



## Light Lunch ::: Issue 220 ::: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011

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### CLINKS REQUEST: evidence required on commissioning

The VCS members of the Ministry of Justice's 'Reducing Reoffending Third Sector Advisory Group' have set up a "Task and Finish" sub-group to produce proposals for the full Group to consider on "Competition, Commissioning and the Voluntary Sector". Clinks is now preparing an initial scoping paper and is inviting respondents from all Sectors to contribute examples / direct experiences of barriers and opportunities for VCS organisations to engage in competitive tendering for contracts, and views on how these arrangements could best be commissioned and managed in a Payment by Results model where prime/sub-contracting arrangements are likely to feature heavily. We would also be grateful to receive any relevant papers that you think should be included in our review of emergent policy / practice. Please submit evidence / views / papers (indicating clearly any material that you wish us to treat confidentially or to anonymise in the scoping paper / future reports) by Friday 10th June to [Lesley Frazer](#)

### CLINKS OPPORTUNITY: Sustainable Work with Offenders open to applications

As part of our 'Sustainable Work with offenders' project, we have now launched our Strategic Support Scheme, which offers short-term support through specialist advisors to smaller organisations facing financial challenges and wishing to improve financial sustainability. To be eligible for support, organisations must be a charity or social enterprise, must have an annual income of less than £3million, must be members of Clinks and must have experienced actual or predicted reduction in income from previous sources. Organisations must also be carrying out significant work (although not

necessarily exclusively) with offenders or supporting the sustainability of local criminal justice organisations. The first call for applications closes on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011, details at: [Clinks](#)

### **CLINKS NEWS: Clive gives evidence**

Clinks Director, Clive Martin, has given evidence to the Justice Committee on the Role of the Probation Service. Watch it at: [Clinks Videos](#)

### **CLINKS PUBLICATIONS: BAME resettlement**

'Stories of resettlement' presents the detailed stories of five men and women who have spent time in prison and are in the process of 'resettling' into life outside. The five are from different backgrounds and are at different stages of the resettlement process, but all have stated their clear desire to lead productive lives and to stay away from offending in the future. The five study participants spoke in interview about their experiences, including highly personal and sensitive matters, with a great deal of insight and openness. As a result, the stories presented over the pages of this report vividly and powerfully convey the complexities and challenges of resettlement. Download the report at: [Clinks publications](#)

### **CLINKS VACANCY: Finance Manager**

We are looking for a part time Finance Manager (15 hours per week) to lead on all aspects of our charity's finances. The postholder will be responsible for the maintenance of the charity's financial records, including book keeping, budgeting, management accounts and end of year accounts. Knowledge of QuickBooks is desirable. The post is at our new offices in **central London (St Pauls)**, and the closing date for applications is 8<sup>th</sup> June. Apply at: [Work for Clinks](#)

### **CLINKS MEMBERS OPPORTUNITY: promote your services to commissioners**

Clinks has been invited to manage VCS exhibition stands at the National Policing Improvement Agency's national conference on offender management (see EVENT below). This will allow your organisation to exhibit your services to ministers, senior police, prison and probation officers, chief executives of local authorities, Community Safety Partnerships, IOM practitioners and fellow voluntary sector organisations. This is a great, free opportunity to network with decision-makers. This is an exclusive Clinks Members offer, so check you're a Member [here](#) then email [Joe Gardham](#) to register an interest.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: offender learning review**

'Making Prisons Work: Skills for Rehabilitation' is a new report from Department for Business, Innovation & Skills that outlines plans to give offenders better access to skills that employers demand. The report presents proposals to re-tender OLASS providers - increasing the range and relevance of learning; restructuring offender learning around clusters of prisons to improve consistency; and focus learning towards the end of sentences. Download the report at: [BIS](#)

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: Chief Inspector of Probation speech**

Andrew Bridges, HM Chief Inspector of Probation has given his valedictory lecture entitled 'Probation & Youth Offending work: A Tribute to those who do it well'. In his lecture he blasts the media for their "lazy" reporting practices which cast probation and offenders in a bad light, and praises the exceptional work of criminal justice practitioners across the board. Read the full transcript at: [MoJ](#)

### **GOVERNMENT NEWS: giving white paper launched**

The Government has published its Giving White Paper, which sets out a framework to support the Government's ambition to stimulate a step change in giving. It identifies a number of priorities, including: incentivising giving, supporting innovators, making it easier to give and receive, and focusing on vulnerable communities. Commitments in the White Paper include a £10million Social Action Fund to support the most promising ideas for growing giving in priority areas in England. Find out more at: [Cabinet Office](#)

### **GOVERNMENT NEWS: Big Society champion steps down**

Light Lunch readers will have no doubt seen that the man in charge of implementing David Cameron's Big Society vision has announced he is to step down. Lord Wei is standing down from his unpaid post to work for the Community Foundation Network, saying: "I look forward to taking on this new role where I will be getting out into communities and advising

investors, organisations and community leaders in helping them to transfer power and resources from the centre to where it is really needed." Read more at: [Cabinet Office](#)

### **FUNDING: support those facing financial difficulty**

The Big Lottery's 'Improving Financial Confidence' fund offers grants worth between £500,000 and £1m for projects that help families and individuals avoid financial difficulty. The aim of the programme is to give people more confidence and skills in accessing and using financial services, such as bank accounts and affordable loans. Applications will be accepted until 16 September, with awards being made a few months after that. Find out more at: [BLF](#)

### **FUNDING: to get people cycling**

The Community Cycling Fund for London is accepting applications for 2011 funding. Community groups, clubs, charities, not-for-profit organisations and schools may apply for grants of up to £5,000 for cycling-based projects that will increase cycling and benefit local communities within **Greater London**. Funding can be spent on capital goods (bikes, tools, equipment) as well as training to enable people from London's diverse communities to experience the benefits of cycling. In particular the scheme hopes to target Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME), deprived and hard to reach groups where access to cycling is limited by income, equipment, health, ability, skills or information. The deadline for application is 12 noon on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 at [LCC](#)

### **EVENT: integrated offender management**

The National Policing Improvement Agency's National Integrated Offender Management Conference' [22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> June, nr. **Coventry, Free**] will provide an opportunity to consider the future development of Integrated Offender Management, as a key local tool in reducing crime and re-offending, in the context of related developments. These developments include the follow-up to the Ministry of Justice Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle" consultation, the Government's "new approach to fighting crime" and the Drug Strategy 2010. A key theme for the conference will also be about partnership working in preparing the ground for the election of the first Police and Crime Commissioners in May 2012. Download the flyer and booking form at: [Clinks Holding Page](#).

### **EVENT: racial and religious equality in the prison system**

Have there been significant reforms to the prison system to make it safer, more racially and religiously tolerant and humane? What are the next steps? These questions will be explored at a one day conference [30<sup>th</sup> June, Cambridge, £45], that will also feature presentations from Clinks Chair Dame Anne Owers, Clinks Member Unlock, and Dr Coretta Philips. Download the programme and booking form at: <http://bit.ly/jBwAbD>

### **EVENT: for youth offending teams and magistrates**

The Prison Reform Trust is running a one-day conference for YOT staff and youth magistrates aimed at reducing child imprisonment. The conference, on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July at Friends House in London, will offer attendees a choice of practitioner-led workshops, including: reducing custodial remand, breach as a driver to custody, liaison and diversion schemes, improving YOT/court relationships, and working with children with learning disabilities and communication difficulties. Places are £35 for YOT staff, free to magistrates. To book a place visit <http://bit.ly/Reducingcustodyconference>

### **PUBLICATION: crime and mental health in ex-military personnel**

Last year Clinks supported a student undertaking an MSc in Criminology with Forensic Psychology. Her final research paper 'Trained to kill then hung out to dry' is an investigative study of crime rates amongst ex-military which asks "Could a loss of self-identity play a role in the high incidents of crime and mental health problems faced by ex-military personnel? A really interesting piece of work, that will be of interest to practitioners working with this group of (ex) offenders. Download it at: [Clinks Holding Page](#).

### **PUBLICATION: scoping VCS involvement in the criminal justice system**

'Scoping the involvement of third sector organisations in the seven resettlement pathways for offenders' is a new report from Third Sector Research Centre that looks at the properties of third sector organisations working with offenders, more specifically their size, number, geographic area of operation and total income. It claims that nearly 20,000 third sector organisations work with offenders in England and Wales, and there is over representation of organisations providing accommodation services, health care and family-support services to offenders. Read the report at: [TSRC](#)

## PUBLICATION: women in prison

'Information needs of women in prison with mental health issues' is a joint Mind/Nacro report that shows what help is currently available, and what life is like for women in prison as the environment in which they live can have a huge impact on their mental health and well-being. Based around interviews and focus groups in prison, the report covers first night and induction; healthcare and medication; approaching release; and equality and diversity. Download it at: [Clinks Holding Page](#).

## OPPORTUNITY: professional development

De Montfort University's Faculty of Health and Life Sciences has a range of professional, flexible and high quality courses designed to increase your career prospects and potential, with their postgraduates earning over £47 000. Their MA Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) course enables recent graduates and established practitioners to develop their knowledge and understanding required to engage with the dynamic, complex issues of the sector. De Montfort are offering taster sessions before committing to a full postgraduate programme, as well as research opportunities at Masters and Doctorate level. For details, visit: [Clinks](#)

## RESOURCE: free management training

GLOBE is an e-learning academy delivering a range of online management courses for new, aspiring and experienced managers working in the third sector. Created by PNE Development, a selection of taster courses are available at no cost, find them via the dropdown menu at <http://elearning.pne-development.org/ecs> [Source: VolResource]

## MEMBERS VACANCIES

**Prisoners Education Trust** is looking for a Learning Matters Project Manager [**Mitcham, SW London**], Foundation are seeking a PPO Mentor [**County Durham**]. View these and other vacancies at: [Clinks Members Vacancies](#)

## TIPS OF THE WEEK...

**TIP OF THE WEEK I:** From £69 per person, spend a day discovering **London** from the River Thames on the Spirit of Chartwell. The deal includes a Captain's champagne reception, lunch, high tea, and dinner followed by a classic guitar or piano recital. Book at: [MagnaCarta](#)

**TIP OF THE WEEK II:** CrossCountry is offering train tickets for travel between **York, Edinburgh and Newcastle** from just £6.50 each way at: [CrossCountry](#)

**TIP OF THE WEEK III:** Spend £30+ at [La Redoute](#) and enter the code '8312' to get £10 off and a free travel bag.

**TIP OF THE WEEK IV:** Bank Holiday tip - get advice on free days out including museums, theme parks etc at: [MSE](#)

## EXTRA Information...

This edition of Light Lunch has been sent directly to 6,468 recipients. [Who are they?](#)

## NOTES

- Light Lunch is distributed weekly to individuals working (or with an interest) in the Criminal Justice System of England & Wales.
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