

Universal Credit roll out to begin in September 2017

Communities Minister Paul Givan announced plans for the roll out of Universal Credit in Northern Ireland.

Universal Credit will replace Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and Tax Credits. The roll out will commence in September 2017 and is expected to be completed by September 2018.

Minister Givan said: *"This is the biggest change to the benefit system for working age people in over 70 years. The new Universal Credit service will make it easier for people to move into employment whilst ensuring that people who cannot work can continue to receive the financial support they need. Universal Credit will remove many of the disincentives to work which exist in the current welfare system. With its focus on helping people participate more fully in the labour market, I believe it has the potential to become a significant economic driver for Northern Ireland."*

Turning to the implementation process, the Minister commented: *"This roll out plan is challenging but achievable. Crucially, the Northern Ireland approach reflects some of the learning arising from implementation across the rest of the UK. As a result, in Northern Ireland the transition will be phased in across the JBO network. The first office to deliver Universal Credit will be Limavady followed by Magherafelt, Coleraine and Ballymoney before Christmas 2017. A new Service Centre to support the new Universal Credit offices will open in*

Foyle Jobs and Benefits Office at the same time, and it is also intended a second Service Centre will open in Newry in early 2018.



My Department also continues to modernise how it delivers its services. As Universal Credit is introduced into different Jobs & Benefits Offices, people in those areas will make a single digital claim instead of having to make separate claims for the benefits which are being replaced. This represents a major step forward in the delivery of digital public services in Northern Ireland."

In line with how all of the changes to the benefit system have been introduced, the Department will contact claimants whose benefits or credits are due to be replaced by Universal Credit in advance of any changes, to guide and assist them through the process. Arrangements will also be introduced for vulnerable claimants who are unable to use the digital service to assist them to make a claim or to report changes.

More information on Universal Credit and full details of the roll out are available on the nidirect website at; <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/introduction-to-universal-credit>

Homelessness has no place in Northern Ireland – Givan

Communities Minister Paul Givan MLA has set out the Executive's commitment to tackling homelessness in Northern Ireland.



Speaking at the start of Homelessness Awareness Week (30 Nov – 8 Dec), the Minister outlined how the Northern Ireland Executive, through the Department for Communities, is investing over

£35million to prevent homelessness and to provide vital support services including hostels, 'crash' beds and outreach services.

With the reasons for homelessness continuing to be linked to wider societal issues such as relationship breakdown, debt, underlying health issues, and addictions, the Minister said his Department will drive forward an inter-Departmental

piece of work to ensure the Executive is working collectively to tackle this important issue.

Minister Givan said: *"The role of Communities is vast but it is safe to say that one of the most important issues within my portfolio is to ensure that everyone has somewhere safe and secure to call home."*

Homelessness in our society can take different forms from those who may have a roof over their head such as those living in hostel accommodation, with friends or family or in unsuitable accommodation to the more visible and extreme situation of those who sleep rough on our streets. Regardless the circumstances, there is no place for homelessness in Northern Ireland and I, along with my Executive colleagues are committed to tackling this complex issue."

Speaking about the £35m funding for 2016/17, the Minister continued:

"I have seen first-hand the impact of this investment and the services provided by Depaul, Extern and others that make a difference to people's lives. I have talked to those individuals who find themselves in very difficult circumstances and rely on the vital support services provided by these organisations. I cannot emphasise enough the contribution these services make to giving people a second chance and an opportunity to turn their lives around."

Looking ahead the Minister continued:

"The draft Programme for Government (PfG) recognises the importance of tackling homelessness. With an overall goal of delivering improved wellbeing for all our citizens, the Draft PfG sets out a range of key actions that will help ensure that homelessness has no place in Northern Ireland."

These include a new Homelessness Strategy with a core focus on prevention and addressing chronic homelessness, an additional 9,600 social homes, supporting first-time buyers to purchase a new home, maintaining effective advice services which prevent homelessness, ensuring that the private rented sector is a good housing option for everyone

including families and providing support to people to live independently."

The Minister concluded:

"I have listened to the views expressed by the homelessness sector who have called on us to do work more collaboratively with Executive colleagues across Government to prevent homelessness and provide access to vital services for some of our most vulnerable people. I commit today that this Executive will deliver on that call. I have tasked my officials to work with their colleagues across Government so that we can collectively understand what more needs to be done."

This work will lead to a focused action plan which will support the new Homelessness Strategy and make a real difference to tackling this complex issue."



Consultation on the Homelessness Strategy 2017-22

On Wednesday 30th November 2016, the Board of the Housing Executive approved the draft Homelessness Strategy 2017-22 – "Ending Homelessness Together". The Housing Executive is undertaking an external consultation exercise, to seek feedback on the strategic direction the organisation has set out in the document.

The Strategy sets out key objectives and associated actions aimed at preventing homelessness where possible and finding long term sustainable housing and support solutions for those households faced with homelessness.

The Strategy supports a multi-agency approach to tackling homelessness and recognises the importance of local service delivery.

Views on the draft Homelessness Strategy proposals are welcome from as wide a constituency as possible including interested parties from all backgrounds, community representatives as well as statutory, private and voluntary bodies.

The Strategy document and response form are available at:
<http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/consultation.htm>



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Don't 'present' debt this Christmas



*Kathy McKenna,
Citizen's Advice &
Colm McQuillan
Assistant Director
for Landlord
Services are
encouraging tenants
to stay debt-free this
Christmas*

assistance, confidential help and advice on 03448 920 900. They are there to help. Debt won't go away, the longer you leave it the worse it will get. If you have other debt then contact our partner Citizens Advice which has a network of local offices like ourselves across Northern Ireland with advisers to help. You can also call the Freephone number 0800 028 1881 which could make all the difference. No matter how large or how small the money worry is, it's important to access this free advice as soon as possible."

As one of the busiest retail periods of the year begins the Housing Executive is encouraging tenants to seek advice on budgeting and staying debt free for Christmas and on into the New Year.

This time of the year is difficult for many households and it's easy to overspend on tempting offers and the pressures to buy. But prioritising paying rent and utility bills is vital as having a home is more important than any Christmas present. Working in partnership with Citizens Advice, the Housing Executive offers its tenants practical information that will help keep debt away this Christmas. Today many people are finding it difficult to make ends meet and advice is being offered to tenants to keep on top of rent as failure to do so may result in the loss of their home.

Colm McQuillan, the Assistant Director for Landlord Services, said: *"We all know of the pressure to spend above what is normal at Christmas but having a home is more important than any Christmas present. Housing Executive tenants having difficulty paying their rent should not ignore the problem. Our local accounts staff can provide*

Citizens Advice Project Manager Kathy Mc Kenna says: "Citizens Advice is here to help people find a way forward with their problems. Every year, we help thousands of people with money and debt problems, but we know there are many more not getting the help they need. So we are delighted to be launching this new free service across Northern Ireland with the support of the Money Advice Service. We now have qualified debt advisers in all 11 council areas across our 29 local offices.

We encourage a few 'quick wins' by changing the way energy is used as over a year a lot can be saved. Tenants can choose which electricity or gas supplier's tariff best suit their needs through a couple of local comparison websites. By not leaving equipment on standby, using the heat and light appliances as needed, washing full loads at a lower temperature, turning heating thermostat down 1oc are all simple energy saving tips which will help save money and add to the pot for next year's Christmas treats."

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - Nominate Now!



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

Do you know of a volunteer group that deserves recognition for outstanding work?

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest Award given to volunteer groups - the equivalent to an MBE. It is for groups of volunteers who together make a real difference - previous winners say the Award has raised

their profile, made them feel valued and inspired them to keep volunteering - so it is well worth considering!

The winners are announced during Volunteers Week every year and they receive a domed glass crystal and a certificate signed by the Queen.

The group and a nominator (not directly involved in the group) can work together to complete a nomination.

With funding from the Department of Communities Innovations Fund, Volunteer Now can give one to one support (meeting slots available from January – March 2017) to a limited number of nominators and the organisations they wish to nominate, in order to help submit a high quality nomination.

First come first served - contact sandra.adair@volunteernow.co.uk

Go to <https://qavs.direct.gov.uk/> to submit a nomination.

Notes to help you can be found here <https://qavs.direct.gov.uk/guidance-notes> but do consider getting support from Volunteer Now to develop your nomination.

Think about making your nomination for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service today!

Communities spruce up the landscape, with the gift of free trees



More than half a million **free** trees are making their way to schools and community groups across the UK this month; with over 24,000 set for Northern Ireland.

The groups are greening local landscapes and tackling the country's lack of trees and woods: Northern Ireland has just 8 per cent woodland cover, compared to the UK average of 13 per cent and the European average of 44 per cent.

It's not too late for would-be tree planters to play a part. Schools and groups are now invited to apply for free trees for planting next March.

Gregor Fulton is the Woodland Trust's operations manager and says: *"There's no doubt that trees offer so much, from brightening landscapes – and minds – to helping clean the very air we breathe. We want to see a huge increase in tree numbers. In fact, we have ambitious plans to plant 64 million trees over the next ten years – that's one for every person in the UK."*

This is a fantastic opportunity for schools, youth groups and community groups to get their hands dirty and make a lasting change to their school grounds or shared spaces."

The tree packs come in different sizes and mix of species, ranging from 30 native trees for a small copse or short hedgerow, to 420 trees for an area equivalent to a large football pitch.

Choose from species that will flourish in wetlands; attract wildlife; give year-round colour; or provide a bountiful wild harvest.

Find out more and apply online now at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/freetrees

Applications close at 4pm on 6 January 2017.



Tremendous Tunnels!

Playdale's range of [Role Play Tunnels](#) are designed to encourage imaginative, cooperative and social play for young children.

Whether they're a motor racing champion, young farmer or deep sea diver, younger children will love our range of exciting tunnels & vehicles.



[Click here](#) to view these new Tunnels and keep up to date with all their products, ideas and company news on their [Pinterest board](#). Happy pinning!



If you'd like to discuss your playground project face to face, why not [book a free no obligation appointment](#) to meet your local Area Manager?

For more information visit: <https://www.playdale.co.uk/playground/tunnel.html> or email: enquiries@playdale.co.uk

Assembly Update

The Minister for Communities also made a statement to the Assembly on Tuesday 23 November regarding the Departments intended retention of regeneration powers; the full statement is available at;
<http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/report.aspx?&eveDate=2016/11/22&docID=281882#2512746>

At the meeting of the Assembly held on Monday 28th November 2016 Fra McCann MLA table the motion, *“That this Assembly calls on the Minister for Communities to suspend the house sales scheme until such time as a full review into the long-term impact of this scheme on the provision of social housing stock has been carried out.”*

Following a debate the motion was not passed; the full debate and the issues discussed can be read at;
<http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/report.aspx?&eveDate=2016/11/28&docID=283508#2530349>

At the Assembly meeting held on Monday 5th December 2017 the Minister for Communities, Mr Paul Givan MLA responded to questions on a range of topics including funding for Womens Aid, Gender Equality Strategy, Community Halls Programme, development of the Social Strategy, HMO legislation, sports clubs and historical sexual abuse and Regeneration Powers and local Councils.

The report of the meeting is available at;

<http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/report.aspx?&eveDate=2016/12/05&docID=284534#2551556>

At the Assembly meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2016 Mr Stewart Dickson MLA introduced a private motion stating, *“That this Assembly recognises the deep public concern regarding the formation, implementation and operation of the social investment fund; and calls on the First Minister and deputy First Minister to commission an independent review of the operation of the entire social investment fund process, taking particular account of the role of lead partners in this process and the impact that this role has had on good governance.”* Following the debate and vote, the motion was not passed.

The full debate is available at;

<http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/report.aspx?&eveDate=2016/12/06&docID=284535#2561202>

Committee for Communities

In the past month the Committee has considered 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 and local councils.

Minutes of the meetings of the committee are available at; <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committees/communities/minutes-of-proceedings-2016---2017/>

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

Consultations

The Programme for Government consultation has been launched

The consultation document and related papers are available to view on the NI Executive Website at:
<http://tinyurl.com/pfgni>

The Programme for Government team will also deliver information sessions on request to groups of key stakeholders during this consultation period. If you want us to deliver a session please contact the Department at

Programme for Government Team, The Executive Office | Room E5.06 | Castle Buildings | Stormont Estate | Belfast | BT4 3SR

Email: pfg@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk Tel No's : 02890 528300/02890 520584

The Department would welcome any views or comments that you would like to make on the Programme for Government consultation document. You can respond to the consultation using the link to the questionnaire on the Website.

The questionnaire includes a section seeking your views on potential equality impacts

Please note that the consultation will close at 5.00 pm on Friday 23 December 2016.

The Department for Communities is currently seeking views on their response to the recent decision by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to reclassify Registered Social Housing Providers to the public sector.

The consultation period runs from 08 December 2016 to 08 February 2017.

For further information on this consultation click on the link below:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/communities/proposals-seek-reversal-reclassification-registered-social-housing-providers-ni-consultation.pdf>

The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland

Customer satisfaction survey

<http://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk/about-us/public-consultations/current-consultations/>

Closing Date; 14th December 2016

Department for Communities

State Pension age independent review: Interim report and consultation

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/state-pension-age-independent-review-interim-report-and-consultation>

Closing date; 31 December 2016

Special Focus

Conference Report Housing Rights Private Rented Sector Conference 2016 – Getting it Right 30 November 2016



Housing Rights, with support from TDS NI, held their third conference on the Private Rented Sector on 23rd November 2016 at the East Belfast Network Centre. In advance of the Department for Communities' consultation paper on their [Review of the Private Rented Sector](#), the conference aimed to look at key issues facing the private rented sector (PRS) in Northern Ireland, and consider best practice in the PRS across the UK and Ireland.

The keynote address was delivered by Minister for Communities, Paul Givan; after this, Professor Paddy Gray commenced the business of the conference by setting the scene of the modern private rented sector in Northern Ireland.

Laying the Right Foundations

The conference's first session was focussed on security of tenure; Dr Aideen Hayden, Chairperson of Threshold in Ireland, outlined the [tenure system in the Irish private rented sector](#). Representatives from Housing Rights, Belfast City Council and the Landlords' Association of Northern Ireland then participated in a Q&A session which covered issues around evictions, and dispute resolution.

Addressing the Supply Challenge

The second session considered the challenge of securing supply to the private rented sector in Northern Ireland. Professor Tony Crook, from the University of Sheffield, presented on [the role of institutional investment and housing associations](#) in the English private rented sector; Susan Aktemel then outlined her work as Director of [Homes4Good](#), Scotland's first "social enterprise letting agency".

The session finished with a panel Q&A including Clare McCarty, who detailed Clanmil housing association's

pilot schemes in the private rented sector; Danny McQuillan from Extern, who outlined Extern's work in housing vulnerable households in the PRS; Robert McDowell, from Rea Estates; and Derek Wilson, from the First Trust.

Raising Standards through Regulation

The final session of the day focussed on how regulation could be used to raise standards in the private rented sector.

Ben Beadle from TDS NI discussed the experience of [raising standards in the area of tenancy deposit protection](#), through offering both deposit protection and associated dispute resolution services. Jennie Bibbings from Shelter Cymru then presented on the [ongoing roll-out of landlord licensing in Wales](#); finally, Charlotte McHaffie from the Scottish Government outlined the [Scottish experience of letting agent regulation](#).

Further reading

A Storify of the conference is available [here](#). You can also read the Department for Communities' [initial Discussion Paper on the PRS Review](#), as well as [our response](#).

The Department's consultation paper, containing proposals as part of their ongoing Review, is expected to be released before the end of the year. Check into the ['Policy & Research' section of our website](#) to see Policy and Research Briefings covering key topics – such as landlord licensing, affordability or dispute resolution – under consideration.

Please do not reproduce any information contained in the speakers presentations without their prior consent.

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/>

The Housing Executive, Northern Ireland's Home Energy Conservation Authority (HECA)

has released its latest annual progress report which records the key outputs by the organisation, and other agencies, in improving the energy efficiency of housing in Northern Ireland. The report identifies measures we consider to be practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in a significant improvement in the energy efficiency of the residential accommodation within the organisation's housing portfolio.

Download the [Home Energy Conservation Authority 20th Progress Report 2016](#) ( 716 KB)

Community Development and Health Network



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>

Live Here Love Here Autumn Newsletter

Inside you will find out all about the funding opportunities available through the Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme and good practice examples of funded projects. <http://www.liveherelovehere.org/liveherelovehere/documents/007049.pdf>

Law Centre NI



The October E-bulletin can be accessed at; <http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ae690a33dc6a1581f08bf755b&id=c0bde17b94&e=c2b6ae91b3>

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>



Scope ^{NI} NICVA has published a number of online articles considering issues such as rural schools and the Ministers' plans for the schools estate. Scope can be accessed at; <http://scopeni.nicva.org/latest-scope-articles>

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. There is more information and updates on the Partnerships' website at; <http://comartspartner.org/>

Beyond Skin

Beyond Skin is an organisation based in Northern Ireland, which was established in January 2004 to use Music & Arts as a tool for cultural education & exchange in an aim to address issues of racism & sectarianism. Since its inception, Beyond Skin has provided a professional service of diversity and global education using artistic methods for; local councils, education boards, schools, community groups, businesses and social enterprises. During this time Beyond Skin has gathered a well-respected track record within the communities of Northern Ireland and also internationally; nurturing the skills of local and international people whilst externally impacting greatly on community development and the arts sector.

Beyond Skin has provided training, paid employment, and assisted business development for over 200 people representing over 50 nationalities. Beyond Skin develop and deliver projects, programmes, events and festivals all of which are designed in-house and in partnership with local and/or international artists or organisations with complementary objectives. We also develop and deliver bespoke projects for clients.

The newsletter for beyond Skin is available at; <http://us13.campaign-archive1.com/?u=b4da84aa7372dcfff3bba8a89&id=73ed49906e&e=b74a157a6b> Previous editions and news is available on the website at; <http://www.beyondskin.net/>

Beyond Skin
diversity · global · education
arts · culture

Events

MAKING CONNECTIONS December 2016 – March 2017 Events Programme



Making Connections offers a free programme of monthly activities at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum specifically for the over-50s. Alongside free entry after 12pm, a series of workshops and demonstrations will also be on offer. Making connections is programmed by the Live Well Project – a National Museums Northern Ireland Outreach Project funded by the Big Lottery.

Christmas Time at Ballycultra: Wednesday 14th December 2016 (Incl. free entry from 12:00 pm)

Visit the museum as we prepare for Christmas. Drop into the Lagan Room from 1:30 pm and decorate a willow crown to adorn your Christmas table. Festive refreshments provided. Please book in advance.

Wednesday 11th January 2017

Enjoy walking around the grounds and exhibitions in all their winter glory. Free entry to the museum after 12:00pm.

Marmalade Days: Wednesday 8th February 2017 (Incl. free entry from 12:00 pm)

It's marmalade season. Join us in the traditional setting of the Parochial House kitchen (Map no. 36) at 1:30pm and learn how to produce flavoured marmalades. Then sample them on soda bread hot off the griddle. Please book in advance.

Easter time at Ballycultra: Wednesday 8th March 2017 (Incl. free entry from 12:00 pm)

Drop into the Lagan Room at 2:00 pm and decorate your own Easter tree with ribbons and embellished eggs. Please book in advance

Crafted

Feb 1st 2017 2-4pm

Enjoy a visit to the Crafted Exhibition showcasing the fine art of furniture, revealing changing style and designs over the past 300 years. Followed by a creative workshop to make-over a small furniture accessory.



Bronze Age pots

Mar 1st 2-4pm

Take part in John Martins' Bronze Age Pottery workshop to create your own authentic pot. There will be a follow up Pot Clinic session where you can collect your finished vessel and see photos of it being fired in John's traditional pit. Places are limited so please book in advance.

For bookings or enquiries Please email: suzanne.duncan@nmni.com or cathy.hanna@nmni.com

Or phone Suzanne Duncan 028 9039 5092 or Cathy Hanna 028 9039 5080

Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition

Thursday 15 December 2016 - 2.00pm - RCN, 38A Oldtown St, Cookstown BT80 8EF

The Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition has been established as part of commitments made under the Stormont House and Fresh Start Agreements. In order to inform its work, the Commission is now beginning the process of engagement to gather the views and opinions of those who wish to contribute from across our community. We would like the opportunity to engage with the Rural Sector and would like to invite you to participate at one of these engagement meetings, details of which can be found below.

What sort of questions do we have?

- ◆ In your opinion how can we ensure that in Northern Ireland we develop a rich diverse community in which cultural expression can be celebrated?
- ◆ Do you have any examples of positive practice in relation to display of flags, identity, culture and tradition that have been accepted in a positive manner by communities of different backgrounds and traditions?
- ◆ What do you consider are the issues in respect of flags, identity, culture and tradition in your community or within Northern Ireland as a whole?
- ◆ What barriers presently exist to making progress to become a society that understands and accepts different cultures and expressions of these?

Please RSVP attendance to: fict.secretariat@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk



Training



Volunteer Now Training News

Keeping Children Safe: An Introduction



Date: 4th January 2017, 10:00 - 1:00

This is a 3 hour basic awareness course for those working with children and young people.

The following course is being funded by the Education Authority for those in the voluntary youth sector who are registered and/or funded through the Education Authority.

Keeping Children Safe Training is delivered by accredited trainers with experience of safeguarding issues. Participants receive a certificate on completion of the full course.

This 3 hour course covers:

- legal context for keeping children safe
- types of abuse including online, grooming and exploitation
- signs and indicators
- procedures for reporting concerns
- relevance of code of behaviour for staff/ volunteers eg: e-safety issues.

Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis and are limited. If courses are fully booked your details will be placed on a waiting list for future courses.

Location: Lettershandoney & District Development Group, 32 Lettershandoney Avenue, Drumahoe, Londonderry, BT47 3HY
Cost: FREE

Developing a Volunteer Strategy

Date: 10th January 2017, 09:30 - 4:30

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 volunteering forward within your organisation.

Certificate of Attendance is awarded at the end of this masterclass.

Location: Enniskillen Library, Halls Lane, Enniskillen, BT74 7DR
Cost: £80 + VAT

For more information or to book a place or to forward plan your volunteering, go to;
<http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training-events/view/518>



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.

[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>



Funding



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Reconciliation Fund Opens for First Funding Round of 2017

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides the Reconciliation Fund which has two funding rounds each year. The Fund is currently accepting applications for the first round of 2017.

Non-governmental organisations, community groups, and voluntary organisations can apply for grants which can be used to contribute towards specific project costs or revenue costs. There are no set minimum or maximum amounts.

Projects should support one or more of the following points:

- Reconciliation through education; dialogue and culture.
- Promotion of tolerance and respect.
- Challenging stereotypes of one's own and other communities/identities.
- Development and strengthening of meaningful and lasting cross-border links.
- Contribution to political reconciliation.

The deadline for applications is 10 March 2017 (5pm).

For further information, visit, <https://www.dfa.ie/about-us/funding/reconciliation-fund/>

Telecommunity Fund

The Telecommunity Fund was established with capital from BT, management and unions. It exists to support small, locally based grass roots community projects. Priority will be given to applications from small groups, typically with an annual income of less than £200,000, as evidenced in most recent set of accounts.

Projects must aim to support one of the following groups:

- ◆ Young people
- ◆ Older people
- ◆ People with disabilities

Priority will be given to projects that will benefit groups dealing with disadvantage (e.g. rural isolation, low income, social exclusion, reduced access to services), and projects that involve the beneficiaries in their development and delivery.

The fund will fund small, locally based groups £500-£1,500.

Please note that the final panel meeting for the Financial Year 2016-17 will be held on 1st February 2017. Applications must be submitted by the first week in January 2017 if they wish to be considered for funding at this panel meeting.

Further information visit,
www.communityfoundationni.org/apply

George Best Belfast City Airport Community Fund

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

The recognise the importance of being a good neighbour and engage directly with the local community groups to identify projects that can benefit from the Community Fund. Community Fund projects range from schools to sports teams, community centers to choirs, educational campaigns and exciting event programmes.

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

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

Next deadline for applications is on 15th February 2017.

Grants between £300-£10,000.



For further information, visit,
www.belfastcityairport.com/Community/Community-Fund