

First for foresight

NCVO Third Sector Annual Conference: 'Looking from the inside out'
Tuesday 20 June 2006, 9.30am-4pm. BVSC Conference Suite, 138 Digbeth, Birmingham.

NCVO's Third Sector Foresight project aims to help voluntary and community organisations identify and understand the strategic drivers that may impact on them and provide tools to

help organisations transform this understanding into robust strategies that can directly improve their effectiveness. This is a major national conference for voluntary sector leaders. It offers a unique opportunity to hear and think about how the voluntary sector operating environment is changing. This is a conference with a difference; using a mixture of presentations and facilitated discussions we will help you

to understand external trends, their internal implications and consider strategic actions. This event will help you to think strategically and face the future with confidence.

followup
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Social enterprise purchasing guide: make your sales pitch

Research commissioned by Birmingham & Solihull Social Economy Consortium (BSSEC) has revealed that while many public purchasers would like to buy more from social enterprises and trading voluntary organisations, they just don't know how to find them.

BSSEC is planning to provide an effective solution to this problem by developing a purchasing guide to social enterprise and the voluntary sector. The guide, which will be launched later this year, will be an easy-to-use website facility but, unlike other guides, will seek to provide public purchasers in particular with an unprecedented level of information about the enterprises included.

"We are trying to respond directly to an information gap

that public purchasers have told us needs to be filled," says Alun Severn, who is overseeing the development of the guide for BSSEC.

"The aim is to get not just the contact details but an 'enterprise profile' of as many social enterprises and voluntary organisations as possible in front of public purchasers."

Social enterprises and trading voluntary organisations will be included in the guide free of charge. It is envisaged that the guide will be a vital tool for public sector buyers of all kinds.

BSSEC has also launched a new PR campaign to increase awareness of the social, economic, and environmental benefits that social enterprises offer and encourage public sector purchasing. It also aims to demonstrate how the social enterprise model

can be used by voluntary and community organisations to generate sustainable income.

If you don't receive an entry questionnaire by 30 June, but wish to be included in the Guide, please contact our researcher, Mick Feloy at LES Ltd (see below).

followup
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