

6th June 2016

E-Zine



**Supporting™
Communities**
Empowering Society

Welcome to Supporting Communities 56th 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.



Supporting Communities now on the Digital Training and Support Framework

vital assisted digital support and digital inclusion/engagement services in order to address digital exclusion.

Many adults in the UK still lack the digital skills to use online government services independently or to make the most of the internet more broadly.

Barriers to using online services include lack of access, insufficient basic digital skills, lack of trust, and motivation to get online.

Supporting Communities can help with training and support!

Formal guidance on how to use the framework will be published soon.

In the meantime, public sector organisations can find out more by contacting the Framework Authority and GDS at DigitalTraining-procurement1@digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk or get in touch with us at Supporting Communities to discuss your training needs.

We are very pleased to announce that Supporting Communities is now an approved Digital Training and Support Framework Supplier for the delivery of digital inclusion and basic digital skills training.

In welcoming the news Colm McDaid (Chief Executive of Supporting Communities) commented;

"We are delighted to have been selected as the only NI organisation on this important framework. It means that Supporting Communities can be approached by any statutory agency to provide digital awareness training over the next 2 years and reflects the excellent work already being delivered by our staff in the digital inclusion arena."

The Digital Training and Support framework allows public sector organisations to more easily procure



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Open Call for voluntary 'Community Support' for Syrian Refugees in Northern Ireland

On 7 September 2015 the Prime Minister announced a significant expansion of the Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme to resettle up to 20,000 Syrian Refugees over the course of the current UK Parliament. The scheme will resettle displaced refugees who are currently living in camps in countries neighbouring Syria, principally Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon. It does not extend to asylum seekers in Europe or in countries such as Libya.

The First Minister and Deputy First Minister signalled to the UK Government their willingness to welcome some of the most vulnerable refugees here under the VPR scheme to NI.

The VPR scheme is based on need. It prioritises those who cannot be supported effectively in their region of origin: women and children at risk, people in severe need of medical care and survivors of torture and violence. Those accepted through the scheme will be granted five years humanitarian protection status and will have access to employment and public funds and rights to family reunion comparable to other refugees. At the end of five years, if individuals are not able to return to Syria, they may be eligible to apply for resettlement in the UK.

A partnership of a number of organisations has been established to advance and promote the relocation of vulnerable people under this scheme. The Consortium is a Voluntary and Community Sector response designed to meet the objectives as set out in the DfC (Department for Communities) plan for Refugees under VPR. The Consortium will therefore design and deliver their services underpinned by a collaborative approach so as to ensure:

- That Syrian refugees coming to Northern Ireland are treated with respect and dignity upon arrival;
- That within two weeks of arrival essential services from the voluntary and community sector and their statutory partners are provided to newly arrived Syrian refugees in an efficient, effective and sensitive manner;
- That Syrian Refugees are assisted to settle into their new lives in Northern Ireland and successfully integrate into Northern Ireland society;

- In conjunction with central and local government ensure that the general public and in particular those communities that will be called upon to host Refugees are prepared and kept informed of the process.

Many individuals and community groups have asked how they can help or have offered help – this form is to ensure they keep a clear record of offers of community support and so that we can ensure appropriate safeguarding mechanisms are in place. This is not an appeal for money and anyone wishing to make financial donations can directly contact :

EMBRACE – <https://www.embraceni.org/category/about-us/contact-us/>

Embrace has established a specific fund to cover emergency costs for electricity, oil and gas payments for the refugees in NI. Importantly it is also not an offer of funding – your offer of community support is entirely voluntary.

Can individuals register?

The Consortium is keen that individuals can volunteer, but it also needs individuals to understand that because the Syrian refugees are a vulnerable group of people it can only accept offers of community support from constituted or recognised organisations.

1. Find an established organisation who are happy to have you volunteer through them
2. Be ACCESS NI vetted by the organisation.

If you are an individual wishing to volunteer you need to:

Why is the Community Support Scheme being put in place?

The aim of 'Community Support' is to provide relevant ways for refugees to feel welcome, understand the local area and find out about local services. It is also for local communities to understand issues around migration and refugees and to have the opportunity to explain their services to refugees.

What type of voluntary Community Support is needed?

- ◆ Brand New Basic Supplies and Food
- ◆ Vouchers
- ◆ Awareness of Local Services
- ◆ Socialising / Networking
- ◆ Local Cultural Awareness
- ◆ Apprenticeships/Volunteering
- ◆ Sport, Music, Dance
- ◆ Facilities
- ◆ Transport

This list is not exhaustive or definitive so please feel free to provide any additional form of support or sponsorship that you may be able to provide.

Who do I contact if I have further queries?

Please contact Ligia Parizzi at Bryson Intercultural (lead partner of the Vulnerable Syrian Refugee Consortium). Telephone 02890 325 835 Ext 208 - lparizzi@brysongroup.org

How do I register?

Please e-mail Ligia Parizzi to obtain the form: lparizzi@brysongroup.org

NI Assembly



Northern Ireland
Assembly



New Minister for the new Department for Communities

Paul Givan MLA was appointed Minister for the Department for Communities in May 2016. Minister Givan first joined the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2010 to represent the people of Lagan Valley, and was returned again during the most recent election in May 2016.

Assembly Update

Ministers, Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs announced

Last week witnessed the appointment of the [new NI Executive Ministers](#); although the announcement of the Justice Minister before Plenary began delayed announcements of Ministers and their respective portfolios, the process was completed in due time. If you missed the live coverage, you can [watch it on niassembly.tv](#).

MLAs also appointed Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons of the Statutory and Standing Committees. The membership of the various committees has now been confirmed and a full list is available on the Assembly website at: <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committee-reference/>

Consultations



Department for Communities Review of the fitness standard

The [Department for Communities 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 Programme for Government Framework 2016-21 and Questionnaire

- The work of the Executive
- Programme for Government, Budget and Economic Strategy



Consultation opened on 27 May 2016. Closing date 22 July 2016 at 17:00.

Summary

The Northern Ireland Executive is seeking your views on the draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21.

Consultation description

The draft Framework contains 14 strategic outcomes which, taken together, set a clear direction of travel and enable continuous improvement on the essential components of societal wellbeing. They touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities. In addition to merely fulfilling its statutory obligations, government will in future be able to target those things that make real improvements to the quality of life for the citizen. The outcomes are supported by 42 indicators which are clear statements for change. Each indicator is accompanied by a measure largely derived from existing statistics. These will show how the Executive is performing in relation to the outcomes and will provide a basis to monitor progress and take corrective action.

A key feature of the new Programme is its dependence on collaborative working between organisations and groups, whether in the public, voluntary, or private sectors, and it is a Programme in which individuals and communities can also play an active part. It will require a significant change in approach from that used by previous administrations. The Executive will need to work collectively to deliver this Programme, driving work across boundaries and focusing on the outcomes rather than traditional departmental lines. The draft Programme for Government Framework reflects the messages that emerged from the extensive stakeholder engagement process which also showed that there is broad support for the approach adopted. In due course, the Programme for Government Framework will provide the strategic context for other key Executive strategy documents, including the Investment Strategy, the Economic Strategy and an Anti-Poverty/Social Strategy. The Programme will also inform the development of the Executive's budget over the course of this mandate and provide a mechanism for ensuring limited funds are best directed to where they can contribute most.

Please complete the consultation survey via the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PfGconsultation>(external link opens in a new window / tab)

or you can respond by Email -pfg@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Development of the next Children and Young People Strategy

In May, NICCY hosted workshops over two days with over 80 stakeholders from a range of organisations. These workshops were used to explore and discuss the key issues within each of the eight core outcome areas (health, play, education etc) as defined by the Children's Services Co-operation Act. The sessions were also used as an opportunity to discuss the impact of the Act and how co-operation could be promoted within the strategy to deliver better outcomes.

To continue to ensure the voice of the child is at the heart of the strategy a questionnaire, which has been designed primarily for children and young people, was issued to all key stakeholders. The questionnaire asks questions about the issues young people face and stakeholders have been sharing it with children and young people and encouraging them to complete. This provides them with an opportunity to contribute to the development of the new Strategy for Children and Young People. The government wants to know what they think needs to be included in the Strategy, the issues they think are the most important and how we can begin to tackle these issues. This will help government see how the views of young people vary depending on gender, age or location.

The survey runs until 17 June 2016.

To make sure your voice is heard, please take the time to complete this survey which is available at: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CYP_Strategy_Survey



Special Focus On Governance



After all the column inches and sensational media reporting of the recent collapse of Kids Company, have we really taken time to reflect on the lessons we might take from that sorry episode. In this blog, John Williams helpfully outlines some of the key issues we all would do well to reflect on.



John Williams, Vice Chair of the Association of Chairs

The blog appears on the website of Civil Society Media which is an independent news, publishing and events company focused entirely on charities and other civil society organisations; for more information, go to; <http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/home>

The trustees were blamed for the fall of Kids Company, but what should they have done differently? John Williams examines the most common failings of charity boards.

At Trustee Exchange recently, I addressed the lessons for trustees and Chairs from Kids Company, and indeed the whole wave of crisis and criticism over the last 12 months. It is clear that in some areas and in some charities, there is a governance gap between current practice and best practice, what we should do and what we actually do, that raises the risk of any of us being the next Kids Company.

There are many areas of small improvements that could make a big difference. But I offer seven absolutely central elements that trustee boards ignore at their peril - my seven deadly sins of poor governance:

No formal board evaluation

I pick up more uncertainty and evasion over this core task than any; of course we don't like to be assessed and it's a tricky process, if genuinely 360, but it's essential to evaluating board performance, and providing once a year a proper step back to ask: are we happy with how we are performing? It's not enough to be a quick AOB at the end of a long board.

Lack of finite terms of office

There is a growing consensus that it is unhealthy for good governance for too many trustees to stay in post for too long. It risks complacency and stagnation. It was a clear issue at Kids Company with a Chair in post for 12 years working with a CEO of 19 years. To progress and prosper, charities need the disruption of fresh eyes, fresh ideas and fresh momentum. Make sure your governing document has formal terms of office, then stick to them.

Not enough attention to sustainability and risk

Many charities live on the financial edge, and know how precarious funding streams can be.

But that can encourage short-termism and an acceptance of financial instability.

The biggest responsibility of trustees is to do all they can to ensure the long term viability of their charities: to see the lifetime value of donors; to ensure they do not over-rely on one source of income; and to take seriously the value of holding adequate reserves. Is the risk register a working document or a once a year box ticking exercise? And do you rely on your finance sub-committee too much?

Skimping on trustee recruitment

Finding good trustees is a challenge; creating a good skills mix and genuine diversity is hard; but continuing to rely on your own networks will yield a vanilla board. There is no excuse. The internet and social media make advertising easier. The key is to plan ahead, and ideally recruit more than one trustee at a time, which is more likely to give you a diverse mix.

Lack of engagement between meetings

If some of your trustees only engage by turning up to regular board meetings, that's a red flag. You cannot expect trustees to be sufficiently informed, engaged and committed on that basis. But they can be busy - Chairs need to compete for their time and attention. So you have to get them under the skin of the organisation, meeting staff and beneficiaries, joining sub-committees or working parties, having the chance to socialise with their fellow trustees. (Wine is an underrated aid to good governance.)

Lack of respect, especially for the SMT

This is an unspoken issue at the heart of many governance failures. It's not just about the Chair-CEO relationship, but about a mutual lack of understanding and empathy which can lead to a lack of respect, and sometimes hostility, between trustees and senior management. Start by asking your CEO how their management team feel about board meetings.

No investment in induction and training

Being a trustee is hard work. However impressive your CV and professional background, the job needs to be learned to do it well. You should want to grow in the job. Yet the evidence we have is that many charities do not invest in the training and development of their trustees. Inductions can be cursory. If boards all set aside a proper trustee training budget, it would start to challenge the assumption that unpaid trustees are somehow less professional.

*Seven sins
And a few solutions.*

*But of course these sins
do not apply to your charity.
Do they?*

Houses in Multiple Occupation and Landlord Licensing - lessons from England

an analysis provided by Christopher McGrath, Housing Rights

Landlord licensing is set to be introduced for HMOs in Northern Ireland following the Assembly's passing of the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Bill. The Bill is currently awaiting Royal assent.

Although not solely focused on private rented properties, the HMO Bill is seen as a key component in improving regulation and standards within the sector. It is hoped the Bill will provide better protection for tenants living in houses of multiple occupation.

Landlord licensing has been in place in England since April 2006, following the enactment of The Housing Act 2004. There has been some useful case law that can give us an insight into problems and issues that have arisen; and how the licensing has impacted upon both landlords and tenants.

Thanet District Council v Grant, Divisional Court - lessons from England

The Defendant in this case was a landlord that owned a rented property in Thanet. Thanet District Council had designated the area as one in which landlords were required to apply for licences under the Housing Act 2004.

The Defendant was prosecuted for failing to obtain a licence in accordance with section 95 (1) Housing Act 2004.

The Landlord claimed that the local authority had failed to inform him of the licensing requirement, relying on the defence of 'reasonable excuse' under section 95 (4) of the 2004 Act. In the first instance the Magistrates Court accepted this defence.

They found that Thanet District Council had failed to publicise the scheme and it had failed to discharge the burden of proving beyond reasonable doubt that the landlord did not have a reasonable excuse.

Did the Landlord have a reasonable excuse to not be licensed?

The Council proceeded to appeal the matter to the Divisional Court. The council's action in appealing the decision would appear to be illustrative of the importance being placed on enforcement within

the English Councils, to ensure an effective licensing scheme.

The Divisional Court allowed the appeal and found that the Magistrates Court had wrongly characterised the duty to communicate and inform the landlord.

The obligation on a local housing authority under section 85(4) was not a duty owed to an individual landlord, and such a failure would not give rise to a reasonable excuse under section 95 (4) for failing to obtain a licence. The court found the landlord did not have a reasonable excuse.

It appears apparent that enforcement and prosecution is a vital component of ensuring landlord licensing operates effectively in England, and as such will have similar relevance in Northern Ireland to ensure the HMO Bill results in the benefits, and changes, intended.

This case provides an example of the impact landlord licensing will have on landlords, and how it may be used to protect tenants.

The implications of the HMO Bill in Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, it will be essential for landlords and tenants of Houses of Multiple Occupation to be aware of the licensing requirements, specific exemptions, enforcement procedures when licenses are not in obtained; while also understanding how the standard of housing within the sector intends to be improved and controlled.

See more at: <http://housingrights.org.uk/news/legal-houses-multiple-occupation-and-landlord-licensing-lessons-england#sthash.jhrvpGEj.dpuf>



Publications



NI Environment Link Publications

The NIEL e-bulletin for April 2016 is available on the NIEL website at; <http://www.mailings.tc/tr-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/>



NIEL Environmental Hustings Event Report 2016

Report from NIEL Environmental Hustings Event at Lough Neagh Discovery Centre on 22nd April 2016.

Approximately 60 people representing environmental groups from across Northern Ireland came together at an environmental hustings event on the 22nd April 2016 to challenge the political parties to outline their green credentials in advance of the May 2016 Assembly Elections.

The event was organised by Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL) as a follow up to the publication of their 2016 sectoral "Priorities for the Environment 2016-21". The hustings event provided an opportunity for Northern Ireland's political parties to answer questions and set out their policies with regard to Northern Ireland's environment.

With environmental organisations representing well in excess of 100,000 members, delegates were keen to hear what environmental commitments and assurances the political parties could give if their party were returned to serve in the next Assembly.

The full Report is available at; <http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/publications/>



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

<http://www.pcsp.org/Homepage/inpartnership-may-16.pdf>

Law Centre NI

The Law Centre E-bulletin for May 2016 is available and includes updates on Training, social justice and the new Assembly, Social Security and Health and social care.



The bulletin can be accessed at; <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=ae690a33dc6a1581f08bf755b&id=9824e97d1a%20>

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>



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND HEALTH NETWORK

Scope ^{NI}

NICVA has published a number of online articles considering issues such as the future of the BBC, the EU debate, promoting good relations and the Programme for Government.

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

European Network for Housing Research

ENHR 2016 will be held in The Assembly Buildings, Belfast from 28th June - 1st July 2016

The main theme of the conference is 'Governance, Territory and Housing'

For more information please visit the conference website at <http://www.enhr2016.com/>

HUNDREDS of international housing experts will see a city 'transformed' when they meet in Belfast later this month, according to Ulster University's Professor Paddy Gray. He is organiser of the European Network of Housing Research conference, which is being hosted for the first time in Northern Ireland.

Professor Gray of Ulster University's School of the Built Environment said: "The hundreds of housing researchers who are coming to Belfast from all over Europe will see the so called 'peace walls' but will also find a city transformed. They will also visit Derry and Armagh, cities steeped in history, to see how areas affected by 'The Troubles' have now been regenerated. Our main sponsor the Housing Executive, through its leading edge research and housing analysis, provided the evidence base to inform and support housing regeneration initiatives to enable sustainable communities."

Draft Programme for Government Framework consultation event at NICVA 13 June 2016 - 2:00pm to 4:00pm



On 27th May, the Executive Office published the draft Programme for Government Framework for public consultation. The consultation closes on 22nd July.

This consultation document states that the Programme for Government Framework is a new approach which focuses on the major societal outcomes that the Executive wants to achieve and provides a basis for all sectors to contribute to the development of plans and actions. It is an approach which reflects international advice and well established practice. The Executive Office is seeking views on the Framework which sets the direction for the Executive for the next five years and allows people to judge government by results rather than intentions.

NICVA Chief Executive Seamus McAleavey encouraged people from across the sector to attend the event "*NICVA really welcomes the new direction this Programme for Government is taking. It's encouraging to see such a strong focus*

on outcomes. It's equally important to note that the Executive has given considerable thought to the indicators it will use to chart progress towards its outcomes. Voluntary and community organisations should take this opportunity to critically evaluate and comment on these two crucial elements of the PFG before moving on to the next stage of the consultation on the action plans which is due to happen in the next couple of months."

Celine McStravick, NI Director of National Childrens Bureau, will be delivering a presentation explaining the outcomes focus, it's potential and how it works in other places. Joe Reynolds, Head of the Programme for Government team in the Executive Office, will then be delivering a presentation to delegates on the content of the Framework which will be followed by a Q&A session chaired by Seamus McAleavey.

For more information and to book a place, go to; <http://www.nicva.org/event/draft-programme-for-government-framework-consultation-event>

Lobbying, Campaigning & Influencing in the new Opposition era

An event for NICVA Members - 29 June 2016 - 2:00pm to 4:00pm

With the UUP and SDLP not taking their seats in favour of becoming an opposition we are now faced with a very different political landscape to what we had before the election, or indeed at any time since devolution in 1998. This new dynamic raises both opportunities and challenges for voluntary and community organisations who are interested in lobbying, campaigning and influencing government.

It also raises a number of questions:

- *What does having an Opposition look like?*
- *What does an Opposition do?*
- *How can we best engage with an Opposition?*



Cont'd

At this event NICVA Members will hear from the NI Assembly Business Office on the logistics and rights of an Opposition.

Members will also hear from our sister organisation [SCVO](#) who will share their experience of working with an Opposition within the devolved institutions in Scotland.

For more information and to book a place, go to;

<http://www.nicva.org/event/lobbying-campaigning-influencing-in-the-new-opposition-era>

Care & Support Conference

22 June 2016 Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast

Negotiating the Burning Platform



Many providers of housing, care and support are facing crisis. Supporting People project funding has been frozen for an eighth consecutive year. In jointly funded services domiciliary care is being squeezed by the Trusts. At the same time, sharply increasing staff costs including the National Living Wage threaten the quality and viability of services. Yet we know that demographic and other trends mean there is increasing need for high-quality services.

The NIFHA Care & Support Conference will address the key strategic issues facing housing, care and support services. As well as considering the new Programme for Government and what it means for our sector, we'll be challenging ourselves on whether we can further reform to do more with less. Although there is a strategic focus to the event, the conference will also equip delegates with practical knowledge and ideas that can be applied in service delivery. All providers of housing, care and support services funded by Supporting People cannot afford to miss this important event.

Key Speakers:



- Siobhan McCauley – Director of Regional Services, Housing Executive
- Chris Matthews – Director, Mental Health, Older People & Learning Disability, DHSSPS
- Stephen Martin – Deputy Director, Department for Social Development
- Michael McDonnell – Chief Executive, Choice
- Agnes Lunny – Chief Executive, Positive Futures
- Geraldine Gilpin – Chief Executive, Abbeyfield & Wesley
- Amy Swan - Policy Officer, National Housing Federation

Key topics:

- Implementation of Supporting People review – implications for providers
- New Programme for Government – what it means for care and support
- Innovation in service delivery
- Future of sheltered housing
- Working smarter in floating support
- Assistive technology in supported living

Cost

DELEGATE BOOKINGS

Members/Joint Managing Partners	£120 + vat
Associates	£130 + vat
Non Members	£145 + vat

*Please note, if you are booking two places, you will receive a third place for free. This will be deducted on your invoice.



Training



Volunteer Now Training News

Coming Soon!

The Volunteer Now Enterprises Academy Team is working on new dates for an exciting range of masterclasses, workshops and interactive sessions for September 2016 - March 2017.

More details in the next edition of VTraining!

For more information on Volunteer Now Training and support, go to the website at;
<http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training-and-standards>

Housing Rights Training Course



Made of Money - Financial Capability Skills

Belfast - Housing Rights
Monday, June 27, 2016 - 10:00 to Tuesday,
June 28, 2016 - 16:00

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

This unique 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 programme will ensure you have the skills and knowledge to deliver and share financial capability education with the groups/clients you work with.

This informal and interactive course will look at specific issues like:

- ◆ Money basics of budgeting, saving, credit and debt;
- ◆ Talking about money issues;
- ◆ Making the right spending decisions and 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.

Experience of giving financial advice not necessary.

For more information and to book a place, go to:
<http://www.housingrights.org.uk/event/made-money-financial-capability-skills#sthash.3e6OLayn.dpuf>

There is a charge for this course; the correct price for your organisation will be charged at checkout.

Voluntary / Community from £128.00 to £160.00
Public / Statutory from £235.00 to £295.00

Funding



Comic Relief Launches New Communities and Sport for Change Programme

Comic Relief has launched its new funding strategy. Its vision of 'a just world free from poverty' remains, while its priority areas have changed. Going forwards, Comic Relief's grants will focus on the following four areas, which it believes will help it best achieve its vision:

- Investing in children and young people to be ready for the future.
- Empowering women and girls to be free to lead the lives they choose.
- Improving the health and wellbeing of vulnerable and disadvantaged people.
- Building stronger communities in areas of disadvantage, deprivation and poverty.

Comic Relief recognises that sport continues to play an important role in improving the lives of millions of people in the UK and across the world by bringing them together to play, learn, improve their health and benefit from shared experiences. The Sport for Change strategy runs across Comic Relief's UK and international funding and across the four newly-determined programme areas outlined above.

Within this initiative, proposals are sought which use sport as a catalyst for change, helping people to do two key things:

- Take ownership to feel part of increasingly inclusive and cohesive communities.
- Feel empowered to identify and solve the social issues affecting their communities.

Proposals are invited for work within deprived areas of the UK and within Northern Ireland :

- ◆ Belfast and Derry

Grants of between £40,000 and £75,000 to cover up to two years of activity are available for solutions that use sport or physical activity to turn a negative community problem around. Typical problems could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Unemployment
- Older people feeling isolated
- Lack of community cohesion

Comic Relief will specifically look for projects which:

- Offer ideas that are generated within the community
- Involve the community throughout
- Demonstrate a partnership that's really working
- Address a problem or social need
- Use sport and physical activity as an agent to make change - not just increase participation

Projects can target any age group, as long as there is a clear issue that needs addressing. In relation to costs the grant may cover, Comic Relief will consider funding refurbishment of facilities, if this work is core to the project activities and does not exceed 30% of total budget.

The deadline for initial proposals is 11 July 2016 (midday).

For further information, <http://www.comicrelief.com/grants/strategy>

Comic Relief Launches New Maternal Mental Health Initiative



The Maternal Mental Health programme has been established to support mothers that develop a mental health condition either during or in the first year after pregnancy. This initial funding opportunity aims to ensure that more women experiencing maternal mental health issues have access to high quality community based support in their local area, and is being partly funded by HM Treasury's "Tampon Tax" to support women's and girls' issues.

Grants of up to £120,000 for a period of between two and three years are available to registered organisations in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the East, North West and South West areas of England.

Cont'd

These organisations include charitable incorporated organisations, community interest companies limited by guarantee, community benefit societies and housing associations, although community interest companies limited by guarantee will need to demonstrate that they have a minimum of three directors who are unrelated by birth or marriage.

Comic Relief will support organisations that will help it achieve the following goals by 2020:

- More women experiencing maternal mental health issues will have access to high-quality, local community based support.
- Improved access to up-to-date information about local, community-based, non-clinical support for women experiencing maternal mental health issues, their families and professionals.
- More women will be able to access appropriate specialist clinical support from statutory providers near them.
- A solid framework that ensures all community based, perinatal mental health support services are providing high-quality, safe and effective support
- Better understanding of the impact of community-based, non-clinical support and the piloting of new models; putting local providers in a better position to be commissioned by CCGs and other statutory providers.

Organisations that can demonstrate how they will take one or more of the following approaches will be particularly welcome:

- Support early identification of perinatal mental health issues, raise awareness and encourage women and families to seek support early.
- Provide women and their families with effective, flexible, local support in a community-based setting.
- Reduce isolation, remove barriers to people accessing support and provide a mixture of activities and support options.
- Have good working relationships and referral pathways with a range of voluntary and statutory partners.
- Provide women and families, who have experience of recovering from perinatal mental health issues, with opportunities to support others in similar situations.

The deadline for initial proposals is 15 June 2016 (midday).

For further information - <http://www.comicrelief.com/grants/strategy>



Co-operation with Northern Ireland

The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht is running a funding Scheme for projects which enhance, celebrate or commemorate the artistic, cultural, musical, film or heritage of the Island of Ireland on a North/South basis.

Applications are invited from not for profit bodies, organisations and institutions, with partnerships or collaborations also considered.

Projects funded under this Scheme need to be creative and innovative.

Examples of projects which could be considered for funding under the scheme include, but are not limited to, projects which:

- Promote co-operation and joint initiatives between organisations and institutions on a North/South basis;
- Promote cultural tourism on a North/South basis;
- Promote the provision of cultural outreach programmes on a North/South basis.

For further information regarding this grant <http://bit.ly/24oCfBU>

DRILL (Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning)



'Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning' (DRILL) is an exciting new research programme - it is the world's first major research programme led by disabled people.

Its aim is to fund research and pilot projects which increase disabled people's participation in society and foster independent living. It is fully funded by the Big Lottery Fund and will be delivered by Disability Action Northern Ireland, Inclusion Scotland, Disability Rights UK and Disability Wales.

Disabled people, their organisations, academics and partners in Northern Ireland are being invited to apply for grants for research and pilot projects to find out how disabled people can participate fully in society, achieving independent living.

People with disabilities will be at the forefront of designing projects (with academics and policy and practice experts), for the programme.

Organisations can apply for up to £150,000 from the DRILL (Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning) programme, which expects to fund around 40 projects across the UK over the next 4 years.

To find out more about the DRILL project, and how to apply for a grant, go to <http://www.drilluk.org.uk/> or contact Fiona McMahon on 028 9029 7880.

Closing date for First Call for applications (12 Noon 27th July 2016)

For further information regarding this grant - <http://www.disabilityaction.org/>

SMALL GRANTS SCHEME 2016-2017

MENTAL & EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING AND SUICIDE PREVENTION – 'TAKE 5' STEPS TO WELLBEING

Western, Belfast, Southern & South Eastern Areas

The Public Health Agency (PHA) has identified funding for a small grants scheme to address the themes of Mental Health & Emotional Well-Being, Suicide Prevention and Self-Harm, and have commissioned CLEAR to facilitate this process. The Public Health Agency are keen to fund programmes founded on evidence based practice with a particular focus on those using one or more of the 'Take 5' Steps to Wellbeing.

The PHA are inviting community and voluntary sector organisations, through the CLEAR Project, to apply for non-recurring small grants to address the outlined themes.

Two types of awards are available under this scheme:

- Award one grants of up to £1,000 that non-constituted and constituted non-profit taking Community / Voluntary Sector groups can apply for and
- Award two grants of between £1,001 and to a maximum of £5,000 for constituted, non-profit taking Community / Voluntary sector groups.

Documentation can also be downloaded from the CLEAR Project Website www.clearproject.co.uk where there are also examples of projects from 2015/2016.

The closing date for application is Thursday 23rd June at 3.00pm

For further information, contact, Brenda Morris, CLEAR Project Co-Ordination and Development Officer, Tel: 02871383386 Mobile: 07720824854

NIE Networks Charities Fund



Small grants to improve and enhance lives in Northern Ireland, especially tangible items such as special equipment, IT apparatus, promotional goods etc. that will improve and enhance lives in Northern Ireland.

Must be a registered charity

Grants between £200-£750.

For further information visit: www.nienetworks.co.uk/Community/Charities-fund/Apply-for-funding

Sport Northern Ireland's Active Awards Programme

Active Awards is an exchequer funded small grants programme primarily aimed at grassroots community based sport.

The programme aims to prioritise investment in sports clubs, community groups and governing bodies of sport, especially those based in areas of greatest need that will deliver increases in sports participation amongst the identified target groups.

Sport Northern Ireland's Active Awards Programme seeks to prioritise the development of projects which contribute to addressing the continued under-representation in sport amongst the below target groups:

- Women and girls
- People with a disability
- People living in areas of greatest need



Who Can Apply

- Governing Bodies of Sport (recognised by Sport Northern Ireland)
- Sport Clubs (must be affiliated to a Governing Body of Sport recognised by Sport Northern Ireland)
- Charities
- Parent Teacher Associations
- Community/Voluntary Groups

People living in Northern Ireland must benefit from your project.

All potential applicants will be expected to have in place, a constitution, appropriate financial management and safeguarding policies.

Eligible groups can apply for grants from £1,000 – £10,000

The current round of funding will close at 12.00 noon on 18 July 2016

For further information regarding this grant - www.sportni.net