement. As a result, the Government intends to reform the State Pension for future pensioners. The published proposals include an option for a flat rate State Pension of around £140 a week for a single person and the proposed options will also be easier to understand and provide a clearer basis for future pensioners to save money. The aim is not to increase the overall amount the state spends on the State Pension.

The proposals also discuss possible ways to determine future changes to State Pension age.

Changes to the system will only apply to people who reach State Pension age on or after the date that any changes are introduced.

The State Pension entitlement of existing pensioners, and those who will reach State Pension age before any changes are introduced, will not be affected. Any other benefits that existing pensioners receive will not be affected by the proposed reforms.

The age you receive your State Pension could be changing. To find out if you are affected, see 'Calculating your State Pension age' by visiting www.direct.gov.uk > Pensions and Retirement Planning > State Pension.

A public consultation has been launched on the government's proposals. To read the proposals in full, and to have your say, visit <http://tiny.cc/otc8g> or you can respond by post to: State Pension Reform Consultation Team, Pensions Analysis and Incomes Division, Department for Work and Pensions, 5th Floor, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.

The consultation will close on **24th June 2011**.

County Durham Police Authority Annual Report 2010-11 and Policing Plan 2011-14

Under the Police Act 1996, County Durham Police Authority in partnership with Durham Constabulary, are required to write an annual report. This report looks back on the year to tell you what they have been doing, how they are performing and what their priorities are for the coming year. They influence the way in which County Durham and Darlington is policed through their local policing plan. This sets out the priorities for policing the area and the targets against which they will measure the success of the Police Force in achieving them.

The format of the Annual Report and Policing Plan has been given a radical new makeover and the new style document is sure to engage more people. Durham Constabulary and County Durham Police Authority consulted with CAVOS during the development of the Policing Plan to find out more about how the community may like to see the information presented. The resulting document is eye-catching, informative, easy to follow and relevant. You may actually find it to be a really good read!

Through effective consultation with a range of agencies including CAVOS, the new Policing Plan has been designed to engage effectively with its target audience - YOU!

One downside is that full Annual Report and Policing Plan has only been made available electronically. However, CAVOS is happy to provide a printed copy to any community groups or organisations who would like one. Simply contact CAVOS for your copy.

To access the full electronic version of the document, visit the Online Resources section of the CAVOS website www.cavos.org.uk where it is available to download.



Age discrimination consultation - Have your say

It will soon become unlawful when providing goods or services to discriminate against someone because of their age. The Equality Act was signed into law in 2010 and is due to take effect in 2012.

Before this happens, the Government has to decide what kind of organisations will still be allowed to treat people differently because of their age. Therefore, a number of exceptions to the Act have been proposed. The proposed exceptions are:

- ⇒ age-based concessions such as free or reduced cost travel rights for older or younger people
- ⇒ group holidays organised around age, such as Saga and Club 18-30 holidays
- ⇒ Immigration - age is a factor taken into account in allocating visas
- ⇒ Sport - age-restricted competitions such as championships for the under-21s
- ⇒ residential park homes - admission rules
- ⇒ financial services and insurance products, but only when age is an important factor

If you would like to comment on the consultation visit the Government Equalities Office website via this shortened link: <http://tiny.cc/j9dbk>

You can read the proposals in full and have your say. The consultation runs until **25th May 2011**.

Making sure official open data standards are the right ones

The government is inviting business and community organisations to help set the data and ICT standards to make it easier to work with them. If you're a business or community organisation, the hope is that by helping choose the right standards it will make it easier for you to do business with Government.

It will also help them to open up data, better informing of decisions, and hopefully prompting innovation. There are free text fields in the survey, so you can tell them what they have missed or which alternative standards you believe may be better. The results from this survey will be reviewed by the Chief Technology Officers Council and their conclusions will be published on the Cabinet Office website in the Autumn.

There is an online survey at <http://tiny.cc/5qwbe>
Deadline for the consultation is **20th May 2011**

Help cut red tape in the 'Red Tape challenge'

Members of the public are being invited to help boost personal freedoms and economic growth by ripping up some of the 21,000 rules that are getting in their way.

At the moment there are more than 21,000 rules and regulations that put barriers in the way of businesses, volunteers and the public. By taking part in the Red Tape challenge you can either speak up for well designed rules that are there to protect, or challenge badly designed or badly thought through regulations that are an unnecessary burden.

The first area to go under the microscope will be RETAIL, with comments welcome for 4 weeks from 7th April. Retail will be followed by:

- ⇒ hospitality, food and drink (open for two weeks beginning 5 May)
- ⇒ road transportation (open for two weeks beginning 19 May)
- ⇒ fisheries, marine enterprises & inland waterways (open for two weeks beginning 2 June)
- ⇒ manufacturing (open for two weeks beginning 16 June)

Once a theme has closed to the public, government ministers will have three months to explain why a regulation is still required, or it will be scrapped.

Business Secretary Vince Cable said:

"Some of these regulations are there for good reasons, protecting employees, businesses or the public. But some serve no purpose at all.

I urge you to visit the website and take a few minutes to tell us the regulations you deal with on a daily basis.

This is your chance to make sure that consumers are properly protected from unscrupulous traders or give us the evidence we need to remove the unnecessary bureaucracy that stops your business from growing."

To take part in the Red Tape Challenge, use this link: <http://tiny.cc/rw6yg>

Indoor Leisure Centre's Review consultation

Durham County Council are running a consultation to give you the chance to have your say about the potential closure of six leisure centres within County Durham. The centre's are:

- 1) Abbey Leisure Centre, Pity Me 2) Coxhoe Leisure Centre 3) Glenholme Leisure Centre, Crook
4) Deerness Leisure Centre, Ushaw Moor 5) Ferryhill Leisure Centre 6) Sherburn Leisure Centre

There are two parts to this consultation:

- Part 1** – Durham County Council is seeking possible business proposals to run and retain facilities at the sites either in their existing formats, or in new ways. Contact the County Council or view their website for more information (website address below)
- Part 2** – The County Council is seeking views in relation to the proposals to close the centres and how they can minimise the potential impact. A questionnaire is available on the Council website (address below)

Visit the consultation page on the Durham County Council website to find out more:

www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=8228

Your can also ring Durham County Council Sport and Leisure Services on **0191 372 9181**

Consultation deadline: **26th May 2011**

Community Right to Challenge and Right to Buy Consultations

The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) has consultations on two areas of the Localism Bill that are very relevant to the community and voluntary sector: the Community Right to buy and the Community right to Challenge.

Under the Community Right to Buy, community groups will be able to nominate important local amenities and buildings - such as community centre's, town halls, or the last village shop or pub - for listing as assets of community value by the local authority. When they come up for sale, communities will have extra time to prepare a bid to take them over, making it easier to keep much-loved assets in public use and part of local life.

Under the Community Right to Challenge voluntary and community groups, parish councils and local authority staff will be able to challenge to take over the running of local authority services where they believe they can do so differently or better.

Visit <http://tiny.cc/d2ep4> for the 'Community Right to Buy' document and response form

Visit www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/righttochallengeconsultation for the 'Community Right to Challenge' document and response form

Closing date for the consultations is **3rd May 2011**.

