



E-Zine

Welcome to Supporting Communities 71st 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.

Social Sector Size Criteria

Sometimes referred to as 'Bedroom Tax' this Welfare Change came into effect 20 February 2017.

Who will be affected?

It will affect social housing (Housing Executive and housing association) tenants considered to be 'under-occupying' their homes. It does not apply to privately rented properties.

What is happening to households affected?

If a household is considered to be 'under-occupying', the rent used to calculate Housing Benefit will reduce by:

- 14% if under-occupied by 1 bedroom, or
- 25% if under-occupied by 2 or more bedrooms

Welfare Supplementary Payment

The Northern Ireland Executive committed to alleviating Social Sector Size Criteria. If a household's Housing Benefit goes down because of the changes they will receive a Welfare Supplementary Payment. These are in place until 31 March 2020.

Those affected do not have to apply for Welfare Supplementary Payments. The Department for Communities and the Housing Executive will work together to automatically calculate the amount to be paid which will be credited to the claimant or social landlord receiving the Housing Benefit payments.

What does the size criteria allow?

The Social Sector Size Criteria now allows one bedroom each for:

- every adult couple
- anyone else aged 16 or over
- any two children of the same sex aged under 16
- any two children aged under 10
- any other child (other than a foster child or child whose main home is elsewhere)
- children who can't share because of a disability or medical condition
- a carer (or team of carers) providing overnight care

Those living in a Housing Executive or housing association home aged 16 years or over but below

State Pension age receiving Housing Benefit will be affected. Pensioners are not affected.



How will the household know if they've been affected?

A notification letter has been sent to all Housing Executive and housing association households likely to be affected by Social Sector Size Criteria.

The mailing contains a Household Details Form containing the information on record for the household. Householders will be asked to check this information and if it is correct there is nothing to do; if it is incorrect they should make the amendments on the form and return it in the prepaid envelope provided.

A free and independent Welfare Changes Helpline is available for anyone in need of help or advice about changes to the welfare system.

The contact telephone number is: 0808 802 0020

The helpline is open 9am to 5pm (Monday to Friday) and is operated by the Welfare Reform Advice Services Consortium (Advice NI, Citizen's Advice and the Law Centre NI).

To help people face-to-face independent advisers will be available in each of the 11 council areas through the local Citizens Advice and Advice NI offices.

Specialist legal advice is available at the Law Centre and it can arrange access to specialist services when required.



These services are free for anyone who needs help or advice about any of the changes to the welfare system.

Housing Executive supports education initiative in schools

(Pictured right) Daniel Ramsey, Corpus Christi College joins Hollie Large, Dundonald High School at the launch of the Respect Programme with Jackie O’Kane from the Housing Executive and Michael Fitzgerald from the Children’s Safety Education Foundation.



Housing
Executive

A new initiative addressing the issues of crime, anti-social behaviour and community safety is being delivered in two local schools, with Housing Executive funding.

Developed by the Children’s Safety Education Foundation, the Respect Programme teaches young people about the consequences anti-social behaviour and crime can have on communities and the students’ own health, safety and well-being.

Corpus Christi College in West Belfast and Dundonald High School in East Belfast are participating in this pilot programme.

£2,500 has been awarded to fund the project, allowing the production of new text books, E-books, work sheets and student surveys.

Jackie O’Kane from the Housing Executive Community Safety Department, said;

“We are committed to prevention, early intervention and working in partnership to address community safety issues.

Strategically, this project helps meet the objectives of our Community Safety Strategy - Safer Together 2015-2017.

We’re delighted to be part of something so impactful and thanks go to both Dundonald High School and Corpus Christi College for engaging so positively in the programme which tackles some really difficult and important community safety issues.”

Michael Fitzgerald from the Children’s Safety Education Foundation said;

“As part of the Respect Programme, we encourage children to seek out information for themselves and to engage in peer discussions.

We help them adopt roles in order to consider opposing viewpoints and we use active learning which may draw on the personal experiences of the learners themselves.”

Frank Maskey, Principal of Corpus Christi College said;

“Many of the issues covered in this project could be experienced by children at our school.

As educators, we have a duty to provide opportunities for them to overcome community safety barriers and become positive citizens in our society.”

Ken Perry, Principal of Dundonald High School said;

“Issues of community safety and anti-social behaviour are best addressed in a constructive way.

This initiative allows us the opportunity to deal directly with the key issues and help prepare children for challenges faced in wider society as they learn for life and work.”

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Assembly Update



The Northern Ireland Assembly is now dissolved. But what does that mean?

Find out here.

Dissolution is the name given to the period of time between the announcement of an Assembly election, until the final election results. In this case, the Assembly was dissolved at 00:01 on Thursday 26 January, 2017. The elections will take place on Thursday 2 March, 2017. Following the dissolution of the Northern Ireland Assembly, all MLA seats became vacant and no Plenary or Committee business takes place.

It was agreed during the Stormont Fresh Start Agreement, signed in November 2015, that the number of Assembly Members should be reduced at the next election from six to five members per constituency from the first "Assembly election after the May 2016 election". Therefore, the number of MLA seats has been reduced from 108 to 90, meaning five MLAs will be elected in each of the 18 constituencies.

MLAs who were in post during the 2016/17 Mandate cease to be Members as soon as the Assembly is dissolved. They revert to being members of the public and lose privileges associated with being an MLA, to ensure that former MLAs do not have an advantage above other candidates. Those who wish to be MLAs again must stand again as candidates for election.

As the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Government are two separate institutions, Government Ministers remain in office during dissolution, to manage and oversee the work of their Departments, until polling day (the day of the election).

The Speaker (currently Robin Newton), along with Principal Deputy Speaker (currently Cairtriona Ruane), and Deputy Speakers (currently Danny Kennedy and Patsy McGlone) remain in office until a new Speaker is elected at the first meeting of the new Assembly.

Questions to the Minister for Communities before Dissolution

Housing Rights have provided a digest of written and oral questions to the Minister for Communities, Paul Givan MLA.

The digest is available at; <http://housingrights.org.uk/news/assembly-roundup-january-2017>

Consultations

Private Rented Sector in Northern Ireland - Proposals for Change

Department for Communities

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/private-rented-sector-northern-ireland-proposals-change>

Closing date; 3rd April 2017

Regulations restricting smoking in private vehicles when children are present

Department of Health

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/regulations-restricting-smoking-private-vehicles-when-children-are-present>

Closing date; 3rd March 2017

Draft Gender Identity and Expression Employment Policy

Health & Social Care

<http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2781.htm>

Closing date; 29th March 2017

Adoption and Children (Northern Ireland) Bill

Department of Health

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/adoption-and-children-northern-ireland-bill>

Closing date; 10th April 2017

Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland

Department for the Economy

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/industrial-strategy>

Closing date; 25th April 2017

Have your say on the future of fundraising self-regulation in NI

After the initial consultation event on the structure of fundraising self-regulation in NI in September 2016 in NICVA, the [Fundraising Regulation Working Group](#) was established. Since October it has been meeting and working on developing an options paper outlining the possible options for the fundraising regulation structure in NI as well as additional information and resources on related issues such as the Fundraising Preference Service, The Code of Fundraising Practice, impact of data protection issues and the structures used for fundraising regulation in Scotland and England and Wales.

The Working group is now seeking to engage and consult with the sector in order to make recommendations as to the most appropriate option for NI. The options paper is available online as well as accompanying key articles with related information about fundraising regulation. You can respond to this consultation by completing the online survey, emailing your feedback and attending one of the consultation meetings.

You are encouraged to respond by 4pm on 31 March 2017 and have your say in the future of fundraising self-regulation in NI.

To view the paper and respond, go to; <http://www.nicva.org/article/fundraising-self-regulation-systems-across-the-uk-and-ireland>

Special Focus

Joint Forum Seeks New Sector Representatives

The Joint Forum is comprised of representatives from across government and the voluntary and community sector. It facilitates an open discussion about the relationship between the two sectors. The VCG meets with the membership from government departments three times per year as the Joint Forum. The VCG also meets independently before each Joint Forum meeting.

The Concordat

[The Concordat](#) is an agreement between Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector that lays out the shared vision of working together as social partners to build a participative, peaceful, equitable and inclusive community in Northern Ireland. The current Concordat is available here but is currently being reviewed.

It outlines a twelve point framework that will shape how both parties interact with each other alongside the shared values and principles of the Concordat including;

- ◆ Accountability
- ◆ Equality and Good Relations
- ◆ Active Citizenship
- ◆ Partnership
- ◆ Community
- ◆ Pluralism
- ◆ Democracy
- ◆ Social Justice.

Background

The 1998 Compact between Government and the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland set out the key values and principles that underpin and define the partnership between Government, its Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies (referred to collectively as the 'Government'), and the voluntary and community sector.

The Compact was based upon the mutual recognition of the roles and responsibilities of each partner and its aims are to encourage closer working relationships and build on the voluntary and community sector's experience in areas of mutual interest.

Joint Forum

The Joint Forum was then established in October 1998 for regular dialogue between the voluntary and community sector and Government departments and to enable the Compact to be fully and properly implemented. The voluntary and



community sector members on the Joint Forum represent a wide range of organisations, small and large, urban and rural, geographic and thematic. However, the Compact was a policy of the newly elected direct-rule Labour Government, and whilst it was endorsed by the NI Executive in 2000 the current Executive government does not have, or exercise, any ownership of it.

During an Assembly debate in November 2008 the then Minister for Social Development, Margaret Ritchie MLA, recommended revisiting and strengthening relationship arrangements between Government and the voluntary and community sector and this was also supported by the NI Assembly's Social Development Committee.

For more information on the Joint Forum, please see the [NICVA hub](#) and the [Department for Communities webpage](#).

The role of a VCG member

A member will be expected to attend the Joint Forum three times per year and the VCG meeting prior to each full Joint Forum meeting in order to represent the issues pertinent to their particular sub-sector.

A member will be required to disseminate information about the work of the Joint Forum and VCG within their own sub-sector. A member will also be required to proactively seek input to the forum from their sub-sector, particularly on cross-cutting issues.

Please note the nomination process is open to all members of the voluntary and community sector. The new sector reps will be chosen by a sub group of the NICVA Executive Committee using the criteria attached.

For more information, please see the application pack or contact Jenny McEaney (028 9087 7777 or jenny.mceaney@nicva.org).

Applications close on Friday 7th April, 2017.

Applicants will be notified by Friday 28th April.

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/>

Northern Ireland Benefits Statistics Summary at November 2016 is published

Date published: 22 February 2017

Topics:
[Statistics and research](#)
[Benefits statistics](#)



The Northern Ireland Benefits Statistics Summary, providing an overview of the main DfC administered benefits, was published by the Department for Communities.

Law Centre NI

News from the Law Centre is available on the website; go to, <http://www.lawcentreni.org/news/recent-news.html>



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/>

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 January 2017 edition of inpartnership – the newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives.
<https://www.pcsp.org/sites/pcsp/files/media-files/inpship-Jan-17.PDF>

Events

Chartered Institute of Housing Event

Living in the city: planning, design and services for urban spaces - 26 April 2017, 12.30pm - 15.30pm

This seminar will explore the regeneration of inner-urban areas, affordability of city centre living, and a range of innovative ideas that are providing the best spaces for good quality lifestyles in urban environments.

Confirmed Speakers

Nuala Gallagher: director of city centre development, Belfast City Council
Mark O'Donnell: director - Belfast regeneration, Department for Communities
Greg Lloyd: emeritus professor, Ulster University
Ciarán Fox: director, Royal Society of Ulster Architects

Who should attend

This seminar is suitable for a range of different senior housing sector professionals including the following:

- senior managers in government, councils, Housing Executive, housing associations and the private sector
- housing strategists and policy officers
- representatives from third sector housing organisations
- planning, regeneration and finance professionals academics and consultants

Booking information

Cost: £85 (members) / £95 non-members

Go to; http://www.cih.org/events/display/vpathDCR/templatedata/cih/events/data/northernireland/1817011_living_in_the_city



Northern Ireland Housing Conference 2017

'Delivering effective housing solutions'
Wednesday 22nd March • Titanic Belfast
Limited places available - register now!

Following the collapse of the Assembly and the possibility of direct rule, budgets in Northern Ireland could potentially be cut with serious implications for the housing sector. At 31 March 2016, the social housing waiting list amounted to 37,586 households of which 22,645 were considered to be in housing stress. The Northern Ireland Housing Conference will analyse key issues including the changing role of housing associations, creating a long-term plan for quality housing provision and future opportunities including digital services.

agendaNi

For more info visit:

<http://www.nihousing.agendani.com/>

Key themes for 2017

- ◆ Future housing policy in Northern Ireland
- ◆ Ensuring the supply of affordable housing
- ◆ The uneven impact of welfare reform
- ◆ Better customer engagement: Digitally transforming how you deliver services
- ◆ Design for Mental Health Plan: The importance of integrating health and housing
- ◆ The impact of Universal Credit: How will it work in practice?
- ◆ Advocating for the future of Supporting People
- ◆ Developing housing projects under the new planning system
- ◆ Reclassification of Housing Associations

Preparing for Brexit Seminar:

Three perspectives on leaving the European Union

Thursday 30th March • Baby Grand, Belfast - Inform your strategy!

As the UK sets out its Brexit plan, this focused seminar will examine what a complete break from the single market and customs union will mean for organisations operating in Northern Ireland. Theresa May has stated that the border between NI and the Republic of Ireland will be "frictionless" – but how will this work in practice? Delegates will hear from expert speakers on the important areas that make up Brexit and the potential impact for Northern Ireland organisations. The aim of this event, sponsored by Deloitte, is to inform your strategy and response to the future challenges presented by leaving the EU amidst local political instability.

agendaNi

For more info visit:

<http://www.brexit.agendani.com/>

Key themes:

- ◆ Leaving the European Union: consequences for Northern Ireland
- ◆ The practical aspects of the Customs Union
- ◆ Northern Ireland and the Single Market
- ◆ Single Market and agri-food sector
- ◆ The Norwegian model
- ◆ WTO and the Northern Ireland economy
- ◆ The implications of leaving the Customs Union and the Single Market for business
- ◆ Open forum discussion on Northern Ireland's Futures



'Permaculture and Community Gardening' weekend workshop

Cloughmills Incredible Edible
1st & 2nd April 2017

A two day interactive and hands-on workshop in Cloughmills 'Incredible Edible' community garden. Focusing on using Permaculture to help us design, set up, maintain and manage community gardens that work in synergy with nature -and with human nature! 'No-dig', Perennial, & Nature friendly gardens. The weekend is designed to support those starting or working in or with community based garden and environmental projects.

For more details and booking please visit the eventbrite page:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/permaculture-and-community-gardening-tickets-31433097240?aff=es2>

And the Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/383123665378842/>

And for further enquiries please contact Patrick +447786527732

Cost: Standard fee: £90
Organisation/high wage: £120
Concession: £60 (5 concession places available)

Cost includes lunches made from the garden produce, hot drinks & snacks, and course notes.

ACTIVE FIT & SPORTY

DEVELOPING FUTURE FEMALE LEADERS

WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH PARK AVENUE HOTEL, BELFAST

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Maggie Alphonsi MBE
England Rugby World Cup Winner

Baroness Sue Campbell
Head of Women's FA & Chair of Youth Sport Trust

WORKSHOPS

- Where have all the girls gone?
- Lead the way in funding and partnership working
- You've got Followers
- Fighting gender inequality with a black belt

Cost: £20

BOOK NOW VIA:

www.nisf.net

Department for **Communities**
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

sport
Northern Ireland

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Conference

7th March, Queens University Belfast.

From penalties and rewards to nudges and Behavioural Economics, this event is a must attend for anyone who works with people to achieve a desired behaviour or action.

*****LAST CHANCE TO BOOK*****

The conference is of particular relevance to:

- Change Managers within large or small organisations
- Education or outreach Officers
- Enforcement Officers
- Charity workers

£85+VAT per delegate

Third sector organisations and councils which participate in Live Here Love Here or the Borough Survey Programme qualify for a 15% discount.

Refreshments included, free car parking on-site

Visit our [website](#) for more details or to download an [application form](#)

**KEEP
NORTHERN
IRELAND
BEAUTIFUL**

NICVA & Rural Community Network are offering a one-day course on Crowdfunding in partnership with Crowdfund UK, Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL) and Rural Community Network (RCN).

Anne Strachan from Crowdfund UK is coming to NI on 20 and 21 March to deliver two participative and informative workshops on how we can use Crowdfunding as a way to raise money for the work that we do. Anne has run participative training on crowdfunding across the UK since 2012 in partnership with local networks, councils, social enterprises, business support organisations and universities.

The workshop is participative and consists of presentation, film, and individual and group work activities. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and bring their own experiences and projects into the discussion. The same workshop will be delivered on 20 March in NICVA, Belfast and 21 March RCN, Cookstown from 10.00am-3.30pm.

The session will include:

- Introduction to Crowdfunding
- How Crowdfunding works
- You as the crowd
- Live campaigns
- Planning and running an effective campaign
- Question and answers

About the trainer - Anne Strachan FRSA has been a trainer and fundraiser for over 20 years. She runs innovative training and support for the third sector, creative and business on alternative finance, social investment and crowdfunding.

Since November 2013 she has been working for Manchester City Council to support the third sector in developing and running crowdfunding campaigns.

She is an Associate Partner with BAFI (Business Angels Finance International LLP) to help startups and SMEs raise structured debt or equity finance through crowdfunding. In 2015-16 she was involved in a major pilot programme with Natural England to run a series of crowdfunding campaigns for projects in local nature reserves and has run training for over 2000 people on crowdfunding across the UK.

This training is for those involved in fundraising for their organisation who would like to learn more about this innovative fundraising tool.

The cost of this course has been greatly reduced due to financial support from NIEL's HLF Catalyst Umbrella Programme funded Investing in Northern Ireland's Heritage fundraising capacity building and training programme. Please make the most of this opportunity and book soon, as places will fill fast and we have limited numbers. Cost of the programme is £30.

To book your place click on this link <http://www.nicva.org/event/crowdfunding-cookstown>



Are you 18-24? Looking for work?

Get into Retail with Lidl

13th March – 6th April 2017

Taster/Selection day: 6th/7th March

Placements across Northern Ireland

Meet new people and learn new skills as well as gaining work experience. We'll also help you with your CV. Not only will it boost your confidence and employability, but you'll also have the chance to benefit from the support of one of our mentors to help you uncover your next steps.

- Gain work experience & on the job training in a Lidl store
- Travel expenses paid on programme
- Benefits not affected
- Boost employability skills
- Up to 6 months of support

To join the course or find out more:
Search 'Prince's Trust'
Text 'Call me' to 07983 385 418
Call for free on 0800 842 842
Email: puteachni@princes-trust.org.uk



In partnership with:



The Prince's Trust is offering another Get Into Retail training programme with Lidl, for young people 16-24, unemployed or part-time employed and not on Steps to Success.

They have placements throughout Northern Ireland. Travel is provided throughout the programme with 6 months follow on support from The Prince's Trust.

This 4 week training programme will give young people the skills to work in the retail sector.

The Taster day will be in Belfast on 6/7th March.

If you know of anyone interested please ask them to get in touch or contact them with their details.

You can contact them on 07808039729 or ring their Freephone number 0800842842 for a chat about this or any other programme.

Training

Law Centre Training Course

Introduction to Employment Law

Two Day Training Course, 10 and 13 March 2017

Employment Law in Northern Ireland continues to change at a rapid pace. This course provides an overview of existing and new employment law as it relates to employees. Due to the subject's increased relevance and importance in today's employment market, and in response to comments from past attendees, the course is now run over a two day period to maximise attendee input and participation

Level: Introductory/intermediate

The course is linked to Legal Advice National Occupational Standard IB15 - Employment Legal Advice.

It will count as 10 hours towards CAB, Law Society and Bar Council Continuing Professional Development

VENUE:

3rd Floor, Training Room
Law Centre (NI), 124 Donegall Street
Belfast BT1 2GY

FEES:

Members voluntary £140.00
Non members voluntary £220.00
Members statutory/private £220.00
Non members statutory/private £350.00



Online application forms can be found on our website:
www.lawcentreni.org/training/application-forms.html

Volunteer Now Training News



When Everyone's a Volunteer

Start Date: 9th March 2017, 10:00

A course for volunteer-led organisations or organisations who rely mainly on volunteers to deliver their service.

Volunteer management overview:

- Recruiting and selecting;
- Managing and motivating;
- Governance;
- Volunteers and the law.

The course provide frameworks for groups to consider, clarifies responsibilities in a volunteer environment and focuses on formal practice but with an informal approach.

This course is fully funded through Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and is available for voluntary and community groups in this council area only.

Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis and are limited to a maximum of 2 per organisation. If courses are fully booked, your details will be placed on a waiting list for future courses.

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Location: The Jethro Community Centre, 6 Flush Place, Lurgan, Craigavon, BT66 7DT

Cost: Free

If you have any queries regarding bookings or availability, please contact Julie-Ann Ashe on julie-ann.ashe@volunteernow.co.uk.

For other areas, please view the training calendar by clicking [here](#).

Chartered Institute of Housing Training



Policies and procedures for lawful evictions

This course will help to better inform social landlords about the correct eviction processes and procedures, and ensure they have the knowledge they require when it comes to fairly and lawfully managing evictions.

This course will explore the following issues:

- explain security of tenure & how it might be lost
- know how to deal with issues surrounding mental health, vulnerability, capacity etc.
- examine the preparatory steps necessary before court; the content of NSPs & NTQs & complying with pre action protocols
- highlight the sequence & kinds of questions which might arise in court and examine the powers of the court
- ensure through exercises & practical case studies that delegates have the necessary skills and confidence to be confident in Court.

Who should attend

This course will be extremely beneficial for anyone working in a client-facing housing role, who is seeking to gain a better understanding of best practice policies and procedures when it comes to ensuring lawful evictions. This course will also be extremely beneficial for managers with responsibility for the development of eviction policy and procedures, as it will help to ensure that they are fully compliant with the law.

When: 21 March 2017

Where: CIH Offices, Belfast

Price: £95 (members) / £110 non-members

For terms and conditions, to book a place or for more information on CIH training Courses in NI, go to;
<http://www.cih.org/NorthernIreland>

Funding



Together: Building a United Community - (TBUC)

The Central Good Relations Fund programme 2017/18 is now open for applications.

Successful applicants under the 2017/18 funding programme will be required to deliver projects by 31st March 2018.

Deadline for applications is Monday 20th March 2017 at 2pm

Application Form, Guidance Notes and Frequently Asked Questions can be found at:
<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/together-building-united-community#toc-7>



Entries Open for National Lottery Awards 2017

The Awards are open to authorised representatives of projects that have received Lottery funding at any time since 1994. The main beneficiaries of the project must be based in the UK.

Entries can be made in the following Award categories:

- Best Arts Project
- Best Education Project
- Best Environment Project
- Best Health Project
- Best Heritage Project
- Best Sport Project
- Best Voluntary/Charity Project



The winner in each category will receive a cash prize of £3,000, which can be put towards their project.

Winners will be determined by a public vote and will appear at a BBC One Awards Ceremony.

Entry is free and the deadline is 7 April 2017 (11.59pm).

Please enter here:
<http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards>

Comic Relief seeks applications to its 'Levelling The Field' funding programme

'Levelling the Field' offers funding to organisations working in partnership in the UK, which use the power of sport to empower women and girls to reach their full potential.

The programme offers funding to organisations working in partnership in the UK, and applications are welcome for a minimum of £30,000 and a maximum of £250,000, over a period of between 12 and 36 months.

The deadline for applications is 12noon 16th March 2017.

For further information, including desired outcomes and eligibility criteria, go direct to the Comic Relief website at:
<http://www.comicrelief.com/grants/initiatives/levelling-the-field-uk>

Social Justice Small Grants Programme

The programme is funded by Atlantic Philanthropies as part of its Human Rights legacy fund in Northern Ireland. The aim of the grant is to support local community groups with projects and initiatives that contribute to peacebuilding, tackle the impact of poverty and austerity measures and/or give voice to excluded groups.

Applications must demonstrate that their proposal will contribute to at least one of the following objectives:

- Increase awareness of and contribute to building a culture of rights within and between communities, particularly those most marginalized from decision making
- Support communities and marginalized groups to find solutions to contentious issues
- Strengthen local capacity to advocate by building relationships/connections between communities, policy makers, politicians and funders

Locally based community groups and locally based 'communities of interest' with an interest in promoting or embedding human rights and social justice in their day to day work for and with their chosen communities.

Size of Grant:
Up to a max of £5,000 per annum.

An additional £1k to £1.5k Mentor support will also be provided. It will be a condition of the award that you work with a Mentor in the development of your project and issue(s).

The closing date for application is on 16th March 2017 at 1pm.

For more information, please contact the Grants Team on 028 9024 5927 at the Community Foundation.

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

Minority Ethnic Development Fund – (NI)

The Executive Office is providing grants of between £100 and £75,000 to support voluntary and community organisations working with minority ethnic people and groups. The aim of the Fund is to assist minority ethnic and local community organisations to promote good relations between people of different ethnic backgrounds.

Grants are available in three tiers:

- **Tier One**

Grants of between £100 and £10,000 for one-off events and projects lasting up to one year which will contribute to achieving only two of the programme outcomes.

- **Tier Two**

Grants of between £10,000 and £45,000 for central management, development and administrative costs and to enable organisations to develop and provide services and projects that will contribute to achieving the programme's outcomes and develop self-supporting organisations, which will be in a position to access mainstream funding from government.

- **Tier Three**

Grants of between £45,000 and £75,000 for clear proposals which aim to provide a mentoring role with smaller or less experienced organisations and/or to work collaboratively with others in the sector.

Grants are available for projects lasting up to one year (1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018).

The deadline for applications is 2nd March 2017 (2pm).

For further information, visit -

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/minority-ethnic-development-fund-201718>

Swimathon Foundation Announces 2017 Funding

Swimathon is the world's biggest fundraising swim and the Swimathon Foundation was formed in 2001 to help guarantee the long-term future of the event.

The funding aims to encourage and support UK organisations which increase access to swimming and provide activities aimed at helping individuals and communities enjoy the benefits of swimming throughout their lives.

Organisations including community groups, swimming clubs, senior groups, youth groups, sports clubs, disability charities, scout groups and healthy living groups in the UK are eligible to apply.

Grants of between £300 and £2,500 are available for innovative and sustainable projects which will help more people participate in and enjoy swimming and to make swimming more accessible.

Applicants must demonstrate in their application how the funding will allow them to:

- Introduce people to swimming who would otherwise not swim.
- Increase the frequency that existing swimmers go to the pool.
- Improve the swimming experience for new or existing swimmers.

Applicants must be a representative of, or have the support of a pool participating in Swimathon 2017. **The deadline for applications is 17th March 2017.**

For further information, visit, <https://swimathonfoundation.org/>



Skills and Opportunities Fund - Deadline Extended to 3 March 2017

The Skills and Opportunities Fund offers grants of up to £35,000 to charities, community groups, social enterprises or state-funded schools or colleges with a project or idea that focuses on a disadvantaged community within the UK or Republic of Ireland that help people to develop, create or access the skills and opportunities they need to help themselves; skills that will increase their financial capability, or enable them to get into work or start a business, now or in the future.

The programme has divided the country into seven regions, each with its own decision making board.

Although all regions will be looking to fund projects that enable people to help themselves, each will have differing priorities recognising regional differences.

Projects must meet the priorities set for their region and focus:

- On a disadvantaged community within the UK or Republic of Ireland

- On one or more of the following themes:
 - Enterprise and entrepreneurship
 - Financial capability

The maximum grant is £35,000 or 20% of the applicant's previous year's turnover.

The upper limit of turnover is £10 million.

There is no turnover restriction for schools or colleges.

No more than 25% can be spend on capital costs, which are fixed one-time expense incurred on the purchase of land, building, construction and equipment.

The deadline for applications has been extended from 24 February to 3rd March 2017 (midday).

For further information, visit <http://skillsandopportunitiesfund.rbs.com/apply.html>



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Funding Surgery

In

Kilmacormick
Community Centre
26 Yoan Road,
Kilmacormick, Enniskillen
BT74 6EL

Will be held on
**Thursday
23rd March 2017**
from
10.30 am - 3.00 pm

To register for an appointment contact

Supporting Communities Funding Officer
Roisin on (028) 77740722 or
Email: roisin@supportingcommunities.org

- Practical Advice on completing Successful Funding Applications
- One to One Support, Top Tips and a range of ideas to make sure your application stands out from the crowd
- Funding Enquiry Service; access information on a variety of funders!