



### **News from West London Alliance – ISSUE 03/ 2011**

This newsletter is produced by the West London Alliance (WLA) to provide information about collaborative initiatives and programmes between West London boroughs and with other organisations in West London. More detailed information about WLA programmes and the latest news can be found on the West London Alliance web site: [www.westlondonalliance.org](http://www.westlondonalliance.org).

### **WL secures £5,693,500 from Mayor's Town Centre Fund**

The Mayor of London has awarded almost £10m of funding from his Outer London Fund to 20 boroughs across the capital. Four WL Boroughs (Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon and Hounslow) have received a total of £5,693,500, out of the £10m fund. The funding is intended to bring the 'buzz' back into high streets to boost local economies.

A second round of funding - open until October 14<sup>th</sup> - will see the allocation of a further £40m of funding to develop long-term projects to regenerate and rejuvenate areas, ranging from a small parade of shops to whole town centres. To read more, click [here](#).

### **West London Business Sentiment Survey Published**

West London Business Chamber has published its fourth annual business sentiment survey for West London. Amongst the headline findings were -

- The proportion of businesses exporting had risen significantly from 2010 with growing interest in Africa, Asia and North America.
- Developing new contacts through 'networking' and 'Sales and marketing' were the top business support requirements
- Optimism for own business prospects remained significantly higher than optimism in the wider economy. Although since 2010, businesses have developed an increasingly pessimistic outlook on the business climate for their own industry / sector. Micro-businesses were driving this pessimism in their businesses industry/sector
- There were improved perceptions of West London as a business location, with more businesses agreeing that remaining in West London will facilitate growth.
- Employment factors remained static while fewer businesses were looking to increase 'spend on training' and 'employment of apprentices' compared to last year.

A summary of the Survey can be found on the [WLA web site](#).

### **Support for businesses affected by the riots**

The Prime Minister and the Mayor of London have set out a number of support measures for businesses affected by last week's riots. These include:

- Businesses damaged will be able to seek compensation under Riot Damages Act
- A new £20 million high street support scheme to help affected businesses get back up and running quickly
- Local authorities will be given the ability to grant business rate relief
- Tax payments will be deferred for businesses in greatest need
- Government has instructed the valuation office to immediately stop liability for council tax and business rates for houses and businesses that have been the most badly damaged.
- Unnecessary planning regulations will be weeded out to ensure that businesses can get back on their feet and feel secure as quickly as possible
- Urgent funding is immediately available through a new £10 million Recovery Scheme to provide additional support to councils in making areas safe, clean and clear again.

Further details can be found on the [BIS website](#). The Mayor has also announced [£50 million investment in long term improvements](#) to town centres and high streets in London that have been damaged by the recent disturbances.



### **West London Partnership to Meet with Sir Peter Rogers**

Sir Peter Rogers, the Mayor's Advisor for Regeneration, Growth and Enterprise, will be attending the meeting of the West London Partnership on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011, to discuss the Mayor's economic development policies for West London, with borough leaders, business representatives and members of the voluntary and community sector.

### **West London Adult Social Care Programme**

A series of open surgeries on the Accredited Purchasing and Contract Management scheme are taking place during August. The surgeries will be an opportunity for providers of residential and nursing care to learn more about the APC scheme application process, the fee ceilings for older peoples' services and the timescales for applying to join the APC scheme. Surgeries will take place on the following dates:

- 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011: Committee Room 2 Hillingdon Civic Centre
- 11:00 am – 5:00pm, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2011: Floor 6 Mahatma Ghandi House, Brent
- 9:30am – 5:00 pm, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2011: Percival House Meeting Room 5.16, Ealing
- 9:30am – 2:00pm, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2011: Committee Room 6, Harrow Civic Centre,

For further information, contact Harjinder Jutle on 07702954424, or [wla\\_asc@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:wla_asc@ealing.gov.uk)

Further, there are two new secondment opportunities (for current West London employees only) to join the WL ASC Programme, up to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. To find out more, click [here](#), or call Kieran Topping, Senior Category Manager on 07889 317 429.

To find out more about the WL ASC Efficiencies Programme overall, contact Esther Thomas, Programme and Communications Manager, [ThomasEs@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:ThomasEs@ealing.gov.uk) or click [here](#).

### **WLA Step Up To Social Work 2012-13**

Step Up to Social Work is an innovative training programme which will provide successful applicants with a Masters in Social Work, as well as intensive hands-on experience. Potential candidates who have: a 1st or 2:1 degree in any discipline; a grade C or above GCSE in English and Mathematics or equivalent; experience of working with children, young people and families; and emotional resilience and maturity – can apply, by the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

Successful applicants would receive:

- A minimum of £15,000 per annum pro rata to support you.
- A Masters in Social Work on successful completion.
- A work-based route into a social work career.
- Training which considers your previous experience and qualifications and completed in 18 months.
- Structured training and development to support your early career.
- At least two placements in a host Local Authority
- Access to a learner guide and practice educator within the host Local Authority
- Skills development opportunities within the host Local Authority

West London is working with the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) to run the programme. Applications are via the CWDC website where applicants can indicate 1 of the 8 West London Boroughs as their preferred geographical location, with a further two identified as alternatives, as each Local Authority has a limited number of places available. To read more and/ or apply, visit [www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/step-up](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/step-up).

### **To contact the West London Alliance:**

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