

Solace newsletter to members  
Brief posting  
4<sup>th</sup> August 2006

Good afternoon. The last of the weekly e-mails before the summer break, though judging by the e-mail traffic, many SOLACE members are already in their caravans by the coast! Traditionally this is the time to remind you to book for SOLACE conference, this year 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October in Manchester. Details and timings are on the website at [www.solaceconference.org.uk](http://www.solaceconference.org.uk)

If you are only thinking of going, it is still worth booking the conference hotel. You can always cancel it if necessary, but you will not get in if you leave it too late. For the Chief Executive colleague who has phoned me two weeks before the event, for the last three years, the answer will be the same this year, we do not hold back rooms for late bookers, even if they are very important!

The national *Capacity Building Programme, Real Improvement, Real Time*, provided by SOLACE Enterprises and PWC in partnership, is now available to all authorities. Two new programmes specifically tailored to meet the needs of unitary and district councils respectively, are to be launched in the autumn. Learning is directly applied to current performance issues in 'real time' during the events. A 'team' of up to 5 people per authority can attend the learning and development events. If you are a unitary or district council and are interested in taking part, please contact Andrea Martin on [andrea.martin@solaceenterprises.com](mailto:andrea.martin@solaceenterprises.com)

A message to Chief Executive's in Northern Ireland ... a personal letter has been sent to your direct reports inviting them to be members. We do hope you will recommend that they join and we look forward meeting some of them at future SOLACE events.

And finally, a really clever idea from LB Newham. An initiative called "Slivers-of-Time" allows anyone to sell their spare hours to local employers. It is a unique job market aimed at people who need to work around other commitments in their life. It also allows local authorities to buy inducted workers day-by-day, hour-by-hour which can be more efficient and reactive. If your organisation (or community) could benefit from this [www.sliversoftime.com](http://www.sliversoftime.com) is the place to look and [Richard.manby@sliversoftime.com](mailto:Richard.manby@sliversoftime.com) is the man to contact.

That's all for August

Regards

David Clark

