

# E-Zine



Welcome to Supporting Communities 121st Edition of E-Zine, bringing you Best Practice from the Community Sector; Funding and Training Updates and Policy Developments in Northern Ireland, Great Britain and Republic of Ireland.

## Would your Community Group like help in measuring the impact of the work it carries out?



Last year, the Halifax Foundation funded the Rural Community Network (RCN) to work with 6 Rural Groups to help measure their Social Value or impact. This year RCN is following this by again working with Halifax and offering the chance of 1 or 2 Rural Community Groups to take part!

For the successful groups, a 12 month period training will be provided, with further networking and 1-1 support to the organisation to help measure the impact of projects and of activities, and will complete a report will be completed on behalf of the group demonstrating the impact and value of the work that is carried out. This support will have massive benefits in helping groups evidence their impact & value for money, but furthermore can be embedded into everyday operations, allowing groups the opportunity to highlight to funders and donors the value of their services.

All fees are covered by the Halifax Foundation including travel costs to attend 3-4 meetings. Two representatives from each successful organisation would have to attend all network meetings (normally 3-4 over a 12 month period), and commit to the completion of the project and report.

It is envisaged that the first Project meeting would take place on Monday 17th June from 10am-3:30pm in RCN's offices, Cookstown and it is mandatory for your organisation to attend this session.

If you have any queries about the project or need assistance in completing the application form, contact Conor at RCN on 07725 030295. Deadline for the receipt of completed forms is Friday 24th May at 4pm by email to [conor@ruralcommunitynetwork.org](mailto:conor@ruralcommunitynetwork.org)

## Rates review announced The Department of Finance has announced a review of the non-domestic rating system in Northern Ireland



Launching the review, Sue Gray Permanent Secretary at the Department of Finance said: *"In recent years significant changes have taken place in our high streets and town centres. It is critical from a business perspective, as well as a government funding perspective, that our rating system is capable of responding to this wider process of change. That's why today I am announcing a full and comprehensive review of business rates. We must create a rating system which generates the funding our public services need while supporting businesses in all sector and enabling economic growth right across Northern Ireland. In an environment where we are working without Ministers there are limitations to what we can do by way of policy change. But we need to be ready with updated advice for incoming Ministers for*

*their return to office. This fundamental review is therefore a critical part of this process."*

Part of the review will see a joint Innovation Lab held at the beginning of July with other Government Departments. The Lab event will gather leading policy experts in the field of urban regeneration, taxation and the high street to capture their perspectives, ideas and options on a range of issues affecting town centre regeneration, including business rates. It will provide an open space for an in-depth conversation about the future of non-domestic rates.

Further details of the review can be found at <https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/articles/latest-developments-rating-policy>

# Cavity Wall Insulation Report released for Northern Ireland



Research into cavity wall insulation in social housing and private homes in Northern Ireland has been published. The research was commissioned in 2017 by the Housing Executive on the back of concerns about the standard of cavity wall insulation in its own properties.

The research was carried out by Consultancy, Investigation and Training (CIT) a subsidiary of the British Board of Agrément (BBA), the UK's leading construction certification body, offering approval, certification, audit and test services to manufacturers of products and systems in the built environment. A sample of more than 800 Housing Executive properties and 100 privately owned homes were surveyed as part of the research.

The research found that of the Housing Executive stock surveyed, 63% had cavity wall insulation which was non-compliant with current industry standards leaving 37% compliant. This means that voids and/or debris in the cavity have been identified. Additionally, it was discovered that for 1% of properties surveyed, their external façade had deteriorated and the internal fabric had been compromised; 32% had building fabric that had been compromised but the situation was stable and 51% had minimal building fabric defects with no serious underlying causes. Sixteen percent of the stock was found to be defect-free.

In contrast, of the private homes surveyed, 36% had cavity wall insulation installations that were non-compliant with current industry standards. Similar to the Housing Executive homes, for 1% of properties surveyed their external façade had deteriorated and the internal fabric had been compromised; 15% had building fabric that had been compromised but the situation was stable and 43% had minimal building fabric defects with no serious underlying causes. Forty-one percent of the stock was found to be defect-free.

CIT has made a number of recommendations including prioritising remediation work; training Housing Executive staff; setting industry standards for suppliers; seeking compensation from companies responsible for non-compliant installations and establishing mechanisms for tenants to raise concerns related to cavity wall insulation in their homes.

Rob McCormack, CIT Director, said: *"CIT believes its recommendations address the issues of remediation across the Housing Executive's social housing stock as well as suggesting ways to ensure repair work is carried out in full compliance with cavity wall insulation industry standard. This research will allow the Housing Executive to use fact-based evidence and robust methodology to assess its remaining housing stock, identify those homes in most urgent need of remediation and efficiently plan maintenance programmes to address the issues identified."*

*The research is also intended to inform future strategy that will allow the Housing Executive to lead the way in developing housing and insulation policy based on strong, operational evidence in the field."*

A spokesperson for the Housing Executive said: *"We carried out an extensive programme of insulating cavity walls in the 1980s and 1990s. However, like many other UK social housing providers we have been increasingly concerned by nationwide reports of cavity wall insulation no longer performing as required due to degradation or poor installation. In 2013 we commissioned a small research project which surveyed 206 properties and found that the cavity wall insulation had deteriorated in many of the properties. Following continued concerns by tenants, elected representatives and the insulation industry about cavity wall insulation failure and, together with the 2015 stock condition survey by Savills that identified significant investment requirements for our stock, we decided to commission a larger investigation in order to provide us with robust information on the extent, the type and reasons for cavity wall insulation failure in our stock. As part of the House Condition Survey that we conduct, we also examined homes in the private sector."*

*We thank CIT for their work in what is the largest research project of its kind that we are aware of across the UK. We will now consider CIT's findings and recommendations and consult stakeholders. In the short term, we will, of course, immediately focus on those properties in which CIT has indicated a specific need for urgent remedial work. Later this year we will bring forward a longer term strategy and plan for addressing the broader issues that have been identified."*

*However, such a strategy and plan will have to be prioritised against the many other significant investment needs for our housing stock - such as our Tower Blocks Action Plan, improving the thermal performance of our non-traditional dwellings and addressing the maintenance backlog in external improvements and the replacement of kitchens and bathrooms. These will be important decisions and will be made in the context that we are still projecting a significant shortfall in the funding required to achieve and maintain our housing stock at a modern standard. Once again this brings into sharp focus the need to secure a sustainable funding model for the Housing Executive, particularly with regard to access to external borrowing. We acknowledge there have been many energy improvement measures undertaken across our stock over the years, in terms of our double glazing programme and heating upgrades. The findings of this research will now be used to complement our forthcoming ten year energy strategy."*

To read the full report [click here](#).

# BACK IN TIME

A  
MEMORY LANE TOURS BELFAST  
PRESENTATION

## TOUR LAUNCH

TUESDAY 28TH MAY 2019  
10.30 AM - 12.30 PM AT CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL

'**BACK IN TIME**' is a Virtual Tour of Belfast City Cemetery by Dara Barrett. This highly acclaimed tour takes audiences on a fascinating journey to the final resting place of some of Belfast's most famous & influential men and women.

This historical narrated tour is fun, educational and interactive and aims to reach across all age groups, genders, religious denominations and ethnic communities as well as giving audiences a better understanding on the impact of antisocial behaviour on preserved sites.



### RSPV

Email: [darabarrett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:darabarrett@hotmail.co.uk)

Memory Lane Tours Belfast facebook page

Tel: 07707113262

**BELFAST  
BOHEMIAN**  
productions

Tour Visuals & Graphics



A Memory Lane Tours Belfast Presentation

**Housing  
Executive**

Project Funded By

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# Special Focus

## Government announces end to three-year sanctions

In a written statement to the House of Commons the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has announced an end to the 3 year sanction that can be applied under Jobseeker's Allowance and Universal Credit. Any person subject to this level of sanction will lose their entitlement to JSA or the personal allowance of Universal Credit for 1095 days. In her statement, Ms Rudd conceded that three-year sanctions are counter-productive and stated that they "ultimately undermine (the Government's) goal of supporting people into work". Whilst announcing the climb-down from the governments' previous position it is clear that the government remained wedded to some form of punitive measure even though it was conceded that they probably didn't work.

The written statement said;

"Conditionality and sanctions are an important part of the welfare system, motivating claimants to engage with the support on offer to look for work while ensuring the system is fair to the taxpayer. Sanctions must be proportionate, particularly for the most vulnerable. The level of a sanction depends on the severity of the claimant's failure to comply with their work-related requirements. Sanctions escalate for subsequent failures, carrying greater penalties. Under current policy, a claimant on Universal Credit or Jobseeker's Allowance may receive a three-year sanction the third or subsequent time they have failed to comply with a work-related requirement. Three-year sanctions are rarely used, but I believe that they are counter-productive and ultimately undermine our goal of supporting people into work. I have reviewed my Department's internal data, which shows that a six-month sanction already provides a significant incentive for claimants to engage with the labour market regime. I agree with the Work and Pensions Select Committee that a three-year sanction is unnecessarily long and I feel that the additional incentive provided by a three-year sanction can be outweighed by the unintended impacts to the claimant due to the additional duration.

For these reasons, I have now decided to remove three year sanctions and reduce the maximum sanction length to six months by the end of the year. It is important that sanctions remain proportionate to ensure they promote the best outcomes.



House of Commons

Work and Pensions Committee

For this reason, the Department is currently carrying out a further evaluation into the effectiveness of UC sanctions at supporting claimants to search for work. I will consider what other improvements can be made following this and inform the House in due course." In its' Report on Benefit Sanctions, the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee made the following observation and recommendations on the Governments' approach to sanctions;

"At best, evidence on the effectiveness of sanctions is mixed, and at worst, it shows them to be counterproductive. The Coalition Government had little or no understanding of the likely impact of a tougher sanctions regime when it was introduced in 2012. It said the policy would be reviewed on an ongoing basis to understand its impact and the extent to which it was achieving its objectives. But six years later, it is none the wiser. The lack of any such evaluation is unacceptable. Furthermore, without evidence to support the significantly longer sanctions introduced, or data to understand the behavioural impact of escalated sanctions for repeated failures, the policy appears to be nothing other than arbitrarily punitive. The high rate of sanctions under Universal Credit only increases the urgency with which the Government must understand fully the effect of the 2012 reforms.

Crucially, if such research suggests changes are required, the Government must be prepared to respond accordingly. (Paragraph 23)

*We recommend that the Department urgently evaluate the effectiveness of reforms to welfare conditionality and sanctions introduced since 2012 in achieving their stated policy aims. The Department should commission an independent review of its methodology for this work. We further recommend that higher level sanctions should be reduced to two, four and six months for first, second and subsequent failures to comply, until the Department can present robust evidence that longer sanctions would be more effective at moving people into work."*

The full Report of the Work and Pensions Select Committee can be read at; <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmworpen/955/955.pdf>



## Data Protection Animation Series: Consent and Legitimate Interests



This is the fourth of NICVA's very useful [Data Protection Animation Series](#) videos and this new video explains two of the six important lawful bases—consent and legitimate interests—in more detail.

Along with the video, Bob Harper, Data Development Coordinator at NICVA has provided a fuller definitions of what is meant by 'consent' and 'legitimate use' for processing and using personal data.

For a fuller understanding of obligations and responsibilities under GDPR, please go to and read Bob's article on the NICVA website at: <https://www.nicva.org/article/data-protection-animation-series-consent-and-legitimate-interests>

[View on Vimeo](#) | [Subtitled version](#)

In addition to the above, the Information Commissioners Office has a detailed [Guide to Legitimate Interests](#). Further, you are asked to note that some of the guidance in this section may in future be impacted by the EU's yet-to-be-agreed [ePrivacy Regulation](#).

There are other rules which govern electronic direct marketing. These make it unlawful to send electronic marketing without having first obtained permission from the recipient (though there are some exceptions in specific circumstances).

These rules are the [Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations \(PECR\)](#)—sometimes referred to as 'anti-spam laws'.

The rules apply to any type of marketing that is directed at an individual and is communicated by electronic means: [email and SMS/text messaging](#), [phone calls](#) or [fax](#).

Marketing covers more than selling or fundraising appeals. It will cover what the [ICO refers to](#) as material "*promoting the aims or ideals of not-for-profit organisations*". This could include your charity's newsletter, a political campaign, or promoting of local events.

As postal marketing is not electronic, it is not covered by PECR. But as GDPR is relevant to all personal data, the data protection principles apply and a lawful basis is still required. Legitimate interests could be applied in this case and consent avoided, but the three-part test still needs to be satisfied.

There are also some exceptions to the general rule requiring consent for electronic marketing. If someone has paid for a service then the "[soft opt-in](#)" option can be used (this does not cover donations to your charity as they are not given in return for services or goods). Business-to-business marketing is also [treated differently](#) from marketing to individual subscribers. For more detail on this, please refer to the ICO's [Direct Marketing Guidance](#).

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## Consultations



### Northern Ireland Flood Risk Management Plan

Department for Infrastructure  
[www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/timetable-and-work-programme](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/timetable-and-work-programme)  
**Closing Date; 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

### Reshaping Stroke Care

Department of Health  
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/rehaping-stroke-care>  
**Closing date; 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

### Reshaping Breast Assessment Services

Department of Health  
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/reshaping-breast-assessment-services>  
**Closing date; 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

### Disability Action Plan

Community Relations Council NI  
<https://www.community-relations.org.uk/sites/crc/files/media-files/CRC%20Disability%20Action%20Plan%202018-2023%20final%20draft%20for%20consultation.pdf>  
**Closing Date; 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

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## Equality Commission NI

### Public Authority Equality Schemes

The Equality Commission has been undertaking a review of and revising its policy and procedures for Complaints and Investigations under Paragraphs 10 and 11 of Schedule 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The complaints and investigations provisions in Schedule 9 relate to potential failures by a public authority to comply with its approved Equality Scheme.

[Draft revised Policy and Procedures document \(Word doc\)](#)

[Consultation Questionnaire \(Word doc\)](#)

To respond email: [InvestigationsTeam@equalityni.org](mailto:InvestigationsTeam@equalityni.org)

**The closing date for the consultation is Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

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# Publications



Please click the link below to access the March/April 2019 edition of inpartnership – the newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives; <https://www.pcsp.org/sites/pcsp/files/publications/pcsp-inpartnership-march-april-2019.pdf>



## Using and understanding the register of charities

The *register of charities* is a growing public resource which anyone, anywhere in the world, may use to find out key information about charities registered in Northern Ireland. It contains individual entries including a charity's name, contact address, charitable purposes and certain financial information. The information on the register of charities is made available as part of the governments Open data initiative. In May 2019 there were over 6,000 registered charities, and the Charity Commission is continuing to build the register.

The guidance sets out what information is available on the register and how to conduct a range of searches using the general search function or applying a range of filters. The guidance also provides information for a range of stakeholders on how to download information from the register on individual charities, a collection of charities or all registered charities.

To download a copy of the Guidance, go to; <https://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk/news/using-and-understanding-the-register-of-charities/>

## Department of Justice welcomes report on serious sexual offending

The Department of Justice has thanked Sir John Gillen for completing his review of arrangements to deliver justice in serious sexual offence cases.



Sir John is pictured above presenting the Gillen Review Report to the Department's Criminal Justice Board. Lord Chief Justice Sir Declan Morgan, Sir John Gillen, Stephen Herron DPP, DoJ Permanent Secretary Peter May and PSNI T/ACC Tim Mairs also in the picture.

Speaking after the Gillen Review Report was formally presented to the Criminal Justice Board, DoJ Permanent Secretary and Board Chairman Peter May, said: "This is an important and ground-breaking report and I commend

# Scope<sup>NI</sup>

Available online, including articles such as a new oral history collection, the challenges facing older people and those facing deaf people seeking health or medical care.

Scope can be accessed at; <http://scopeni.nicva.org/>



## Rural Community Network

The latest edition of the Rural Policy Link is now available from the RCN. To access the publication, go to; <http://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org/publications/default.aspx>

*Sir John for the energy and thought he has put into it. I welcome the care and attention to detail which Sir John has applied to this complex and sensitive field and in particular his engagement with a wide range of victims and other groups in developing his recommendations. Given the wide-ranging nature of this important report, which covers a broad span of justice issues, the Department and other agencies to which the recommendations apply, will want to take time to carefully study it before formally responding."*

Peter May went on to announce the establishment of a new group which will guide and set the strategic direction of the Department's work on sexual violence. He said: "Aspects of sexual violence impact right across the justice system. To ensure a coherent, co-ordinated approach to dealing with sexual violence, the Department has established a Sexual Violence Reduction Group. A key task of the group will be to oversee the implementation of the Gillen Review."

The Gillen Report's recommendations can be viewed on the Department of Justice website at <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/gillen-review-recommendations> and the report in full can be viewed here <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/gillen-review-report-law-and-procedures-serious-sexual-offences-ni>

# Events

## NICVA Trustees' Annual Reporting Conference



**Date & Time: Tuesday, 4 June 2019 - 10am to 1pm**  
**Venue: NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB**

The preparation of the Trustees Annual Report, and transmission of it to the Charity Commission, is a legal requirement for all registered charities but it doesn't have to be a tick box exercise.

This conference will give participants the opportunity to hear about:

- The legal requirements for content and reporting to regulators
- What happens if you don't report properly, including serious incident reporting
- Using inspiring impact for public benefit reporting
- Getting your reserves policy right
- What funders look for on the charity register
- Developing a governance planning framework

[Register here](#)

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## Upcoming Joint Forum Meeting 6 June 2019

**The next meeting of the Joint Forum is due to take place on 6 June 2019 at the Colin Healthy Living Centre in Belfast.**

This will be the second Joint Forum of 2019 with a jam-packed agenda where we will be joined by the Department for Communities new Permanent Secretary Tracy Meharg. Joint Forum members will get a chance hear from Tracy about her priorities and also be able to put questions to her. Any representative from the voluntary and community sector is welcome to submit any questions or comments to the Joint Forum to be asked on your behalf.



Joint Forum members will also hear from Director of EU Future Relations Paul Brush on the ongoing preparations for Brexit and put questions to him. We will also be joined by the Red Cross who will be discussing emergency planning and the role of the voluntary and community sector in supporting communities after disaster events.

Our own Joint Forum VCS member Lorraine Griffin from Community Organisations of the South Tyrone Area (COSTA) will take us through the Day in the Life of a Community Worker highlighting the everyday activities and challenges community organisations in border areas face, especially in the context of Brexit. We will also be joined by T:BUC (Together: Building a United Community) Young Leaders who will talking about their experience of engaging with the voluntary and community sector and the government in NI.

Ahead of the full Joint Forum meeting on the 6 June, the voluntary and community representatives on the forum will be meeting on 16 May to prepare for the upcoming full meeting and discuss priorities for the voluntary and community sector.

For more information and to view the Agenda and previous minutes, go to;  
<https://www.nicva.org/article/upcoming-joint-forum-meeting-6-june-2019>

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## NIFHA Development & Asset Management Conference & Suppliers Exhibition 2019

Thursday 13 June 2019 9:00am

Cost: Member £85 / Associate £90 / Non-Member £105 / NIHE or DfC £90



Don't miss out! This year's Development & Asset Management Conference and Suppliers Exhibition takes place on Thursday, 13th June at Riddel Hall, Stranmillis Road, Belfast. Attendees at this event will learn from a range of the experts on the most topical issues in social and affordable housing development, asset management and procurement.

This annual event for Development and Asset Management teams across the local social housing network, and further afield, is also a popular event for suppliers to the sector to showcase their products and services to those seeking new solutions to their current house building and maintenance issues.

The Development and Asset Management Exhibition offers a unique opportunity to engage and do business with key decision makers in the social and affordable housing sector across development, asset management and procurement.

### BOOK 3 PLACES AND GET A 4TH PLACE FREE

Business journalist Jamie Delargy returns as conference chair, while we once again welcome a great selection of speakers on the most pressing development issues facing the sector.

They include:

- Richard Ramsey, Chief Economist, Ulster Bank
  - What's impacting on the housing sector?
- Adrian Kerr, Director, Mills Selig
  - Getting the legals right: what matters to contractors, developers and funders; avoiding pitfalls
- Andrew Speake, National Technical Director, AICO
  - Regulations for risk assessment and fire safety management
- Kevin McSorley, Head of Radius Connect 24
  - The future of technology enabled independent living
- Derek McCallan, Chief Executive, NILGA
  - How to make housing work in Local Development Plans and Community Planning

For more information and to book your place, go to: <https://bit.ly/2Gwla2Z>

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## Feed Community Spirit

### The Big Lunch 2019 takes place 1-2 June

Started in 2009 this intergenerational initiative from the Eden Project and National Lottery celebrates all that is good about where we live, it's a day for neighbourhood kindness and an opportunity for all ages to get to know each other better, on our streets, schools, in gardens, kitchens, shared spaces and anywhere people can get together.

You are invited to join in and host a Big Lunch. It's a simple way to enjoy community spirit and reduce loneliness.

All it takes is for one kind and friendly person to be willing to kick start the conversation and before you know it you have your community taking part.

Register your interest in #TheBigLunch 2019 <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/get-your-2019-big-lunch-pack>

For those registering in 2019 there will be competitions and giveaways and an opportunity for those who need it to gain additional support from Eden Project Communities to help make more happen where you live.



If you need any tips, have questions or could spread the word to more people please get in touch.

Supporting Communities Community Development Officer, Gillian Forrest for Mid and East Antrim has started sharing the idea and people are already getting in touch – so please make contact and we can provide you with a tool kit to help spread the word and enable more residents to join in across Northern Ireland.

[gmccloskey@edenproject.com](mailto:gmccloskey@edenproject.com)

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# Social Enterprise

## Social Enterprise Mark CIC Conference 2019 – Growth; a force for good?

With the rich getting richer while the poor get poorer, it is clear that the current model of economic growth isn't working for all. A new [Oxfam report](#) shows that growing wealth disparity is undermining the fight against poverty and damaging global economies.

This conference will challenge participants to consider alternative economic models, which address the mounting social and environmental challenges facing today's society.

For more Information go here <https://bit.ly/2Vo5klw>



## Volunteer Now – Events Calendar

To celebrate the launch of our new training calendar, we have two offers available for all participants :

- If you book a place on all three of these volunteer management courses – Attracting & Selecting Volunteers, Managing & Motivating Volunteers and Train the Trainers – Accreditation is FREE! Saving £250!
- If you prefer to attend all three of the above courses and do the Non-accredited courses – you will get a 10% discount! Saving £52!\*



To view our new training calendar, please go to <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/>.

## People 1<sup>st</sup> Courses



### Enhance Your Management Expertise!

Starts Tuesday 18th June 2019 9.30am - 12.30pm

While many receive some kind of leadership training, most have not explored the concepts behind the latest leadership methods. Our new Enhance Your Management Expertise! programme enables you to access new ways of thinking that can transform the way you lead your team and build your management and leadership knowledge.

For more information go to this link <http://www.people-1st.co.uk/>

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NI AWARDS 2019 NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

The 13 Categories for the Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 are:

- NI Social Enterprise 2018
- One to Watch
- Social Impact
- Consumer facing Social Enterprise
- Education Training and Jobs
- Health & Social Care
- Housing Association of the Year—Community Impact
- Credit Union of the Year—Community Impact
- Social Enterprise Stakeholder of the Year
- Local Council of the Year—Social Enterprise Strategy/Development
- Social Enterprise—Employee/Volunteer of the Year\*
- Young Entrepreneur of the Year (NEW)\*
- Social Enterprise Leader of the Year\*

Entries for this year's awards open on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May and you can download the Application form via the Link



below and return to [amanda@socialenterpriseni.org](mailto:amanda@socialenterpriseni.org).  
(\*Please note separate forms apply to these categories)

Could your Social Enterprises be a winner this year?  
Why not apply TODAY!

If you are a Private or Public sector organisation and either work in partnership with social enterprises or include them in your supply chain please apply for our Stakeholder Award.

Download your Nomination Forms Here:

[Information Sheet](#)  
[Main Application](#)  
[Employee/Volunteer Application](#)  
[Leader of the Year Application](#)  
[Young Entrepreneur of the Year Application](#)

# Training



## Unblocking Potential

If you've been thinking about getting back into education but you are worried about a lack of qualifications, or it's just been a long time since you were in school, the Ulster University offers a community-based course to help build up the confidence and skills you will need. The Unblocking Potential course is delivered in the community over 6 or 10 weeks at a time that suits the group and is free for anyone earning less than 20K. Successful completion will put you on track to enter a degree level course and give you access to the University's student support systems.

**Supporting Communities is working with Ulster University to provide our OCN course graduates with a pathway to higher education. For more information on how we can help, contact our Training Officer, Karla Turner at [karla@supportingcommunities.org](mailto:karla@supportingcommunities.org).**

### About the Course

The course primarily sets out to build participants' self-confidence in their ability to study at Further and Higher Education level; to develop their self-awareness and understanding of the blocks to learning; and to equip participants with the skills to become autonomous independent learners. Successful completion of the course will enable students to obtain 10 credits at Level 3 and 10 credits at Level 4, which they can use towards entry to University/college.

#### Part 1- six week programme at level 3

The course will help participants to:

- identify common barriers to learning and factors which make it difficult for people to return to education
- gain an understanding of how early learning experiences impact upon current learning
- plan and organise study time
- develop team-working skills
- develop writing skills to communicate effectively

#### Part 2 – six week programme at level 4

The course will help participants to:

- gain understanding of note-taking and mind-mapping
- analyse their own learning potential in relation to theories and models
- gather information from a range of sources
- develop skills in referencing secondary sources of information
- communicate effectively through oral and written forms



Courses will be run in a community venue.  
Bursaries are available to cover the cost of fees.

For further information, including how to apply please contact:

FlexEd@ulster.ac.uk  
+44 (0) 28 9036 6680

@UlsterFlexEd

Flexible Education at Ulster Uni

Flexible Education at Ulster Uni



## Housing Rights Training Courses

# Housing Rights

### Housing Advice Training Programme

Training Courses

Skainos Centre

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 - 10:00 to**

**Monday, June 24, 2019 - 16:00**

Our Housing Advice Training Programme is the 'must-have' foundational course for those working in housing. The course will be held 1 day per week, over a four week period. The four day format will concentrate on key themes that will enable participants to obtain a qualification which enhances the skills and knowledge necessary to provide comprehensive housing advice.

The course will cover:

- Understanding housing options available for clients
- Accessing various types of accommodation
- Using homelessness legislation
- Selection scheme
- Private rented accommodation
- Sustaining accommodation and affordability

Who should attend the course?

- Generalist advice workers
- NIHE & housing association staff
- Hostel workers
- Constituency office staff
- Other statutory agencies such as Environmental Health Departments & Social Services
- Solicitors

Community/residents groups

This course has been updated to ensure participants gain a strong grounding on all housing sectors. It will also cover Welfare Reform and how this is impacting on the housing arena.

Format of the course

Participants will attend training one day per week and also be required to complete some additional study hours and work based learning tasks such as case studies and research activities to build their portfolio of evidence. To assist in achieving this, participants will have the support of the lead tutor. Accredited through the Open College Network.

OCN Accreditation

This course is accredited by the Open College Network at level 3. Participants who wish those to register for the accreditation will have an additional fee of £75.00

### Sustaining Tenancies

Training Courses

Skainos Centre

**Thursday, June 6, 2019 - 10:00 to 16:00**

This course will look at various methods and options which can help a client, who is threatened with homelessness, to stay in their current home or make their current home more suitable. In particular, it will look at:

- Rent arrears and affordability
- Anti-social behaviour
- Abandonment
- Disrepair
- Suitability

Course objective

By the end of this course, participants will

- be able to identify options to allow a client, who is at risk of homelessness to stay in their current home
- understand options to make a client's current home more suitable

Who should attend this course?

This course will be of particular importance to housing advisers, community/residents groups, benefit advisors, political party constituency offices, private, social and hostel accommodation providers and the legal profession, who wish to earn a Level 2 qualification in and who wish to understand housing options for their clients beyond looking for alternative social housing. OCN Accreditation

This course is accredited by the Open College Network at level 3. Participants who wish those to register for the accreditation will have an additional fee of £75.00

For more information on course fees and to book a place, go to;

<https://www.housingrights.org.uk/training-events>

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## Volunteer Now Training Course

### Developing a Volunteer Programme

This is a one day interactive masterclass that explores the key areas to consider when developing a volunteer programme. It is for both those who want to develop a new volunteer programme/project as well as those who want to reflect upon and review an existing programme.

It will give much needed reflective time to plan and consider the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for your new idea.



A Certificate of Attendance is downloadable through your online training account after attendance.

Course info

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 , 10.00 AM – 4.00 PM**

34 Shaftesbury Square, BELFAST, BT2 7DB

Standard Course From £80 +VAT

For more information on Volunteer Now courses, including tailored courses, go to; [https://](https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/)

[www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/](https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/)

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# Funding



UK  
Foundation

## Bupa UK Foundation - Mental Health Funding Programme 2019

Grants up to a maximum of £20,000 are available to not-for-profit organisations in the UK for practical projects that tackle critical challenges in health and social care, make a direct impact on people's health and wellbeing and address the Foundation's theme for that year.

### Objectives of Fund

The Bupa UK Foundation's mission is to help people live longer, healthier, happier lives. The Foundation's funding programmes are developed around clearly defined themes and reflect important factors that underpin health and wellbeing. Among others these include mental health, ageing well, managing long-term conditions, behaviour change and healthy living.

In 2019, the Foundation is inviting applications for practical, community focused projects that aim to support and improve people's mental health in mid-life (age range from 30s to 50s).

### How To Apply

There are three stages to the grant-making.

**Stage 1** - the summary information provided in the project outline by the applicant is reviewed.

**Stage 2** - applications that most clearly fit the application criteria are then invited to submit more detailed information.

**Stage 3** - a small number of applications will be considered by the Bupa UK Foundation's Board of Trustees, who make all final funding decisions.

The Foundation aims to advise applicants whether they have been successful in progressing to Stage 2 within six weeks of the closing date.

For further information and access to the online application form please visit <http://www.bupaukfoundation.org/>

**The deadline for applications is 31 May 2019.**

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## Women's Fund for Northern Ireland: Individual Bursaries

The Women's Fund for Northern Ireland's Individual Bursaries have been set up to fill a gap in funding opportunities for individual women who require a small amount of financial aid to support them towards fulfilling their potential. It is a NI-wide scheme which prioritises bursaries to support women to re-enter the workplace.

The Fund will offer small grants (normally between £300 and £500) for individual women aged 18 and over, living in Northern Ireland, who are striving to get into, or back into employment.

### Who can apply?

- Individual women aged 18 and over, living in Northern Ireland, who are striving to get into, or back into employment.
- Applicants will preferably be affiliated to a constituted community/women's group and have the support of that organisation, however if you are not you will still be eligible to apply.

### What can you apply for?

While not exclusive, the Fund welcomes applications for Bursaries that address the following:

- Personal development & confidence building
- Overcoming barriers to employment or training
- Making the first steps towards re-entering the workplace

Examples of the types of activities that may be supported:

- Basic training support materials – books for example
- Interview training
- Mentoring
- Travel costs to access relevant training (public transport for up to six months)
- Childcare during employability training (up to six months)
- Access course
- Exclusions

### How to Apply

Further information and application form visit, <https://www.communityfoundationni.org/womensfund>

It is recommended that you read the Grant FAQs at before starting your grant application. Should you have any further questions please contact the Grants Team on 02890 245 927.

**Closing Date - Friday 24th May 2019 by 1.00pm**

The   
Community  
Foundation

## NFU Mutual Charitable Trust - Funding available

The NFU Mutual Charitable Trust was set up in 1998, to promote and support charities in the United Kingdom working in agriculture, rural development and insurance. Since then they have made a positive difference to education, research, social welfare and poverty relief through making one off donations and grants to charitable initiatives connected with agriculture, the countryside and the insurance industry.

Applications for funding for projects and initiatives may be made where these fall within the Objects of the Trust.

The objects of the Trust are as follows:

- To advance the education of the public by means of research and dissemination of information in relation to agriculture
- To advance the education of young people within rural areas
- To relieve poverty within rural areas
- To promote the benefit and social welfare of inhabitants of rural communities by associating together with the inhabitants and local authorities, voluntary and other organisations to advance education and leisure

- To promote research into agriculture associated activities
- To advance the education of the public by means of research and dissemination of information in relation to insurance



**NFU Mutual  
Charitable Trust**

Following a recent strategic review, the Trust now focuses on providing funding to larger initiatives, which would have a significant impact on the rural community. The Trustees are particularly interested in initiatives in the areas of education of young people in rural areas and relief of poverty within rural areas.

### How to Apply

Please visit <https://www.nfumutual.co.uk/about-us/charitable-trust/applications-for-funding/> for further details and to download an application form.

Applications for the June meeting must be submitted by **31st May 2019** and for the November meeting they must be submitted by 1st November 2019

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## Social Justice Small Grants Programme - peacebuilding, tackling the impact of poverty and austerity and/or giving a voice to excluded groups

The programme is funded by Atlantic Philanthropies as part of its Human Rights legacy fund in Northern Ireland. The fund aims to support local community groups with projects and initiatives that contribute to peacebuilding, tackle the impact of poverty and austerity measures and/or give voice to excluded groups.

### Objectives:

Applications must demonstrate that their proposal will contribute to at least one of the following objectives:

- Increase awareness of and contribute to building a culture of rights within and between communities, particularly those most marginalized from decision making
- Support communities and marginalized groups to find solutions to contentious issues
- Strengthen local capacity to advocate by building relationships/connections between communities, policy makers, politicians and funders

### Grant Size:

Size of Grant: Up to a max of £5,000 per annum. An additional £1k to £1.5k Mentor support will also be provided. It will be a condition of the award that you work with a Mentor in the development of you project and issue(s).

### Who can apply:

To be eligible for consideration for grant, the applicant groups must:

- be constituted and based in Northern Ireland or working towards being constituted
- have an active committee and bank account
- maintain financial records and present accounts to your AGM
- provide minutes of committee meetings
- have at least three cheque signatories who are unrelated
- have an income of £250k or less

### How to Apply

For further information and how to apply, please visit

<https://www.communityfoundationni.org/social-justice-small-grants-program>

**The  
Community  
Foundation**

**The fund closes for applications on Friday 31st May 2019 at 1:00pm**

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## Belfast City Council Grants - NOW OPEN

The following small grants are now open for applications. Our grants are open to not for profit, constituted groups to deliver a wide range of activities and projects that benefit Belfast.

- Community Festivals Fund
- Arts and Heritage Project Grant
- Policing and Community Safety Grant
- Good Relations Grant
- Saint Patrick's Celebration Grant
- Parks Events Grant
- Support for Sport: Large Development Grant
- Support for Sport: Small Development Grant

You can find information on available funding, get guidance on the application process and complete your application online here <https://www.belfastcity-grants.com/>

If you have any questions, would like some advice on completing your application, or have a project you'd like to discuss, please contact our Central Grants Unit on 9091 8748 or email us at [cgugrants@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:cgugrants@belfastcity.gov.uk)

**Closing date - Friday 5th July 2019 at 12noon**



Belfast  
City Council

## Hunters Hill Wind Farm Community Fund

Hunters Hill Wind Farm Community Fund was established by ESB with the intention of helping communities to become more sustainable through the support of positive local initiatives and activities. The fund makes grants available to community and voluntary organisations for projects located in close proximity (7.5 km's) to Hunter's Hill Wind Farm, (between Fintona and Fivemiletown) Co. Tyrone. Omagh Forum for Rural Associations administers the fund on behalf of the ESB.

The Fund seek to address current and emerging issues, needs and opportunities within communities, enriching lives and creating brighter possibilities for local residents. Typically, the award value is between £500, and £5000. However, the suggested award value is neither a minimum nor a maximum, rather an indication of the scale of resources available annually.

We support projects which focus on the following themes;

- Education and skills.
- Health, safety and wellbeing.
- Environment and habitat conservation.
- Energy efficiency and sustainability.
- Culture and heritage.
- Recreation, sport and social inclusion.



### How to Apply

Visit <http://www.omaghforum.org/> for further guidance and access to the application form. If you need further information, please contact Omagh Forum via: Telephone: 028 8225 1559 or E-mail: [info@omaghforum.org](mailto:info@omaghforum.org)

**Closing date for applications is 12 Noon on Tuesday 28th May 2019**

## Henry Smith Charity - Holiday Grants for Children



Grants are available for schools, youth groups, not-for-profit organisations, and charities to provide access to a recreational holiday or outing for groups of children aged 13 years and younger who experience disadvantage or disability and live in an area of high deprivation and who would not otherwise have the opportunity to experience. One-off grants of between £500 and £2,500 are available.

Priority will be given to the 20% most deprived areas in the UK. This means areas that fall within the bottom 20% according to the National Indices of Deprivation. Successful organisations are expected to send a short report on the trip within three months of it having taken place.

Restrictions - Funding is not available for the following:

- Trips outside of the UK.
- Trips to theme parks or similar high cost attractions.
- Trips for children over the age of 13 years.
- Multiple trips with the same group of children.
- Trips with a focus on education rather than fun.
- Trips for families.
- Trips for individual children.

- Organisations that provide Children's Holidays.
- The running costs of play or holiday schemes.
- Trips that have already taken place.
- Trips to pantomimes.
- Trips to sporting events.
- Organisations with an income of expenditure of over £2 million (unless a school).

Organisations that have already received three years' funding, will not be considered for a further application until two years after the last grant was awarded.

### How To Apply

The submission dates vary depending on when trips or holidays take place.

Applications for 2019 will be considered as follows:

- Applications will be accepted between **1 May and 2 July 2019** for holidays taken between 1 July and 31 August 2019.
- Applications will be accepted between **3 July and 16 November 2019** for holidays taken between 1 September and 31 December 2019.
- All applications should be received at least six weeks before the date of the trip to allow for administrative processing and decision making.

An online application form and a set of guidelines can be found on the Charity's website <https://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk/>