

14th March 2016

# E-Zine



**Supporting  
Communities™**  
Empowering Society

Welcome to Supporting Communities 51st 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.

## CIH NI & ROI Awards 2016 Congratulations!

**Supporting Communities had a very successful evening at the Chartered Institute of Housing NI & ROI Awards held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016.**

Our very own Laura O'Dowd won the very prestigious CIH Professional of the Year Award and will go on to represent CIH NI at the UK Awards in Manchester at the end of June.



*Laura delighted to have won this Award*

It is a great honour to receive this Award and it is wonderful that the Judging Panel recognised all the work that Laura does, not only in her role as Support Services Manager with Supporting Communities but for the social housing world in general.

I am sure you will all join with us in offering our congratulations to Laura & wish her the very best as she represents Supporting Communities and CIH NI/ROI on an even bigger stage in June!

Supporting Communities was also shortlisted in two other categories (Working Together & More Than Bricks & Mortar) so it was a very proud night for us indeed!

Another well deserving winner was Highfield Residents' Association & West Belfast Scrutiny Panel representative

Cecil Lemon. Cecil was nominated in the Housing Hero category and

Supporting Communities is delighted to be associated with his great achievement. Cecil has given so much of his life to representing his community; he follows in the footsteps of past winners of this Award, all of whom have been nominated by Supporting Communities including Michael Kelly and Bernie Burns.



*Cecil and Murray Watt, Supporting Communities*



*Supporting Communities Senior Management Team and Board Members*

Supporting Communities  
Headquarters  
34-36 Henry Street  
Ballymena BT42 3AH

T 028 2564 5676  
F 028 2564 9729

info@supportingcommunities.org  
www.supportingcommunities.org



## Asset Commission Reports its Findings on the Housing Executive Stock

In 2014-2015 a survey of Housing Executive homes was undertaken by a firm of chartered surveyors called Savills Plc.

The Housing Executive intends to use the information from the survey to build future programmes of improvement work to its homes; indeed, a provisional programme of works for the next few years has been developed. The Department for Social Development will also use the information to forecast the future investment requirements for all Housing Executive homes across Northern Ireland.

Savills was commissioned in July 2014 by the Department for Social Development (DSD) as part of the Social Housing Reform Programme (SHRP). The scope of the commission included a range of asset consultancy and associated technical services which were carried out between August 2014 and August 2015. Savills carried out a comprehensive exercise to assess the current and future repairs and maintenance liabilities of NIHE's properties and related assets. This involved a sample survey of 25% of the properties (over 22,400 surveys) and a detailed structural, mechanical and electrical assessment of the condition of the tower blocks.

Once the survey was complete Savills modelled the results along with financial data and assumptions provided by NIHE to create a cash flow for NIHE's landlord function.

At the most recent meeting of the Central Housing Forum, members received an outline of the principal findings and likely consequences of the survey results and the Commission's findings.

The Central Housing Forum noted that prior to the outcome of the Social Housing Reform Programme, investment still needs to be taken forward by the NIHE. Decisions are required on how it can best manage its assets and how it can best improve the performance of its assets and value for money. In this context a key output from the work of the Commission is a new Asset Management Strategy for NIHE.

The Strategy has now been formally approved by the NIHE's Board and DSD. Steps will now be taken to embed its strategic principles within the future delivery strategies of the Housing Executive. Implementation of the Strategy will involve adopting an active asset management approach across the asset base and will inform the development of the first in a series of 5 year investment plans, thereby providing direction for the approach to investment in NIHE stock over the coming years.

The Summary Report, the full Report and associated technical reports of the Commission's findings are available on the Housing Executive website at; [http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/advice/advice\\_for\\_housing\\_executive\\_tenants/asset\\_commission.htm](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/advice/advice_for_housing_executive_tenants/asset_commission.htm)



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## Support the #MoreThanAShop Campaign

Charity shops in Northern Ireland have always benefited from a 100% charitable exemption from paying business rates. As part of its Review of the Non-Domestic Rating System, the Department of Finance and Personnel is consulting on whether charity shops should lose all or part of this exemption.

The #MoreThanAShop campaign is about raising awareness and appreciation of the considerable social, economic and environmental benefits the charity retail sector makes in Northern Ireland each year.

For more information or to get involved [visit the campaign website](#).





## Assembly Update

At the full Assembly meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016, the Minister for Social Development, Lord Morrow MLA, moved the Further Consideration Stage of the Housing (Amendment) Bill; following further amendments, the Further Consideration stage was deemed to have been concluded and the Bill was referred to the Speaker.

The full Report is available at; <http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/report.aspx?&eveDate=2016/03/07&docID=262042#2062508>

In addition, the Minister has provided a written response to Members question; these can be viewed in the Weekly Answers Booklet. The answers can be viewed at; <http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/questions/weeklywrittenresults.aspx?&fd=04/03/2016&s=18&m=01/03/2016 00:00:00>

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## Social Development Committee

At its most recent meetings the Committee has been considering Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill, Housing Executive Social Housing Social Enterprise Strategy and Welfare Reform Mitigations. The report of these sessions are available at; <http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/committees/details.aspx?&cid=12>

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## Holistic Approach Needed to Help Homeless Says Committee

The Assembly Committee for Social Development recently received briefings from the Department for Social Development and from a number of frontline organisations on the work being carried out currently to support the homeless and, particularly 'rough sleepers' in local towns and cities.

The briefing follows the recent tragic deaths of four homeless men in Belfast. The Committee wished to hear concerns about the circumstances surrounding the deaths and to discuss any and all measures that could be taken to further support the homeless.

Following the meeting, Committee Chairperson Alex Maskey MLA said:

*"While there can be no doubt that our local homeless support organisations are doing an excellent job, it is clear that there remains a number of deeply entrenched and complex issues affecting some rough sleepers.*

*Tackling this will require not only a multi-agency approach in order to address physical and mental health issues; but also a collaborative approach*



*between voluntary organisations to optimise the provision of services to these vulnerable members of our society."*

Mr Maskey continued: *"The Committee welcomes that a Ministerial High-Level Group comprising the Ministers for Social Development, Health and Justice has been established. It is our sincere hope that this will provide a genuine opportunity to develop new proposals and practical action plans to enhance collaboration and co-ordination between the Departments and to ultimately deliver a better service to the homeless here.*

*The public response to the recent deaths is understandable but we must refrain from a knee-jerk reaction. Actions based on evidence and experience are required if we are to implement a measured and appropriate response.*

*Homelessness is an issue that the Committee will recommend is addressed as a priority in the new mandate by the incoming Committee."*

Mr Maskey concluded: *"On behalf of the Committee I would like to take this opportunity to extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of the four men who recently passed away."*

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# Consultations

## Consultation on the Inter-Departmental Review of Housing Adaptations Services Final Report and Action Plan 2016



Department for  
**Social  
Development**  
[www.dsdni.gov.uk](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk)

The Department for Social Development (DSD) and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) have responsibility for different aspects of housing adaptations and are seeking your views on the Inter-Departmental Review of Housing Adaptations Services Final Report and Action Plan 2016.

This consultation is being co-ordinated by the NIHE on behalf of both Departments. The Inter-Departmental Review of Housing Adaptations Services Final Report and Action Plan together with the consultation response document are available online.

Alternative versions are available on request from John Montgomery, (NIHE, Housing Adaptations Policy Unit) on 028 90 318561.

All responses will be analysed and Executive agreement will be sought prior to the publication of the Final Report and Action Plan; responses should be returned by 19 April 2016.



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**  
[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

## Sustainable Rural Communities: A Review of Housing Executive Rural Housing

**Housing  
Executive**

During 2015 NIHE carried out a review of their 'Rural Homes and People' policy in order to refresh its approach to addressing the specific housing needs of rural communities. Following discussions with key internal and external stakeholders and pre-consultation with its Rural Residents Forum, 'Sustainable Rural Communities: A Review of Housing Executive Rural Housing Policy' was prepared and has now been launched for public consultation. The draft policy proposals are available to view on their website at: <http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/consultation.htm>.

NIHE welcomes all consultation responses which will be used to shape the final policy framework and to develop the associated Rural Action Plan 2016-2020.

Please ensure that consultation responses are forwarded to: Sinead Collins, Rural Coordinator, 2 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8PB or email to: [rural.housing@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:rural.housing@nihe.gov.uk)

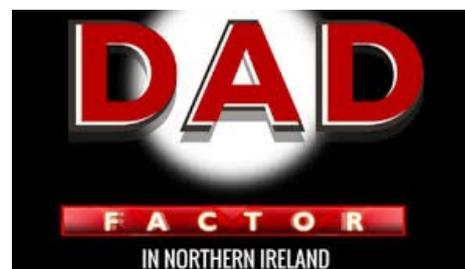
**Please note that the deadline for responses is 5pm, 21st March 2016.**

**Draft Special Educational Needs (SEN) Regulations—Department for Education NI**  
<https://www.deni.gov.uk/consultations/draft-special-educational-needs-sen-regulations>  
**The consultation period runs from the 22 February 2016 to the 16 May 2016**

## Survey on How to Support Dads

Dads Direct is a group which aims to promote the value of actively engaged fathers in their children's lives. It is comprised of representatives from Child Contact Centres, Family Mediation NI, Home-Start, Men's Health Forum in Ireland, Parenting NI, Relate and Sure Starts. Dads Direct is conducting a short survey which seeks the views of policy makers, service providers, family work practitioners and dedicated father-workers. The aim of this survey is to identify and collate information which can be used to inform and influence how fathers are supported in our society.

The findings will help to provide evidence of need, as well as address gaps in policy, practice, training and research.



**Take part in the survey.** You will remain completely anonymous throughout it.

This survey builds upon 'The Dad Factor in NI: How Fathers Improve Child Outcomes' briefing paper which was launched by Dads Direct in September 2015.

# Policy Issues Special Focus



## Equality Commission NI launches new research report: Key Inequalities in Housing and Communities in NI

*“To have access to a home where you can feel safe should be an achievable aim for all of us who choose to live here in Northern Ireland. It is important therefore, when enduring inequalities impact on this aspiration, that those issues should be named and, more significantly, addressed, by concrete, focussed action.”* Dr. Michael Wardlow, Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission

Dr. Wardlow was speaking at a seminar in Skainos, Belfast, to launch the [research report](#) carried out for the Equality Commission by The Centre for Housing Policy, University of York and discussing the Commission’s draft Statement into Housing and Communities’ Inequalities in Northern Ireland.

*“We cannot underestimate the profound effect that key inequalities in housing may have on a person’s life and on society as a whole. Many of the housing inequalities in Northern Ireland highlighted by this work have endured throughout the last decade.”*

Despite a decline since 2001 in residential segregation across Northern Ireland, segregated residential markets still lead to differing experiences of waiting lists for social housing. Catholics applicants experienced the longest waiting times in Northern Ireland as a whole and were allocated a smaller share of social housing than their proportionate share of the waiting list.

*“We know that segregated housing patterns, residential preferences and issues of stock availability interact to impact on waiting lists and allocations, but it is vital that everyone in Northern Ireland has access to safe, secure and suitable accommodation. This does not just involve the housing bodies but needs a joined-up, community wide commitment and an effective long-term strategy with concrete actions”,* Dr Wardlow said.

*“At the heart of this strategy, there must be delivery of appropriate numbers of suitable homes to meet the needs that exist. And the strategy to achieve this must have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard to the desirability of promoting good relations,”* he continued.



Accessibility to quality transit and settled sites for members of the Irish Traveller community in Northern Ireland are still limited, with some experiencing a lack of basic amenities. Migrant workers are often subject to tied accommodation with poor conditions and overcrowding.

People with a learning disability or mental health problems are not always given an opportunity to live independently and many disabled people live in homes that are not adequate to meet their needs.

With regards to sustainable housing and communities, the homes of minority ethnic people and migrant groups are vulnerable to racial attacks. Whilst lesbian, gay and bi-sexual people can feel harassed and unsafe in their own homes and neighbourhoods.

*“The event today provides a forum to discuss the research findings with all interested bodies and affords these bodies with the opportunity to help shape the Commission’s thinking around key inequalities in housing.*

*From these discussions, we want to ensure that appropriate action can be taken to address these inequalities,”* concluded Dr. Wardlow.

See more at: <http://www.equalityni.org/Footer-Links/News/Delivering-Equality/Building-our-communities-Key-Inequalities-in-Housi#sthash.ly5GE8m.dpuf>

Full information is available online at: [www.equalityni.org/KeyInequalities-Housing](http://www.equalityni.org/KeyInequalities-Housing)

## In response to the Commission's Draft Statement on Key Inequalities in Housing and Communities, Social Development Minister, Lord Morrow MLA, has issued the following statement.



Minister Morrow said:  
*"I welcome the Equality Commission's updated statement on Key Inequalities in Housing and Communities and their acknowledgment that this is a complex area of public policy."*



*My Department takes its equality responsibilities incredibly seriously and welcomes any discussion in this regard. My Department will give active consideration to the findings set out within the Statement, where they are within my Department's remit."*

Addressing the issue of the allocation of social housing, the Minister continued: *"The allocation of social housing is complex, but I would stress that the fundamental principle at the heart of the NIHE Housing Selection Scheme is that housing is allocated on the basis of greatest objective need. Put simply, those with the most points are given priority for the allocation of social housing. I welcome the Equality Commission's recognition that external factors which are beyond the control of a public body can affect an applicant's length of time on the waiting list, including an applicant's preferred areas of choice, the demand for social housing in those areas and the availability of land for new housing development. The principle that social homes should be allocated to those in the greatest need is paramount and will continue to be the core of our policy. Nevertheless, my Department is currently working on a review of the allocations policy which is looking at how the system is working and whether there are ways in which it might be improved that will allow people to be housed more quickly."*

The Minister continued: *"Increasing the supply of social housing is of course one of the biggest actions that Government can take to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to access good quality housing at a reasonable cost."*

*To this end my Department has invested £400m since 2011 in social housing. That investment has levered in another £315m in other funding and delivered over 6,000 new social homes."*

*Over the next four years, we plan to deliver a further 8,000 new social homes and continue our record in Northern Ireland of out-performing the rest of the UK in building new social housing."*

*Alongside this, my Department and the Housing Executive have been working hard to tackle residential segregation in social housing by promoting the development of new shared housing developments. We are committed to playing our part by working to deliver more Shared Neighbourhoods under the Executive's Together Building a United Community Strategy. Within the next year, we hope to have started work on the tenth such scheme, which will both meet housing need and help to promote good relations in our society."*

The Equality Commission's draft statement identified a need for people with disabilities and mental health problems to receive support to live independently in their own homes.

Responding to this, the Minister said: *"The Supporting People programme delivers invaluable housing support services to more than 17,000 vulnerable people - including the elderly and those with disabilities - to live independently in their own homes. At a time of financial pressures when Supporting People budgets in other parts of the United Kingdom have been reduced significantly, I am proud to say that I and previous Social Development Ministers have protected the budget for this vitally important area of work. We have also ensured funding is protected for the Disabled Facilities Grant scheme and other measures which help with the costs of adaptations which allow people with disabilities and older people to remain in their own homes."*

Turning to the wider societal issues raised in the Equality Commission's Draft Statement, the Minister said: *"It is important to recognise that many of the inequalities identified in the statement, including segregation and hate crimes, arise from broader societal issues. Housing and housing policy alone will not in itself address these issues, but we will continue to take action where we can. For example, the NIHE recently launched a Community Cohesion Strategy and has very effective systems in place to provide practical support to victims of hate incidents at their homes."*

# 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/>

In addition, the EU Environmental News for February 2016 is available at; <http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/news/NIEL-EU-Matters-February-2016>

The NIEL e-bulletin for February 2016 is available on the NIEL website at; <http://www.mailings.tc/t/r-1C417702347FC8A62540EF23F30FEDED>



Please click the link below to access the February edition of inpartnership – the newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives. <http://www.pcsp.org/Homepage/inpartnershipfeb16.pdf>

## Law Centre NI

The Law Centre E-bulletin for February is available and includes updates on Welfare Reform and in particular the Report of the Welfare Reform Mitigations Group.



Law Centre (NI)

The bulletin can be accessed at; <http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ae690a33dc6a1581f08bf755b&id=71c99de3e7>

## Scope NI



NICVA has published a number of online articles considering issues such as accessible transport; Saville, child abuse and the BBC and homelessness and street deaths in Belfast.

Scope can be accessed at; <http://scopeni.nicva.org/latest-scope-articles>

## Volunteering in Northern Ireland Research Report 2016 is released

An Official Statistics report entitled “Volunteering in Northern Ireland Research Report 2016” was published by DSD.

The Volunteering in Northern Ireland Research Report has been published annually since 2014 by the Analytical Services Unit of the Department for Social Development. This report contains statistics on volunteering in Northern Ireland. The main themes explored in the survey include levels of volunteering, support for volunteers and reasons for not undertaking volunteering roles.

### Key facts include:

- just under a third (32%) of respondents indicated that they had carried out voluntary work within the past year
- of those who had volunteered in the previous year, 43% had carried out a fundraising activity, 33% had volunteered for a church or religious organisation and 32% of respondents indicated that they had organised or helped to run a community event
- the most common methods of identifying volunteering roles were from someone already involved in the organisation (43%), by word of mouth (38%), and through a church or religious organisation (32%)
- around two fifths (41%) of respondents who had volunteered in the previous year indicated that a police or Access NI check was carried out
- more than three quarters of respondents (80%) stated that their efforts are recognised/ appreciated by the organisation for which they volunteer
- the top three reasons for not volunteering were, ‘I have work commitments’ (35%), ‘I don’t have the time’ (34%) and ‘I have to look after children/the home’ (20%)

The full report is available at; <https://www.dsdni.gov.uk/publications/volunteering-northern-ireland-research-report-2016>



Department for

**Social  
Development**

[www.dsdni.gov.uk](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk)

## Community Development and Health Network

The most recent edition of the CDHN e-newsletter is now available. To access the newsletter, go to;

<http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=1efc35d04e4c921abca05f196&id=0f7f4b80b9&e=09b1f9112e>

# Events



## Book now to attend- 'Delivering on Tenant Participation: From Strategy to Implementation'

A forthcoming Conference run jointly by Supporting Communities and Housing Rights will be held in Skainos Centre, Newtownards Road, Belfast on Monday, 11th April 2016 at 9.30am.

With the recently published Department for Social Development Tenant Participation Strategy and Action Plan, Housing Rights and Supporting Communities have come together to offer an exclusive one day conference for those interested in delivering on tenant participation.

With an overarching focus on the key themes of the Strategy, the conference will examine both the strategic and operational perspectives relating to leading, supporting and delivering tenant participation.

By focusing on best practice examples, delegates will gain valuable insights into building the business case for tenant involvement and the tools by which the principles become practice.

### Unpacking the Strategy and looking forward to implementation:

- The role of government; the rationale, resources and regulations.
- Translating tenant participation principles into practice.

### Building the business case for tenant participation:

- Measuring impact and evidencing the added value to organisations and service users.
- Assessing the savings and efficiencies resulting from meaningful involvement.

### The practical tools needed to support landlords and tenants:

- Examples of success from Northern Ireland and beyond.
- Models of digital inclusion and scrutiny.
- Engaging 'easy to ignore groups'.

### Working with tenants to improve the services you deliver:

- Translating suggestions and recommendations to deliver results
- Models of social enterprise.

### Who should attend?

- ⇒ Social Housing providers
- ⇒ Tenants
- ⇒ Residents groups
- ⇒ Consumer groups
- ⇒ Advice agencies
- ⇒ Community workers
- ⇒ Local Government

Book online or email [frances@housingrights.org.uk](mailto:frances@housingrights.org.uk) 10% Discount on all bookings made before 1 March 2016.

Normal price Delegates £100 and Tenants £50. Group discounts available on request for bookings of 10+.

See more at: <http://www.housingrights.org.uk/delivering-tenant-participation-strategy-implementation#sthash.DmOYOZS8.dpuf>

## Collaboration NI; The Impact of Collaboration

**Date: 19 May 2016**

**Venue: Lough Neagh Discovery Centre  
(Oxford Island National Nature Reserve,  
Craigavon BT66 6NJ)**

**Times: 9.30 – 4pm**

Since 2011, CollaborationNI have supported a wide range of leaders and organisations who work within the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector. The objective of the conference is to celebrate, reflect and consider the mechanisms needed to encourage stronger partnerships.

*The VCSE sector have to deliver more with less, as resources become increasingly scarce, collaborations are part of the solution however, how do we support genuine partnerships? What does a successful collaboration look like? What are the opportunities for encouraging cross-sectoral collaborations?*

The conference will be an opportunity to engage with a range of speakers, examining the impact of collaboration and the opportunities and challenges we face as we progress. We are delighted to have the new Permanent Secretary for the Department of Communities speaking at the event as well as hearing from some working examples.

To book a place please contact - [rachel@co3.bz](mailto:rachel@co3.bz)

Further details will be released in due course. CollaborationNI was commissioned and financed by the Building Change Trust and is delivered in partnership by CO3, NICVA, and Stellar Leadership.

For further information please see [www.collaborationni.org](http://www.collaborationni.org)



## Time To Build: CONNECTING THE CHAIN OF SUPPLY

**University of Ulster Final Year  
Housing Management Conference  
24th March 2016 from 9.00 am - 1.30 pm  
Helm Housing Association  
38-52 Lisburn Road, Belfast**

For more information and to book a place, contact Professor Paddy Gray, School of Built Environment Housing Conference, University of Ulster, Shore Road, Newtownabbey BT37 0QB  
Tel: 028 70123456

### The BCPP

**funding clinic** will be an opportunity for CDHN to provide guidance to potential applicants.

The objective is to ensure that participants leave with the relevant knowledge as to how to complete the application form and provide them with the best possible chance of success in securing BCPP funding.

Date: Tuesday 22nd March 2016  
Time: 10.30am – 12.30pm  
Location: NICVA, Belfast

To register your interest, please contact a member of the BCPP team on 028 3026 4606 or email [bcpp@cdhn.org](mailto:bcpp@cdhn.org).



### DARD and DOE Budget Stakeholder Engagement Meeting

Date & Time: Friday, 8 April 2016 - 10.00am  
Venue: Rural Community Network, 38a Oldtown Street, Cookstown

Following the Stakeholder Engagement Meeting with officials from DSD to discuss the 2016-17 Budget, NICVA are now arranging meetings with other government departments. A meeting with the Finance Directors from both the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Department of the Environment will take place on Friday 8th April in Rural Community Network, Cookstown at 10.00am.

[Book your place here](#)



# Training



## Spring Online Week

18<sup>th</sup> April-22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016

Everyone Welcome



## FREE Sessions Available

### Booking Essential

18 <sup>th</sup> April	Digital Office Workshop	10am – 1pm	Derry/L'Derry Area
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Surf Session	10am – 3pm	Strabane Area
20 <sup>th</sup> April	Tablet Session	10am – 1pm	Derry/L'Derry Area
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Drop and Drag IT	12noon – 3pm	Derry/L'Derry Area

#### Learn how to:

- ✓ Browse the Internet
- ✓ Email
- ✓ Download Apps
- ✓ Facetime/Skype



## FREE Funding Surgery

10.00am – 3.00pm

**Tuesday  
22nd March 2016**

Cookstown Housing  
Executive District Office  
15 Morgans Hill Road  
Cookstown  
Co Tyrone  
BT80 8HA

Call Roisin on (028) 77740722 or  
Email: [roisin@supportingcommunities.org](mailto:roisin@supportingcommunities.org)

to register for an appointment

- Practical Advice on completing Successful Funding Applications
- One to One Support, Top Tips and a range of ideas to make sure your application stands out from the crowd
- Funding Enquiry Service; access information on a variety of funders!

## Interactive workshops for community groups

Making energy efficiency in the home come alive including information on how to...



Action for Warm Homes

***Use less energy to achieve the same or a better result  
Get the most heat from the energy we use  
Keep that heat where it is needed for as long as possible***

NEA is holding the two hour workshops for Community Groups in Northern Ireland

For further information and for booking please contact Paul Wallace at; [paul.wallace@nea.org.uk](mailto:paul.wallace@nea.org.uk) or Tel 028 9023 9909

The workshops are supported by the Housing Executive

## Housing Rights Training Course

housing  
rights  
service

## Made of Money - Financial Capability Skills Training Courses

Belfast - Housing Rights  
Wednesday, March 23, 2016 -  
10:00 to 16:00  
Thursday, March 24, 2016 -  
10:00 to 16:00

***Do you work with tenants,  
communities and families  
around budgeting and money?***

This unique 2 day course adopts an award winning approach to looking at attitudes, communication, fears and values around the difficult topic of money management.

Using materials developed by Quaker Social Action, this two day 'train the trainer' style programme will ensure you have the skills and knowledge to deliver and share financial capability education with the groups/clients you work with in a fun and non threatening manner.

This informal and interactive course will look at specific issues like: Money basics of budgeting, saving, credit and debt; Communication about money issues; Coping with consumer culture.

### Who should attend?

This course will prove essential for those who provide money/ budgeting or debt advice and advocacy to clients or groups.

See more at: <http://www.housingrights.org.uk/event/made-money#sthash.YONi1kJH.dpuf>

# Funding



## Changes Announced to Santander Foundation's UK Grant Programmes

From March 2016, the Santander Foundation will be known as the Discovery Foundation. The change in name has been chosen to reflect the important role it will play in Santander UK's new flagship community programme The Discovery Project, which aims to help disadvantaged people gain the confidence needed to make the most of their future.

The pre-existing grant programmes – Community Plus, Money Skills and Learn and Grow – have all now been streamlined into one singular grant scheme, the Discovery Grant. These grants will support projects addressing knowledge, skills and innovation to give disadvantaged people the confidence to discover and create a new world of opportunities.

The application process has been simplified, and Community Interest Companies and Credit Unions are now also able to apply alongside registered UK charities. Grants of up to £5,000 are available for projects which support one or more of the following three priority themes:

- Explorer - improving knowledge and insight: examples include a series of Money Management workshops to help people understand how to budget and identify the affordable credit choices available to them; a Freedom Training course giving abused women knowledge of how to regain control over their lives.
  - Transformer - developing skills and experience: examples include work-based training and mentors to help socially isolated people develop skills to get back into work; sign language training for parents with hearing impaired children; teaching young people with autism vocational skills.
  - Changemaker - innovative solutions to social challenges: examples include a new social networking program for visually impaired young people which uses specially developed braille laptops to access the internet; an inclusive cycling social enterprise which adapts bicycles to enable people with disabilities to enjoy the outdoors.
- Grants are available for one year only and can be used to cover the costs of part time salaries, equipment and materials. The Discovery Foundation wishes to fund a whole project, rather than make a contribution to a larger budget.
- A simple nomination form can be picked up from any local Santander branch, however applicants that are not near a branch can download a form online. Nominations can be made by organisations and members of the public as well as Santander customers and staff.
- Applications will be accepted at any time and successful applicants will be notified by email within a month of submitting their application.**
- For further information - <http://www.santanderfoundation.org.uk/>

## Try Out Your Social Idea With A Test It Award

*Are you aged 30 or under?  
Have an idea that can help change your community?  
Do you want to make a social change?  
Do you need help in getting your venture started?  
Would £500 help you make a difference?*

Omagh Enterprise Company is on a mission to find young social entrepreneurs across Northern Ireland who want to make a change in their community. Already, we have helped inspiring individuals with their projects from fundraising events and healthy eating initiatives to starting a youth club for adults with learning disabilities.

If you have an idea we could financially support, we will be in the following areas and would love to hear from you:

- Belfast - West Belfast Social Enterprise Hub, Tuesday 22nd March 2016
- Enniskillen - The Clinton Centre, Tuesday 5th April 2016
- Derry/Londonderry - North Western Social Enterprise Hub, Wednesday 6th April 2016
- Cookstown - Mid Ulster Council Cookstown Office, Thursday 7th April 2016
- Lurgan - Southern Social Enterprise Hub, Friday 8th April 2016



To secure your place to pitch to the panel, please contact Catherine Quinn on [catherine.quinn@omaghenterprise.co.uk](mailto:catherine.quinn@omaghenterprise.co.uk) or 028 82 249494.

## Tree Council: Community Trees Fund

The Tree Council's Tree Futures offers help for tree planting through three grants programmes, Trees for Schools, Community Trees and Orchard Windfalls.

### Trees for Schools

This grant is open to all schools within the United Kingdom with pupils aged 16 or under.

Grant Eligibility Criteria:

Projects must fall between £100 and £700

- Children under the age of 16 must be ACTIVELY involved in the planting process
- Schools must be local authority run or registered as a 'not for profit' organisation (including a community interest company, a charity organisation or a social enterprise)
- The school must be able to raise 25% of the planting costs
- Hedge plants and willows are not eligible for funding
- Fruit trees are not eligible for funding under this programme
- Planting must take place during National Tree Week
- Applications in respect of work already carried out are ineligible

### Community Trees

This grant fund is open to Community Groups, both formal and ad hoc, within the United Kingdom. Please ensure that children aged up to sixteen are included in the planting project.

- Applications must be on behalf of a Community Group which must be a charity / not for profit organisation
- Children under the age of 16 must be ACTIVELY involved in the planting process
- Planting must take place on publicly accessible land, usually in public or charity ownership
- The Community Group must be able to raise 25% of planting costs
- Hedge plants and willow are not eligible for funding
- Fruit trees are not eligible for funding under this grant programme

- Planting must take place during National Tree Week
- Applications in respect of work already carried out are ineligible

### Orchard Windfalls

This grant fund is open to all Schools and Community Groups within the United Kingdom, with the condition that children aged sixteen or under are involved in the planting or, where the trees are too large to be directly handled by them, related educational activities.

This educational aspect might be during the design, planning and planting of the orchard or, in schools, it might be part of curriculum related projects that will be enhanced by the preliminary activities or the subsequent availability of fruit trees on or near to the school site.

Grant Eligibility Criteria:

- Applications must be on behalf of a School or Community Group which is a charity / not for profit organisation
- Children under the age of 16 must be ACTIVELY involved in the planting process
- Planting must take place on publicly accessible land, usually in public or charity ownership
- The School or Community Group must be able to raise 25% of planting costs
- Fruit-bearing shrubs or hedge plants are not eligible for funding
- Apple and pear trees on selected root stocks are the only trees eligible for funding
- Planting must take place during National Tree Week
- Applications in respect of work already carried out are ineligible

**Application Deadline 31 Mar 2016**

For more information visit:

<http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/>



## Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust – Northern Ireland Programme

The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) aims to fund work which will contribute to the ongoing transformation of the Northern Ireland conflict.

It has a specific vision of Northern Ireland with specific characteristics (listed on their site). The funding priorities of the JRCT as regards Northern Ireland regard funding work which:

- addresses the root causes of violence and injustice, rather than alleviating symptoms
- cannot be funded from other sources
- is likely to make a long-term, strategic difference.

It has identified the following priority areas:

1. **Strengthening human rights and equality.** This includes work to secure and monitor implementation of human rights commitments by the state, work which strengthens a culture of human rights, as well as new initiatives on economic, social and cultural rights.
2. **Supporting inclusive, non-sectarian and participatory politics.** This includes initiatives which strengthen the voices of marginalised groups in public policy-making, foster positive, non-violent approaches to expressing and managing political difference and which cultivate the independence of the community and voluntary sectors.



3. **Supporting processes of demilitarisation.** This includes initiatives which encourage groups engaged in armed struggle to take steps towards exclusively non-violent strategies and to engage in comprehensive processes of transition to civilian life.
4. **Dealing with the past.** The Trust is concerned primarily with work that promotes a shared understanding of the root causes of past violence, or which encourages government to implement initiatives to address the legacy of violence at a societal level.

### Other factors

JRCT is particularly interested in receiving applications related to women's participation in all of these areas and in addition to applications from Northern Ireland, it is open to receiving applications from Britain and the Republic of Ireland for work related to the above areas, and for work with an all-Ireland focus.

### How to Apply

For more information on how to apply and to find out further details on the Trust please visit: [www.jrct.org.uk/northern-ireland](http://www.jrct.org.uk/northern-ireland)

**The next deadline for completed applications is 21st March 2016.**

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## Triangle Trust 1949 Fund Open to Organisations Working with Unpaid Carers (UK)

Grants are available for up to £80,000 over three years with a maximum of £35,000 in year one.

The emphasis of the Development Grant is to support the development of a solid foundation for the future. The grant could, for example, be used to enable an organisation to make a step change such as diversifying its income streams or setting up a social enterprise to help it become more sustainable in the long term.

Registered charities, not-for-profit social enterprises and community interest companies that are working within the UK and have a UK office are eligible to apply. Applications from organisations working in Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales are particularly welcome. Organisations must have a constitution whose primary purpose is to support unpaid carers.

**The deadline for applications is 28 April 2016 (12 noon).**  
For further information - <http://triangletrust.org.uk/>

