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For information on any of the issues in this bulletin or if you would like to contribute towards future editions, please contact Dan, Regional BME Network Coordinator:

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Listen, Value, Invest: The Conference

29 September 2010 09:30 - 15:45 at *Manchester Conference Centre, Sackville Street, Manchester, M1 3BB*

We are pleased to announce that the keynote speaker for this event will be the Rt Hon John Bercow MP, Speaker of the House of Commons. This event will explore how the Third Sector can deliver for England's North West in a changing political landscape, and will feature:

- ▶ Key note speakers from important policy-makers
- ▶ Workshops to help you and your organisation understand the regional context and influence the decision-makers who matter
- ▶ Exhibition of key regional infrastructure organisations

The event will be free to staff and volunteers from Third Sector organisations in the North West. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

One North West will be running a workshop on the representation of BME women in decision-making.

For more information please visit: <http://www.vsnw.org.uk/events/view/115> or call 0161 236 6493

Big Society, Localism & the BME Third Sector

One North West and our local partners have held seven events in the NW and there has been a great response to our survey, which is still open - www.surveymonkey.com/s/Big_Society_and_BME.

So far, 120 BME Third Sector organisations have contributed to the development of work around this. We will be putting together a response soon and will collectively decide on action at the NW BME Policy Forum and will keep everyone updated via the bulletin.

For more information, please do not hesitate to get in touch by Email: danielsilver@nwnetwork.org.uk or Telephone: 0161 236 6493

NCVO: Power and Social Change

This comprehensive PDF guide will help you think strategically about how to bring about change through a series of chapters that can either be read on their own or as a whole. It includes:

- **Power and change** - introduces the main concepts of power and sources of power
- **How change happens** –an overview of how to bring change that can inform your strategy
- **Routes to change** – possible routes to change and how organisations can build capacity
- **Sector and government** – implications of the changing environment
- **Checklist tool** - to help you identify and assess the issues and develop a strategic response.

To access the toolkit visit: www.onenorthwest.org.uk/documents.asp?adv=simple§ion=Key+Documents

White Paper on Health: Join the Debate

The White Paper on Health has the potential to create one of the biggest changes to the structure and function of the NHS since its creation in 1948. Regional Voices and Voluntary Sector North West have produced a summary briefing that aims to outline the main functions of the structures it is proposed will emerge from the forthcoming Health Bill and some of the potential implications for the voluntary and community sector.

To read the briefing, please visit the consultation section of One North West's website - <http://www.onenorthwest.org.uk/documents.asp?adv=simple§ion=Consultations>

Regional Voices welcome your thoughts specifically in these areas and have set up a specific section on the Regional Voices website for comments: <http://www.regionalvoices.net/>

21st Century Welfare Consultation

Iain Duncan Smith, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, has set out his plans to completely change the benefits system in the paper *21st Century Welfare*. He proposes to help people move into work by letting them keep more of their earnings. This would make sure that the advantages of work are clear and easy to understand.

There would be a major reform of the range of credits and benefits available, and how help from these will reduce bit by bit as people start and progress in their work.

The proposals for a simpler benefits system could:

- Bring together parts of the current benefits and Tax Credit systems,
- Simplify the financial help available to people both in and out of work, and
- Allow extra support for things like housing, children and disability.

The consultation ends on October 1st. For information please see One North West's consultation section: <http://www.onenorthwest.org.uk/documents.asp?adv=simple§ion=Consultations>

New research shows families and poorest hit hardest by coalition cuts

Research commissioned from the Institute for Fiscal Studies by the End Child Poverty campaign (www.ifs.ac.uk) shows that the Coalition's emergency budget hit families with children hardest, and that the poorest families are set to lose most.

The research contradicts the Chancellor's claim that the budget measures were progressive and calls into question commitments to 'fairness'. Unlike the Treasury's own modeling, the analysis takes into account the impact of all the budget's changes up to 2014; analyses the June 2010 Budget changes separately from those announced previously; and includes changes to Housing Benefit and Disability Living Allowance. It shows that:

- "The measures announced in the June 2010 budget are regressive as they hit the poorest more than the seventh, eighth and ninth deciles in cash, let alone percentage, terms."
- Families with children lose more than pensioners or other household types in all except the top three income groups.
- The poorest families with children lose more than any other group. As a result of the changes announced in the June Budget, families in the bottom income decile are set to lose over 5 per cent of their income, compared to less than one per cent for non-pensioner households without children in the top decile.

Fiona Weir, a spokesperson for the End Child Poverty campaign, said: "The coalition has committed to ending child poverty by 2020, but its cuts are hitting the poorest families hardest. It's not fair that children should have to pay for the cuts and shocking that the poorest families are bearing the brunt of them.

The coalition must re-consider its cuts, including changes to Housing Benefit and uprating benefits. The spending review will need to show clearly how the Government will deliver on the commitment to ending child poverty, ensuring that cuts fall on those most able to pay."

National Resistance to Budget Cuts

Coalition of Resistance

Tony Benn has called for "a broad movement of active resistance to the Con-Dem government's budget intentions. They plan the most savage spending cuts since the 1930s, which will wreck the lives of millions by devastating our jobs, pay, pensions, NHS, education, transport, postal and other services... We reject this malicious vandalism and resolve to campaign for a radical alternative"

For more information please visit: <http://www.coalitionofresistance.org.uk/>

Right to Work Campaign

There is also the Right to Work Campaign. They "wish to state...outright opposition to the current policy of austerity being pursued by the current coalition government, who are cutting public services, forcing up the retirement age, freezing pay, targeting benefits, reducing pensions, reducing access to higher education and enforcing further privatisation in the NHS and our schools."

The Campaign is supported by three national trade unions, the PCS, NUJ and UCU, the Labour Representation Committee and a number of local trade union and campaign bodies.

For more information please visit: <http://www.righttowork.org.uk/>

CEMVO's Greater Manchester Service Mapping: Information for SERCO

CEMVO and SERCO are compiling a list of all the associated services in Greater Manchester which might help unemployed people in Greater Manchester to get a job, in addition to the services already provided through the Flexible New Deal Contract.

The services might include workshops, classes, courses leading to certificates, drop-ins, help lines, or even websites. Among other things, the services may be designed to help people with numeracy, literacy, confidence, diversity issues, English language skills, IT skills, welfare rights or perhaps their understanding of a specific type of job.

The services may be based in any one of the ten parts of Greater Manchester: Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, or Wigan. The list of services will be used to inform unemployed people in Greater Manchester about the support available to them and will be provided to them free in the context of their Action Plan.

CEMVO would like organisations to answer the questions below. The information will assist subcontractors to co-ordinate services to maximise the chances of people sustaining decent employment. This is part of a wider mapping exercise that SERCO are doing and they will provide the completed directory back to CEMVO and its members free of charge on request.

Information:

1. Please supply contact details below [phone number, fax numbers, websites and lead person]:
2. Please briefly describe the service, in a way which would make it clear to a jobseeker with no prior knowledge, what he or she would gain from it:
3. Please can you suggest a title under which we could list this service in our directory:
4. What address is the service provided from? [If the service is provided from more than one address, list each one separately.]
5. Is the service available in any other parts of Greater Manchester?
6. Are there any eligibility criteria for using the service, for example age, benefit type, or where someone lives?
7. Can people refer themselves to the service, or do they need to be referred to it by a GP or other authority?
8. Do you have a waiting list for access to your services at the moment, or can people be seen readily? [If you do have a waiting list, roughly how long is the current waiting list?]

Please email the answers back to: Rushi.munshi@cemvo.org.uk Or send a hard copy to: Rushi Munshi, Regional Director, CEMVO, EMF House, 12 Charlotte Street, Manchester, M1 4FL

If you have any queries please contact Rushi Munshi on 0161 245 3201