



Summer 2011

# CAVOS

## consultation pages

### We're always listening.....

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

- ★ Many groups have expressed concerns about their legal responsibilities when employing staff. They've told us that they need to remain aware of employment best practice and share concerns. So, following our successful Employment Law training, CAVOS has now developed an Employers Forum (*check out page 4 of our blue newsletter for details and a date for your diary*)
- ★ Funding and Governance continue to be two of the top concerns for groups and more and more people want to access training on these topics as a result. In response to this, CAVOS is arranging courses on a regular basis to help you learn 'How to get your hands on the money' and 'How to be a brilliant organisation!' We'll even be running each course twice...absolutely free! (*see yellow training programme for details*)
- ★ The majority of community groups depend on volunteers to deliver their services but successful voluntary work is most likely to be carried out by groups who can effectively support their volunteers. Our 'How to be a brilliant organisation' training covers exactly that! In addition, many groups have been telling us that they could do with more information on their legal responsibilities when involving volunteers. So CAVOS is offering just the thing.....'Volunteers & the Law' training! (*see yellow training programme for details*)
- ★ Safeguarding children is an issue that is very important for many groups, now more than ever, and there's a big demand for straightforward, simple guidance on how to keep children safe. In response to this, CAVOS has launched our 'Never Do Nothing' campaign and developed another fantastic, free Safeguarding Support Pack that is loaded with useful information and resources. The pack also includes a poster for your group to display and show your commitment to helping keep children safe. Contact CAVOS to request your FREE pack!
- ★ Many of you don't have time (*or money*) to network and promote your group but CAVOS can help! CAVOS has a networking page in our quarterly newsletter (check out pages 10-11 of our blue newsletter for details), we have a Community section on our website [www.cavos.org.uk / community.asp](http://www.cavos.org.uk/community.asp) where we can include news, events & training, your photos and also feature a link to your own website. Groups can also email details of what they're doing which can be featured in our fortnightly e-bulletins. Best of all..... its absolutely FREE!

**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:**

**Tel: 01388 811115 Fax: 01388 817772**

**Email: [enquiries@cavos.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cavos.org.uk) [www.cavos.org.uk](http://www.cavos.org.uk)**



## Consultation from Department of Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS)

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is seeking feedback from charities, businesses, government departments and academic institutions on reforms to the Regional Economic Performance Indicators.

The annual Regional Economic Performance Indicators (REPI) publication draws together a range of data on 19 social and economic indicators covering the UK.

The main function of REPI is to give a balanced picture of all of the statistical information relevant to economic performance, competitiveness and the state of the regions.

It develops this picture by analysing factors such as unemployment, entrepreneurial activity, educational and vocational attainment, income deprivation and business survival rates.

Following recent shifts in government policy, particularly in respect of the transfer from regionalism to localism, BIS has launched this consultation to determine if and how the current format of the annual REPI publication should be changed.

As the REPI is used to enable regional comparisons and monitor change over time, it is essential that it continues to provide a range of statistics which are relevant to users.

Responses are invited from businesses, social enterprises, individuals, central & local government departments, charities, voluntary organisations and academic institutions.

The consultation is running until  
**31st August 2011.**

The best way to respond to this consultation is online via the BIS website which can be accessed directly via this shortened link:  
<http://tiny.cc/ob8cw>

Alternatively you can submit a response in writing to:

Anna Dedecjus  
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills,  
5th floor, Spur 1,  
1 Victoria Street,  
London, SW1H 0ET

## Consultation on VAT cost sharing

A consultation on how the European VAT cost sharing exemption might be used in the UK has been started by HM Revenue and Customs.

The government says it would like "the views of a wide range of businesses and organisations - **particularly those in the education and charity sectors** - that have VAT exempt or non-business activities and want to set up cost sharing arrangements."

If implemented, the exemption could remove the VAT charge which has got in the way of charities gaining efficiencies by sharing costs with each other.

This consultation document is only available to download in PDF format and cannot be completed online, all responses should be sent using the email or postal details below.

Please go to the Online Resources section of the CAVOS website to access this document. Alternatively, paper copies are available on request by contacting HMRC on 020 7147 0058

A summary of the questions in the consultation is included in chapter 11 of the document.

Deadline for responses: **30th September 2011**

Responses should be sent by e-mail to [david.bond2@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:david.bond2@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk)  
or by post to: David Bond,  
HMRC, VAT Projects Team, 3C/10, 100  
Parliament Street, London, SW1A 2BQ.

## New standard for sustainable development of communities

A new British Standard for the sustainable development of communities has been created by the BSI Group with input from universities and government departments.

It is designed primarily to be used by communities working on grassroots initiatives, to help people focus on collective action, evaluate their progress and be more accountable for their activities.

BSI is hoping for comments from local councils, organisations, social enterprises and individuals on documents BS8904 by **31st August 2011**.

Visit <http://drafts.bsigroup.com/Home/Details/794> (registration required).



### Review of polling districts

Durham County Council are currently running a consultation about the review of polling districts and polling places. The consultation is to ensure that they have reasonable facilities for voting in national and local elections. Have your say via their review of polling districts and polling places consultation page.

Shortened web address: <http://tiny.cc/ezowc>

The consultation runs until **31st August 2011**

For more information contact 0300 026 1212 or email [electoralservices@durham.gov.uk](mailto:electoralservices@durham.gov.uk)

### Leisure Centres Review - update

The consultation gave you the chance to have your say about the potential closure of six leisure centres in Pity Me, Coxhoe, Ushaw Moor, Ferryhill, Crook and Sherburn. It closed on 26th May 2011.

All feedback, has now been analysed.

You can download the consultation results and get an update on what happens next on their website using this shortened link: <http://tiny.cc/8c2y7>

### Results of the National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises 2010

The latest National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises showed a rise in charities listing public service delivery as one of their roles, now at 31%, compared with 20% in 2008.

The National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises is believed to be the largest voluntary sector survey ever conducted, gathering the views of more than 40,000 voluntary organisations.

The survey results are broken down nationally and by local authority. BME (Black and Minority Ethnicity) communities appear to be less represented, with 26% (down from 35% in 2008) of organisations with any clients, users or beneficiaries from BME communities. Only 4% have *main* clients, users or beneficiaries from BME communities.

Survey findings can be downloaded at [www.nscsesurvey.com/about](http://www.nscsesurvey.com/about)

If you have any queries about the survey then please firstly refer to the Frequently Asked Questions page, which covers the main questions relating to the survey. For other enquiries, please contact the Office for Civil Society at [nstso@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nstso@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk)

The future of the survey is in doubt according to recent press reports this week as the Office of Civil Society considers continuing funding the survey however the shadow civil society minister, said it was important that the survey continued.

### Guidance produced to protect charities from disproportionate cuts

In a previous newsletter, CAVOS included information on a Government consultation on how councils should conduct their relationships with the voluntary and community sector. The consultation, which closed last month aimed to gather feedback on a one page "best value" guidance for councils. The guidance stated that a council must:

- ⇒ Tell voluntary & community sector organisations 3 months in advance if it intends to end funding
- ⇒ Ask organisations about the effects of funding cuts on service users and the community
- ⇒ Give organisations the opportunity to propose new ways of delivering services.

If local authorities fail to obey the guidance, they will be liable for judicial review.

In extreme cases, the communities secretary could direct the local authority to change its decisions, or could appoint another agency to exercise council functions.

There is a worrying removal of a "statutory duty to involve" voluntary groups in delivering policy, in favour of a weaker intention "to encourage authorities and civil society to collaborate more".

It has been announced that the guidance will come into force at the same time as the Localism Bill - expected to be next year.

## Hyperacute Stroke Services Formal Public Consultation

A formal consultation is underway to seek local people's views on proposed changes to hyperacute stroke services in County Durham and Darlington. This consultation is being led by NHS County Durham and Darlington, the organisation which plans and pays for health services locally. Stroke patients need access to high quality, specialist hospital care to give them every opportunity to make a full and speedy recovery. While recent improvements to stroke services have been made, the NHS recognises that much more needs to be done to ensure all patients have the best possible treatment. Local clinicians and managers are suggesting that centralising all stroke hyperacute services onto a single hospital site is the best way to ensure that more patients have access to first-rate care, without having to travel outside of County Durham and Darlington.

A thorough options assessment has been carried out to look at different ways in which stroke hyperacute services can be provided - closely analysed by stroke service clinicians and managers, with input from service users and carers. NHS County Durham and Darlington is now in a position to recommend a preferred option - to combine hyperacute stroke services at the University Hospital of North Durham. This is based on faster access to specialist services and clinicians and greater existing capacity for diagnostic services for the majority of their stroke patients.

To give your thoughts and views on the proposals you can:

- ⇒ Complete the online consultation response form at [www.haveasay.org.uk](http://www.haveasay.org.uk)
- ⇒ Complete a paper consultation response form contained in consultation documents
- ⇒ Email your views to [stroke@haveasay.org.uk](mailto:stroke@haveasay.org.uk)
- ⇒ Write to Hyperacute Stroke Consultation, FREEPOST, RRXK-CZGR-TJJA. Unit G, Lumley Close, Thirsk, YO7 3TD
- ⇒ Request a dedicated consultation for your group or organisation by contacting Mary Bewley on 0191 4253, 07554 459298 or [mary.bewley1@nhs.net](mailto:mary.bewley1@nhs.net)

More information including copies of the documents to download can be found at [www.haveasay.org.uk](http://www.haveasay.org.uk).

PLEASE NOTE: There has been a number of public meetings in the County during July to discuss the consultation. If you would like to attend a meeting in August or September there will be two held at Darlington Arts Centre on 22nd August; one @ 2pm-3:30pm and one @ 6:30pm-8pm and one held at Witham Hall in Barnard Castle on 1st September 2pm-3:30pm

**Consultation ends 11th September 2011**

