

E-Zine



Welcome to Supporting Communities 127th 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.

Past Staff and Board Celebrate 40 Years of Supporting Communities

Supporting Communities invited our former colleagues, staff and board members from the past 40 years to come together with the current team for a look back at our history to mark our anniversary year.



We were joined in our celebrations at the Braid Centre, Ballymena last Thursday night by Cllr. Maureen Morrow, Mayor of Mid and East Antrim (pic left) who started the proceedings with a speech congratulating everyone involved in an organisation that has grown

from a small, single estate-based project to a region wide independent charity that provides tailored support, advice, information and training to new and existing community groups, statutory and voluntary organisations.



Lorraine Campbell, (pic left) who spoke on behalf of the current board, reflected on her own involvement over the years, first as a staff member at the Housing Executive and now as Chair of the Board and noted that it was always the people who made the organisation. She referenced the [timeline](#) displaying Supporting Communities' history and

remarked that it shows all the major milestones along the way but doesn't show 'the incredible wealth of experience and contributions from the staff and board that are behind those points of achievement.' She went on to say that *"working in a supporting role doesn't often garner us the big headlines or public recognition so it is my job today to say to everyone here, thank you. We couldn't do it without you."*

Next, Colm McDaid, Chief Executive, echoed those sentiments and also paid a special tribute to Brian Holmes, the founder of the original project and the head of the organisation through its many guises for much of its history. Brian retired several years ago but was able to join us for this special celebration and reunion. Theresa Patton, Head of Finance & Governance, who worked with Brian for many years, presented him with a gift to mark the occasion.



Theresa, Brian and Colm

It was great to catch up with everyone. Thanks for helping us to celebrate our 40 years of supporting communities. Here's to the next 40!



Catching up with Past colleagues



ELECTRICAL FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME



**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**

Fires in the home can be caused by faulty electrical appliances, plugs and cables but many occur due to mistakes from homeowners. It is important to be aware of the common causes of fires which involve electricity and the particular danger signs you should look out for around your home.

Plugs and Sockets

- Hot plugs or sockets, scorch marks, fuses that often blow, or flickering lights are often a sign of loose wiring or other electrical problems.
- Any coloured wires sticking out are a sign of badly wired plugs.
- Plugging too many electrical items into one socket can lead to overheating; try and keep one plug per socket.
- Use trailing leads or bar adaptors rather than block type connectors.

Cables and Leads

- Make sure the outer covering of all power leads are not frayed or damaged; replace if necessary.
- Badly positioned electrical appliances can make cables trip hazards.
- Never place cables under rugs or carpets where damaged or worn parts will not be noticed.

Appliances and Rechargeable Devices

- Look for the CE mark when buying electrical equipment.
- Never use electrical appliances in a bathroom due to the risk of electrocution.
- Never allow water to touch electrics - this can cause electrocution or fire.
- Switch off appliances at night unless they are designed to be left on eg, fridge/freezers.
- Hair straighteners can get extremely hot. Switch off after use and leave to cool on a heatproof surface.
- Only buy approved chargers for rechargeable devices; cheaper options may be unsafe.
- Do not over-charge devices and always unplug before going to bed at night.
- Do not charge devices on a flammable surface; this increases the risk of fire spread.
- Servicing of electrical appliances, especially ones that run at high speeds, should be carried out annually by a qualified electrician/engineer.

Use the online '[Socket Overload Calculator](#)' to check if you are being electrical safe.

E-Cigarettes

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Take notice of warning signs supplied with the product.
- Do not charge e-cig batteries for long periods of time or leave to charge overnight.
- Look for the CE mark to ensure chargers comply with European Safety Standards.

Electric Blankets

- Look for the British or European safety mark on electric blankets and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Unplug before you get into bed, unless it has a thermostat control for safe all-night use.
- Store flat or rolled up to prevent damaging the internal wiring.
- Never use an electric blanket if you have an air flow pressure relief bed.
- Check regularly for wear and tear and replace after 10 years.

The colder months of the year see an increase in the use of portable heating appliances. Therefore it is vitally important to be extra careful around the home.

- Never place heaters too close to combustible surfaces or materials such as curtains or bedding.
- Position heaters safely so they can't be knocked over easily.
- Never dry clothes in front of portable heaters.
- Never cover air vents on fan heaters
- Never leave heaters on if you have to leave the house.

If an electrical fire starts, you should, if safe to do so, turn off the power immediately. Do not try and tackle an electrical fire with water. Get everyone out of the property, close all doors behind you. Dial 999 and ask for the Fire & Rescue Service.

Charity Commission suspends charity registration



The Charity Commission is currently not registering charitable organisations due to a High Court ruling which was handed down on 16th May.

The High Court ruled that Commission staff do not have the explicit delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the Commission. It is not known when this situation will be resolved - the Commission will contest [this ruling](#) in the Court of Appeal but if the decision is upheld, it may need a change in legislation and that would probably require a functioning government at Stormont.

This hold up in charity registration has caused anxiety for a number of organisations waiting on charity registration, particularly those that need charity registration to be eligible to apply for charitable trust funding. It is also hampering charities who need the Commission's consent to make changes to their charitable purposes.

Cont'd over

Do you need charitable status urgently?

HMRC can grant charitable tax recognition to charitable organisations in Northern Ireland without them having to be first registered with the Charity Commission for NI. Please see our guidance on [‘how to register your charity for tax purposes’](#)

Charitable organisations can also apply for rates exemption without first having to be registered with the Charity Commission. You can apply for rates exemption at the following link <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/charitable-exemption-rates>

Consultations



The Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) is now consulting on the priorities for its next Corporate Plan for 2020-23. In order to do this, your feedback is invited on how well probation services are currently delivered and how you believe PBNI can best contribute to creating safer communities in Northern Ireland into the future. Supporting documentation is available here: <https://www.pbni.org.uk/guide-information/make-decisions/current-consultations/>

Responses should be provided by 31 October 2019

You can respond to the consultation exercise by either:

- Completing the online form on the website <https://www.pbni.org.uk/guide-information/make-decisions/current-consultations/>
- Completing the response form in the Consultation document <https://www.pbni.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/PBNI-Corporate-Planning-2020-2023-Consultation-document.pdf> and returning it via email to consultation@pbni.gov.uk or by post to the Board Secretary: Michael Cox, PBNI, 80-90 North Street, Belfast, BT1 1LD.

Consultation on changes to the Annual Return Regulations and the charity registration application



A series of new and updated questions are to be added to the charity registration application and the Annual Return Regulations 2019, under the latest proposals from the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

The Commission, Northern Ireland’s charity regulator, has opened a public consultation on the questions, which are intended to gather a range of information on the charity sector. The questions cover areas which are of particular significance to the sector, the wider public and the regulator itself, such as safeguarding, data protection and fundraising. “We have carefully drafted a series of questions which will help us gather important data on both individual charities and the charity sector as a whole. These questions will be asked when a charity registers with the Commission and each time a charity provides its accounts and reports,” explained Myles McKeown, the Commission’s Head of Monitoring & Enquiries. For example the issue of safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk of harm in Northern Ireland charities is a prominent one. To support our role as charity regulator and help us have a better oversight of this issue, we have added new questions on safeguarding in the registration application.”

All of the new, and amended, questions to be included in the registration application and the Annual Return Regulations 2019 are available to view in the consultation document, available [here](#).

However, the public consultation will focus on the most significant questions only, offering interested parties an opportunity to share their views on the proposed changes.

Mr McKeown added: “We hope that as many people as possible will take the time to share their thoughts and views on the changes proposed.

“The new questions may mean completing the registration application and annual return takes a little more time but we hope that gathering this additional information will provide wider benefits, from supporting registration applicants in completing the form to providing new data on the sector.”

The Commission’s consultation opened on Tuesday 27 August 2019 and will run for eight weeks, closing at 5pm on Tuesday 22 October 2019.

For more information on the consultation, including how you can take part, visit the [Current consultations](#) section of www.charitycommissionni.org.uk.

Draft NI Animal Health & Welfare Strategic Framework

Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/daera-consultation-paper-draft-ni-animal-health-welfare-strategic-framework>

Closing date; 30th September 2019

Stakeholder Evaluation of Planning Project - Have Your Say

Queen's University Belfast and Cardiff University are researching people's views of planning in Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. They want to hear the views of anyone with an interest in the planning system and its impact on communities and economic, social and environmental outcomes.



You can access their online survey at <https://bit.ly/31JW4IK> It will be available until 30 September 2019.

Please take part and forward the link to anyone who might be interested in giving their views. For further information, contact Jenny Crawford: e.crawford@qub.ac.uk

Supporting Newcomer Pupils

Department of Education

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/supporting-newcomer-pupils>

Closing date; 15th October 2019

Draft water resource & supply resilience plan

NI Water

<https://www.niwater.com/managing-northern-irelands-water-resources/>

Closing date; 27th September 2019

Special Focus



Beyond Generation Rent

Understanding the aspirations of private renters aged 35-54

Dr Kim McKee (University of Strirling), Dr Adriana Mihalca (University of Glasgow) and Professor Maura Murno (University of Glasgow)
28 August 2019



Beyond Generation Rent: Understanding the aspirations of private renters aged 35-54

[Beyond Generation Rent: Understanding the aspirations of private renters aged 35-54](#) seeks out the experiences of older renters in the private rented sector (PRS). Carried out by Dr Kim McKee for the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE), it follows on from their [previous research focused on younger private renters](#).

Similarities between older and younger renters

The research found many similarities in the experiences of older and younger renters. Most did not want to be in the PRS longterm, but had similar challenges to younger tenants in being able to save enough to exit the sector or even move to a different PRS property. Many of the older age group had experienced forced moves, periods of homelessness, discrimination, and poor and illegal practice.

Differences between older and younger renters

The research highlights the financial stresses of renting and the challenges of making a rental a family home suitable for children. Separated parents face not being able to afford properties where children can stay overnight. Parents who took part in the research also noted discrimination against families with children, suggesting low income parents may face a double disadvantage.

Housing Rights conference

This important piece of research will be explored further at [Housing Rights upcoming PRS conference](#). We are delighted that Dr Kim MCKee will be presenting on the day.

Housing Rights' annual private rented sector conference will be held on Wednesday 20th November, in the Skainos Centre, Belfast. With the role of the sector taking on increasing importance in meeting housing need, this year's conference has a bumper programme and will unpack key issues including:

- Dispute resolution, including the role for mediation
- Improving regulation and enforcement with a focus on the emergence of Air BnB and an update on the new HMO regime
- Learning from landlords and tenants including a focus on; the experiences of older tenants, the views of private landlords and the work to involve tenants in policy decisions.
- Looking ahead to how the sector can meet the challenges presented by welfare reform.

[Find out more and book your place.](#)

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Publications



Publication of Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy Annual Update 2018/19

Dr Mark Browne, Director of the Strategic Policy, Equality & Good Relations Directorate within TEO, welcomed the publication of the T:BUC Annual Update for 2018/19.

He said: *“This report marks year five of the T:BUC strategy’s implementation, and it reflects how the work of Government Departments, statutory bodies, voluntary and community groups and the local community have contributed to the positive change in community relations at both a local and societal level. I have no doubt that this could not have occurred without the hard work of all stakeholders and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for giving their time and energy to improving good relations.*”

Looking ahead, there is more to be done and it is incumbent on all of us to continue to work constructively together to help build the united, shared and reconciled community that we want to live.”

The T:BUC Annual Update for 2018/19 is available in two formats, flip book version and PDF, please access the links below:

- [Together: Building a United Community \(T:BUC\) Strategy Annual Update 2018/19 \(external link opens in a new window / tab\)](#) - (online flip book version)
- [Together: Building a United Community \(T:BUC\) Strategy Annual Update 2018/19](#)



Live Here Love Here is a positive, people powered campaign focused on improving our local environment and building a sense of pride in our local communities.

To sign up to receive the regular ebulletin, go to; <https://www.livehereandlovehere.org/cgi-bin/lhlh>



Social Enterprise NI

For the latest news and to sign up for the regular newsletter, go to; <https://www.socialenterpriseni.org/>

The voice for Social Enterprises & Social Entrepreneurs in Northern Ireland

Connecting, supporting, developing and sustaining vibrant businesses to create social change



Please click the link below to access the September edition of inpartnership – the newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives;

<https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/sites/nipb/files/publications/policing-matters-september-2019.pdf>

Scope NI

Available online, including articles such as the new prime Minister and public health policy, the skills shortage and the health benefits of stretching ones legs.

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 August 2019 is now available at; <https://www.nienvironmentlink.org/cmsfiles/EU-Matters-August-2019.pdf>
For other NIEL publications and events, go to; <https://www.nienvironmentlink.org/>



Events

The CIH Housing Awards will take place at Titanic Belfast on Friday 21 February 2020. The awards celebrate and recognise the breadth of work across the sector in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, showcasing the amazing work and inspirational people seen in communities every day.

Entries are now open, so it's time to think about which categories you could apply for and start working on your applications.

The closing date for applications will be Friday 29 November 2019.

For more information visit: http://www.cih.org/events/display/vpathDCR/templatedata/cih/events/data/northernireland/Housing_Awards_2020



Go ON NI Events

Go ON NI events are free and take place in libraries, community centres and various venues across NI. These are informal technology awareness sessions to help you go online for the first time, improve your digital skills and show you more about using smartphone and tablet devices.

Upcoming events

Visit the Go ON NI stand at the following events to get free advice, information, training guides and be signposted to many free IT training sessions (including ipad, Apps, basic digital skills, social media, online banking, internet safety, online government services and more).

Young at Heart Retirement Living Exhibition, Omagh:

Wednesday 25 September 2019 from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.
Venue: Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh.
Entry is free.

Senior Men's Health Day, Belfast:

Friday 18 October 2019 from 10.30 am to 2.00 pm
Venue: Girdwood Community Centre, Belfast.
Entry is free.

Young at Heart Retirement Living Exhibition, Ballycastle:

Wednesday 23 October 2019 from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.
Venue: Marine Hotel, Ballycastle.
Entry is free.

'Go ON NI library' free events

Admission is free but you must book a place if you would like to take part. To book, contact the library branch where the course is running.

Find a library address at the link below:
[Find a library](#)



Law Centre NI Conference 2019: 'Future of Social Security'

The Law Centre NI Conference really is the place to be for an update on social security law in practice. Building on a successful 2018 event, this year will be a consideration of the future of social security.

When: Thursday 24th October, 2019
Where: NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB

Bookings: For more information, or to request a booking form, please contact info@lawcentreni.org

Cost: Members: £95 per person / Non-members: £105 per person



(Book before 31st August to take advantage of a 10% early bird discounted rate. You can also take advantage of the multiple booking offer by booking four places and getting a fifth place free)

Volunteering for a New Decade Conference

Thursday 5 December 2019

Mossley Mill 9.00am-3.00pm

Nothing stays the same! The environment for volunteering is changing – we need to be prepared and to think creatively about how to involve volunteers in the next decade. This conference will give us an opportunity to consider future challenges and to imagine solutions. We will hear from inspirational speakers with an internationally recognised expertise and consider how their ideas will work in a local context.



Join Volunteer Now for a day of innovation, networking and learning to support you as you plan for volunteer involvement to 2030.

Book by 20 September for an Early Bird Discount!

View the Conference Programme, Speakers and book your place online here: <http://bit.ly/2JkZQ2Y>.

Joint Forum Meeting October 2019



A meeting of the Joint Forum will take place on 17 October 2019 at NICVA. This will be the third meeting of the [Joint Forum](#) in 2019. The agenda of this meeting will follow shortly.

The Joint Forum voluntary and community sector panel meeting will take place on 8 October at NICVA. If you are from a voluntary & community organisation and would like to put forward an issue to be raised at the Joint Forum, please get in touch with a Joint Forum member or email siobhan.mcalister@nicva.org.

Joint Forum dates:

Joint Forum voluntary and community sector meeting:

Tuesday 8 October 2019, NICVA

Full Joint Forum:

Thursday 17 October 2019, NICVA

Delivering genuinely affordable homes in Northern Ireland

14 October 2019, Belfast

[Book](#)

About the event

Housing Rights and the Chartered Institute of Housing are partnering to hold a joint conference looking at how to most effectively deliver affordable housing in Northern Ireland.

Principally sponsored by Co-Ownership Housing, the event will take place at the Skainos Centre on Monday 14 October 2019 and will provide an opportunity for key stakeholders to consider how best to respond to the challenge of delivering homes which are genuinely affordable.

Confirmed speakers to date include:

- Paul Hackett, secretary to the Affordable Housing Commission
- Tom Barclay, group director of property and development with the Wheatley Group
- Steve Stride, chief executive with Poplar HARCA.

Benefits of attending

With best practice input from a range of experts and practitioners, the conference will consider:

- affordability issues in the local housing market and how these affect low income households in Northern Ireland
- developments in other jurisdictions including the use of mid-market rent.

The event will also include the launch of research carried out by Housing Rights with the support of the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence into the growing gap between local housing allowance and private rents in Northern Ireland. Delegates will also benefit from hearing an update on the affordability issues focused on by the Chartered Institute of Housing in their forthcoming work as part of the organisation's Rethinking social housing Northern Ireland project.

Who should attend

The wide relevance of these issues to a range of stakeholders including government policy makers, housing professionals, local councils, planners and community groups, will make the event popular so early booking is advised.

Booking information

Members of both Housing Rights and CIH are eligible for a special members discounted rate. We also have a special early bird rate for all bookings received before 31 August 2019.

Special members rate £125 (early bird £112.50)
Standard rate £150 (early bird £135)

Please note if you cancel within three days of the event or do not attend you will still be charged the relevant fee.



Social Enterprise



Social Enterprise NI



SAVE THE DATE!!

**Social Enterprise NI Annual Conference 2019
In Partnership with UCIT**

Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 – Bookings now open



Bookings are now open for this years Social Enterprise NI Gala Awards 2019 in association with Sparq AV, which will take place on Friday 11th October at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Belfast.

To Book your place and for more information click on this link <https://bit.ly/2KWP6tu>

List yourself on BUY SOCIAL NI Website

Have you listed yourself on the BUY SOCIAL NI Website?

This is the go-to directory for Private and Public Sector Organisations wanting to add Social Enterprise Businesses or Services into their Supply chains.

List yourself now via this link <https://bit.ly/2wSVclM>

For more info Contact Amanda at amanda@socialenterpriseni.org or 028 9046 1810



NatWest WISE100 – Nominations Now Open

Nominations for this year's NatWest WISE100 (Women In Social Enterprise top 100) are now open!

We're on the hunt for women across the UK who are making a difference in social enterprise, impact investment or mission-driven business.

Everyone who applies will be considered for the top 100 list, as well as being given the opportunity to win an award.

Those who are selected will gain access to our programme of content, events, and learning opportunities throughout the year – as well as being recognised on the WISE100 2019 list.

If you know anyone that should be a part of the WISE100, please [nominate](#) them or encourage them to nominate themselves.



HELP SPREAD THE MESSAGE

Empowering Communities

Training Opportunity for Staff - Tenant Participation

Date/Time: Thursday, October 10, 2019 - 10:30 AM 1:30 PM
Venue: TBC



Tenant Participation for Staff

Build your staff's capacity with this interactive session on tenant participation.

This training is ideal for staff who are new to your organisation and those who are less familiar with tenant participation. This session would be an ideal part of a new staff member's induction programme!

The session will cover the following topics:

- What tenant participation is;
- Policy context within the UK;
- Approaches to tenant participation; and
- Staff responsibilities.

Cost

- Members of Empowering Communities – £79.00 pp

- Non Members of Empowering Communities – £99.00 pp

The session includes a light lunch.
The number of attendees are limited to a maximum of 12 people, so book early!

Book Your Place

To secure your place, please email siobhan@empoweringcommunities.ltd. Please note details for invoicing and any special dietary requirements.

For more info visit:

<https://www.empoweringcommunities.ltd/events-calendar/2019/10/10/tenant-participation-for-staff>

Training Opportunity for Tenants - Communicate your Message

Date/Time: Friday, October 11, 2019 - 10:30 AM 12:30 PM

Venue: Supporting Communities HQ 34 - 36 Henry Street Ballymena, BT42 3AH ([map](#))

Communicate your Message

This training is ideal for tenants sitting on tenant forums, area panels, service improvement teams etc.

The session will cover the following topics:

- Develop communication skills to be used within their group and with outside agencies;
- The importance of good communication;
- How to structure a report/presentation; and
- Tips in order to increase confidence in communicating.

Cost

- Members of Empowering Communities – £40.00 pp

- Non Members of Empowering Communities – £50.00 pp

The session includes a light lunch.
The number of attendees are limited to a maximum of 12 people, so book early!

Book Your Place

To secure your place, please email siobhan@empoweringcommunities.ltd. Please note details for invoicing and any special dietary requirements.

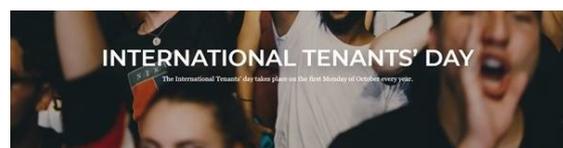
For more info visit:

<https://www.empoweringcommunities.ltd/events-calendar/2019/10/11/communicate-your-message>



NIFHA Annual Conference 2019

Read more about the conference and book your place at: <https://www.nifha.org/events/event-registration/?ee=216>



International Tenants' Day – 7th October 2019

Read more about the day at: <https://www.iut.nu/events/international-tenants-day/>

Empowering Communities Events Calendar <https://www.empoweringcommunities.ltd/events-calendar>

www.empoweringcommunities.ltd



@EmpoweringComms

Training



Volunteer Now Training Course

Keeping it Legal: Volunteers & the Law

Tuesday 24th September 2019

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Brownlow Community Hub 7 Brownlow Road CRAIGAVON BT65 5DL

This workshop gives an overview of the legal obligations an organisation has regarding its volunteers. Discover how to ensure you don't accidentally employ your volunteers, know the relevant legislation around health and safety and duty of care, gain a framework for carrying out a risk assessment and explore the truths and myths around volunteering while on benefits.

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

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

Attracting & Selecting Volunteers

Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd October 2019 from 10 am to 4pm

Volunteer Now, The Skainos Centre, 239 Newtownards Road BELFAST BT4 1AF

SPECIAL OFFER!! Book your place before 30 September 2019 and get FREE Accreditation!

Planning out exactly what you want a volunteer to do is the fundamental building block that informs all other aspects of managing that volunteer. Using a role description planning tool, you will identify the key information needed to demystify your roles. Explore how to make role descriptions more volunteer friendly and attractive for inclusion in information packs and websites.

With a well-designed volunteer role description in hand, you will explore how to find, promote and attract the right people for the right role. Exploring marketing principles and techniques, we look at who your target audience is, how to write an effective recruitment message and explore your organisation's image.

Then we will look at how to create an effective, yet volunteer friendly and welcoming, selection and matching process. Explore how to tailor the selection process to the volunteer role you are recruiting for, how to keep potential volunteers engaged throughout the process and how to best manage and turn down an offer of help.

Exploring volunteers' skills, knowledge, experience, expectations and motivations are vital in effectively selecting volunteers and matching them to the most suitable role.

Learn how to create the right environment for a volunteer selection meeting/informal chat, enhance your interview skills by putting interview skills theory into practice and go away with top tips and example selection questions.

Accreditation is available on successful completion of an assessment workbook at OCNNI Level 2 accreditation in Attracting and Selecting Volunteers. Or a Certificate of Attendance is downloadable through your online training account after attendance, if you book the non-accredited course.

For more information on Volunteer Now training courses and to book places, go to;
<https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/2/?>



The new Houses in Multiple Occupation Regime

Skainos Centre, Belfast Wednesday, September 25, 2019 - 10:00 to 13:00

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.

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

Housing Benefit v Universal Credit – The Differences

Seminar - The Skainos Centre Tuesday, October 8, 2019 - 10:00 to 13:00

The Welfare Reform (NI) Order 2015 represents the biggest shake up of the social security system in Northern Ireland, since the creation of the welfare state. Its implementation is presenting significant changes to how people in Northern Ireland access and maintain their housing. This session will update your knowledge on Welfare Reform. It will consider the impacts of the system on the housing situation of vulnerable and low-income households. It will also highlight the types of accommodation and groups of people who will remain on Housing Benefit in the short term.

Outcome of course

By the end of the session you will have a better understanding of Universal Credit Housing Costs and be better equipped to advise clients on the changes from the Housing Benefit (Legacy system).

Who should attend

- Both new and experienced advisers who are involved in Welfare Reform
- Housing providers
- Constituency office workers
- Community/residents groups

Anti-Social Behaviour

Training Courses - The Skainos Centre Thursday, October 17, 2019 - 10:00 to 13:00 3.0hrs CPD

Antisocial behaviour is a common problem and a cause of concern for people living across all tenure types. This half day course focuses on social landlords and will examine the legal responsibilities of both landlords and tenants. It will detail the legislative procedural requirements which must be followed when dealing with cases of antisocial behaviour and the most recent case law in relation to this emotive subject. Potential changes to the law surrounding antisocial behaviour will also be considered

Topics to be covered include:

- Obligations of the tenant and social landlord prior to taking action
- Procedures for tackling antisocial behaviour
- Pre and post court options for tenant and landlords
- Re-housing options
- Mitigating circumstances and alternative remedies
- Relevant case law on antisocial behaviour and how this should shape both social landlord's approach and tenant's behaviour

Outcome of course

Attendees will be more equipped to help clients who have an ASB issue and be able to advise them on their housing options.

Who should attend

- housing advisers
- community/residents groups
- political party constituency offices
- social and hostel accommodation provider
- legal profession

Funding



The Lightbody Foundation Grant

The Lightbody Foundation will make donations to 5 or 6 charities, twice a year. At this time, those charities will be based in Northern Ireland. The Foundation wishes to try and help some of those NI charities that are struggling in these tough times, as a result of a potential Brexit, and of no functioning government in Northern Ireland. The Lightbody Foundation has partnered with the Community Foundation to connect them with charities across Northern Ireland.

Funding Priorities

The Lightbody Foundation is seeking written proposals for projects supporting any of the following priorities:

- Mental health
- Children and adults with special needs
- Activities to support adults with life challenges such as dementia
- Activities to enable children and adults from marginalised and disadvantaged backgrounds access creative activities such as music
- Engaging mentoring and support for young people and adults in creative activities

- Sport
- Cancer and disease research

The grant available will be £10,000 for each project supported. They intend to support six charities.

How to Apply

There is no formal application form, therefore proposals are limited to **no more than 2 A4 pages**, which must be submitted as a word document.

Further guidance and information on eligibility, etc is available at <https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/the-lightbody-foundation-grant/>

Proposals should be submitted by email, to Orla Black, Grants Director oblack@communityfoundationni.org by **Friday 20th September 2019 at 1pm**.

If you are unsure about any of the above, or have any other queries, then please contact the Grants Team via e-mail applications@communityfoundationni.org or call 028 9024 5927.

The 
Community
Foundation
Northern Ireland

Social Justice Small Grants Programme

Grants are available for locally based community groups and locally based 'communities of interest' for projects that are promoting or embedding human rights and social justice in their day-to-day work for and with their chosen communities.

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

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 your project and issue(s).

Eligibility:

We Will Not Fund:

- Activities that duplicate existing services;
- Retrospective funding;
- Capital build projects or large equipment purchases;
- Promotion of religion;

- Dinners, fund-raising promotions or other ticketed events;
- Party political activity;
- Individuals;
- Substitution for statutory funding;
- Projects where the Foundation's contribution is a minor part of a larger funded initiative;
- Initiatives that involve redistributing the funding as small grants;
- Organisations that did not comply with reporting requirements of previous grant aid;
- International trips;
- Sole Traders or Private Business/Companies

Project Ideas:

- Developing Community Charter
- Rights/Culture/Identity Projects
- "Benefit Take Up" Campaigns
- Anti-Poverty Initiatives
- Projects which contribute to Peace Building

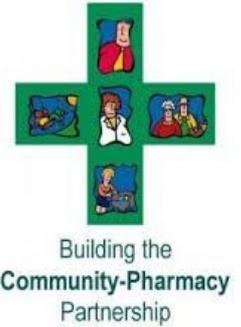
How to Apply

Please visit <https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/social-justice-small-grants-programme/> for further information and access to the online application.

Closing Date:

Monday 30th September 2019 at 1.00pm

Building the Community - Pharmacy Partnership (BCPP). Level 1 and 2 Grants available to tackle local health and social wellbeing needs



The programme aims to promote and support local communities to work in partnership with community pharmacists to address local health and social wellbeing needs using a community development approach.

The programme works towards:

- Increasing local people's skills, encouraging community activity and self help
- Increasing local people's understanding of health issues
- Encouraging local people to play a role in promoting health

Who can apply?

BCPP funding is open to constituted community/voluntary organisations and community pharmacies based in Northern Ireland.

Projects must be a partnership between a community/voluntary organisation and a community pharmacy. Either can be the lead applicant but both partners must be named in the application form.

What we fund?

- Level 1 funding is for a grant up to £2,500 for a project that can last up to six months

- Level 2 funding is for a grant of up to £10,000 for a project that can last up to one year.
- A community/voluntary organisation and a community pharmacy to work in partnership to deliver a project to either one, two and in some circumstances three groups of people. Each group should have 12-15 people who participate in all sessions.
- Projects which seek to address the social determinants of health using a community development approach.

What is the funding criteria?

For more detailed guidance on funding levels visit the website <https://www.cdh.ni.gov.uk/bcpp-funding-criteria>

How to apply

For further information and an application form go to the BCPP website <https://www.cdh.ni.gov.uk/bcpp>

To contact a member of the BCPP Team, call 028 3026 4606 or email bcpp@cdhn.org

Level 1 Closing date for applications is 3rd October 2019

Level 2 Closing date for applications is 7th November 2019.

DFC Small Capital Grants Programme 2019/20 - NOW OPEN

Co-operation Ireland has been appointed by the Department for Communities (DfC) as the Intermediary Funding Body for the 2019/20 Small Capital Grants Programme for Northern Ireland.

The purpose of this Programme is to promote Partnership and Collaboration among Voluntary and Community organisations.

The Programme provides grants of between £1,500 and £5,000 towards the purchase of items such as IT equipment, sporting equipment, catering equipment and material to support arts and cultural activities within the voluntary and community sector.

Applications are invited from constituted organisations that have an annual income of no more than £100,000.



As such the amount of grant available to applicants will be dependent on the number of partners included on an application:

- 2 partner groups = can apply for £1,500
- 3 - 4 partner groups = can apply for up to £3,500
- 5+ partner groups = can apply for up to maximum £5,000

This grant is only eligible for expenditure on capital items and groups must be able to incur the expenditure before 31 March 2020.

How to Apply

Application forms and guidance notes can be downloaded from <https://www.cooperationireland.org/small-capital-grants-programme>

Completed applications should be emailed to smallcapitalgrants@cooperationireland.org and must be received by **5.00 pm on Wednesday 9th October 2019.**

Leeds Building Society Charitable Foundation - donations of up to £1,000 available

Leeds Building Society Charitable Foundation makes donations of up to £1,000 to UK registered charities towards practical items that directly support those in need including those with disabilities, affected by homelessness, or with serious health issues.

Donations are normally in the range of £250 to £1000. The application must be for capital expenditure. That means items must directly help those in need, rather than contributing to the charity's running costs.

Who can Apply

The Foundation accepts applications from UK registered charities, or those affiliated with a registered charity. Donations usually fund items of "capital expenditure". That means items must directly help those in need, rather than contributing to the charity's running costs.

You don't need to have an account or mortgage with Leeds Building Society to apply for funding.

Some examples of the areas in which they have made donations include:

- Homeless people;
- Adults and children with physical and mental disabilities;
- Older people

- Underprivileged families
- Deaf, blind and partially sighted people; and
- Community projects benefiting local residents
- Victims of natural and civil disasters in the UK
- Scout, Guide & Play groups.



How to Apply

You can apply [online](#).

All applications will be acknowledged by email within 14 days. If they need more information they will contact you.

The Trustees meet quarterly in March, June, September and November with the meeting dates available on the website. Applications need to be received 28 days before each meeting date.

Next deadline for applications is Monday 7th October 2019

They are happy to provide support at every step of the application process. If you are unsure how to proceed with your application please telephone 0113 225 7518.

St. Patrick's Cathedral (Dublin) Community and Charitable Fund

Saint Patrick's Cathedral, the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland, distributes the money raised through offertories, collections and candle offerings to charities and community groups working to respond to various needs within the community across the island of Ireland. This scheme plans to award a number of grants up to a maximum of €10,000.

The following are the categories of need addressed:

- Christian Faith in Action
- Health & Well-being
- Alleviation of Suffering
- Education
- Inclusivity
- Community Support
- Conservation & Restoration

In 2018, we asked organisations to link their projects to the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

This year we plan to have a similar association. Please take the time to research the goals, targets and indicators that relate to your work. Our hope is to create momentum on the achievement of the goals, creating a better world with local action for global impact.

How to Apply

Start your funding application [HERE](#)

Timelines for the 2019 Community and Charitable Fund are as follows

- Applications open Friday, September 13 2019
- Applications close on Friday, October 18 2019
- Analysis, criteria assessment and application of scoring matrix commences Monday, October 21 2019
- Panel deliberations take place in November 2019
- Shortlisting announcements expected in December 2019
- Final list of successful applicants and distribution announced in January 2020

