

19th September 2016

E-Zine



**Supporting
Communities™**
Empowering Society

Welcome to Supporting Communities 61st 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™**
Empowering Society

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



TENANT INVOLVEMENT IN GOVERNANCE: MODELS AND PRACTICES

**Housing
Executive**

Three Half Day workshops on Tenant Involvement in Governance – where next for Northern Ireland?

- **Wednesday 19th October 2016, Twickenham House, Ballymena 1pm-4pm**
- **Thursday 20th October 2016, Belfast Castle, 1pm-4pm**
- **Friday 21st October 2016, Marlborough House Craigavon, 10am-1pm**

These three workshops are being organised to enable tenants of the Housing Executive and housing associations in Northern Ireland to discuss the relevance of recent research on models of tenant involvement in governance by the University of Birmingham.

Stakeholders from housing associations, local councils, and relevant government departments are also warmly invited to the Belfast Castle event on October 20th which follows the Housing Executive Intelligence Exchange event on the same day.

There will be opportunities for comments on a state of the art review of current practice in Northern Ireland with three case studies and an overview of international models.

Then in an exciting interactive session tenants will reality check four of these models – the Austrian model, the Dutch Model, the Welsh model and the English model

All participants will have the opportunity to assess the relevance and potential benefits of these models for Northern Ireland tenants.

Come along and have your say on where next for your involvement in your housing.

Listen to expert speakers from Amsterdam Tenants Association, Confederation of Cooperative Housing, University of Linz and Community Gateway Association, Preston. Hear assessments of relevance to Northern Ireland from the Supporting Communities team, ask questions and find out where to get more information.

To Book Your Place:

Please contact Laura O'Dowd, Support Services Manager at Supporting Communities on or before Friday 7th October 2016 by:

Email: laura@supportingcommunities.org
Tel: 028 25645676

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Housing Executive Presented with Customer Service Excellence Award



At an event held in the Housing Centre Board Room on the 17th August the Housing Executive was presented with the Customer Service Excellence (CSE) Award by assessor, Paul Hindley.

This accreditation has been held by the Landlord Services Division since 2008, and this year the Housing Executive achieved 17 Compliance Plus elements; the highest number it has ever been awarded.



Supporting Communities, Support Services Manager, Laura O'Dowd with Housing Executive Director of Landlord Services, Gerry Flynn and Chair of the Central Housing Forum, Linda Watson

At the event Laura O'Dowd (Supporting Communities), and the Chair of the Central Housing Forum, Linda Watson, praised the Housing Executive and its' customer centred culture. They also highlighted the commitment to tenant participation and making sure that they are represented at every level of the organisation.

Assessor Paul Hindley stated that this was a 'phenomenal achievement for the Housing Executive' and that he was impressed with its' ability to form strong relationships with our customers.

While the accreditation is held by the Landlord Services Division, it is also a reflection of the dedication and professionalism of staff across the entire organisation.

Staff from units such as Sustainable Development, Research, IT, Adaptations Policy and Transformation all provide invaluable support to those working on the frontline and allow them to meet the needs of all the Housing Executives' customers.

As part of the 'Journey to Excellence' the Housing Executive stated that it wanted to be 'best in class' by 2017 and this award demonstrates that it is on track to achieving this goal.

Joan Hunter and Alessie McCrossan

It was with deep regret and sadness that Supporting Communities learned of the passing of two former members of the Housing Community Network, Joan Hunter from Newtownabbey and Alessie McCrossan from the Shankill in Belfast.

Both Joan and Alessie had been founder and long standing members of tenant and community involvement panels in their own areas and had shown huge commitment to improving housing services through membership of regional and province wide panels over a number of years.

Staff at Supporting Communities and the Housing Executive will remember Joan and Alessie for their dedication and commitment to their respective communities and also for their character; they are greatly missed and will be remembered with great affection by those who knew them and worked with them.

Minister urges people to 'Make the Call' to check their benefit entitlement

Communities Minister Paul Givan has urged people to 'Make the Call' to check if they are missing out on unclaimed benefits saying it is important people receive all the benefits, supports and services they and their families are entitled to.

Speaking at Lisburn Civic Centre as he launched the Department for Communities' latest three year plan for improving benefit uptake, the Minister said:

"The benefits system exists to protect the most vulnerable in society. For those unable to work due to disability, ill health or age, maximising benefit uptake can offer that safety net and help tackle poverty."

However, people can miss out on claiming their entitlement for a range of reasons; they may not believe they are eligible, feel they have enough to get by on or are uncomfortable or overwhelmed by the process.

Improving benefit uptake is a long term vision and a key part of my Department's social inclusion agenda. In 2015/16 alone, £18million has been generated in additional annual benefits for over 4,000 people across Northern Ireland. This also boosts our local economy by providing for increased spending on goods and services."

The Department will work collaboratively across wider Government and with stakeholders including local councils and the voluntary sector to promote benefit awareness as part of a comprehensive programme of awareness raising, communication and support. The 'Make the Call' advertising campaign will run again through local broadcast, print and online media, starting 12 September.

The Minister added: *"It is important that individuals and families receive all the support they are entitled to. Over the next three years my Department will assist 100,000 people review their entitlements and deliver at least £40million in additional benefits to those in need."*

I would urge anyone with any questions to contact our 'Make the Call' Benefits Advice Line on 0800 232 1271 for a benefit entitlement check. It is free and confidential and you will be assisted at every stage in the process by a local Advisor."



Over the last ten years, more than £100million in additional annual benefits have been generated through this initiative with almost 75% from claims relating to older people and much of the rest relating to people of working age who have experienced a major change in their lives, often caused by an illness or disability.

Carers and older people remain among the key vulnerable groups being targeted.

Commissioner for Older People, Eddie Lynch, commented: *"I welcome the Department for Communities launching their plan to increase benefit uptake by older people."*

Older people are not always aware of how to learn more about the benefits and services available to them, and as a result, some benefits go unclaimed.

As Commissioner, I strongly support efforts to ensure that older people receive the information and support they need to access the benefits they are entitled to. I hear all too often about older people who struggle to get by and how this impacts on their wellbeing.

Many older people tell me that even a small increase in their income makes a big difference to their quality of life.

It is important that older people receive the financial support that they are entitled to, allowing them to be comfortable at home, get out and about in their local communities and connect with family and friends."

The 'Make the Call([external link opens in a new window / tab](#))' Benefits Advice Line number is 0800 232 1271.



£810,000 package will support frontline advice organisations through welfare changes

Communities Minister, Paul Givan MLA, has announced an £810,000 package of support to local Councils in Northern Ireland to help fund critical frontline advice services.



The funding will ensure that Councils can ensure advice organisations are prepared to assist the general public through the implementation of the ongoing changes to the welfare system.

Minister Givan said:

“This essential funding, which I am releasing to our local government partners, will ensure that advice organisations are fully supported as they prepare for offering the critical advice that people will need about ongoing changes to the welfare system.”

Councils, through their funding of frontline advice organisations, play a key role in supporting members of the public through the changes to their benefits.

It is imperative that staff working in frontline advice have the tools and training to enable them to fully support peoples whose benefits may be changing or have changed.”

Training will be provided to enable front line advisers to give accurate advice to clients on various ongoing changes including:

- ◆ Introduction of Personal Independence Payment
- ◆ Employment and Support Allowance changes
- ◆ Discretionary Support
- ◆ Housing Benefit Changes
- ◆ The support that the Executive committed to providing to those affected by the changes
- ◆ Benefit Sanctions

The funding will cover training and enable organisations to deal with queries and new processes through additional support measures such as outreach, or recruitment of extra volunteers.

Students: Make sure your landlord is registered and has protected your deposit

Communities Minister, Paul Givan MLA, has reminded students of the laws in place to protect them as they seek accommodation ahead of the new academic year.



All private landlords letting residential property in Northern Ireland must be registered with the Landlord Registration Scheme. Landlords are also required to protect tenants' deposits, received after 1 April 2013, in an approved tenancy deposit scheme. They must also, within 28 days of receiving the deposit, notify the tenant of how the deposit has been protected.

Minister Givan said: *“Students are already arranging accommodation before they begin the new academic year and many of them will take up tenancies with a private landlord. I am therefore taking this opportunity to encourage them, and indeed all those in the private rented sector, to ensure their landlord is registered and has protected their deposit.”*

A landlord who does not register may face a fixed penalty of £500 or a court fine of up to £2,500. A landlord who does not protect a tenants deposit may face a fixed penalty of three times the amount of the deposit or a court fine of up to £20,000. You can check if your landlord is registered by checking the central landlords register at; <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/landlord-registration-scheme>

Additional information for tenants and landlords, including information on shared accommodation, dealing with repairs and resolving disputes can be found on Ni Direct W website at; <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/buying-selling-and-renting-home/private-renting>

Leadership & Good Governance Awards Launched - Raise your profile and win £1000!



The VSB Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of the first Good Governance Awards for Northern Ireland. Delivered in partnership with CO3, Volunteer Now and the Developing Governance Group, the Good Governance Awards will shine a light on the amazing work that Trustees and Boards do.

The awards have been established as a result of a key recommendation in the Giving Leadership, Giving Time research published in December 2015 by the VSB Foundation and Volunteer Now.

The Good Governance Awards will showcase how good governance and driving social change are essentially interlinked and will provide an opportunity to celebrate what is best in the sector.

This is your opportunity to raise the profile of your board and be awarded £1000 to further invest into your governance development.

The Awards will be presented on 21 November 2016 at a special event in Stormont to which all nominees will be invited.

Criteria

The awards are open to organisations:

- ◆ With an income of less than £500,000 per annum
- ◆ Who fit within the definition of an organisation working within the Third Sector i.e. Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations
- ◆ The nomination process is for the whole board and not for one particular individual as good governance is a collective responsibility

You can enter by completing the online application form.

You can access the form [here](#).

To view the Terms and Conditions please click [here](#).

If you require the form in a different format for accessibility reasons please contact:

E: sarah@co3.bz T: 028 90 245 356

**Closing date for nominations:
Wednesday 12th October at 4pm.**

RELIVE THE MAGIC OF MELA!

Last month we were delighted to celebrate the 10th Belfast Mela with tens of thousands of people packing Botanic Gardens in a wonderful sharing of cultures and traditions.

Click below to watch the highlights video and relive the magic of Mela.

<http://artsekta.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b4eefbc90a97c7b971477024&id=b92661b22a&e=ffef456c0d>

Mela returns to Belfast on the 27th August 2017.

Mark the date in your diaries!



NI Assembly



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Assembly Update

The Assembly session recommenced on Monday 12th September 2016. The Assembly debated a motion calling for a review of the housing selection scheme; see below under Housing Policy Issues Focus.

The report of the plenary sessions of the Assembly are available at;
<http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/officialreport.aspx>

Committee for Communities

The Committee held its first public meeting of the session on Thursday 15th September; the Committee considered the imbalance of representation on the boards of public bodies in Northern Ireland, a Briefing by the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Northern Ireland; The Boardroom Apprentice, a Briefing by Strictly Boardroom; Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill, a Departmental Briefing; Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts Bill) and a Legislative Consent Motion.

The forward work programme for the Committee is available at;
<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committees/communities/forward-work-programme/>

Consultations

Department of Justice; Voluntary community and social enterprise sector funding model

The Department is keen to secure your views on the proposed new approach to commissioning, awarding and disbursing funding to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector.

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/voluntary-community-and-social-enterprise-sector-funding-model>



Department of
Justice
www.dojni.gov.uk

Closing date; 23 September 2016

Consultation on strategic support to the Voluntary and Community Sector

Communities Minister Paul Givan MLA has launched a consultation on proposed new arrangements for strategic support to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) for the period 2017-2021.

The proposed long-term vision for new support arrangements for the sector is to support an efficient, effective, sustainable and inclusive VCS which will work collaboratively with Government to effectively deliver against agreed Programme for Government outcomes over the next four years.

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-proposals-provision-strategic-support-voluntary-and-community-sector-northern-ireland>



Department for
Communities

Closing date; 2nd November 2016

Protect Life 2 - A Strategy for Suicide Prevention in the north of Ireland

Views are being sought on a draft strategy and action plan to reduce the suicide rate in the north of Ireland; and reduce the differential in the suicide rate between the most deprived areas and the least deprived areas.

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/protect-life-2-strategy-suicide-prevention-north-ireland>

Closing Date; 4 November 2016



Department of
Health

Special Focus



Housing Policy Issues

Assembly Motion on the Housing Selection Scheme; Fra McCann MLA

The following is the text of the motion introduced by Mr McCann.

Mr F McCann: I beg to move

That this Assembly calls on the Minister for Communities to bring forward a replacement to the housing selection scheme that ensures a fairer and more transparent system of assessing housing need.



The motion highlights the serious difficulties with the housing selection scheme. I have raised the issue in many different forums and meetings over the years, most recently with the Minister for Communities several months ago.

The Minister accepted that there were concerns about the present system used by the Housing Executive to allocate points to those on social housing waiting lists.

There is a need to move forward. I accept that the Minister is not long in post and will need time to reflect on how to deal with the problem, but I also believe that it is timely for the Assembly to debate the workings of the scheme.

We need to focus on making changes to the selection scheme that take into consideration its limitations when it comes to what are known as areas of high demand and also the allocation of points to a number of categories of people whose serious circumstances are not recognised under the present system.

The motion calls on the Minister for Communities to bring forward a replacement to the housing selection scheme that is fair and transparent.

It is widely recognised that the present scheme has serious flaws and condemns people living in areas of high demand, such as west Belfast, north Belfast and Derry, to lengthy stays on waiting lists before being moved to a home, although there are other parts of the North where problems exist.

Failure to grasp the nettle now will condemn applicants to lengthy stays in hostels, in overcrowded conditions.

Mr McCann went on to highlight perceived deficiencies and issues relating to the Housing selection Scheme as it currently stands, noting that there has been research as well as a number of reviews into the scheme. His motion was endorsed by Mr Jonathon Bell who concluded that “A new policy, freshly looked at, is in the best interests of everyone in Northern Ireland.” Other members, including Andy Allen, Nicola Mallon, Stewart Dickson and Christopher Stalford stated their support for the motion and a full reconsideration of the Scheme.

The full text of the debate and the contributions from other members is available at: <http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/report.aspx?&eveDate=2016/09/12&docID=270889#2250994>

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved:

That this Assembly calls on the Minister for Communities to bring forward a replacement to the housing selection scheme that ensures a fairer and more transparent system of assessing housing need.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Publications



NI Environment Link Publications

The most recent NIEL e-bulletin 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/>

Community Development and Health Network

The most recent edition of the CDHN e-newsletter is now available.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND HEALTH NETWORK

To access the newsletter, go to;
<http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=1efc35d04e4c921abca05f196&id=6b2d37b6bb&e=09b1f9112e>



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

<https://www.pcsp.org/sites/pcsp/files/media-files/Inpartnership-Sept-16.pdf>

Law Centre NI

The Law Centre E-bulletin for August 2016 is available and includes updates on Training, refugees and delays to benefits, protecting the rights of older people to live in their own homes, Social Security and Health and Social Care.

The bulletin can be accessed at; <http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ae690a33dc6a1581f08bf755b&id=aaad5aefca>



Scope^{NI}

NICVA has published a number of online articles considering issues such as education, global warming and proposed electoral boundary changes and how well or frequently government departments use social media.

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

Latest Rural Matters out now

Housing Executive

The new edition of Rural Matters, the Housing Executive magazine for the rural community, is out now.

The magazine is available at;
http://www.nihe.gov.uk/rural_matters_august_2016.pdf

In this edition you can read about a new Rural Strategy, Supporting Praxis, Keeping Northern Ireland Beautiful and Oil Buying Clubs. This edition also highlights the Social Housing Investment Scheme and asks are more rural homes needed across Northern Ireland.

Guide for charities working with fundraising agencies

The Institute of Fundraising has published guidance for charities working with third parties and fundraising agencies.



'Successful Partnerships for Sustainable Fundraising: a practical guide for charities working with agencies' outlines the fundamental building blocks and key considerations that charities and agencies should be thinking about when agreeing and undertaking fundraising with the public.

[IoF news item](#) for more details or go [direct to the download page](#)

Events

Housing Rights Private Rented Sector Conference 2016

East Belfast Network Centre, Belfast

Wednesday, November 23, 2016 - 09:30 to 16:00

Book online at <http://www.housingrights.org.uk/event/private-rented-sector-conference-2016> or send an email to secure your place.

With one in five households now renting privately, it is critical that the right structures are put in place to raise standards for those making their home in the sector. This one-day conference will examine best practice for the private rented sector across the UK and Ireland. It will cover the key areas likely to be debated in government proposals expected to be published for consultation later this year.

This event provides a great opportunity for housing professionals to network and engage and to learn more about the challenges and opportunities facing NI's private rented sector.

The conference will be split into sessions:

- Session 1:** Licensing and letting fees
Session 2: Supply and affordability
Session 3: Security of tenure and eviction

Housing Rights

Who should attend?

This conference is for those who want to know what changes we need to make locally to create a bigger and better working private rented sector.

It will be of interest to:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> housing professionals | <input type="checkbox"/> housing academics | <input type="checkbox"/> letting agents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> environmental health officers | <input type="checkbox"/> tenants | <input type="checkbox"/> landlords |

NIEL Annual Conference 2016 – Delivering Prosperity Through The Environment



Friday 30 September 2016

Belfast Harbour Commissioner's Office,
Corporation Square, Belfast BT1 3AL

On the 30th September, NIEL will be hosting its annual conference on the topic of "Delivering Prosperity Through The Environment".

Pavan Sukhdev (Study Leader of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) has said, "We use nature because it's valuable – we lose it because it's free". The environment and the economy are inseparable, and we need to realise the positive links between the two for a sustainable future.

This conference will investigate the concept of Natural Capital and what it means for business, government and society. We will explore some of the tools of the natural capital concept, including Natural Capital Accounting at corporate and national levels, and have an opportunity to discuss the way forward for Northern Ireland in delivering prosperity through the environment.

For more information go to:
<http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/events/delivering-prosperity-through-the-environment--save-the-date>

Parents Autism Toolkit

Employers For Childcare are running 'The Parent's Autism Toolkit (PAT)'. This is a series of workshops designed to inform parents about what the Autism Spectrum is, and how to manage some of the issues that come along with having a child in the family who is affected by the condition.

The Parent's Autism Toolkit will be delivered by Dr Clare Caughey at her newly developed Child and Family Wellbeing Centre in East Belfast. Dr Caughey is an educational psychologist and special needs teacher who has worked for many years with children and young

employers

For Childcare

people with learning difficulties. She has a brother with autism, and has worked as a trainer for Middletown Centre for Autism.

The workshops will be delivered in October over four days on Tuesday 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th all from 10am – 12noon based at SENSations NI in Belfast. For further information, and to book, please click on the link below:
<http://www.blaristrainingsolutions.org/upcoming-course/parents-autism-toolkit/2016-10-11/>

International Tenant's Day 2016

Is control of rents outdated, or a necessity - worldwide?

The International Tenants Day (ITD) 2016 together with the IUT congress, October 14-16 in Glasgow, will highlight the necessity of regulated rents.

The regulation of rents has many names in different parts of the world; rent control, rent regulation, rent stabilisation, rent certainty, etc. but in reality, they all mean basically the same.

The real goal of rent regulation is protecting the moral rights of occupancy. Long-term tenants who contributed to their homes being a desirable place to live have a legitimate interest in staying there. Rent regulation is a response to the power imbalance between land-lords and tenants, which creates an opportunity for landlords to exploit tenants that certainly exists in tight housing markets. One of the most important benefits of rent

regulation is that organisers can go and form tenant associations and have tenants to collectively take actions against landlords who arbitrarily increase rents, who send out illegal eviction notices, or who do not deal with leaks, mould or other insanitary conditions.

Today, rents are regulated, also in the private rental sector, totally or in part, in countries and cities like the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Paris, Denmark, Austria, New York and San Francisco.

IUT and its members would like to see more countries and cities added to this list!

If you plan any activity around Tenants Day, the IUT would be glad to know about it!



The Network invites interested parties from across the North West to participate in:

A Community Engagement Event with the NI Human Rights Commission at 2pm on Thursday 29 Sep 2016 in the Joe McQuaide Room, Holywell DiverseCity Community Partnership 10-14 Bishop Street Derry~Londonderry BT48 6PW



In attendance will be the Chief Commissioner, Les Allamby, and a number of his Commissioner colleagues as well as senior staff officers within the Commission.

This event represents the latest collaborative effort between the Network and NIHRC in recent years and local community groups are encouraged to make the most of the opportunity to engage with key influencers.

All are welcome especially those with a particular interest in the Commission's key areas of business for the current year which are:

- Homelessness
- Mental health
- Self-harm and suicide
- Building tolerance in communities/dealing with the past
- Social need and tax justice.

It also seems inevitable that wider Human Rights concerns around potential BREXIT impacts will naturally occur in the discussion.

If you wish to attend on 29 Sep, please confirm via: info@nwcn.org / 02871279090

Places are limited.



Would you like to learn more about the people, places, cultures and communities that make Belfast?

Are you interested in visiting different places of worship, understanding why different communities celebrate the events they do?

Belfast City Council is re-running the DiverseCity programme, with events each month.

The programme will begin with an opportunity to visit the Belfast Islamic Centre on 22 September 2016.

For a full list of upcoming DiverseCity events for the coming months, please see www.belfastcity.gov.uk/diversecity

All events are free, you must must reserve your place in advance by emailing goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk or calling 028 9027 0663.

Further details on each of the events, times and the venues will be provided after you reserve your place.



Training

Free Outcomes Training for Staff and Trustees/Committee Tuesday 18th October 2016

Do you know what difference your organisation makes?

Understanding and explaining the outcomes you create is key to improving, surviving and thriving. The new Programme for Government has introduced Outcomes Based Accountability™ as the way to measure impact. The Charity Commission NI now requires reporting of public benefit and impact by charity trustees.

These will inevitably effect:

- the way public funding is allocated to Community and Voluntary Sector organisations;
- the sort of work funded;
- the way organisations report to funders and others.

How will this affect your group? Are you prepared for it?

In conjunction with CENI, Rural Community Network invites you to one of a number of FREE sessions on Tuesday 18th October 2016

The sessions will take place at 2pm-4.30pm for staff and volunteers and at 6.30pm-8.30pm for trustees and management committee members at RCN's Premises, 38a Oldtown Street, Cookstown.

Both sessions are free and cover:

- Outcomes: what exactly are they?
- Outcome Based Accountability™ and the Programme for Government: an overview and how it might affect you.
- Public Benefit and achievement reporting.
- The Story of Change: a simple way to show how you create important outcomes.

If you cannot make the session that best suits your role, you can come to the other one.

To book, contact Conor on 028 8676 6670 or by email conor@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

Tea and Coffee will be provided.
Free car parking onsite.



Volunteer Now Training News



Training and Standards

Volunteer Now & Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd promotes standards of practice for volunteer management, child protection and safeguarding vulnerable adults. A range of programme courses are available for booking in each of these subject areas. Please contact Volunteer Now to discuss your specific training needs and tailored training options.

Up-coming training courses available include:

Volunteer Policy - The Starting Point!

6th October 2016, 10:00 - 1.00

This masterclass looks at a framework to help guide you in the content and theory of policy development.

The Investing in Volunteers UK Quality standard for volunteer involving organisations states that organisations should have a 'written policy on volunteer involvement that sets out the organisation's values for volunteer involvement and highlights the need for procedures for managing volunteers, based on principles of equality and diversity'.

Learn how to get buy in from staff and volunteers while covering all the key elements.

Leadership Skills in Volunteering

19th October 2016, 09:30 - 12.30

What is a leader? What are the key skills to being an effective leader? How important is good leadership in volunteering?

This interactive session explores different leadership styles and their impact, example scenarios and top tips in leading a team or group of people. It explores the skills leaders need, especially in dealing with challenges facing volunteer involving organisations.

A certificate of Attendance is awarded at the end of both these masterclasses.

Location: Volunteer Now, 34 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast BT2 7DB

Cost: £45 + VAT each course

For more information and to book places on any of the courses offered, go to the training website at; <http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training-and-standards/?all=1>

Funding



Royal British Legion's External Grants Programme Open to Applications

The Royal British Legion offers funding of up to £50,000 for specialised projects or services for serving and/or ex-Service personnel and/or their families that are not already being provided by the Legion and that are in line with the Legion's funding priorities.

The priorities are:

- Employment and training
- Family support
- Homelessness and outreach
- Supporting the elderly



Applications will be considered from charitable organisations that are based in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and that have been operating for at least two years.

Faith based organisations may apply as long as their activities do not promote religion or include elements of proselytisation.

The deadline for Stage One applications is 11 November 2016.

For further information regarding this funding visit,
<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-support/external-grants/>

Heritage Lottery Fund Workshops for New Grants Programme

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) will open its new Kick the Dust grants programme which is intended to support ambitious youth-focused projects that transform how heritage organisations engage with young people (aged 11 to 25 years).

Grants of between £500,000 and £1 million for projects that take between three to five years to complete will be available to consortia of three or more organisations, including heritage and youth organisations.

The funding is intended to:

- Make heritage relevant to more and a greater diversity of young people, building on their needs and interests.
- Increase the ambition, scale and quality of youth engagement with heritage.
- Develop and embed sustainable, ongoing work with young people within heritage organisations.
- Evidence the value of youth engagement with heritage.

Projects will also need to meet at least one of the HLF outcomes for heritage, for people and for communities.

Potential applicants that would like more information can attend a pre-application workshops on 24 October in Belfast

It is necessary to reserve a place in order to attend an event, and this can be done on Eventbrite.

There are a limited number of places which will be filled on a 'first-come, first-served' basis.

The guidelines will be published on the HLF website on 23 September 2016.

There will be a mandatory project enquiry stage followed by an application process in two rounds:

- ◆ **The deadline for project enquiries will be 2 December 2016.**
- ◆ **The deadline for first-round applications will be 20 February 2017.**

For further information regarding this funding visit,
<https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding>

NI's Community Relations Council Welcomes Bids for Cultural Diversity Funding

The Community Relations Council, with the support of Government, has established a fund of approximately £400,000 to spend each year on community relations projects. This funding is intended to help community/voluntary groups throughout Northern Ireland develop their capacity to engage in community relations work and to enhance the community relations potential of projects they undertake.

Voluntary and community groups can apply for grants of up to £10,000 (most grants will be awarded for a smaller amount) to develop their capacity to engage in community relations work and to enhance the community relations potential of projects they undertake.

Project objectives should match at least one of the following objectives:

- ◆ Develop opportunities for groups to explore their own cultures, beliefs and traditions increasing their capacities to develop relations with those from other cultures.
- ◆ Develop opportunities for groups to extend their knowledge and understanding of others' culture, beliefs and traditions.
- ◆ To enable groups to challenge stereotypes of their own and other communities in order to acknowledge and address differences.
- ◆ To increase the ability and confidence of groups and organisations to identify issues which divide them.
- ◆ To develop networks of communication, trust and co-operation between divided communities.
- ◆ To promote models of good practice for community relations work in Northern Ireland.

The scheme is aimed at locally based groups such as community development groups, cultural organisations, women's groups, church groups, tenants associations and other organisations and groups involved in community relations, reconciliation projects and cultural engagement for projects primarily involving adults.

Eligible costs include the following:

- Bursaries for community relations practitioners to attend conferences.
- Organisation of events.
- Seminars or discussion groups.
- Fees for trainers, speakers, artists or facilitators.
- Basic travelling costs within Ireland and Britain.
- Cost of accommodation for speakers.
- Renting appropriate facilities.
- Crèche provision.
- Resource materials.
- Action research and small publication costs.



The deadline for applications is 28 November 2016.

For further information regarding this funding visit, <http://www.community-relations.org.uk/>



**Supporting™
Communities**
Empowering Society

Successful Funding Applications

Friday 14th October, 10.30am-1pm

Supporting Communities, 34-36 Henry Street, Ballymena

This half day training session will look at how to develop successful funding applications. Learners will gain the confidence and skills that are required when planning a project by receiving practical advice and guidance on how to complete a strong funding application.

- Understand the key processes of funding applications
- What makes a successful application
- Increase confidence in approaching funders

Please contact roisin@supportingcommunities.org or karla@supportingcommunities.org for further information on costings and how to reserve a place.

Booking is essential. Payment is required to secure a place.

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

