

Empowering the Voluntary Sector

Funded by the Big Lottery Fund, the project brings together NAVCA and the Public Law Project (PLP) in an innovative venture to support the voluntary and community sector in understanding the principles and framework of public law. The aim of the project is strengthen the relationship between voluntary and community organisations and public bodies and significantly increase opportunities to influence decisions made by public bodies.

Kevin Curley, chief executive of NAVCA says: *“Small organisations often feel helpless when they are informed from on high that their funding is being withdrawn or services are being cut. This project will give them the information and support they need to challenge unjust decisions taken by public bodies. It will help them develop the confidence to engage in a robust dialogue, making litigation an option of last resort to tackle those public bodies that continue to shirk their responsibilities.*

“Successfully challenging an adverse decision can not only secure vital community services, it can be an empowering experience which helps combat the very roots of social exclusion.”

Workshop outline & information

- Introduction to public law
 - working definition of public law
 - public bodies and public functions
 - duties & powers
 - legislation, regulations & guidance
- Public law wrongs
 - illegality
 - fairness
 - irrationality
 - maladministration
- Making a challenge
 - decisions, actions and failures to act by a public body
 - information gathering and problem analysis
- Public law remedies
 - complaints
 - compact & mediation
 - ombudsman schemes
 - judicial review

The workshop sessions are supported by group activities that relate the learning to work based experiences and case study scenarios.

Total number of students per workshop – 15

Minimum number per workshop – 10

Cost per person - £35 per person. If an organisation purchases all places on a workshop, in advance, a discounted price of £25 per person applies (total cost of £375). These prices include VAT and lunch.

The workshops are open members of management teams and development workers from local infrastructure organisations and those front line organisations who, for whatever reason have little or no interface with LIOs. We are sorry, but we are unable to take bookings from members of public bodies.

Time – 09.00 – 09.30 – Arrival & Coffee
09.30 – 16.30 – Workshop

The programme of workshops is running until early 2009.

If you wish to host a workshop, you will need to be able to provide the following:

- A training room with seating and tables that will comfortably take the maximum number of delegates;
- The room must have good lighting, preferably natural;
- The building & room must have access facilities for persons with disability, including lavatories;
- Have sufficient number of electrical sockets to run a lap and data projector;
- Have screening facilities such a portable or wall mounted screen or a flat plain white or beige wall;
- Be able to provide tea / coffee, etc;
- Be able to provide flip chart.

Would you please also advise on the following

- Car parking / travel access;
- Access in relation to workshop timing;
- Catering;
- Training equipment available;
- Costs.*

* NAVCA pay room hire and for hire of training equipment used

NAVCA will take on all booking activities, but we must have your support in marketing the workshops to your networks, including other LIOs and frontline organisations.

For further information or if you wish to discuss any aspect of hosting a workshop, please contact Terry Perkins at NAVCA on 0114 289 3072 or e-mail terry.perkins@navca.or.uk