

19th June 2019

E-Zine



Welcome to Supporting Communities 123rd 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.

Launch of Supporting Communities Annual Report

It has been a busy year for us at Supporting Communities. Our Annual Report, launched last week gives an insight into the wide range of work we have been involved with over the past year.



You can have a flip through the report online here: <http://bit.ly/2KnCw7u>



L-r Stephen and Martin chatting with one of our Board Members Jim Whitten

As part of our 40 years Celebratory events we had an Interactive Board Meeting, Stephen Marks our Business Development Advisor presented a report on the recent Baseline Survey of Category A Groups we work with and Martin Quinn our Funding & Social Value Officer gave a presentation on Impact and Social Value.

At the meeting Colm McDaid, Chief Executive said; *"I would like to say how proud I am of the work our dedicated Staff Team deliver which is highlighted in our 2018/19 Report."*

Lorraine Campbell, Chair of Supporting Communities Board in her response stated; *"I am greatly impressed with the depth of services Supporting Communities deliver and was delighted to see the positive feedback in terms of satisfaction levels."*



Cliff Edge NI Coalition Submission to the Joint Inquiry into Welfare Policy- what are the main points?

Siobhan McAlister NICVA, writes;



The Cliff Edge Coalition NI is a group of over 70 organisations in NI who have joined together to express concern about the upcoming end of the welfare reform mitigations in March 2020. These mitigations have protected the people of NI from some of the harshest impacts of welfare reform. Representatives from the Coalition gave oral evidence to the Joint Inquiry on 10 June.

The Coalition has two key campaign messages: The protection in place to support people impacted by welfare reform through mitigations is due to end in March 2020.

It is important that people impacted by welfare reform in NI continue to be able to access support beyond March 2020. This support should take account of the new challenges people are facing, particularly Universal Credit

What has been the impact of the welfare reform mitigations package in NI? It has protected claimants in NI from some of the most severe impacts of welfare reform. The full potential of the mitigation package has not yet been realised as there has been a significant underspend of £109.52m.

What is the Joint Inquiry into the Welfare Policy in NI?

The inquiry is being undertaken by the NI Affairs Committee and the Work and Pensions Committee at Westminster to assess the impact of welfare policy in NI including a focus on policies such as Universal Credit and the two-child limit. More information can be found [here](#).

What are some of the main concerns raised in Cliff Edge NI Coalition response?

- The full impact of welfare reform in NI has yet to hit. The introduction of Universal Credit is presenting a new challenge for the social security system in NI, with problems associated with the roll out and many claimants facing a drop in their income.

- Access to the internet and IT literacy is causing a barrier for claimants applying for Universal Credit through the DWP computer system.
- There has been a significant decrease in the number of discretionary support grants and loans provided to those claimants in financial crisis.
- The accumulation of a number of cuts to social security has an acute impact on women and children especially those women who are lone parents. This includes the benefits freeze.
- Concerns that the mechanism for split payments in NI is not working properly (as of May 2019, only 4 UC claims being paid in split payments).
- There is a lack of support for employment, especially as the Cost of Living Allowance mitigation which would have provided additional payment to meet some of the cost of work has not been implemented.
- Impact of the two-child policy creates financial disadvantage to those families with more than two children and will deepen the impact of poverty here.
- Due to the higher prevalence of disability and illness in NI, the impacts of the transfer from DLA to PIP may be felt more acutely here. Thousands of claimants have been disadvantaged when assessed for PIP.
- The mitigations have protected against the bedroom tax in NI for around 42,020 social sector households, saving them on average £50 per month. If this is lost, there would be significant arise in housing arrears, housing stress and homelessness.
- Low income, privately-renting tenants do not have the same protection in place as social sector tenants, despite the fact there are significantly more households at-risk-of poverty after housing costs in the Private Rented Sector.

[Read the full submission here](#)

Navigate easily to the right consumer advice

The Consumer Council has launched an online Advice Directory designed to help consumers and those working in a signposting or advice giving role across a wide range of everyday consumer problems.

Philippa McKeown-Brown, Head of Consumer Empowerment and Protection, said *“All of us will at some time encounter a consumer problem, be it an unfair private parking charge, slow broadband speed, unwanted telephone calls, or problems with a second-hand car. Sometimes the time it takes to resolve the issue can be almost as frustrating as the problem itself. Our new online Advice Directory gives you the all the information you need at your fingertips, and talks you through what to do next. It also gives you a wealth of knowledge to hopefully prevent some problems happening in the first place”.*

Explore the Advice Directory at <https://advice.consumercouncil.org.uk/>



FIRE AND ALCOHOL CAN BE A LETHAL COCKTAIL

Every year Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service attends a large number of fires where the main factor is people under the influence of alcohol who have fallen asleep whilst smoking or cooking. Unfortunately, on a number of occasions, this has resulted in someone being seriously injured or losing their life.

Alcohol significantly affects human behaviour, so it is not surprising to find that it is a major factor in fire related deaths and injuries. If you are under the influence of alcohol, you are more likely to be careless when smoking or cooking. Alcohol reduces your ability to properly detect fire and therefore renders smoke detection devices virtually useless. You cannot escape from a fire if you cannot sense or heed a warning alarm, and this greatly reduces your chances of survival.

The following safety tips might just save your life:

- If you have been drinking, never smoke in bed; often clothes or bedding are the first items ignited which leaves the person in a particularly vulnerable position.
- Get into the habit of smoking outside; this will significantly reduce the likelihood of a fire starting in your home.
- The risk of accidents in the kitchen increases if you have been drinking; get take-away food instead.
- Don't take risks with portable heaters; make sure there is sufficient distance between the portable heater and any combustible material.



Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service

- Many fire deaths, where alcohol is a contributing factor, involve people who live alone; if you have family or friends like this, pay them a visit and make sure their home is safe from fire.
- Alcohol may affect your judgement: don't take risks tackling a fire; Get Out, Stay Out and Get the Fire Service Out.
- Don't forget, a working smoke alarm can buy you valuable time to escape if a fire starts. Every home should have at least one smoke alarm per floor; check it every week to ensure it is working.
- Take extra care if you have consumed any alcohol, and remember to carry out a bedtime routine.

Help and Support is Available

Realising you have a problem with alcohol is the first big step to getting help. Speak to your GP. Try to be accurate and honest about how much you drink and any problems it may be causing you. They will suggest different types of assessment and support options available to you. NIFRS has a partnership agreement with INSPIRE Wellbeing who can offer advice and provide information on free local support groups and other alcohol counselling services.

Consultations



Northern Ireland Flood Risk Management Plan

Department for Infrastructure
www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/timetable-and-work-programme
Closing Date; 28th June 2019

User consultation - 'Travel Survey for Northern Ireland' headline and in-depth reports

Department for Infrastructure
<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/user-consultation-travel-survey-northern-ireland-headline-and-depth-reports>
Closing date; 2nd July 2019

Consultation on the Housing Executive draft Chronic Homelessness Action Plan

On Wednesday 27th February 2019 the Board of the Housing Executive approved the draft Chronic Homelessness Action Plan. It is now undertaking a 12 week external consultation exercise to seek feedback on the strategic direction the organisation has set out in the document.

The Action Plan, consultation form and supporting documents are available at: <https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Partners/Consultations/Consultation-on-our-draft-Chronic-Homelessness-Act>

Closing date: Friday 2nd August 2019

Law Centre NI News

Law Centre NI is carrying out a short survey to determine the training needs of its members and users for the next 12 months. It is hoped that the information provided will help the Law Centre ensure that it delivers the training that you and / your organisation require. Your feedback is valuable and can be given through this 5-minute survey. The survey is open until 26 June 2019. All feedback will be anonymous (unless you choose to provide your contact details).

The survey is available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TrainingNeeds1920>

Please contact the Training Manager, Louise Togneri (training@lawcentreni.org), if you would like to discuss this survey before or after completion.

'Travel Survey for Northern Ireland'

Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch (ASRB) within the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) launched a User Consultation in relation to the content and format of 'Travel Survey for Northern Ireland' (TSNI) Headline and In-depth reports. The feedback we receive will help us develop more accessible, relevant reports.

If you have not yet responded, please consider doing so. The more feedback received, the better publications can be tailored to our users' needs. You can respond directly to the consultation by completing the survey at https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TSNI_Review.

Alternatively, responses can be returned in writing by completing the consultation form contained in Annex A of the User Consultation document available on the [TSNI consultation webpage](#).

Current editions of the TSNI Headline and In-depth reports are available on [the TSNI webpage](#). Responses should be submitted no later than Tuesday 2nd July 2019.

Publications

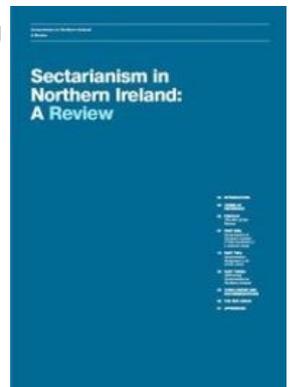
Sectarianism in Northern Ireland: a Review

The Ulster University, supported by the Sir George Quigley Fund, launched 'Sectarianism in Northern Ireland: a Review' at a recent conference at the UU Belfast campus.

The review contains more than 50 proposals for how bodies including government, business, education, youth services, arts and sport could work collectively over a sustained period of time to foster greater collaboration and understanding across communities. As well as suggesting that a government department should be established specifically to tackle sectarianism, the

researchers propose establishing a new civic body to help shape community efforts toward reconciliation. Patrick Kielty, who spoke at the conference said: *"I think we really have to address education, segregated education, and I think that as a society we kind of have to start calling out that casual sectarianism."*

You can find the full report [here](#):



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

Scope^{NI}

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>



NI Environment Link

The NIEL EU Matters for April 2019 is now available at;

<https://www.nienvironmentlink.org/cmsfiles/EU-Matters-April-2019.pdf>

For other NIEL publications and events, go to; <https://www.nienvironmentlink.org/>



Law Centre Publications; June 2019

PIP reviews following Upper Tribunal decisions relating to Mobility Activity 1 completed in Northern Ireland

The Department for Communities has announced that its review of personal independence payment (PIP) claims affected by the Upper Tribunal judgments in [MH v SSWP \(PIP\)](#) and [RJ, GMcL and CS v SSWP \(PIP\)](#) has been completed in Northern Ireland. The total amount of additional payments the Department paid out is around £1.9 million with the average additional payment around £3,000. Find more information [here](#).



ESA underpayment exercise also completed in Northern Ireland

The Department for Communities has confirmed that it has reviewed all affected cases and contacted all ESA claimants who may have been affected by the ESA underpayment error. All arrears were paid from the date the claimant's case was reassessed and transferred to ESA. Almost £19 million has been paid in arrears payments to just under 3,000 claimants. Find more information [here](#).

Final report of the UN Special Rapporteur released

The UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Philip Alston, visited Northern Ireland in November 2018. Law Centre NI hosted a meeting with the Special Rapporteur, advice organisations, and others to examine the impact of welfare reform. In his final report on the impact of austerity on human rights in the UK, the Special Rapporteur described ministers as being in a state of denial about the impact of policies, including the rollout of Universal Credit, since 2010. He highlighted the steps taken in Northern Ireland to mitigate some of the worst effects of austerity, noting that this mitigation package is set to run out in 2020. Read the full report [here](#).

Travel Survey for Northern Ireland

Three Travel Surveys for Northern Ireland (TSNI) factsheets on walking, cycling and public transport have been published. The factsheets contain infographics summarising a variety of analysis from the TSNI 2015-2017 database on each of these topics.



They are available from: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/travel-survey-northern-ireland>

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

The Equality Commission has published its *Equality in Housing and Communities: Policy Priorities and Recommendations*.

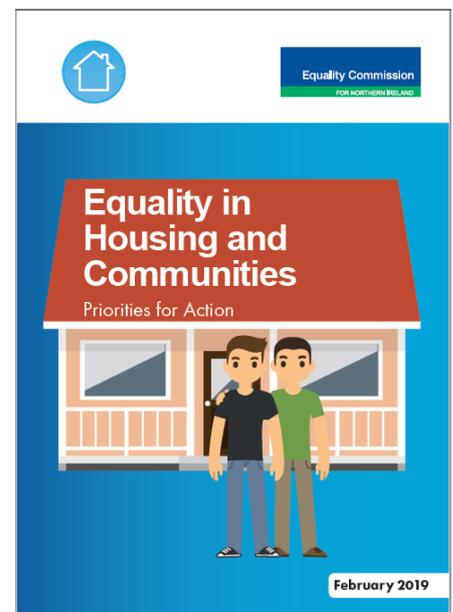
The Commission has prioritised the following areas where it considers there are immediate opportunities and or a pressing need to secure change:

- Advancing sharing in housing while ensuring objectively assessed need is met;
- Addressing the longer social housing waiting list for Catholic households;
- Improving the provision of disability related accommodation; and,
- Tackling the under-reporting of hate incidents and crimes, and increase outcome rates.

In addition to these priorities, the Commission also recommends action in a wider range of areas.

The recommendations can be found [here](#).

If you would like to find out more or discuss the recommendations in person, please contact Deborah at dhowe@equalityni.org or on 02890 500599.



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Special Focus

Volunteering is good for you

Ryan Miller, NICVA writes



It's Volunteers' Week. Scope takes a look at how people sacrifice their time for a good cause, why this is important – and also rewarding.

Northern Ireland has lots of volunteers.

Research from NICVA estimates there are over 240,000 people in NI who give up their time on a formal basis to help out in the third sector. They could be carers or fundraisers, shop workers or trustees – the list of possible roles is huge. Around 54,000 people take part in boards and committees with the rest involved outside of governance. There are, on average, 42 volunteers involved with every one of NI's more than 6,000 third sector organisations.

[This is Volunteers' Week 2019, a chance to celebrate everyone who donates their time to an organisation or cause](#) and, according to NICVA's figures, there are a lot of folk to thank (most of whom, thankfully, already feel appreciated, with 85% saying their efforts are recognised or appreciated by their organisation). However, NICVA is keen to not just thank volunteers for their efforts but also to highlight that volunteering is not a chore, it tends to improve the life of the person doing the volunteering. And the organisation is not alone in pointing this out. In aid of Volunteers' Week, Age NI has put together some testimonies from volunteers with their charity. They give a nice snapshot into how volunteering increases wellbeing for all involved.

Testimonies

[Denise has been volunteering for the charity's Living Well Moyle service for over a year and says she never thought about volunteering until she saw an advert asking people to help with Age NI.](#)

It touched a chord and led to her signing up to help: "On a personal level my mother who lived with our family for many years had recently passed away. I felt that the experience and skills I had gained through helping her, meet the challenges that older age and declining health present and could be useful as a befriender..."

"The most important aspect to volunteering is the enjoyment factor I get from working with the client. It has been a privilege to be allowed to enter into someone else's life to help them with day to day activities... The person at the centre of this initiative is such a character that it makes me feel proud to be able to assist them when required." She said people thinking about volunteering shouldn't hesitate and that you "can really make a difference to someone else's quality of life and they most certainly will make an impact on your own quality of life and well-being."

[Ken was winding down his working life and wanted different ways to use his spare time, particularly involving his main hobby of music.](#) He heard about the [Playing Our Part appeal](#) and has now been involved in singalongs at day centres with Age NI service users, and also with shopping centre collection drives, for several years. Describing volunteering as "a lovely relationship", and says: "Regardless of the voluntary aspect, I give as much to the role as I would if I was being paid."

Everybody is so grateful and my reward is seeing the smiles on people's faces. "For the organisation, it provides an essential source of time and talents. I don't think any organisation that uses volunteers could function without them. For the volunteer, it is such an enriching experience and gives volunteers an opportunity to use their free time on a very worthwhile activity. "Unfortunately most of the services provided by Age NI and other charities are not well supplied by statutory bodies, and as government funding continues to be challenged, the services provided by such charities are essential to plug the gaps. In addition, it is very obvious that charities are there primarily for the benefit of their service users, whereas sometimes it is not as apparent with statutory bodies." Like Denise, he says anyone considering volunteering should just dive right in – they will have no regrets.

Why volunteer?

Reuben has been volunteering in Age NI's Coleraine shop for over a year and began helping there because he "wanted to get work experience in an environment that would help me grow as a person." He said his confidence has grown since he started and is pleased to be assisting a charity that does work for older people. "We learn so much from older people; they lived a completely different life than we do today and hearing their stories is always a delight. Being able to support those that have seen and done so much throughout their life, I think it's only fair that someone takes care of them in their later years. "To future volunteers, I say this; never fear about messing up and making mistakes, for mistakes are the guidelines for future success." Age NI's volunteers' testimonies suggest volunteers get huge benefits from donating their time.

This does not undercut or in some way diminish their efforts. It merely points out that volunteering is not some Sisyphean burden of endurance.

A few years ago, The Mental Health Foundation (MHF) produced a report, [Doing Good Does You Good – a pocket guide to helping others](#), which outlined some of way people can benefit from volunteering.

Per the Foundation: "[E]vidence shows that helping others can have a positive effect on your own mental health and wellbeing. For example, it can reduce stress as well as improve mood, self-esteem and happiness. There are many different ways that you can help others as part of your everyday life. Carrying out good deeds doesn't need to take a lot of time or even cost money. Small changes can make a big difference."

MHF cites volunteering, mentoring, doing something for a good cause and even random acts of kindness as ways to improve your own wellbeing.

Volunteering is vital, a necessary part of huge amounts of great work that go in NI (and everywhere else). People who give up their time deserve a lot of praise. However, that doesn't mean their time isn't already well rewarded.

Events

Department for Communities to hold PIP Information Sessions

The Department for Communities is to hold a series of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) information sessions. This follows on from the Department's published response to the Independent Review of the PIP Assessment process (Walter Rader report) which included a commitment to coordinate a series of events to publicise the PIP Assessment process and purpose.

At each event the Department for Communities, Capita, Law Centre and Advice NI will provide information on how to claim PIP, including the evidence required and the support that is available.

The information sessions in partnership with Disability Action will take place in Belfast, Enniskillen, Newry and Derry/Londonderry will support claimants, their family members and support workers, to have a better understanding of the PIP process including clarity about the relevant information needed to support a claim.



The PIP Information Sessions will take place on the following dates and locations:

- Friday 21 June 2019 at 2pm Belfast: NICVA
- Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 2pm Derry/Londonderry: City Hotel
- Thursday 27 June 2019 at 2pm Enniskillen: Fermanagh House, Enniskillen
- Friday 28 June 2019 at 2pm Newry: Newry Conference Centre

Register for the sessions at [Event Brite](#) (external link opens in a new window / tab).

Transforming Health through Openness and Candour - Key consultation event at NICVA

Thursday 27 June 2019 - 9:45am to 1:00pm

Work is on-going to transform the operating culture of the health service in Northern Ireland. Following the recommendations from the Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-Related Deaths (IHRD), the Department of Health is engaged in a major drive to ensure health and social care services are open and transparent.

The event will feature:

- Fergal Bradley, IHRD Programme Manager, DoH
- Peter McBride, Chair of the Being Open sub-group
- Discussions on what 'Being Open' looks like and the implications for the voluntary and community sector of introducing a Duty of Candour
- Questions and answers to the Department of Health

Lunch will be provided.

[Register here](#) to have your say on 27 June 2019

Seamus McAleavey, Chief Executive of NICVA said: *"This response to the Inquiry highlights a major shift in thinking in the Department of Health. It will transform the culture in health*



organisations to the benefit of patients and the public. It will also set the agenda of organisational culture beyond health organisations as the public will expect openness and candour from all including third sector organisations. That is why it is really important for voluntary and community organisations to engage in this change process and influence its outcome."

A key recommendation of the IHRD was to embed within the health and social care system a 'Being Open' culture alongside a statutory Duty of Candour in Northern Ireland. The Department of Health wants to engage directly with the voluntary and community sector as part of this process. NICVA believes it is important that the sector is involved as much as possible as the Department implements the recommendations of the IHRD.

NICVA will facilitate two events, one in Belfast with the other in Derry in the autumn, for the voluntary and community sector to help input into and inform the Workstream.

CIH Northern Ireland: Tackling domestic abuse in the housing sector

3 July 2019, Belfast

 Programme PDF



Book

About the event

CIH is proud to support Women's Aid as our presidential charity. Sponsored by [Choice Housing](#), this event will focus on the vital role that housing and associated sectors have to play in reducing and preventing domestic abuse. The event will consider interventions, outcomes, resource deployment, partnerships and the business case for getting involved in domestic violence prevention. It will cover how housing providers can be supported to shape their offer in relation to domestic abuse. Venue and refreshments kindly provided by Nationwide Building Society.

Venue

Nationwide Building Society, 1st Floor Donegall House, Donegall Square North, Belfast BT1 5GB
Enter Donegall House via the door on Donegall Square North, next to Kaffe O
(not via the branch on the corner of Donegall Place).

Time 13.15 - 16.30

Benefits of attending

CIH has been working with the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) to signpost and provide workshops for housing providers throughout the UK. Delegates will be introduced to DAHA and the work they have been doing to support providers. You will hear best practice examples from leading housing provider Gentoo. This will be an invaluable opportunity to learn more about how we as a sector and people who work with us can better support tenants.

Who should attend

This event will be relevant for: chief executives, directors and executives, board members, housing managers, housing officers, people working in homelessness, environmental health officers, solicitors and legal representatives.

Sponsorship by Choice Housing



Concern Debates 2019 – 20: Volunteer Adjudicators

Concern Debates give GCSE and A Level pupils the skills to formulate an argument, deliver a speech, stand up for their point of view and challenge their opponents' opinions. Concern is looking for volunteers to join our panel of adjudicators to hear the insightful views of today's youth on global issues.



It is a very small time commitment, two or three evenings during the academic year at schools in your local area. We will be running a brief training session to help the volunteers to understand the marking scheme for the debates. Each debate takes place in the schools in the evening between October 2019 and May 2020.

If you would like to volunteer as an adjudicator then please see:

<https://www.concern.org.uk/concern-debates-volunteer-adjudicator-sign-form> or for more information please use the contact: debatesni@concern.net or call: 02890 261524 before Friday 13th September.

Good Relations Week

16th September – 22nd September 2019

People Making Change for Peace

Good Relations Week 2019 celebrates seemingly ordinary people who are actually pretty remarkable. They don't live their lives in the spotlight with a desire to stand out, but are driven by quite the opposite: a desire to fulfil their peacebuilding passion, embracing the energy that building united communities together gives them.



Celebrating the people who never give up and are always determined to go further to build peace in local communities. Register your event [here](#)

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>



Social Enterprise NI - Stakeholder Forum Thursday 27th June 2019, 12.30pm - 2pm Ulster Bank, Donegall Square East, Belfast



This meeting will be to provide stakeholders with the results of a report which will be launched at the event on "The Re-Balancing of the NI Economy"

Social Enterprise NI will also make a "BIG Announcement" on the day and will as always shine a spotlight on one of their members.

To book your place RSVP to David@socialenterpriseni.org

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/>.



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*



below and return to 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](#)

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

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.

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

Young People: Becoming rent ready

Seminars
Skainos Centre

Thursday, June 20, 2019 - 10:00 to 13:00

Taking on the responsibility of a rental property for the first time can be a daunting experience, this course hopes to assist participants by building their knowledge of support and protections available to them ahead of their new rental agreement.

Course objectives

To empower participants working with young people to deliver appropriate advice and support to their clients on housing issues, particularly in the private rented sector

Who should attend this course?

Anyone involved in supporting young renters, including

- Student Union staff members
- Generalist support workers
- Well-being officers
- Pastoral care staff

Course objectives

This course aims to build understanding for renters, such as students, who may be renting accommodation for the first time. It will raise awareness of their rights as well as responsibilities before, during and after the tenancy.



For more information on course fees and to book a place, go to;
<https://www.housingrights.org.uk/training-events>

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.

The new Houses in Multiple Occupation regime

Seminars
Skainos Centre

Friday, June 21, 2019 - 10:00 to 13:00 3.0hrs CPD

A new system for the regulation and licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation came into force on 1st April 2019. The DfC has made subordinate regulations, including a Code of Practice for landlords and HMO managers, which will give effect to the Houses in Multiple Occupation Act (NI) 2016. The Department has been meeting with the Housing Executive and local councils to ensure that systems are in place to allow this new regime to commence in a few weeks.

Objectives of the course

This course will cover an introduction to the original 2016 Act, an overview of the new Regulations as well as the Code of Practice written to support HMO landlords and managers. It will highlight the key changes between the old system and the new regime and will explain what property managers need to do in order to comply with the new Act and Regulations. The session will also discuss revised standards, definitions and enforcement procedures.

Who should attend this course?

This course will be particularly relevant to

- Those working in Environmental Health
- Letting agents with responsibility for HMO properties
- Landlords of HMO properties
- Advisers who deal with clients who are common users of HMOs (students, young professionals, migrant workers)

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

Course info

Wednesday 26th 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://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/>



LIFE SKILLS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



British Red Cross offer engaging and interactive workshops designed to help 10-19 year olds build up resilience, learn about the society around them and help those in crisis.

FIRST AID CHALLENGING STIGMA CONFLICT AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

We provide free workshops in schools and youth work settings. The workshops can be tailored to your group's needs and you can book a single session or a series of sessions.

To find out more about what we offer, and book us to come out to your group please contact:

Shannon Bunting
Northern Ireland Education Coordinator
sbunting@redcross.org.uk | 07590 228856



First Aid

Young people will:

- > Build the confidence and willingness to help in a first aid emergency.
- > Learn essential first aid skills that are relevant to everyday life, including how to help someone who:
 - is unresponsive (breathing/not breathing).
 - is having a seizure.
 - is bleeding heavily.
 - has a head injury.
- > Assess and manage risks to make informed choices when helping others.
- > Break down barriers to helping others.

Challenging Stigma

Young people will:

- > Explore assumptions about terms such as 'refugee', 'migrant' and 'asylum seeker'.
- > Understand why someone might have to flee their home.
- > Analyse the harmful effects of unwelcoming, hostile or discriminating behaviour.
- > Consider how individual actions can help someone feel more welcome in their community.
- > Develop understanding, respect and empathy.

Conflict and its Consequences

Young People will:

- > Build resilience when faced with personal conflict.
- > Understand how their actions in conflict situations affect those around them.
- > Explore some current conflict in Northern Ireland and around the world.

Funding



Esme Mitchell Trust - Grants for projects of a heritage, cultural or artistic nature

Appeals over a wide area of benefit are supported, available in Ireland as a whole, but principally in Northern Ireland. The present policy of the Trust is to give special consideration to charitable projects of a cultural or artistic nature, which includes grants to museums, churches and preservation trusts. Appeals for other charitable projects are also considered. There are no restrictions on the size of grants available and there are generally no time limits.

Who Can Apply

Applications are invited from organisations and voluntary groups with general charitable purposes, in Ireland as a whole but principally in Northern Ireland.

Eligible Expenditure

The trustees are keen that the level of benefit covers a wide area. Examples of eligible projects/themes include the following:

- Archives and artefacts
- Arts, culture and heritage
- Buildings and built environment
- Built heritage
- Craft and design
- Cultural events and festivals
- Cultural heritage
- Environment
- Giving
- Good relations
- Multiculturalism
- Performing arts
- Verbal arts

- Visual arts
- Media

The Fund will consider cross-border projects, particularly those which meet the criteria of the charitable projects and purposes of a cultural or artistic nature.

How To Apply

The Trust does not maintain a website. Applications may be submitted at any time and are considered monthly. There is no formal application form available. Instead, applicants should submit three copies of the following,

- A concise description of the proposed project.
- A recent statement of accounts.
- A copy of the constitution.
- Details of tax and legal or charitable status.
- A copy of the latest annual report.
- A list of committee officers.
- Information on other sources of finance.
- Contact address and telephone number.

For further information on how to obtain this grant locally, please contact the following:
Trust Administrator, Esme Mitchell Trust,
Cleaver Fulton Rankin, 50 Bedford Street
Belfast BT2 7FW

Tel: 028 9024 3141
Email: trusts@cfrlaw.co.uk

Co-Ownership Community Fund 2019/20 - Grants available!

Community groups with a social, educational or environmental focus are being encouraged to apply for a share of the 2019/20 Co-Ownership Community Fund. The fund, which has a total budget of £15,000, is open to local organisations and partnerships to either support their continued community work or to finance a new or specific project.

Now in its third year, the fund is earmarked for groups and projects which help regenerate, rebuild, and revitalise neighbourhoods and communities, provide support to the elderly and disabled, and provide advice or educational services to promote financial capability, inclusion, energy efficiency or encourages biodiversity in the community.

Following a judging process, the fund may be awarded in full to one or more applicants.

How to apply

To apply for the 2019/20 Community Fund please download the application form <https://www.co-ownership.org/about/social-responsibility/community-fund-2019/> and return it to us (either via email or post) by **Friday 28th June 2019 at 5pm.**

Co/ownership

The Garfield Weston Foundation - Grants Available

One-off grants are available to charitable organisations in the UK for a wide range of projects in the areas of welfare, youth, community, arts, faith, environment, education, health and museums and heritage. The Foundation aims to 'be responsive to where need is greatest' and thus support a wide range of charitable activity in the UK. The Foundation donates around £60 million per year with around 1,500 charities from across the UK receiving funding. The Foundation offers two levels of funding, which can be used towards capital, revenue or project costs:

- Regular Grants of up to £100,000.
- Major Grants of £100,000 and above. (When awarding major grants, the Foundation would typically expect that the project and organisation's overall annual income is in excess of £1million.)

Typically grants are made for a single year; however, the Trustees may consider making a grant spread over a number of years at their discretion if they feel this would be appropriate. The Trust prefers to support those organisations working directly with beneficiaries at a grassroots

Eligible Expenditure

The Foundation 'strongly recommends' groups apply for whatever are their greatest priority and area of need. This could be in one of three areas: capital, revenue ('core costs') or project work.

- Capital costs - funding for tangible things, such as a building project, repairs, equipment etc. A grant is unlikely to be more than around 10% of the total Capital project cost.
- Revenue/Core Costs - funding for the general costs of what the organisation does - its activity. As a general rule, this funding is unlikely to be more than approximately 10–20% of the organisation's total annual income.

Nationwide Building Society - Community grants for local housing projects

Nationwide Building Society was founded to help people into homes of their own and its ambition that everyone should have a place fit to call home stands firm today. The Nationwide Community Grants programme awards up to £500,000 across 11 UK regions annually.

Expected outcomes

Nationwide are looking for local housing projects that will strengthen local communities to support the most vulnerable by:

- Preventing people from losing their home
- Helping people in to a home
- Supporting people to thrive within the home environment

How it works

Charities, Community Land Trusts and housing co-operatives can apply for grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 to make a change in your local area. The applications will be reviewed and voted on by a regional Community Board, made up of Nationwide members and

- Project Costs - funding for a very specific project or activity and would include all the costs involved in delivering the project, including staff costs and a reasonable percentage of overheads if relevant. The Foundation recommends that the applicant has around half of its funding identified before applying.

Projects should fall within at least one of the following categories:

- Arts
- Community
- Education
- Environment
- Faith
- Health
- Museums and Heritage
- Welfare
- Youth



How To Apply

Applications for a Regular Grant may be made at any time and they will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. It takes around four months from the time an application is received to notification of a decision.

The guidelines and an online application form can be found on the Foundation's website <https://garfieldweston.org/> Groups should read the guidelines before starting the application process. Major Grants cannot be applied for via the Foundation's website. Instead, applicants should send a one page summary to Grace da Rocha via gdarocha@garfieldweston.org outlining what they are raising funds for, the total cost and fundraising target. Applicants will be advised which Board meeting they are to apply to if invited to do so following their initial letter and subsequent phone call with the Foundation's Director.

Rolling programme

colleagues. And it's more than just money, the funded projects will also get community and volunteering support. Nationwide will fund between 50% to 100% of the total cost of the project. For example, if your organisation is seeking funding for an £80,000 project, you should apply for a minimum of £40,000. Successful organisations will be required to raise any remaining project costs within two months of the award.

Nationwide will fund a maximum of 25% of an organisation's annual income, for two-year projects this can be per annum. For partnership projects we will accept a combined income.

How to Apply

Please visit <https://www.communityfoundationni.org/nationwide-fund> for further information, to see the eligibility checklist and for a link to the online application. Before you submit your application you may find it useful to take a look at some of the projects previously funded by the Nationwide Community Grants programme, you'll find a summary of these at www.nationwide.co.uk/communityfunding

Closing Date - Friday 5th July 2019



Community Foundation for NI: Pears Community Spaces Fund

Together with Pears Foundation the Community Spaces Fund will work to develop greater respect and understanding between people of different backgrounds. More than a fund this investment will encourage joint working and cohesion through more targeted approaches by staff at the Foundation, encouraging and supporting joint bidding for funding and through organised cluster events.

What impact they expect from this programme:

- A stronger community sector equipped to face today's challenges
- A more confident and vocal community sector
- Safer, stronger, confident individuals and communities thriving after the conflict
- A safer NI for those most marginalised and vulnerable

Project Criteria:

All projects must give space to groups to connect, share ideas, explore and learn together.

In addition projects must meet one or more of the following;

1. Increased contact and dialogue among project participants in NI and their community and those of another community background, faith or political persuasion
2. Underpinning the Peace Process and promoting community development and cohesion
3. Increased understanding, tolerance and respect to and for each other on the post conflict legacy issues which divides us
4. Increased sharing & use of space between and within for community cohesion and community development related activities
5. Increased dialogue among the sector and other stakeholders to address key and or emerging themes which could destabilize community cohesion.
6. Increased contact and dialogue between policy makers and the community voluntary sector.

How Will It Work?

Small grants of up to £5,000 where community and voluntary groups are able to demonstrate a partnership approach that evidences need and joint working. The grant could be for using a shared space in their local community or to carry out joint activities or events aimed at bringing different communities together, whether that be communities of faith, ethnicity, neighbourhood or of different backgrounds. The fund will give space to groups to connect, share ideas, explore and learn together.

How to apply

It is recommended that you read their Grant FAQs before starting your grant application <https://www.communityfoundationni.org/pears-community-spaces-fund> Should you have any further questions please contact the Grants Team on 028 9024 5927 or speak to Michael Hughes (mhughes@communityfoundationni.org).

The fund will close for online applications on **Tuesday 2nd July 2019 at 1:00pm.**

Foyle Foundation – Small Grants Scheme

The Foyle Foundation is an independent grant making trust that distributes grants to UK charities. Since it became operational in November 2001, the Foundation has disbursed more than £91.5 million in grants. Grants are available to smaller charities registered and operating in the UK for projects that will make a significant impact on their work. The Foundation supports charities in three main areas:

- Main Grants Scheme, supporting charities whose core work covers Arts and Learning.
- The Foyle School Library Scheme.
- Small Grants Scheme, supporting charities in all fields with a turnover of less than £150,000 per annum.

Small Grants Scheme

- The Small Grants Scheme is provided by the Foyle Foundation to support smaller, grass-roots and local charities in the UK with projects that have the potential to make a significant difference to their work.
- This is a highly competitive scheme, and the Trust receives many more applications than it is able to fund.
- Grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 are available for 12 months.
- Grants can be used for core costs or equipment or project funding.

Who Can Apply

UK charities that have an annual turnover of less than £150,000 are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to charities that are working at grass roots and local community level. Eligible organisations should evidence how a grant will positively impact their work and be able to demonstrate ongoing sustainability.

Restrictions

- Individuals.
- Organisations that can consistently generate operational surpluses or that have built up considerable unrestricted reserves.
- Charities with an annual turnover of more than £150,000.
- Larger or national charities.
- Feasibility studies.
- Retrospective costs.
- Multi-year funding.



Eligible Expenditure

One-year grants are available for core costs, equipment or project funding to charities that can show that such a grant will make a significant difference to their work.

How To Apply

Applications can be submitted at any time. Applicants are advised to apply well in advance of their requirements for funding as a decision from the Trustees may take up to four months.

Application forms and further guidance on other grants are available to download from the Foundation's website <http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk/>

Emailed applications will not be accepted.

All applications are acknowledged by email or by post within two weeks of receipt.