

17th October 2016



**Supporting™
Communities**
Empowering Society

E-Zine

Welcome to Supporting Communities 63rd 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.

'Inspiring' Community Conference 2016

Over 250 delegates representing 100 community groups and stakeholders from across Northern Ireland gathered for the Housing Community Network's Community Conference at the Tullyglass House Hotel in Ballymena on 12th October.

Now in its 17th year, the annual event, held in partnership with Supporting Communities, the HCN and the Housing Executive, provides an opportunity for groups from across Northern Ireland to come together and showcase the important work that they deliver in their communities.



The theme this year was 'Inspiring Communities' and we heard from some genuinely inspiring people and projects seen on this visual representation of the day's events by 'More Than Minutes'

Highlights included presentations from TASCIT about the successful removal of a section of the Peace Wall on the Crumlin Road in North Belfast.

Ian McLaughlin and Rab McCallum spoke about the great strides their communities have made by talking together and working to reimagine the area without the walls.

Linda Watson gave an insight into Caw and Nelson Drive Community Association and the tremendous amount of transformation that has taken place in her area. It has gone from being one where houses were 'difficult to let' to one where there is now a demand. Linda said that even if she won the lottery tomorrow she wouldn't move away!

The third presentation of the morning was from Omagh Men's Sheds from the South Region showcasing the important work they do reaching out to older men. John O'Wheelie stole the show and captured the audience's hearts with his personal inspirational story of overcoming adversity. John suffered two strokes which left him with impaired speech and serious depression, but being "a man with a plan" he found a route to recovery by getting involved in Men's Shed, working with his hands and talking with new friends.

Seen here (in his signature hat) with Deirdre Crawford (NIHE), John is the picture of health!



The Chairman of the Housing Executive, Donald Hoodless also spoke, laying down a challenge to the Housing Community Network, saying: *“We want you to tell us what we do right, but equally challenge us when we don’t.”*

This won't be a problem according to Linda Watson, who opened the conference in her role as Central Housing Forum Chairperson. She spoke about the Forum's role as a 'critical friend' to the Housing Executive and highlighted the extensive support and training from Supporting Communities which has enabled 13 Area Scrutiny Panels to fulfil this function and play an important role in improving service delivery for Housing Executive customers.

After lunch, members of the HCN showed their appreciation to soon to retire Director of Landlord Services, Gerry Flynn, who is retiring from the Housing Executive next April after 36 years service.

Renee Crawford, on behalf of the Central Housing Forum and HCN members, spoke about the inspiring contributions Gerry has made in his 36 years of service with the Housing Executive and the role he has played in making the HCN a tenant engagement framework held up as best practice among Social Landlords.



The afternoon session included inspiring videos from the HCN's Youth Forum, the Rural Residents' Forum and the Disability Forum with information on their many activities to the packed house.

The Conference finished with a speech from Clark Bailie, Chief Executive of the Housing Executive who paid tribute to the phenomenal work of the Housing Community Network and the inspirational people getting involved and contributing to their communities across Northern Ireland.

Colm McDaid, Chief Executive of Supporting Communities, said: *“This is the key event in the community calendar and one which everyone, including staff and community representatives, looks forward to.*

It gives us a perfect opportunity to showcase all the great work that is happening at a grassroots level from across Northern Ireland and also to network and catch up with friends and colleagues.

The Conference also acts as a platform to share best practice among the Housing Community Network groups and show how vibrant communities are being fostered.”



Community Conference Working Group & other images from the day

<https://twitter.com/SuppCommunities/moments>

Ministers Givan and Ó Muilleoir respond to ONS decision to reclassify NI Housing Associations

Communities Minister Paul Givan MLA and Finance Minister Máirtín Ó Muilleoir MLA have responded to the announcement by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to reclassify Northern Ireland's Housing Associations as public bodies.

Following the decision both Ministers reiterated their commitment to the social housing sector. Minister Givan said: "Housing Associations make an invaluable contribution to the social housing sector in Northern Ireland and it is vital that they continue to do so. This is why the Finance Minister and I presented a joint paper at today's Executive meeting, which they have approved, seeking a reversal of the ONS decision to reclassify NI Housing Associations, including amending legislation where appropriate.

"The Executive is committed to providing suitable homes for all and we will now work together to find the best way forward to allow investment to continue."



Reacting to the decision, Finance Minister Máirtín Ó Muilleoir said: "Having a secure and stable social housing sector is a key cornerstone of our civic society. We need to take all measures necessary to ensure that the sector has stability to invest and grow. Today's decision, if left unaddressed by the Executive, would change the budgeting rules and could result in an annual shortfall of almost £100million in relation to social and affordable housing. That's why we plan to seek a derogation to prevent this." (See more information in the Special Focus section)

Creating vibrant communities takes 'Teamwork'

A community group that provides a home maintenance service and cleans up neighbourhoods in the Londonderry~Derry area has expanded its business.

Thanks to a Social Housing Enterprise Award, Teamworks, based in Shantallow, Derry, secured £20,000 from the first round of our Social Housing Enterprise Programme which aims to create economically vibrant communities through the creation and development of social enterprises.

The business offers a number of services in the local community including; joinery, painting and decorating, clearing overgrown pathways, removing graffiti and repairing fences. The group also offers home security services such as fitting door locks.



Paul Carland with Cathal McCauley from Teamworks, a home maintenance social enterprise based in Shantallow and one of the group's drivers, Mickey Moore

Cathal McCauley, Director of Teamworks, said:

"The award has meant that we can employ an assistant manager to look after administration and that means we can take on even more work. Up until now we couldn't afford a decent van, we used old vans which regularly broke down or hired vans and paid hire fees. Having a reliable van has been all the difference to our business and it's all thanks to our social enterprise award. Expanding the business means we can employ more staff and provide training opportunities for people in the area."

Paul Carland, our Social Enterprise Liaison Manager, said:

"We are delighted to support this excellent business which is already making a big difference to people's lives in the local area. The Social Housing Enterprise Awards scheme was set up to help groups like Teamworks grow and this in turn will help create vibrant neighbourhoods for local people to live in."

To find out more about our Social Housing Enterprise programme, view:

http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/strategies/community_social_housing_investment_scheme.htm

NI Assembly



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Assembly Update

At the most recent meetings of the Assembly a number of issues have been introduced under Private Members Business. At the meeting of 27th September Jennifer McCann tabled the motion, *That this Assembly calls on the Executive to review the current legislation governing scrambler and quad bikes; and further calls on the PSNI and other responsible agencies to ensure that the current legislation governing these machines is enforced in a robust way.*

Following a debate, the motion was put and agreed. The report of the debate is available at; <http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/report.aspx?&eveDate=2016/10/03&docID=274248#2326587>

At the meeting of Monday 10th October, Andy Allen MLA introduced the amended motion, *"the decision by the Office for National Statistics to reclassify Northern Ireland's 22 housing associations from independent social businesses to public bodies; recognises that this will have a significant impact on housing associations and their ability to provide new*

social and shared ownership homes; further notes that this decision will add nearly £1 billion of housing association debt to the Northern Ireland Executive's balance sheet, seriously impacting on the Executive's ability to borrow money for other initiatives across the Executive Departments; and calls on the Minister for Communities and Minister of Finance to expedite the steps necessary to reverse this reclassification; and agree quickly an interim derogation arrangement with HM Treasury to enable the sector to continue to function normally, to engage closely with the Scottish and Welsh Governments to agree a joined-up approach, and to outline a clear and detailed timeline for specific action, including bringing forward legislation, within the time frame that any HM Treasury derogation allows, to ensure that Northern Ireland's housing associations can remain classified as independent social businesses."

The question was amended and resolved. The full debate and the amended motion can be viewed at; <http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/report.aspx?&eveDate=2016/10/10&docID=275447#2352561>

Committee for Communities

In the past month the Committee will be considering the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill - Committee Stage Briefing By Assembly Research; a departmental briefing on Local Government Role and Responsibilities in Relation to the Community Planning Process; and Regeneration: the way forward in the absence of a bill deferring regeneration powers to local councils. Committee members attended the NILGA Conference in the Nerve Centre in Derry/Londonderry.

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

Consultations



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>

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



Special Focus

On 29th September the Office for National Statistics decided that housing associations – in NI, and also Scotland and Wales - were no longer independent social enterprises and are instead public bodies

As reported above, the Assembly debated the following motion;

That this Assembly notes "the decision by the Office for National Statistics to reclassify Northern Ireland's 22 housing associations from independent social businesses to public bodies; recognises that this will have a significant impact on housing associations and their ability to provide new social and shared ownership homes; further notes that this decision will add nearly £1 billion of housing association debt to the Northern Ireland Executive's balance sheet, seriously impacting on the Executive's ability to borrow money for other initiatives across the Executive Departments; and calls on the Minister for Communities and Minister of Finance to expedite the steps necessary to reverse this reclassification; and agree quickly an interim derogation arrangement with HM Treasury to enable the sector to continue to function normally, to engage closely with the Scottish and Welsh Governments to agree a joined-up approach, and to outline a clear and detailed timeline for specific action, including bringing forward legislation, within the time frame that any HM Treasury derogation allows, to ensure that Northern Ireland's housing associations can remain classified as independent social businesses."

NICVAs' Ryan Millar has provided an outline of the debate as follows.

The motion itself outlines Mr Allen's position well – with his two main concerns the effect on plans to build 8,000 new social houses over the next four years, and also the effect on potential borrowing across all of government following the transfer of £1bn debt, while he also said there could be "major implications" for the co-ownership scheme.

To the floor

Christopher Stalford of the DUP offered an assurance that the government will work to reverse this decision, and that the Ministers for Finance and for Communities took the matter to the Executive on the afternoon of the decision.

Sinn Fein's Fra McCann said the amended motion is "redundant" because the two relevant ministers have agreed a joint paper to seek a reversal of the ONS decision, and that this paper was welcomed by the Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA).

Nichola Mallon, SDLP, said the motion was "essential" and criticised the lack of detail from the ministers for what was a foreseeable issue.

She said the motion is more specific than anything so far from the Executive, and asked a number of questions of government:

"What level of deregulation will be implemented? Will it have empowerment of the tenant at its core? What consultation has taken place and will take place to ensure that Northern Ireland gets the right response? What discussions have both Ministers had with their counterparts in Scotland and Wales to deliver a joined-up approach and ensure that Northern Ireland is not left behind?"

"What is the Minister's clear and detailed timeline for specific action? What amended legislation is being proposed? At what stage is that legislation? When will it be enacted? Will it be within the time frame that any Treasury derogation allows? If it falls outside the derogation period granted, what safeguards will both Ministers provide? How advanced are derogation negotiations with the Treasury?"

Responses

Alliance's Naomi Long said the Executive needs to be more specific in its proposed solutions as this is a matter of public interest, and said the people most greatly affected by this decision will tend to be those who face to most general hardships, "the ability to leverage private funds is crucial in allowing housing associations to develop new stock" – and it is "inconceivable" that the Executive could afford to make up the shortfall.

DUP MLA Paul Girvan said he supported the amended motion but that measures were already underway to deal with this issue, and that asking for a derogation was "sensible". He said further that, while the associations have a lot of debt, they are "asset rich" and so the days of the Housing Executive as it is constituted "are probably numbered".

In response to an intervention from Mr Stalford aimed at those asking for more details, the South Antrim representative also agreed that there are difficulties with this because the ONS has yet to publish the details of its ruling.

Sinn Fein's Michelle Gildernew said the fundamental issue is that there is not enough social housing, right across NI, while the Housing Executive is no longer in a position to build more homes and that "this is something that we will want to rectify during this mandate".

Roy Beggs, of the UUP, said this should not have been a problem because there was an analogous issue in England previously and so solutions should have been put in place ahead of time.



Cont'd

Green Party leader Steven Agnew reiterated previous comments that the Executive should have been more public with the detail of its response, and noted that there is a broad consensus on the main thrust of the matter. People Before Profit's Gerry Carroll said a lack of social housing is the main issue – and that housing bodies should all be allowed to borrow in order to build more homes.

The Minister

Communities Minister Paul Givan said he supported the amended motion, but that the Executive had begun its response “within hours” of the ONS decision. “It was also agreed that officials in the Department of Finance should commence negotiations with Her Majesty's Treasury to agree a derogation from normal budgeting rules for a period to allow us time to progress the necessary legislative changes. On one level, this is a technical adjustment to do with the application of international statistical standards to national accounts,

and, if that was the extent of the impact, this would not be the important issue that it is.”

“...Over the next number of months, we will develop and consult on the proposals and complete the drafting of the legislation. We will then take that draft Bill through its Committee Stage and bring it to the Assembly. I will need the support of the Committee in carrying out its scrutiny role when we get to that stage. Given that the issue, as Members have indicated, is so critical to them, I have every confidence that the Committee will expeditiously deal with all that scrutiny and we will get this through by receiving Royal Assent as soon as possible after we know the exact nature of what we need to legislate for.”

Question, That the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Main Question, as amended, put and agreed to.

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.



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 October edition of inpartnership – the newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives. <https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/sites/nipb/files/media-files/Policing-Matters-October-2016.PDF>

Law Centre NI

The September E-bulletin can be accessed at; <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=ae690a33dc6a1581f08bf755b&id=8c76d3485d&e=ba02d77338>



Community Arts Partnership

The most recent edition of Community Arts Weekly is available at; <http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=b8a8a675fc3c8c08286c7e4ee&id=51323912f1&e=f98d0fc214>

Here you will get access to up to date information on local community arts events, projects and funding.



NICVA has published a number of online articles considering issues such as integrated education, Housing Association re-classification and the publication of Vital Signs

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

Rural Community Network

The latest edition of the Rural Policy Link is now available from the RCN.

To access the publication, go to; <http://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.co.uk/publications/publicationdocument.aspx?doc=610>

Events



Good Governance and Charity Reporting



Developing
Governance
Group

Over 5,000 charities are now registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and there's a few thousand more waiting to be registered.

Charity registration is only the beginning of the new requirements on charities as registered charities will have to report to the Commission on an annual basis according to specific regulations.

The Developing Governance Group in association with the Charity Commission and local support networks would like to invite you to a free seminar focusing on the new accounting and reporting rules and regulations that have come into being which all charitable voluntary and community organisations need to be aware of. This seminar will also focus on the importance of good governance within charities and present the newly revised Code of Good Governance.

This seminar will take place in various venues across Northern Ireland in conjunction with local support networks. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to go to every town in Northern Ireland so please see the list below for your nearest seminar.

Please note that places are limited; if you would like to attend please register with the named contact in your chosen area below.

Date	Venue	To book a place please contact
Wed 19 Oct 7.30 - 9.30pm	Armagh City Hotel 2 Friary Road, Armagh	Ruth, TADA Rural Support Network on 02838 398888 or ruth@tadarsn.com
Wed 26 Oct 7.00 – 9.00pm	North West Community Network (Holywell DiverseCity Community Partnership)10-14 Bishop St Derry~Londonderry	Neola, North West Community Network, on 028 7127 9090 or info@nwcn.org
Thurs 3 Nov 7.30 - 9.30pm	The Fermanagh Trust Fermanagh House Broadmeadow Place Enniskillen	Frances, Fermanagh Rural Community Network on 028 6632 7006 or info@fermanaghr.cn.org
Thurs 10 Nov 7.30 - 9.30pm	CWSAN The Crieve Centre, 2 Hillhead, Stewartstown	Anne, Cookstown and Western Shores Area Network (CWSAN), on 028 8773 8845 or cwsan@aol.com
Wed 16 Nov 7.00 – 9.00pm	County Down Rural Community Network, Ballymote Centre for Community & Business 40 Killough Road, Downpatrick	Tricia, County Down Rural Community Network on 028 4461 2311 or info@countydowncn.com
Wed 23 Nov 2.00 - 4.00pm	Bridge Community Centre 50 Railway Street Lisburn	Sandra Faulkner, Volunteer Now on 0289023 2020 or Sandra.faulkner@volunternow.co.uk
Thurs 1 Dec 7.30 - 9.30pm	The Braid Centre, Bridge St, Ballymena	North Antrim Community Network, on 028 2177 2100 or registration@nacn.org

Registration and refreshments will be available
15 minutes before the start of each event.

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:

- housing professionals
- environmental health officers
- policy makers / politicians
- housing academics
- tenants
- letting agents
- landlords

Heritage Lottery Fund Catalyst Umbrella Programme IOF Introductory Certificate to Fundraising

Thursday 27th October 2016 10am – 4pm
at RCN's Premises, 38a Oldtown Street,
Cookstown BT80 8EF

Rural Community Network in partnership with the Northern Ireland Environmental Link is offering an accredited training opportunity for the delivery of the Institute of Fundraisers (IOF) Introductory Certificate to Fundraising. The course is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund's Catalyst Umbrella Programme. Northern Ireland Environment Link delivers the programme through its 'Investing in Northern Ireland's Heritage' project.

There will be an Institute of Fundraising NI accredited trainer that will deliver the course which is particularly relevant for anyone new to funding or fundraising within their own group or organisation. There is a fee of only £20 per person, (normally fees are approximately £200) and this fee covers all training materials as well as refreshments and lunch for the day.

Furthermore, participant attendees and groups will have an opportunity for a free 'one-to-one' consultation with an IOF member to offer fundraising advice and information that is specific for their project/organisation at a later date.

On successful completion of the course, participants will be able to complete the accredited process online with IOF, as well as become one of its members at a discounted fee.



Numbers are limited for this event so early booking is advisable. Please use this Eventbrite link to book your place [here](#). Alternatively, contact Conor on 028 8676 6670 to book. Places are being reserved on a first come first served basis. There is free car parking onsite.

We aim for inclusive events so please let us know of any way we can make adjustments to enable you to take part fully. The room has level access and accessible WCs.

For more information about this course please contact:

Murdo Murray at Northern Ireland Environment Link
murdo@nienvironmentlink.org
James Lavery at Institute of Fundraisers NI
jameslavery@outlook.com
Conor McGale at Rural Community Network
conor@ruralcommunitynetwork.org



Prince's Trust

Todds Leap are now
delivery partners
with Princes Trust
for the Team
Programme.



Are you a 16-23 year old?

Would you like to uncover your hidden talents?

Would you like to meet new people and make friends?

Would you like to complete a work placement and develop skills
in an area you are interested in?

Would you like to have a motivating muddy marvellous residential at Todds Leap?

Then Team is for you!

It won't cost you anything and you won't lose your benefits

Team is a 12 week course, which will help you meet new challenges and gain new experiences.

Don't miss out. Sign up to the next Team today

@Toddsleap.com

call Paul, Stephanie or Pauline on

02885567170

email info@toddsleap.com

Do More . See More . Be More



European
Union
European
Social Fund
Northern Ireland



Training

Chartered Institute of Housing Autumn training and events programme 2016

The Chartered Institute of Housing is the independent voice for housing and the home of professional standards.

The training programme is designed to ensure housing professionals and organisations are equipped to overcome the challenges they face day-to-day. Delivered by expert trainers in a friendly, stimulating environment, our courses bring together formal training with day-to-day experience, including lots of references to work and the real-life problems and issues delegates face.

Small groups mean delegates benefit from a high level of interaction with peers and trainers alike, and content informed by CIH's policy and practice expertise ensures they leave with a greater understanding of current housing issues.

Dementia and wellbeing in housing
16 November, Belfast

Planning support for independent living
14 December, Belfast



For more information and to book a place on any CIH course, go to;
<http://www.cih.org/CIH/training.page?submit=true&componentID=1438473916963>

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:

Assessing the Impact of Volunteering

Date: 9th November 2016 10.00 - 4.00
Location: Cookstown Library, 13 Burn Road, Cookstown

The Volunteering Impact Assessment Toolkit helps organisations and groups to measure and assess the impacts of volunteering.

The Toolkit includes a printed handbook with step by step guidance and access to a range of downloadable tools and resources.

This masterclass helps people to use the Toolkit and works through a planning process giving practical experience and examples of how to use surveys and focus groups to gain evidence of the real difference volunteers are making.

Developing a Volunteer Strategy

Date: 25th October 2016 10.00 - 4.00
Location: Derry Central Library, 13 Burn Road, Cookstown

What is a volunteer strategy? Why do you need one? How do you develop one and how do you roll it out?

This masterclass takes participants through the key questions around developing and rolling out a volunteer strategy and explores how you can make a strategy be a living document that drives

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

Cost: £80 + VAT each course

For a full list of Volunteer Training courses go to: <http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training-events/view/518>

Housing Rights Training Course

The Essentials: Accessing Social Housing

Derry/Londonderry - Holywell Trust Thursday, November 3, 2016 - 10:00 to 13:00

Everyone who applies for a home from the Housing Executive or a housing association goes on the waiting list. The waiting list is a points based system. Many people can be on the waiting list quite a while before being offered a suitable home. This course will help you understand the points system and help people maximise their points to increase their chances of getting an offer.

This course will cover:

- Accessing social rented housing
- Assessment and ranking of applicants
- Transfers
- Complex needs assessments
- Allocations
- Challenging decisions

Housing Rights

For more information on these and other courses, including costs, and to book a place, go to;
<http://www.housingrights.org.uk/training-events>

2017 Advanced Diploma in Social Enterprise

Are you interested in social innovation? Could a social enterprise development programme be for you?

The School for Social Enterprises in Ireland (SSEI) is a University of Ulster / Flax Trust initiative. This is a one year social enterprise development programme which attracts a number of £1000 bursaries from The Flax Trust. The Diploma course supports those who have an idea to start a social enterprise or those in existing community organisations and charities who are trying to diversify their income streams.

The total programme fee is £1,666.

For information about the content and an application pack visit

www.ssei.tv/advanced-diploma/

A small number of bursaries worth £1,000 are available.

The programme includes:

Six 2-day Modules over a 12 month period
Six ½ Day Peer Learning Groups
Study Visits & Social Enterprise Masterclasses
Guest Lectures from Business Leaders and Social Innovators

Full accreditation by the Ulster Business School, Ulster University, Jordanstown

Closing date for applications is FRIDAY 4th December 2016

Interviews for those seeking bursaries of £1,000 will be held on 8th 9th, 10th December.
Programme commences January 2017

Advanced Diploma in Civic Leadership and Community Planning

The Advanced Diploma in Civic Leadership and Community Planning is an innovative leadership development programme being offered by Ulster University Business School. The first of its type in Northern Ireland, this programme has been developed to meet the need for a practical, accredited programme for key players involved in developing and implementing community planning.

The programme will provide participants with knowledge and understanding of the principles and practices of community planning and effective leadership to enable them to make a strategic contribution to attaining organisational objectives and improved performance.

For more information, contact;
Steve Pollard, Programme Director,
Room 2D24A, Ulster University Business School, Shore Road Newtownabbey

T: 07710717161 or 028 9036 6572
E: sf.pollard@ulster.ac.uk





**Supporting™
Communities**
Empowering Society

Successful Funding Applications

Wednesday 9th November, 11.30am-1.30pm
Family Learning Complex, Drumellan Court,
Craigavon, BT65 5HT

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



Funding



Heritage Lottery Fund's Kick the Dust Grants

The Heritage Lottery Fund has launched the one-time £10 million Kick the Dust fund which is open to consortiums of three or more organisations in the UK. Consortiums should include heritage and youth organisations and may include other types of organisations.

The Kick Start funding programme 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 sustainable, ongoing work with young people within heritage organisations.
- Show the value of youth engagement with heritage.

Grants of between £500,000 and £1 million are available to support ambitious youth-focused projects that transform the way heritage organisations engage with young people in the UK.

To be eligible, projects (work or activity) should:

- Be defined at the start of the project.
- Not have started.
- Take between three and five years to complete.

The deadline for the project enquiry form is 2nd December 2016 (before 12 noon)
The deadline for first-round applications is noon on 20th February 2017.

For further information, visit, <https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/kick-dust>

Comic Relief - Tech for Good Open to Applications

Comic Relief, working together with the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, developed the Tech for Good programme to provide the opportunity for not-for-profit organisations that already have some technological capacity to take their digital innovation projects forward to create social change by delivering new ideas or more effective services.

The funding is for projects that use software and digital technology as a part of a solution to addressing any of the Comic Relief's UK Main Fund themes of Empowering Women and Girls, Investing in Children and Young People, Building Stronger Communities, Improving Health and Wellbeing.

A wide range of digital initiatives that could lead to social change will be considered for the programme, but the aim is to fund projects that:

- Are focused on specific user needs.
- Make best use of web, mobile apps or internet based technologies to deliver a service.
- Scale effectively (have economies of scale)

- Challenge existing ways of delivering services.

Projects should be able to make a significant digital step forward within four months and be able to demonstrate digital innovation for the benefit of society or the specific service users the organisation is targeting.

Grants of between £15,000 and £46,500 are available over four months, plus an additional £3,500 to enable access to expert support.

The deadline for applications is 1 November 2016 (3pm).

For further information visit;
<http://www.comicrelief.com/grants/initiatives/tech-for-good-2016-17>



Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund - Second 2016-17 Call Announced

Northern Ireland Screen has announced a new Call for the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund (USBF).

The USBF provides finance for the production of film, television or other moving image projects relating to the Ulster-Scots heritage, culture and language in Northern Ireland. The aim of the Fund is to ensure that the heritage, culture and language of Ulster-Scots are expressed through moving image.

The Fund also fosters the Ulster-Scots independent production sector in Northern Ireland and support high quality Ulster-Scots cultural TV programmes for a Northern Ireland audience.

The USBF's production budget for the period to 2020 is £1 million per annum.

The Fund will invest up to £400,000, up to a ceiling of 75% of the overall agreed project costs (although given the size of the fund it is envisaged that project funding will be limited to £250,000 in all but the most exceptional circumstances).

Applicants to the USBF must be registered independent broadcasting companies with a permanent agency in Northern Ireland. The USBF does not demand that specific production activities are undertaken within Northern Ireland.



Applicants are free to choose whichever part of the production process it sees fit to undertake outside of Northern Ireland, if it wishes.

The closing date for the second 2016-17 Call is 12th December 2016.

For further information, visit;
<http://www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk/categories/95/ulster-scots-broadcast-fund.aspx>

National Tourism Events Sponsorship Scheme (Northern Ireland): 2017-18 Round Open

The primary aim of the National Tourism Events Sponsorship Scheme is to support the delivery of the Consultation for the Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 and Events Strategic Vision to 2020. Paramount to this is the growth of visitor numbers and visitor spend.



The scheme offers financial assistance to support events which showcase Northern Ireland's regions and destinations, enhancing their visitors' experience. It is designed to act as a catalyst and motivator for the events industry. Applications must be of at least national significance in order to maximise the value of support from Tourism NI.

Events must have an overall minimum expenditure of £50,000 (not including monies from Tourism NI). Event sponsorship of £6,000 (incl. VAT) to £30,000 (incl. VAT) is available. Events must demonstrate how they provide tourism experiences aligned with at least one of the Experience Pillar.

Experience Pillars are:

- **Living Legends** -Bringing heritage assets to life.
- **Coasts and Lakes** -Celebrating coasts and waterways.
- **Unique Outdoors** -Animating and interacting with landscapes.
- **Culture and Creative Vibe** -Celebrating cities and creativity.
- **Naturally NI** -Unique to Northern Ireland.

Applications are open to legally constituted organisations or individuals in Northern Ireland.

For events taking place between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018, the call for applications closes at 12 noon on 14th November 2016.

For further information, visit;
<http://www.tourismni.com/Grow-Your-Business/funding-schemes/events/>

AHF Announces 2017 Deadlines for Project Development Grants

The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) is an independent charity that was established to encourage and support the work of registered charities and constituted not-for-profit organisations that is dedicated to the preservation and renewal of buildings of architectural and historic significance which have failed to find a viable re-use on the open market.

Grants of up to £25,000 are available for project development costs only and not for on-site capital works. Funding is available for any work that is essential for taking the project forward towards the goal of revitalising an historic building. Applicants must explain how a particular piece of work or activity will enable this. Examples of eligible costs include:

- The employment of a project co-ordinator, either someone appointed externally on a consultancy basis or an existing employee(s) working additional hours or on this specific project.
- Fees for consultants needed to help progress the organisation's plans, such as architect, quantity surveyor, structural engineer, mechanical and electrical engineer.
- Property valuation by a RICS registered valuer.
- Fundraising consultants.
- Business planning consultants.
- Costs associated with developing a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund or other capital funders, such as Activity Plan, Training Plan, Conservation Management Plan.
- Costs of community engagement work, such as pop-up events, consultations.
- Legal costs where this is critical in establishing ownership or the viability of proposed uses, such as advice on restrictive covenants, or for advice on governance, such as to develop the organisation's constitutional model to best enable it to take the project forward.

VAT costs that cannot be reclaimed.

Organisation overheads/administration costs.

Applicants are generally expected to cover at least 50% of the cost of the work.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss any potential application with the relevant Support Officer in their area before submitting an application.

The 2016/2017 deadlines are 26 October 2016, 15 February 2017, 10 May 2017, 16 August 2017, and 1 November 2017.

For further information, visit; <http://ahfund.org.uk>



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