

SAN

Social Audit Network

social accounting and audit for the community sector



Social Audit Network Circular September 2009

The SAN e-mail list reaches some 1500 people in the UK and all around the world. If you know of other people who are interested in social accounting please invite them to join the network via the website or simply email us their address. Please remember the network is there not only to send out information but also to be used as a way of contacting other people and spreading information about what you are doing. For more information about how to book for this year's SAN conference, read on....

If you want to focus on what is going on in your area – please contact your Regional Co-ordinator or contact Anne Lythgoe alythgoe420@btinternet.com.

Events and Training

Master-classes and Social Auditor training...

The **two-day social accounting master-classes** are aimed at people who wish to understand the Three Step social accounting process either in order to facilitate the process with social economy organisations or to use it within their own organisation. The cost of these classes in the UK is £375 including a copy of the social accounting and audit Manual & CD and dinner on the first evening. (If you already have a Manual & CD the cost is £350).

Social Auditor workshops are aimed specifically at those people wishing to become SAN approved Social Auditors. Participants should have sound prior knowledge and/or experience of the social accounting and audit process either by having used it for their own or another organisation or by having attended one of SAN's two-day master-classes or similar SAN recognised training. The cost of the Social Auditor workshop is £150.

Future events include:

Exeter – Social Accounting Master-class – to be held on **23rd and 24th September 2009** – lead trainers Helen Vines and Debbie Stewart – for further details contact info@ceultd.co.uk or info@socialauditnetwork.org.uk

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London- October

Master-class in Social Accounting

given by **John Pearce- Monday and Tuesday 5 & 6 October**

Social Auditor Workshop

will also be held on **Wednesday 7 October**

These are opportunities to learn more about social accounting from someone who has been at the forefront of developing the methodology for over 15 years.

Both the master-class and the SA workshop will take place in Corsham Street N1. Further details are available from Sean Wheeldon in the SAN office and anyone interested in attending either or (both) events should contact him on info@socialauditnetwork.org.uk

Cardiff - master-class - date in Sept/Oct to be confirmed – lead trainer John Pearce. For further details contact sarah.germain@cylich.org.uk

Edinburgh or Glasgow - master-class and Social Auditor workshop - possibly December or late January 2010 - lead trainer John Pearce – for further information watch the SAN Circular.

If you are interested in working with SAN to hold a Master-class or other training in your region, please contact John Pearce by e-mail at j.pearce@cali.co.uk

SAN News and Developments

New Office Address

SAN's new correspondence address is:

Address: SAN Ltd., c/o CEU Ltd., Garden Floor, Suite 1, 11-15 Dix's field, EXETER. EX1 1QA

Tel: **01392 666 282**

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SAN Conference 13 November 2009 – booking open

The 2009 SAN Conference

Accounting, measuring and reporting- how does it all add up?

13 November at Blackburne House in Liverpool

This will be an international affair with social accounting practitioners from Europe and overseas in attendance. Confirmed speakers and workshop presenters so far include:

- **Bryn Sadownik**- Vancity- Demonstrating Value Project, Canada
- **Gerry Higgins**- CEO of Community Enterprise in Scotland
- **Steve Wyler**- CEO of the Development Trusts Association
- **Ruth Woodall**- Sustainability and Reporting Manager
The Co-operative
- **Bob Doherty**- John Moores University Liverpool
- **Mrs Latha Suresh** of the Centre for Social Initiative Management
in India
- **Marcelle Holdaway**- social auditor based in Australia
- **Lindsay Jeffs**- social auditor based in New Zealand
- **Johny Joseph**- Creative Handicrafts, Mumbai
- **Tytti Siltanen**- Develooppi Oy, Finland
- **Katherine Trebeck**- The Wise Group
- **Manoj Khadka**- Social Audit Forum, Nepal

Full details and a booking form are available on the SAN website. The cost of the day is £125 (£100 for SAN company members). Please book early as places are limited.

SAN members are also invited to attend the international Gathering of social accounting and auditor practitioners which will be held on Thursday afternoon and evening the 12th November - the day before the SAN conference - in Liverpool. Members will receive an e-mail with further details.

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SAN Social Accounts

The SAN social accounts for the period to 31 March 2009 will go to a social audit panel to be held in Birmingham on 1 October. Once any changes required by the panel have been made a summary will be circulated with the monthly Circular and the full social accounts and appendices will be available on the SAN website. The summary version will also be available at the SAN conference in November.

Register of Social Auditors

Anyone wishing to become approved as a SAN Social Auditor contact their Regional Co-ordinator in the first instance - see end of Circular. Prospective auditors are required to attend a SAN Social Auditor workshop and to have attended at least two social audit panels and written a set of notes before being mentored when they chair a first panel for themselves.

For information on the register of approved social auditors, please go to our website at: <http://www.socialauditnetwork.org.uk/register2.htm>

SAN manual...

Should you wish to purchase a copy of the interactive Manual and CD, please contact your Regional Co-ordinator in the first instance, who may have some in stock. Larger orders should be placed via the SAN office in Exeter (contact details at the end of this newsletter) or via Anne Lythgoe, by e-mail (alythgoe420@btinternet.com). The order form is available on the SAN website at <http://www.socialauditnetwork.org.uk/ManCD2.htm>

The 2009 cost of the Social Accounting and Audit Manual and CD is as follows:

- 1 - 5 copies - £27.50 each (incl. Post and Packing)
- 5+ copies - £25 each (**plus** Post and Packing)

Call for Case Studies...

SAN is always looking for organisations to feature as Case Studies in both this newsletter and on the SAN website. A number of case studies have been prepared following the SAN research project, and a number of these are now available for you to download from the SAN website at <http://www.socialauditnetwork.org.uk/what%202.htm>.

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SAN is planning a booklet of case studies to illustrate good practice in social accounting and audit – if you would like to feature in this booklet, please contact Anne Lythgoe for more details. Thank you to all those who have responded so far!

If you are willing to share your experiences of social accounting and audit in order to help inform others, you do not need to write the whole article – we are happy to help. However, the information and opinion must come from you and your organisation – it's your story that is being told! Please contact Anne Lythgoe (alythgoe420@btinternet.com), to discuss how your story can be included on our website.

Social Accounting Case Study Feature

Cumbria CVS

Introduction

West Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) has recently merged with other CVS's in the county to form Cumbria CVS. It supports over 200 voluntary and community groups throughout the districts of Allerdale and Copeland in Cumbria and is based in Maryport. The organisation provides information, advice and training and promotes volunteering with its members. It supports economic/ community regeneration and encourages partnerships between statutory, voluntary/community and private organisations in order to help local communities maximise community benefit. It strives to be a good employer and work in ways that are environmentally sensitive.

Social accounting and audit

In early 2004 a volunteer who wanted to gain experience of social accounting asked West Cumbria CVS if they would be willing to go through the process with her. The organisation already had the Investors in People Standard but was looking for other ways to review its performance. The Trustees and management agreed to this request and six members of staff and the volunteer were trained using the Social Accounting Manual (2000). They then went on to draw up the social accounts for the whole organization and these were reviewed by an external audit panel in 2005. The whole process lasted about 1 year.

Benefits and value of social accounting and audit

The main benefits included important feedback on what the customers and general public liked about West Cumbria CVS's services. The fact that

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they liked the organization as whole was affirming. It also confirmed some issues amongst the staff. Although these issues were already known about, the social accounting process gave managers the confidence and impetus to address them.

General thoughts on social accounting and audit

West Cumbria CVS's first attempt at social accounting was to develop a set of accounts for the whole organization. This was too big a step for them as the organization is large and has many diverse stakeholders. With hindsight they decided that it might have been better to develop a set of social accounts for one project within the organisation and using the learning gained gradually roll out social accounting throughout the organisation.

*Cumbria CVS
The Resource Centre
12a Selby Terrace
Maryport
Cumbria CA15 6NF
01900 819 191
chris@cumbriacvs.org.uk*

<http://www.carlislecvs.org.uk/>

SAN in Scotland

Alan Kay writes...

The Scottish Social Enterprise Academy is planning to run a series of two-day social accounting and audit training modules, commencing in September. Entitled '**Prove, Improve and Account**' the modules will be facilitated by Alan Kay and run across Scotland at the following venues:

29-30 September 2009 - Inverness
20-21 October - Aberdeen
24-25 November - Glasgow

If you are interested in attending at any of these courses venues and require more details, please contact the Social Enterprise Academy on 0131 243 2670 or learn@theacademy-ssea.org for the Aberdeen and Glasgow venues and David Bryan on davidn@theacademy-ssea.org for the Inverness venue.



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SAN Regional Co-ordinators...

London:

Mike Gordon (pro tem)- mike@mgc13.plus.com

South East:

Mike Gordon (pro tem)- mike@mgc13.plus.com

East Midlands:

Mike Swain - Mike.S@asan.org.uk

West Midlands:

West Midlands Social Accounting Cluster - Mike.S@asan.org.uk

Scotland:

SAN in Scotland - info@cbs-network.org.uk

South West England:

Community Enterprise Unit - lorna@ceultd.co.uk

East of England:

Mike Gordon - mike@mgc13.plus.com

Wales:

Cylch in partnership with the Development Trusts Association Wales (DTAW) - sarah.germain@cylich.org.uk

North West England:

contact either Graham Waterhouse - graham.waterhouse@ntlworld.com
or Liz Brooks Allen - Liz@elect.org.uk

Yorks and Humber:

Contact in the first instance Mary McGarry -
mary@punchthehorse.karoo.co.uk

North East England:

Community Campus 87 - lawrence@cc87.co.uk

Northern Ireland:

Vacant

We are still seeking to identify people willing to serve as Regional Co-ordinators in Northern Ireland and the South of England.

Contacting SAN...

Address: SAN Ltd., c/o CEU Ltd., Garden Floor, Suite 1, 11-15 Dix's field, EXETER. EX1 1QA

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Email: info@socialauditnetwork.org.uk

Web: www.socialauditnetwork.org.uk

*Anne Lythgoe
September 2009*