



Social accounting and audit for the community sector



Social Audit Network: May 2010

Now the snow has finally melted from our web editor's garden, and spring flowers are starting to bloom, SAN is looking forwards to a packed programme of events across the UK in the coming months.

SAN's objectives include 'To promote, facilitate and encourage the use of social accounting and audit through the sharing of information and experience.' This newsletter is one of the tools through which this can happen. As editor I would strongly encourage all social accounting practitioners to tell their story to others. SAN is a support network, and hearing from the horses' mouths how others have tried and succeeded (or tried and failed) has helped many others who are in the same position. Please send all articles (no matter how long or how polished) to me at alythgoe420@btinternet.com

This month's newsletter contains a focus on activities across the midlands of England - with workshops and masterclasses happening over the next few weeks. For more information on events, please click [HERE](#)

STOP PRESS: a further Social Accounting and Audit Masterclass has been arranged for 15th and 16th June in Manchester. For further information and booking, please contact Graham Waterhouse (graham.waterhouse@ntlworld.com) or phone Sean at the SAN office on 01392 666282.

Anne
Editor

Lythgoe

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Update: SAA in the West & East Midlands – May 2010

Iftikar Karim

SAN in the Midlands



Midlands

SAN in the Midlands has continued to meet as a group, of practitioners and trainers, on a quarterly basis to review practice of social accounting & audit (SAA) and to plan how to promote its practice in the region. It was agreed that a new approach should be attempted to engage social economy organisations in assessing social impact. Following further planning we have developed a programme for a half day event which aims to:

- Explain what is meant by impact measurement and why it is important
- Approaches to measure impact measurement including presentations by practitioners of SAA, SROI, PQASSO & IIP.
- Introduce various approaches to impact measurement including SAA,
- Examination of what information is already gathered within organisations
- Consideration of benefits and snags of undertaking impact measurement

This event was successfully delivered and included practitioners presenting brief case studies on various impact measurement approaches including Social Accounting & Audit, Social Return & Investment, Investors in People and PQASSO. The majority of the twenty plus participants at the event were from Midlands social economy organisations with three delegates representing the public sector and funders. All the participants found the seminar either useful or very useful and they all intend to use what they had learnt in future work. The event concluded with the general agreement that some further support was required to implement chosen approaches to measure social impact.

After reviewing the event SAN in the Midlands has decided to run the 'Introduction to Social Impact Measurement' seminar in various other locations starting with Birmingham and then moving to rural areas such as Hereford and Worcestershire. A meeting has been held with a local officer of the Barrow Cadbury Trust with a view to possibly supporting their grant funded organisations to examine implementing social accounting and audit as a framework for understanding their impact. Discussions are ongoing with Barrow Cadbury to explore the possibility of running either a SAA cluster or masterclass with their beneficiary organisations – mainly organisation supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

East Midlands

Following an approach by Social Enterprise East Midlands (SEEM) we have planned the delivery of a series of SAA Master-classes in the East Midlands. These are funded through the Big Lottery Fund's BASIS 2 as part of SEEM's Financial Awareness and Investment Readiness (FAIR) Learning Programme designed to improve the ability of the full range of third sector organisations to plan their future and diversify their income. This will be achieved through building the capacity of infrastructure organisations to deliver tailored organisational support.

The FAIR Programme will be initially available to advisers in Third Sector Infrastructure Support organisations who find themselves more and more frequently being asked about how to set up or fund a social enterprise. Requests may be coming from community groups with an asset, voluntary organisations looking to contract with the public sector or charities that want to set up a trading arm.

The first two day master-class was delivered on the 23rd and 24th of March and further workshops will be delivered on 11th and 12th of May and the final workshop on 29th and 30th June 2010. SEEM has expressed an interest in holding a Social Auditor Workshop following the series of two day master-classes, providing there is sufficient demand. Further information can be obtained from Jules Sebelin on JSebelin@seem.uk.net.

There are also joint discussions and planning involving SEEM and the East Midlands School for Social Entrepreneurs to support a cluster of social economy organisations in the East Midlands to work through the social accounting and audit process. This would depend on sufficient numbers of organisations being interested in joining a cluster.

Iftikar Karim

April 2010

NEWS & DEVELOPMENTS

Liverpool Conference

SAN members are invited to attend a conference which marks an important step towards accounting for social value in health services. Organised by 10 Strategic Health Authorities across England, and held at Aintree Racecourse in Liverpool, the conference explores 'Social Value - Myth or Economic Reality'

To view the programme please [CLICK](#)

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.

To see more about Social Auditing

[READ ON](#)

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SAN practice 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. There are now 23 Case studies on the SAN website, and these will shortly be accompanied by a handy directory feature to help you select the best Case Studies for your needs...

To visit the Case Studies page...

[READ ON](#)

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: c/o CEU Ltd Garden Floor, Suite 111-15 Dix's Field, Exeter EX1 1QA Tel: 01392 666282

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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.