

9th May 2016

E-Zine



**Supporting
Communities™**
Empowering Society

Welcome to Supporting Communities 54th 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.

Helm HOUSING



**FOLD
GROUP**
housing · care · support



Fold and Helm Housing Associations agree plans to form a new association

The boards of Fold and Helm Housing Associations have agreed to combine to form a new association, subject to due diligence and the necessary approvals.

Both boards have considered and approved an outline business case for merger and will now take forward plans for completing the process by early 2017. The new association will manage 12,000 homes, provide services for around 30,000 households and employ close to 1,000 staff.

In its first 5 years the new social enterprise is forecast to increase its assets to £1.25bn, its turnover to £90m, whilst investing around £325m in the local construction and contracting industry. There are equally ambitious plans for increased social investment and apprentice employment schemes for local communities.

Speaking following the decision by the Helm Housing Association board, Chair Liz Cuddy said: *"The creation of a new single housing association means we can share expertise and deliver*

improved and more efficient customer services to our existing tenants. It also means we can increase our investment in local communities and contribute to the Housing Plus agenda. In times of record levels of housing need a new and financially stronger provider will be better placed to build more homes, right across Northern Ireland. We look forward to working with colleagues at Fold in the coming weeks and months to bring this about."

Fold Housing Chair Diana Fitzsimons said: *"Fold and Helm Housing Associations have between them 80 years of expertise in providing excellent housing, care and support. We are both values driven providers, seeking value for money for all our service users and funders. Both boards have considered the impact of key challenges such as welfare reform, both on our tenants and our businesses.*

We feel strongly that this collaboration leaves us much better placed to support our tenants, invest in new systems and technology and grow and expand our service offering."

Both boards plan to present their final business case to shareholders towards the end of the year.

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

T 028 2564 5676
F 028 2564 9729

info@supportingcommunities.org
www.supportingcommunities.org



New charity registration application delayed



The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland is developing an updated online charity registration application form.

In order to minimise the impact of the change on organisations which have been called forward to register, the Commission is strongly encouraging all current applicants who have been called forward, to complete and submit their registration application as soon as possible. The new form is expected to replace the current online form in late May/early June.

Information saved on applications which have not been submitted before the update goes live will be lost and the organisations will have to begin their application again, using the updated online form. The Commission is advising anyone who has begun an application but cannot complete before the update to print or save a copy of this information for use in your new application.

The updated form, which will offer a more user friendly and intuitive system, will request the same information and documents as the current application. However, the overall look of the form and the flow of the questions will change. If your application deadline falls after the update, you will still be able to apply for registration after this date using the updated online form by issuing yourself with a new password.

The Commission will also be updating its registration guidance to reflect the changes which will be made to the form, including publishing new application screenshots as soon as they are available. However, as the information and documentation currently requested will not change, the Commission's current registration guidance will remain an important support for all applicants both before and after the update.

To access the Commission's frequently asked questions and answers relating to the update, please see Charity application update FAQs on the website.

DIY Committee Guide rebooted

The revised Code of Good Governance was launched earlier this year by the Developing Governance Group and as promised, the DIY committee guide website has now been launched after a complete revamp.

Thanks to funding from Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland and Awards for All, this online governance resource is now easier to access via tablets, smartphones as well as computers which should enable trustees to obtain the information they need more freely.

The Governance Health Check has also been revised and is available to download from the website.

Both of these new complimentary resources to the Code have been devised to provide practical information and a self-assessment framework for voluntary boards to assess their own governance practices, identify areas for improvement and demonstrate accountability.

Visit www.diycommitteeguide.org for further information on these resources and the five new principles of the Code of Good Governance.



CFNI seeking new trustees

The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI) is seeking to appoint several dynamic new trustees to join its board. New trustees would bring a wealth of experience and provide invaluable advice and support for the work that the Community Foundation undertakes. CFNI are looking for trustees who are committed to social justice and also have an appreciation for the role of the community and voluntary sectors in Northern Ireland.



For more information please visit the CFNI website or contact Andrew McCracken via amccracken@communityfoundationni.org.

Northern Ireland Departments are changing

From 8 May 2016, NI Civil Service Departments are being restructured. Business will continue as usual and no functions are being ended, but the Department for Social Development (DSD) will no longer exist.

All of DSD's functions will transfer to the Department for Communities (DfC).

The Department for Communities will be responsible for equality, anti-poverty, sport, arts and culture, museums and libraries, languages, Public Record Office, finding employment, recruiting staff, historic environment, local government, equality and good relations, housing, regeneration, benefits and pensions, support for children, voluntary and community, law and legislation, appeals and statistics and research.

What will this mean to you?

- business should continue as usual
- functions will remain the same
- staff contacts and telephone numbers will remain the same, but there will be a new website: www.communities-ni.gov.uk and new e-mail addresses for staff: e.g. joe.bloggs@communities-ni.gov.uk or joe.bloggs@nissa.gsi.gov.uk

For more information on the responsibilities of the nine future Departments go to:

www.nidirect.gov.uk/



Going BIG for Volunteers' Week 2016

FREE merchandise available for Volunteers' Week which will take place 1–12 June 2016.

The countdown is on to 1-12 June 2016, the biggest week in the volunteering calendar which recognises the contribution of local volunteers. Volunteers' Week is an annual celebration of volunteering, this year celebrating the 32nd Anniversary in Northern Ireland!

This year Volunteers' Week will focus on - The Big Celebration – encouraging organisations to highlight stories of individuals who already volunteer and to identify volunteers who have made a huge difference within their communities through their volunteering effort. It is your chance to celebrate and recognise local volunteers in your communities and challenge people to take part.

Organisations throughout Northern Ireland are invited to order and download FREE resources to help them recognise and thank their volunteers as part of Volunteers' Week 1 - 12 June 2016.

Wendy Osborne, Chief Executive, Volunteer Now said "Volunteer Now is delighted that Volunteers



Week has been extended - even more reason to celebrate those wonderful individuals who offer their time to help others'. There are currently over a quarter of a million volunteers in Northern Ireland who all play a vital role, from volunteer drivers to sports coaches, from hospital volunteers to those working in charity shops. Volunteers' Week gives us the opportunity to shine the spotlight on these volunteers and give them the recognition and thanks they deserve."

Wendy added "We hope voluntary and community groups and charities will avail of the Volunteers' Week merchandise we can offer (FREE to volunteer involving organisations) to support their participation in Volunteers' Week."

Order your **FREE** Volunteers' Week merchandise

Download your order form: [Volunteers' Week Merchandise Order Form 2016](#)

Building Change Trust and Co-operative Alternatives team up again for Community Shares

The Building Change Trust and Co-operative Alternatives have announced the extension of their highly successful Community Shares Ready! Programme. The project, which started in 2013, will run for a further two years from 1 April 2016 to 31st March 2018.

With the new funding from the Trust, Cooperative Alternatives plan to continue their work in raising awareness of the community benefit society model in sectors they haven't yet been as successful in reaching such as housing, food, healthcare and retail. Their ultimate aim is to work towards bringing a further 3 share offers for cooperatively owned community enterprises over the next two years.

Co-operative Alternatives' Tiziana O'Hara, who runs the Community Shares Ready! project said: *"Co-operative Alternatives have re-introduced democratic structures like co-operatives and community benefit societies in the landscape of social and economic development and bring with it*

the necessary expertise to raise new forms of social finance such as community shares. Thanks to the support of the Building Change Trust that has been possible and we are delighted with the renewed contract since this will allow us to bring more diversity in the economy and interesting forms of community ownership in the VCSE sector".

The Trust's Director of Operations, Nigel McKinney, said: *"We've been delighted with the work Co-operative Alternatives has been doing on this project and are excited to be extending our relationship with them into 2018."*

For more information, go to; <http://www.coopalternatives.coop/news/trust-co-operative-alternatives-team-community-shares/>



NI Assembly

Assembly Update

The Northern Ireland Assembly has been dissolved. The election took place on Thursday 5 May 2016 and a new Assembly will be formed on Monday 9th May.



Consultations

Department for Social Development's Review of the Fitness Standard

The Department for Social Development's review of the Fitness Standard is currently underway. The Department is seeking views on what should be included within a revised standard, how a revised standard may be enforced and how the enforcement arrangements will be conducted going forward. Housing Rights received 1449 queries relating to conditions and disrepair in 2015. It is widely accepted that the current Housing Fitness Standard is insufficiently detailed or rigorous. The review provides an excellent opportunity to influence the development of tools and standards that will improve health and safety across all housing tenures. **Closing date for responses is the 10 June 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

1.25 million people are destitute in the UK

The first comprehensive study into destitution in the UK has revealed that 1.25 million people, including over 300,000 children, are destitute, the independent Joseph Rowntree Foundation has announced.

Destitution is the most severe form of poverty in the UK and means someone can't afford the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and stay warm and dry.

The total number of destitute people in the UK, including UK citizens, is not currently measured by the Government. [The report](#) was commissioned by JRF in response to perceptions that extreme poverty had risen in recent years. It has been conducted by experts at Heriot-Watt University with advice from a wide range of experts and service providers across the UK, and has taken two years to complete.

The definition of destitution used in this study was developed with experts and tested with the general public (the only current official definition of destitution is in asylum legislation). They defined destitution as when someone lacked two or more basic essentials in one month. This means that, over this month, people have: slept rough, had one or no meals a day for two or more days, been unable to heat or to light their home for five or more days, gone without weather-appropriate clothes or gone without basic toiletries.

In total, researchers found that:

- 1,252,000 people, including 312,000 children, were destitute at some point in 2015

- 4/5 were born in the UK
- Around a third had a complex need
- Young, single people, particularly men, are more likely to be destitute, but there are considerable numbers of families living in destitution. There is no single cause, but most people had been living in poverty for a considerable period of time before tipping into destitution. The most common causes are:
 - the extra costs of ill health and disability
 - the high costs of housing and other essential bills
 - Unemployment
 - a financial shock like a benefit sanction or delay

The report finds that there is a very broad range of factors which can tip someone into destitution, and for many people is not due to a specific set of circumstances such as seeking asylum or having complex needs.

Most people had been living in poverty for a considerable period of time before becoming destitute. Many people named the extra expenses caused by disability and illness and the high cost of rent and household energy bills as triggers for destitution.

Debt repayments were also a common reason for being unable to afford basic essentials. The most common were debts from social fund loans and benefit overpayments owed to DWP, council tax arrears owed to local councils, rent arrears, and debts to utility companies.

Many people said that they were unable to afford necessities following a benefit delay or sanction.

The number of people experiencing severe poverty, which is linked to destitution, has been rising sharply in the UK since the economic crash in 2008. Areas with the highest levels of destitution mirrored areas with generally high levels of poverty. Some London boroughs, former industrial areas of the North of England and deprived coastal towns had the highest levels of destitution. People who had experienced destitution said that they felt 'demeaned', 'degraded' and 'humiliated' by having to get family, friends or charities to provide basics like food and toiletries.

Destitute parents often went without things themselves so that they could provide more for their children. Many felt that destitution had a negative impact on their relationships with their children and with other family and friends, leading to social isolation. Destitution took a toll on many people's mental health, and some reported physical health problems. Several said that they were unable to afford over the counter medicines for themselves or their families.

In 2015, destitute people reported problems with getting behind on bills (57%), serious debt (33%), benefit delays (40%) or sanctions (30%), serious health problems (29%), eviction (19%), problems with work (19%), breakdown in relationship with family members (25%), separation from a partner (14%) and domestic violence (11%).

Julia Unwin, Chief Executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, said:

“There are a shocking number of people in the UK living in destitution. It is simply unacceptable to see such levels of severe poverty in our country in the 21st Century.

Governments of all stripes have failed to protect people at the bottom of the income scale from the effects of severe poverty, leaving many unable to feed, clothe or house themselves and their families. Tackling the many causes of destitution is difficult. Many people affected are living on a very low income before they are no longer able to make their incomes stretch, or a financial shock like a benefit delay or family breakdown pushes them over the edge into destitution.

We have to tackle these root causes. Government, businesses and communities need to work together to provide better emergency support, make basic essentials more affordable and create better jobs if we are to end destitution in the UK.”

Professor Suzanne Fitzpatrick, Director of the Institute for Social Policy, Housing, Environment and Real Estate (I-SPHERE) at Heriot-Watt University at Heriot Watt University and one of the authors of the report, said:

“Destitution takes a huge toll on people’s mental and physical health and wellbeing. The people we spoke to told us they felt humiliated that they couldn’t afford basic essentials without help. Many said that this affected their relationships and left them socially isolated. This report has shown that destitution is intrinsically linked to long-term poverty, with many people forced into destitution by high costs, unaffordable bills or a financial shock such as a benefit sanction or delay. More co-ordinated debt-collection practices, particularly from DWP, local councils and utility companies, could help to avoid small debts tipping people in to destitution.”

Researchers identified destitution by surveying people who came to voluntary sector crisis services, like foodbanks, debt advice charities,

homelessness agencies, and specialist services for migrants, in nine areas over one week in 2015. They used these figures along with national statistics to calculate the number of destitute people in the UK across the year. It does not include people who only got help from their local council or Government programmes or those who did not seek help, meaning that the total number of destitute people is likely to be significantly higher. JRF is calling on the Office of National Statistics to begin officially tracking the number of destitute people in the UK. Government, businesses, communities and individuals need to work together to provide better support for people in crisis, as well as reducing the costs of housing and basic essentials as well as creating better jobs that pay sufficiently.

The summary and full reports are available on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation website at: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/destitution-uk>

Publications



Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme

On 7 September 2015 the Prime Minister announced an additional 20,000 Syrian refugees would be resettled in the UK over the course of the current UK Parliament.

The First Minister and deputy First Minister signalled to the UK Government their willingness to welcome some of the most vulnerable refugees into Northern Ireland with 50 to 100 arriving on a phased basis from December 2015. The Department chairs the Operational Planning Group comprising of statutory and voluntary and community organisations.

This document provides briefing on the scheme and information on the current arrival of refugees; <https://www.dsdni.gov.uk/publications/syrian-vulnerable-persons-relocation-scheme>

NI Environment Link Publications

The NIEL e-bulletin for April 2016 is available on the NIEL website at: <http://www.mailings.tc/t/r-85C731ACF46D432A2540EF23F30FEDED>
In addition, NI Environment Link has a calendar of events being run by stakeholders and member groups; to find an event of interest to you, or near you go to: <http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/events/>



The Northern Ireland Housing Bulletin October - December 2015 is released



A report entitled “Northern Ireland Housing Bulletin October - December 2015” was published today by DSD. The Northern Ireland Housing Bulletin is produced each quarter by the Analytical Services Unit of the Department for Social Development. This Bulletin contains statistics on starts and completions, homelessness, the Residential Property Price Index and new National House Building Council (NHBC) registered dwellings sales and prices.

Key facts include:

- ◆ The total number of new dwelling starts in Northern Ireland recorded by Building Control for October – December 2015 was 1,346, an increase of 12% on the same quarter in 2014. The total number of new dwelling completions recorded by Building Control for October – December 2015 was 1,555, a increase of 6% on the same quarter in 2014
- ◆ During the first three quarters of 2015/16, there were a total of 306 Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) new social housing dwelling starts and 711 SHDP new social housing dwelling completions. The SHDP figures are sourced from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, and not Building Control. More detail on the definitions of starts and completions used by the two organisations is available in Appendix 1 of the report
- ◆ In total, 4,646 households presented as homeless to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive during October - December 2015, a decrease of 210 (4%) from the previous quarter. The most common reason reported by those presenting as homeless was that their accommodation was not reasonable (981). This was followed by those who reported a sharing breakdown or family dispute (937)
- ◆ The number of households accepted by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive as full duty applicants for the quarter October - December 2015 was 2,461, a decline of 305 (11%) from the previous quarter. The most common reasons reported by full duty applicants for their current situation was that their accommodation was not reasonable (780) or they were experiencing a sharing breakdown or family dispute (474). Of those households accepted as full duty applicants during the quarter, 286 were discharged. A full duty applicant is an applicant considered by the Housing Executive to be eligible, homeless (threatened with homelessness), in priority need and unintentionally homeless, to whom the Housing Executive owes full housing duty
- ◆ During the quarter ending September 2015, 316 (revised figures) new National House Building Council (NHBC) registered dwellings were sold, a decrease of 4% on the same period in 2014
- ◆ The average price of NHBC-registered new dwellings for the quarter ending September 2015 was £156,100, a decrease of 1% on the previous quarter (£158,400)

Section 3 of the Quarterly Housing Bulletin includes information on the Residential Property Price Index that was released by Land and Property Services in February 2016.

- The Northern Ireland Residential Property Price Index in Quarter 4 (October – December) 2015 stands at 106, 7% higher than in Quarter 4 2014
- Between Quarter 3 (July – September) and Quarter 4 (October – December) 2015, the Residential Property Price Index increased by 1%



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

http://www.pcsp.org/Homepage/final_pdf_-_inpartnership_april_2016.pdf

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>



Law Centre NI



The Law Centre E-bulletin for April 2016 is available and includes updates on Welfare Reform and in particular the Report of the Welfare Reform Mitigations Group.

The bulletin can be accessed at; <http://www.lawcentreni.org/publications/enewsletter.html>

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>

The Rainbow Project launches research into the experiences of rural LGB&/T people



The Rainbow Project, the largest LGB&/T support and advocacy organisation in Northern Ireland, launched its research entitled 'OUTstanding in Your Field – the experiences of LGB&/T people in rural areas of Northern Ireland'.

The research was supported by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. 410 LGB&/T people responded to the survey conducted by The Rainbow Project.

To access the report, go to; <http://www.rainbow-project.org/news/the-rainbow-project-launches-research-into-the-experiences-of-rural-lgbt-people>

Events

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

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



Charity Trustee Conference – Promoting good financial governance

**Date & Time: 11 May 2016 -
10.00am to 3.30pm**

Venue: NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast

NICVA, in partnership with Moore Stephens, is holding a conference on the 11 May dedicated to charity trustees to help raise awareness of the new accounting and reporting regulations and promote understanding of good financial governance.

This timely conference will explain the new rules for charity finances and reporting to help charity trustees understand what the new rules mean in practice for their charity.

For more information and to book go to the NICVA website at; <http://www.nicva.org/event/charity-trustee-conference-promoting-good-financial-governance>



Housing Rights' Linking Health and Housing' Event

**Date & Time: Tuesday, 17 May 2016 -
10.30am to 1.30pm**

**Venue: Housing Rights, Middleton Buildings,
10-12 High Street, Belfast**

With DSD's review of the Fitness Standard underway Housing Rights is holding a unique half day policy seminar. It will examine key tools and resources for raising standards and will feature contributions from experts in this field.

The seminar will focus on key issues including the Health and Housing Safety Rating System and Landlord Licensing and will be particularly relevant for those contributing to the current fitness review.

Costs from £40-£65.

To book visit the Housing Rights website or email Frances@housingrights.org.uk.

Housing Rights

Training

Interactive workshops for community groups

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

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



Action for Warm Homes

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 or Tel 028 9023 9909. The workshops are supported by the Housing Executive

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Including LGB people in the workplace and in service provision

Date & Time: Tuesday, 17 May 2016 - 9.30am to 1pm (followed by lunch)

Venue: Malone House, Belfast

Equality Commission

FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Seminar invitation for employers and service providers - Promoting LGB equality: key issues and good practice. To mark LGBT Awareness Week 2016 the Equality Commission is holding a free half day event to share learning and good practice in employing and providing services to LGB people.

For more information and to register visit the [Equality Commission website](http://www.equalityni.org) or contact Bronagh by email bkelly@equalityni.org or on 028 9050 0588.

Housing Rights Training Courses

Housing Rights

Sustaining tenancies - Keeping clients in their homes Training Courses

Derry/Londonderry - Holywell Trust Thursday, May 26, 2016 - 10:00 to 16:00

With limited new builds, long waiting lists for social housing, and more people than ever renting privately, keeping people in the place they call home is vitally important. This session looks at practical solutions to key issues that can impact peoples' ability to stay in and enjoy their homes.

It will consider things like:

- ◆ Paying for the home and managing arrears
- ◆ How to deal with antisocial behavior
- ◆ Issues around abandonment

- ◆ Tackling disrepair
- ◆ Making homes suitable if circumstances change

Who should attend?

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 £25.00

See more at: <http://www.housingrights.org.uk/event/sustaining-tenancies-keeping-clients-their-homes#sthash.pZBCNrZb.dpuf>

Housing Benefit - the basics

Belfast - Housing Rights Thursday, May 19, 2016 - 10:00 to 16:00

Developed on the basis of your feedback this practical course offers the ultimate guide to working with housing benefit. This introductory level session will look at housing benefit in the social, private and home owner sectors. It will consider everyday issues like: Defining what is Housing Benefit Eligibility How to apply Filling out forms Challenging a negative decision Who should attend? This course will be of particular importance to

housing advisers, community/residents groups, benefit advisors, political party constituency offices, private, social and hostel accommodation providers and the legal profession.

Register for this event online. There are costs to be applied;

Voluntary / Community from £72.00 to £90.00

Public / Statutory from £132.00 to £165.00

See more at: <http://www.housingrights.org.uk/event/housing-benefit-basics#sthash.s5PNPcoC.dpuf>

Funding



Women's Fund Individual Bursaries

The Women's Fund for Northern Ireland's Individual Bursaries have been set up to fill a gap in funding opportunities for individual women who require a small amount of financial aid (£300-£500) to support them towards fulfilling their potential.

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

Applicants will preferably be affiliated to a constituted community/women's group and have the support of that organisation.

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

- Personal development and confidence building
- Overcoming barriers to employment or training
- Making the first steps towards re-entering the workplace
- Priority will be given to applicants living in deprived / disadvantaged areas

The closing date for applications is **Friday 20th May 2016**

For further information visit <http://www.communityfoundationni.org>

Ireland's Coca-Cola Thank You Fund Opens for 2016 Applications

This year, Coca-Cola is celebrating its 130th year in operation and to reflect this it is increasing the funding it is awarding from €125,000 to €130,000.

This money will be awarded as follows:

- One grant of €30,000 to one organisation.
- Eight grants of €10,000.
- Four grants of €5,000.

The Fund is looking for non-profit organisations that have new and innovative projects or initiatives that address the 2016 theme:

'Working with communities in Ireland and Northern Ireland to inspire and support young people.'

The proposed project must exclusively benefit people who are over 12 years of age and under 25 years, and activities using money received from the Fund must be based on the island of Ireland. Projects should address under one or more of the following three categories:

- **Self Esteem & Confidence Building:** Projects that help equip young people with skills for living, life and work.
- **Wellbeing:** Initiatives focused on providing youth with an outlet to support their mental health and wellbeing - from creative pursuits, to mentorship, to community involvement.

- **Leadership:** Programmes that help young people develop their leadership skills – positioning them as future community, business or cultural leaders.

Eligible applicants include:

- Charitable organisations with a registered charity number.
- Voluntary organisations working within the community.
- Not-for-profit community organisations.
- A foundation or a trust for the benefit of the community.

Organisations must have been in operation for at least 12 months.

For further information regarding this grant <http://www.coca-cola.ie/stories/the-coca-cola-thank-you-fund/>

The deadline for applications is 7 June 2016 (midnight).



George Best Belfast City Airport Community Fund

George Best Belfast City Airport officially launched their Community Fund in February 2009 with the aim of supporting the local community surrounding the airport and improving the impact of their events and initiatives.

They recognise the importance of being a good neighbour and engage directly with the local community groups to identify projects that can benefit from the Community Fund.

Community Fund projects range from schools to sports teams, community centers to choirs, educational campaigns and exciting event programmes.

Grants between £300-£10,000

Projects aimed at facilitating the following areas and which are ideally based within North Down Borough Council, Belfast City Council or the Greater Belfast area will be considered:

- Community (including education)
- Social (including sport, leisure and recreation)
- Environmental or conservation

The next deadline for applications is 15th June 2016

For further information regarding this funding www.belfastcityairport.com/Community/Community-Fund

Ulster People Colleges Fund



The Ulster People's College Fund was set up in 2014 by the Ulster People's College with the aim of supporting the many communities in NI who continue to suffer from social and economic problems. Grants of up to £10,000 will be made to community groups and organisations to enable them to address some of the ways in which disadvantage can be positively addressed, in particular through education and community capacity building. The aim of the fund will be to empower communities with skills and experiences to create a stronger, more engaged society in Northern Ireland.

Under the programme the community groups and organisations can apply to:

- Provide community education and development that is aimed at tackling the challenges of social and economic disadvantage
- Improve civic participation for people who are disadvantaged and excluded
- Overcome cultural and political division

Priority will be given to projects that target groups and/or areas that are particularly disadvantaged and excluded as evidenced in the application. In addition they are keen to support applicants who are locally based and who have the full involvement of beneficiaries in terms of planning and delivery projects.

The closing date for applications is 4pm on Friday 27th May.

To apply please check the Community Foundation for NI website for further information www.communityfoundationni.org

National Sheds Grant Fund Launches

Local community groups across the UK are today being encouraged to apply for a share of a new grant fund to help support the set-up of community Shed spaces.

Grant can contribute to set up a Shed project or increase activities in an existing Shed project.

Small grants between £250-£1,000 available from Royal Voluntary Service with funding from ASDA for Men's Sheds/Community Shed projects.

For further information regarding this funding www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

Community Works for Worthy Causes

This year Lidl Community Works are searching for organisations to support whilst also celebrating 2016 being the NI year of Food & Drink.

Does your organisation need supplies for a fundraising summer BBQ? Could you organise a charity golf or sports day with Lidl providing the snack bags? Does your community group need funding for its weekly luncheon club?

We are on the lookout for more local organisations to support and reward this year along with a special food fundraiser, with your help through nominations, our judges will select 33 winners across NI to invest

in this year. Additionally the Community Crew will be out on the road again popping up at community groups and events and also in your local stores with surprise treats and goodies.

Print off the Nomination Form online or call into your local Lidl Store to pick up a copy and make sure you post it in the Community Works Nomination Box in all stores by 8pm on Friday 13th May.

For further information regarding this funding <http://www.lidl-ni.co.uk/en/5252.htm>



MacRobert Trust

The MacRobert Trust is a Scottish grant-making trust which funds general charitable purposes primarily in Scotland but also in other regions of the UK including Northern Ireland. Donations are given only to organisations registered as charities and are always dependent on funding availability.

Trustees reserve the right to make changes to the themes and sub-themes and to make judgements on applications which do not qualify for support.

- Theme 1:** Services and Sea
- Theme 2:** Education and Training
- Theme 3:** Children and Youth
- Theme 4:** Science, Engineering and Technology
- Theme 5:** Agriculture and Horticulture
- Theme 6:** Tarland and the Local Area

The next application Deadline is on 31st May 2016

For further information regarding this grant <http://www.themacroberttrust.org.uk/>

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council invite communities to help celebrate Queen's 90th Birthday throughout the Borough

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is inviting groups from across the Borough to apply for funding to help celebrate the momentous occasion of the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. Groups are invited to apply for grants of up to £250 to organise activities in their communities. Projects must take place on the weekend of the Queen's official birthday (June 10th – 12th). Activities must be open for all residents and offer an opportunity for communities and residents to find out more about what is going on in the locality and who their neighbours are.

Applications for a range of costs relating to street parties and other community activities can be supported. Priority will be given to projects that promote wide community involvement, with the maximum grant being £250. Details about the fund and how to apply will be posted on the grants/funding page of Council's website or alternatively email the Funding Unit at grants@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk.

The deadline for submission is 12.00noon on Wednesday 18th May 2016.

Decisions on the applications will be made by Council on 24th May 2016. For further information please visit Council's website on www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk or telephone Council on 028 7034 7034.
