

Following a successful bid to the BIG Lottery, the CANNY project has established a network of community accounting services across the York and North Yorkshire region comprising of a team of four part-time community accountants.

The funding secures a free community accounting service for each of the 8 districts of York & North Yorkshire, for one day per week starting from September 2009.

The overall aim of the project is to:

**‘Improve knowledge and understanding of financial management in voluntary and community organisations to help the voluntary and community sector become more sustainable’.**

Each of the Community Accounting Services will provide free financial advice, information and training, initially aimed at smaller voluntary and community groups (typically under £100,000 income a year). Services will include:

- advice and information on financial and charity legislation and compliance.
- assisting new organisations to set up adequate financial records and systems.
- reviewing the financial systems of existing organisations and suggest improvements.
- providing guidance to groups on financial planning including preparing budgets.
- guidance on producing meaningful management accounts for trustees.

Each Community Accounting Service will also offer a fee-based accounts preparation, and Independent Examination service, available to voluntary and community groups within the region.

Groups can access services in a number of different ways including:

- telephone and e-mail support
- local surgery sessions
- information resources
- one-to-one training (tailored to meet the needs of individuals or groups)
- Treasurer's support group

These core services will be backed up by a regular programme of group training sessions, delivered across the region, on all aspects of financial management including:

- basic book-keeping
- the role of the Treasurer
- setting up and keeping financial records
- internal financial controls
- petty cash (getting it right)
- preparing budgets
- producing management accounts
- financial planning, managing your finances & understanding your accounts
- full cost recovery.

To find out more about the CANNY project or how your local Community Accounting service can help your organisation visit the CANNY website at [www.canny.org.uk](http://www.canny.org.uk) or contact:

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### **Selby & York Districts**

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