



**Supporting™  
Communities**  
Empowering Society

Welcome to Supporting Communities 46th 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.



**Colm McDaid, Chief Executive, Staff and Board Members of Supporting Communities would like to take this opportunity to wish all their readers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.**

**'We look forward to another year of being able to deliver our services to communities when they need them, where they need them.'**



Due to our rebranding this year we have decided to rename our twice yearly Magazine (which had the name of SCNI News) and as we value our 'Reader's Opinion' we thought it a good idea to ask for your suggestions and input.

The name would have to reflect 'Our Services' and the vital support we give to our Groups in the Community.

Please submit your ideas by email to [karen@supportingcommunities.org](mailto:karen@supportingcommunities.org) on or before Friday 8th January 2016.

**The winner will receive a voucher worth £30 for Tesco Supermarket.**



# Chancellors Autumn Statement and Spending Review 2015 - What Does it all Mean?

**N**ICVA's Centre for Economic Empowerment has studied the Chancellor of the Exchequer's 2015 Autumn Statement and Spending Review to uncover the key issues that will be relevant for the voluntary and community sector and their service users across Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland resource budget will remain broadly flat in cash terms from £9.7 billion in 2016-17 to £9.9 billion in 2019-20. Although Finance Minister, Arlene Foster, has noted this will 'represent a 5.3% real terms reduction in the Resource DEL budget for Northern Ireland'. Resource DEL reflects the on-going cost of providing services (e.g. pay or operating costs).

The Spending Review delivers significant real-terms increases to Northern Ireland Executive capital budgets. Funding available for infrastructure investment via the block grant through to 2020-21 will rise by 12%, meaning over £600 million more than if it had been held at 2015-16 levels.

The review also confirms the funding package supporting the implementation of the Stormont House Agreement as outlined in 'A Fresh Start.' This includes additional support of £160 million for the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

The NICVA review of the Statement also contains an outline of the implications for Tax Credits, Big Lottery Funding, Apprenticeships Levy and Pensions.



To view the article, go to;

[http://www.nicva.org/article/spending-review-2015-what-does-it-mean-for-us?utm\\_source=eNews+subscribers&utm\\_campaign=77507ab81a-eNews\\_30\\_November\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_3f6979e667-77507ab81a-313465361](http://www.nicva.org/article/spending-review-2015-what-does-it-mean-for-us?utm_source=eNews+subscribers&utm_campaign=77507ab81a-eNews_30_November_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3f6979e667-77507ab81a-313465361)

For the Full Statement and Review plans, go to;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spending-review-and-autumn-statement-2015-documents>

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## Departmental Restructure

The 'A Fresh Start' Agreement laid out more details on the plans for the reduction in government departments following the 2016 Assembly Election.

Each of the Departments new responsibilities are laid out in full in Appendix F5 of 'A Fresh Start.'

Agriculture, Environment and Rural Development takes responsibility for:

- Functions of DARD, but not Rivers Agency
- Environmental functions of DoE, but not Built Heritage from NIEA
- Inland fisheries from DCAL
- Responsibility for Sustainability Strategy

Infrastructure will take responsibility for:

- DRD
- Vehicle registration, road safety and DVA functions from DOE
- Strategic Planning from DOE
- Rivers Agency from DARD
- Inland waterways from DCAL
- Regenerations sites team

The new Department of the Economy takes all the functions of DETI and DEL but not the Employment Service.

Education retains all the current responsibilities of DE and takes charge of "a range of children's services excluding child protection which remains in DHSSPS and policy responsibility for the Childcare Strategy.

The new Finance Department retains responsibility for all the functions of the existing DFP.

In a change from the previous announcement the new Department of Health retains responsibility for the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service.

Justice retains functions of DOJ and gets responsibility for Planning Appeals Commission and Water Appeals Commission from OFMDFM.

OFMDFM, renamed the Executive Office, has responsibilities removed outlined throughout this article and gains the Strategic Policy and Innovation Unit.

Cont'd

### Departmental Restructure cont'd

The new Department of Communities gains DSD functions plus:

- DCAL functions including PRONI, but not those laid out elsewhere
- Employment Service and Economic Inactivity Strategy from DEL
- Local Government from DOE and Built Heritage from NIEA
- Debt Advice and Financial Capability Strategy from DETI

- A number of OFMDFM functions including:
  - Social Investment Fund
  - Minority Ethnic Development Fund
  - Policy responsibility for Older People
  - Policy responsibility for Disability Strategy
  - Policy responsibility for gender and sexual orientation

In a departure from previous announcement Communities takes policy responsibility for children and young people. The legislation, the Departments Bill, was given accelerated passage and passed its' second reading at the Assembly Plenary meeting on Tuesday 8th December 2015.

# Hike4HopeNI

**Hike4HopeNI is a sponsored walk from Derry to Belfast.**

Hike4Hope was conceived by Ulster University Professors, Siobhan O'Neill, Professor of Mental Health Sciences, and Paddy Gray, Professor of Housing. They wish to highlight the links between mental illness and homelessness, to raise money for charity and to spread the message that "it's ok not to feel ok, and it's absolutely ok to ask for help".



They are doing the walk over 5 days from the 17th-21st December 2015 and plan to cover around 11-20 miles each day, walking for 4-6 hours. They are looking for sponsorship and people to join the walk for a day or more.

For more information or to give a donation go to:

<http://www.hike4hopeni.com/>

## Why?

Northern Ireland has some of the highest rates of mental health problems in the Western World, and around 300 people die by suicide every year here. We also have the highest rates of poverty in the UK and top the UK league table for house repossessions. Both Paddy and Siobhan have researched and written on these topics throughout their academic careers and have both been concerned about the links between housing and mental health.



Christmas can be a difficult time for people who have experienced loss or who are in a personal or financial crisis.

Hike4HopeNI aims to spread Cycle Against Suicide's message that "it's ok not to feel ok and it's absolutely ok to ask for help". They will raise money for four charities working in housing, mental health and suicide prevention; these are Cycle Against Suicide, Shelter, The Simon Community and The Samaritans.

The project also wants to raise awareness of the links between these topics and highlight the plight of people with housing and mental health problems as we approach the festive season.

## The route and stops

### Day 1

17<sup>th</sup> December: Derry to Dungiven, stopping in Claudy for lunch

### Day 2

18<sup>th</sup> December: Dungiven to Maghera, stopping on the Glenshane for lunch

### Day 3

19<sup>th</sup> December: Maghera to Toome, stopping in Castledawson

### Day 4

20<sup>th</sup> December: Toome to Antrim, stopping in Randalstown

### Day 5

21<sup>st</sup> December: Antrim to Belfast (stop not yet known).

# New Charity Accounting and Reporting Legislation



**T**he Department for Social Development (DSD) has made new legislation which will cover the accounting and reporting requirements for all registered charities in Northern Ireland.

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and The Charities Act 2008 (Substitution of Sums) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 will be effective from 1 January 2016. The new regulations provide for the preparation and scrutiny of charity accounts as well as the content of the annual report. Aspects of these new regulations will affect all charities regardless of legal structure and whether or not they are stand-alone charities or are parent charities with subsidiaries.

DSD held a public consultation earlier this year on the proposed new regulations which closed at the end of October.

The Department has increased the threshold for both the independent examination and the preparation of accrual accounts to £250,000 from the proposed £100,000 threshold; at the same time the legislation did not increase the threshold at which a charity must carry out an audit, and it will be fixed at £500,000 so charities with trading subsidiaries will be required to carry out an audit of both the charity and of its trading subsidiary if the combined income of both is £500,000 or above.

The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland is expected to begin its consultation on the guidance for these new regulations in the coming weeks.

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## NI Assembly



### Assembly Update

At the full Assembly meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 the Minister for Social Development, Mr Mervyn Storey MLA, presented the Housing (Amendment) Bill for second stage agreement. Following a debate on the Bill it was passed and referred to the Social Development Committee.

For a full report of the debate, go to;  
<http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/report.aspx?&eveDate=2015/11/09&docID=248258>

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## Assembly & Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill: Extension of Committee Stage

The Chairperson of the Assembly and Executive Review Committee sought and gained approval for the extension of the Committee Stage of the Assembly & Executive Reform Bill. The Committee was asked to consider and report to the Assembly no later than 30 November 2015. The Bill contains nine parts, 24 clauses and a schedule, which sets out 10 areas that may, subject to the approval of the Assembly, be included in an Assembly and Executive reform motion. The purpose of the Bill is to provide for the formation of an Assembly opposition, with certain rights and benefits, and, in the words of the Bill itself, "to promote constitutional change" and "reform the Executive." At its meeting on 13 October, the Assembly and Executive Review Committee agreed to issue a call for evidence to invite interested parties to submit their views on the Bill. The Committee considered an extension to the Bill's Committee Stage necessary in order to give stakeholders adequate time to respond and to enable the Committee to reflect on the evidence received.

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## Social Development Committee

The Committee for Social Development is currently considering the Housing (Amendment) Bill and the Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill and has been considered by the committee. Following the second reading of the Bill at the Plenary session of the Assembly on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 the Bill was passed back to the committee.

To view the report of the session, go to;  
<http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/report.aspx?&eveDate=2015/12/07&docID=251986#1760431>

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# Consultations

## Review of the Role and Regulation of the Private Rented Sector

The Department for Social Development Private Rented Branch has published a Discussion Document on the Review of the Role and Regulation of the Private Rented Sector. The aim of the review is to consider the current and potential future role of the sector and assess the effectiveness of current regulation, identifying where improvements can be made to help make the private rented sector a more attractive housing option.

For more information on the consultation process go to;  
<https://www.dsdni.gov.uk/consultations/review-role-and-regulation-private-rented-sector>  
**The closing date for the consultation is Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

## Review of Northern Ireland's Non-Domestic Rating System

The Department of Finance and Personnel has commenced a public consultation on a wide ranging review of the non-domestic rating system.

For more information on the consultation process go to;  
<https://www.dfpni.gov.uk/consultations/review-northern-irelands-non-domestic-rating-system>  
**The closing date for responses is Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016**



## Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework

DARD has launched a consultation on proposals for a successor to its Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Framework 2011-15. The TRPSI Framework is a DARD-led initiative aimed at tackling rural poverty and social isolation through a package of measures designed to target the effects of poverty and social isolation among vulnerable rural dwellers. The consultation will run for a period of 9 weeks from 18 November 2015 and will close on 20 January 2016.

To view the consultation documents and for further information go to  
<https://www.dardni.gov.uk/consultations/proposals-successor-dard%E2%80%99s-tackling-rural-poverty-and-social-isolation-framework-2011>

## Consultation on an Alternative Method for Funding Money Damages

The Department of Justice has published a Consultation on An Alternative Method for Funding Money Damages Claims.

The Consultation can be downloaded from the Department of Justice Website: <https://www.dojni.gov.uk/consultations/alternative-method-funding-money-damages-claims>

The Consultation follows the Report of the Access to Justice Review Part II and deals specifically with the recommendations in the Report concerning an alternative method of funding money damages claims.

While the full Report is subject to a separate consultation (which was launched on 3 November 2015) it was considered appropriate to hold a specific consultation on funding money damages claims to focus on the detailed recommendations in the Report and ensure the complex issues involved are given appropriate consideration.

**The consultation period closes on 19 February 2016.**

## Consultation on Draft Amendments to the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976

The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister has issued a consultation document setting out proposals to amend the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 (the 1976 Order).

The proposed amendments are necessary to ensure that domestic law fully complies with Council Directive 2006/54/EC of 5 July 2006. This EU Directive implements the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation.

A copy of OFMDFM's consultation document can be obtained online via the OFMDFM website at the following web address:  
[www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/gender-equality](http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/gender-equality)



# Policy Issues Special Focus

Paul Wallace is the Development Manager at NEA Northern Ireland, the national charity which aims to eradicate fuel poverty and campaigns for greater investment in energy efficiency to help those who are poor and vulnerable. He is passionate about home energy efficiency and telling what it is; how to do it and the benefits it brings.



## Energy Efficiency in the Home

Energy efficiency improvements bring many benefits including, relief from fuel poverty, better health and wellbeing, more disposable income, job creation, increased security of supply and reduced environmental impact.

**But what is energy efficiency in the home?** It can be described in a number of ways including using less energy to achieve the same result. It may be worth mentioning, householders don't flick a switch thinking 'Oh, I must use some energy today'. We flick the switch to do things like, wash our clothes, keep our food cool, cook, keep warm, provide entertainment and light our home. Energy is merely a way of providing these services and householders may not give much thought to where it comes from, how it is priced, measured, or how efficiently they are using it. However, by choosing a more energy efficient product when replacing older appliances, including a washing machine, fridge, freezer, oven, television, or lighting, the energy use can be reduced while still achieving the same results. Surely that makes sense considering that, even if paying a higher price for the more energy efficient product, it will be offset by the payback gained. The energy efficiency rating of products can be compared by using the 'A to G' energy label, where 'A' is the most energy efficient and 'G' is the least. And there are many more electric gadgets in our homes today compared to the 1970's, so this is certainly an area where we can improve our energy efficiency, and also have a positive impact on our electricity bill.

When thinking about keeping warm in our home, energy efficiency can be described as getting the most heat out of the fuel used and keeping that heat where it is needed for as long as possible.

This certainly is worth considering as typically most of the energy used at home, just over three quarters, is used for heating the rooms and the domestic hot water.

In this respect there are two factors to consider;

- The efficiency of the heating and hot water system;
- How well the house is insulated



Action for Warm Homes

And these two factors need to be considered together so that the heat which is being generated as efficiently as possible is not escaping from a home that is not well insulated.

At over 90% efficient, a condensing boiler in the central heating system, capable of heating all the rooms in the house and the domestic hot water, will enable a household to get the most heat from the energy used; compared to for example, an open fire without a back boiler that, at around 28% efficiency, only heats one room.

Keeping the heat within the home for as long as possible includes, insulating the walls and having adequate loft insulation. Taking the windows into consideration may also be important; and reducing unwanted ventilation through the gaps, for example around windows and doors by draught proofing, will help to make the home feel warmer and more comfortable.

Central heating controls can also enable energy efficiency. This can be achieved by having a programmer in the central heating system and setting it to bring the heating on when it is needed and off when it is not; thermostatic radiator valves to control the temperature of individual rooms; a room thermostat to control the space heating; and a cylinder thermostat to control the temperature of the domestic hot water. Interestingly controlling the central heating remotely is no longer the domain of science fiction. With advances in modern technology home heating can be controlled from virtually anywhere using a smartphone or laptop.

It is also worth mentioning opportunities to reduce energy waste, somewhat different to being energy efficient. For example changing behaviour and switching off lights when leaving a room and not leaving electric appliances on standby for unnecessarily long periods of time. Opportunities to be grasped that will reduce our waste of energy, and our electricity bills!

Energy efficiency makes sense! The benefits are well known within the sector. Activity is ongoing to deliver them. Yet we need more than ever to propagate the benefits of energy efficiency to every household in Northern Ireland through effective strong messaging. And alongside the messaging to have policies that will enable every household to have the opportunity, through solid energy efficiency products and services, to live in a decent affordable home that is fit for the



As an industry, housing is under immense pressure and organisations are facing really tough times. CIH believes it's time to make some noise about the positive difference housing professionals and housing workers make, to society.

The #housingmatters campaign brings together housing professionals who share a common purpose: to ensure everyone has access to a decent, affordable home in a thriving, safe community.

#### The objectives

1. To unite housing professionals who share a common purpose and demonstrate that together we can make a difference.
2. To combat negative perceptions of social housing and the housing industry, showing the world how important the work we do is for individuals, families and society.
3. To celebrate the achievements of the housing profession, and our members, in our centenary year by standing up for housing together.

CIH wants everyone who is passionate about housing and CIH to join in so we can make a difference together.

[Join #housingmatters](#)

# the guardian

## A thought provoking Article by Elizabeth Spring which appeared in The Guardian Newspaper

### “I’m a tenant, a loser by today’s standards. But I won’t shut up”

Trying to voice a tenant’s perspective on social housing is like shouting into a hurricane. I am expected to allow my ‘betters’ to decide my fate. It is terrifying to be a social tenant right now. My default mood is a nasty, sickening mix of rage and fear. I have lost any voice beyond a tiny squeaking protest that is as ridiculous as it is inaudible, shouted pointlessly into a hurricane of noise made by giant landlords who need to define my life to maintain their lifestyles.”

For the full article, go to the Guardian Online at; [http://www.theguardian.com/housing-network/2015/dec/01/tenant-identity-social-housing-government-scrutiny?CMP=share\\_btn\\_link](http://www.theguardian.com/housing-network/2015/dec/01/tenant-identity-social-housing-government-scrutiny?CMP=share_btn_link)

## Publications

### NI Environment Link Publications

NI Assembly Hub is available on the NIEL website highlighting all the environment related news and events taking place at Stormont. In this section you can see the main agenda items to be discussed this week at the Assembly and view our monthly review of the outcome of various Statements, Debates and Questions on environmental issues.

To access the pages go to;  
<http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/news/assembly-news/-November-2015>

### Law Centre NI

The December 2015 e-newsletter is now available from the Law Centre NI.



To view and to share, go to; <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=ae690a33dc6a1581f08bf755b&id=e3c409dab0&e=c2b6ae91b3>

### SCOPE Magazine Scope<sup>NI</sup>

NICVA has published Scope magazine;

To read the current issue, go to; <http://scopeni.nicva.org/>

**UCIT**  **Ulster Community Investment Trust (UCIT)**

Financing  
Social  
Enterprise

The lender for the third sector in Northern Ireland Ulster Community Investment Trust (UCIT) is a Charity which provides loans exclusively to other third sector organisations such as community groups, charities, sports clubs and social enterprises in Northern Ireland. Since 2001 it has committed in excess of £50 million to over 360 organisations in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

UCIT has launched its' new website which is available to view at; <http://www.ucittd.com/>

**Age NI Website and New Life Magazine**



Age NI Life magazine highlights the range of activities and support that is offered and share positive stories from inspirational older people Age NI works with, who are living fulfilling later lives.

For the website, visit;  
<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/northern-ireland/>

For NI Life Magazine, go to; [http://www.ageuk.org.uk/northern-ireland/about-us/our-work/age-ni-magazine/?mc\\_cid=63719979bb&mc\\_eid=d02668d741](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/northern-ireland/about-us/our-work/age-ni-magazine/?mc_cid=63719979bb&mc_eid=d02668d741)



**Launch of Revised Code of Good Governance**

**Date & Time: Friday, 29 January 2016 - 10.00am to 12.30pm**  
**Venue: NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast**



The revised Code of Governance and its accompanying resources will be officially launched on the 29 January 2016 in NICVA by Frances McCandless, CEO, Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on behalf of the Developing Governance Group.

The Code of Good Governance which was first introduced by the Developing Governance Group in 2008 is a key piece of work in developing standards of good governance in the voluntary and community sector.

It sets out principles and practices of good governance in an organisation, regardless of size, and as such, organisations have been using the Code as a tool to develop and/or maintain good governance within their organisations.

For more information and to book a place, go to; [http://www.nicva.org/event/launch-of-revised-code-of-good-governance?utm\\_source=eNews+subscribers&utm\\_campaign=aaf1fe9063-eNews\\_7\\_December\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_3f6979e667-aaf1fe9063-313465361](http://www.nicva.org/event/launch-of-revised-code-of-good-governance?utm_source=eNews+subscribers&utm_campaign=aaf1fe9063-eNews_7_December_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3f6979e667-aaf1fe9063-313465361)



**Northern Ireland Housing Conference**

*A changing social housing landscape*

Thursday 11th February 2016 • Crumlin Road Gaol, Belfast

As we approach 2016, the Social Housing Reform Programme is making progress. However, there is still continuing uncertainty around a number of key issues as well as a challenging operating environment for many housing providers. This important conference will bring together key stakeholders to discuss the challenges as well as the opportunities for social housing in Northern Ireland.

For more information and the programme, go to; <http://www.agendani.com/events/housing2016/programme.php>

# Training

## Free Parent Workshop – Promoting Positive Behaviour



Employers For Childcare Solutions, through funding from the Big Lottery, is offering free workshops for parents.

Promoting Positive Behaviour Workshops aim to help parents create a common ground with children, and understand the world from their eyes.

Parents often face a variety of situations, from their child throwing a tantrum in a supermarket; not eating at meal times; refusing to go to bed; lashing out when things don't go their way. The Promoting Positive Behaviour workshop will provide parents with insight and information on how to effectively communicate with children on their own level.

The workshop aims to help parents understand their child's behaviours and cope with difficult situations more effectively.

It will give parents a more complete understanding of managing and responding to their child's feelings and establishing a strong relationship between the parent and child.

The workshop will look at practical evidence-based strategies and approaches you can use to create positive solutions for your family and share your experiences and insights with other parents.

Employers For Childcare Solutions is bringing this workshop to parents across Northern Ireland for FREE.

**Please see below list of locations dates and times with further dates in different locations into 2016.**

Date	Location	Time
Thursday 14 January 2016	North Belfast (Jury's Inn)	6.30pm - 8.30pm
Thursday 21 January 2016	Downpatrick (Denvir)	6.30pm - 8.30pm
Thursday 28 January 2016	Coleraine (Bushtown)	6.30pm - 8.30pm

Places are limited, to make sure you get a place on this invaluable FREE workshop contact Employers For Childcare Solutions today on Freephone 0800 206 1488 or landline 02892 678200, or email [training@employersforchildcare.org](mailto:training@employersforchildcare.org).

## Housing Rights Training Courses

### Housing Options Seminar

Holywell Trust/Londonderry Tuesday, January 19, 2016 - 10:00 to Tuesday, January 26, 2016 - 16:00

There are a variety of types of accommodation available in NI and whether a person needs to access emergency accommodation, wants to rent a property, share with friends or buy a property, it's vital that the accommodation meets the needs of the individual and their household.

This 2 day training course will examine housing options available in Northern Ireland, examine methods of accessing particular accommodation and consider the rights and responsibilities associated with it.



In particular the course will examine:

- Range of housing options in Northern Ireland
- Homelessness & accessing social housing
- Rights in the private rented sector
- Finding emergency accommodation
- Supported / sheltered accommodation

### Who should attend this course?

This course will be of particular importance to housing advisers, community/residents groups, benefit advisers, political party constituency offices, private, social and hostel accommodation providers and the legal profession. Accredited through the Open College Network\*.

Those wishing to register for the accreditation will have an additional fee of £75.00

See more at: <http://www.housingrights.org.uk/event/housing-options-0#sthash.LUAOnMRd.dpuf>

## Homelessness: Assessing & Advising the Full Duty Applicant

Belfast - Housing Rights Wednesday, January 20, 2016 - 10:00 to 16:00

Derry/Londonderry - Holywell Trust Thursday, January 21, 2016 - 10:00 to 16:00

**R**esearch done in 2014 highlighted that Homelessness in Northern Ireland is higher than anywhere else in the UK. In 2013/2014 18,862 households presented as homeless to the NIHE.

This one day training course will enable participants to develop their knowledge of the Housing Order (NI) 1988 (the homelessness legislation) and to use it to assist a client who wishes to have a positive homeless assessment and an award of Full Duty Applicant status. It will also equip participants with the skills and knowledge to challenge an unfavourable decision.

The course will include:

- Making an application

- Assessing homelessness, eligibility, priority need and intentionality
- Important case law developments
- Duties of the Housing Executive as laid out in Housing (NI) Order 1988
- Review and appeal of the decision
- Allocation of housing under the selection scheme
- Housing options and the prevention of homelessness

### **Who should attend this course?**

This course is essential for advisers, hostel workers, housing association staff and support workers.

See more at: <http://www.housingrights.org.uk/event/homelessness-assessing-advising-full-duty-applicant#sthash.TNn9FAQz.dpuf>

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## Introduction to Housing Debt

Belfast - Housing Rights

Monday, January 25, 2016 - 10:00 to 16:00

### **Do you work with people who are struggling to pay their mortgage or rent?**

In the current financial climate more and more people are finding it difficult to make ends meet. This can often put them at risk of losing their home.

It will look at key issues like:

- Examining the role of the debt adviser
- Differentiating between priority and non-priority debts
- Maximising income
- Dealing with lenders and landlords

This foundation level course does not require any prior knowledge or experience of these areas.



### **Who should attend?**

It will be particularly useful to constituency offices, church or community groups, residents associations as well as welfare rights or housing advisers.

For those wishing to register with OCN NI there will be an additional registration fee of £25.

Housing Rights is able to offer this course and accreditation to certain groups who advise on housing debt.

See more at: <http://www.housingrights.org.uk/event/introduction-housing-debt#sthash.ZoqUT66B.dpuf>

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## Volant Charitable Trust

This Trust was set up by the author J K Rowling to support charitable causes. The Trust has two broad areas of funding:

Multiple Sclerosis; and social deprivation, with a particular emphasis on women's and children's issues.

The Trust has two broad areas of funding:

- ◆ Research into the causes, treatment and possible cures of Multiple Sclerosis. The Trust is not considering MS related applications for the foreseeable future.
- ◆ Charities and projects, whether national or community-based, at home or abroad, that alleviate social deprivation, with a particular emphasis on women's and children's issues.

**The closing date for application is Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

For further information - <http://www.volanttrust.com/>

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## BBC Children in Need Main Grants

BBC Children in Need Main Grants programme is open to charities and not-for-profit organisations applying for grants over £10,000 per year for up to three years. The scheme gives grants for children and young people of 18 years and under experiencing disadvantage through:

- ◆ Illness, distress, abuse or neglect
- ◆ Any kind of disability
- ◆ Behavioural or psychological difficulties
- ◆ Living in poverty or situations of deprivation

They fund organisations working to combat this disadvantage and to make a real difference to children and young people's lives.

**The next closing date for applications is on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

For further information <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b008dk4b/features/grants>

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