



Welcome to Supporting Communities 80th 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.

Impact of welfare changes on rented housing in Northern Ireland

Report by the Chartered Institute of Housing

Impact of welfare changes on rented housing in Northern Ireland recommends realistic and achievable changes to housing and social security for policymakers in Northern Ireland, which could help to make housing more affordable and housing provision more viable in light of future welfare changes - particularly the application of local housing allowance rates to social housing.

The report is published by CIH and is the first output of the CIH welfare changes and housing forum. The forum was launched at the beginning of 2017 to raise awareness of the impact of welfare changes on the housing sector and to inform its implementation. Chaired by CIH Northern Ireland board member and Radius Housing director of communities Eileen Patterson, the forum's membership is drawn from social and private housing organisations, the homelessness sector, academia, and advice services from across Northern Ireland.

The Executive Summary reports;

The benefits system is changing. Over the next three years a number of changes will be introduced that will adversely affect housing affordability for more people living on low incomes in social and private rented accommodation, as well as social housing providers' ability to build new homes and deliver a broad range of services. These changes include:

- benefits for people living in private rented accommodation are frozen at the 2015/16 rate for the four years from April 2016, risking higher levels of rent arrears, legal action, eviction and homelessness
- benefits for people living in social housing are cut from April 2019 creating affordability problems – particularly for under 35s and pensioners – and making new social housing less viable in the following areas:
 1. Omagh and Fermanagh
 2. Craigavon and Dungannon
 3. Banbridge, Newry and Armagh
 4. Coleraine, Portstewart and Ballymoney

- supplementary payments, which fully top-up reductions to benefits under the social sector size criteria (bedroom tax) and benefit cap, end in March 2020 increasing the risk of rent arrears, legal action, eviction and homelessness.

While social security policies in Northern Ireland broadly mirror those of the UK Government, there are practical changes that can be introduced at the local level, including cost neutral changes, which could help to lessen these adverse impacts:

- government in Northern Ireland should undertake a fundamental review of local housing allowance (LHA), incorporating:
 1. research into the potential impact of LHA rates on the number of new social homes built, and affordability for social and privately renting households
 2. an assessment of local broad rental market areas, with recommendations for their revision or reduction in number
 3. an evaluation of the current funding model for social housing in light of LHA rates being applied to social housing
 4. a local equality impact assessment of the change, and
- Northern Ireland Executive should commit to extend bedroom tax and benefits cap mitigation payments beyond March 2020.



The full report is available on the CIH website at: http://www.cih.org/publication-free/display/vpathDCR/templatedata/cih/publication-free/data/NI/Impact_of_welfare_changes_on_rented_housing_in_Northern_Ireland





Do you need Welfare Reform Advice?



Help is available through face to face advice or by telephone from your local Citizens Advice or Advice NI independent advice centre.

Alternatively, call our free independent welfare changes helpline Monday-Friday 9am-5pm on

0808 802 0020

welfarechanges@adviceni.net



Becoming a Super Hero: CommsHero 2017

By Colm McDaid



It was with no small degree of enthusiasm and excited anticipation that I set off for London at the end of May to attend my first [CommsHero](#) event. I was joined by my colleagues [Linda Watson](#), Chair of the Housing Community Network's Central Housing Forum & Vice Chair of Supporting Communities, and [Deirdre Crawford](#), the Housing Executive's Community Cohesion & Involvement Manager, at the Phoenix Community Housing's premises in South London.



I had initially heard about CommsHero from my colleagues in TPAS Scotland, England and Cymru at our most recent bi-annual 'meet up', this time held in Glasgow. Jenny Osbourne, Chief Executive of TPAS England had informed me that she would be chairing the CommsHero event and that I should definitely try and get along and also bring along some tenants and colleagues with me. I knew we were in for a treat after speaking to [Asif Choudry](#), the Sales & Marketing Director of [WeAreResource](#) and creator of CommsHero (via DM on Twitter, of course) as his passion was tangible right from the outset.

I brought the invitation to the attention of the members of the Housing Community Network's Central Housing Forum in April, where they agreed that Linda and Deirdre would attend the event from both a tenant and landlord perspective. In advance of flying over to London, we watched some YouTube videos of previous CommsHero events which led to Linda and I unilaterally deciding to delegate any 'Super Hero' role plays to Deirdre before we even got there! I was glad to know that [Karen Gilmore](#), Director of Corporate Services with Clanmil HA, had been to a previous CommsHero event and had lived to tell the tale!

So off we went to the 10th CommsHero event which was being held in Phoenix Community Housing's Green Man (Community Hub) premises in South London. This made the trip even more appealing as [Phoenix Community Housing](#) is one of four Gateway Model Projects located in England where tenants have the majority of places on the Board of the social landlord. We had already gotten to know [Paul Kelly](#) and [David Yates](#) from the Preston Gateway Model who have been kind enough to come over and speak at several events involving Supporting Communities in Belfast over the past six months.

After arriving early to the venue, we were registered and provided with packs which included notebooks with our own individual names on them. Asif and his WeAreResource colleagues, Mark, Nick & Joel, could not have been more accommodating all day - to say we were treated like royalty would be an understatement! As for the event itself, it was an extremely packed and busy agenda with really compelling and inspirational speakers. The key message that tenants should be

given the confidence to have a voice and to share that voice came across throughout, something Supporting Communities strives to do everyday.

Of course, the added value of an event of this nature is all the networking opportunities that it presents and the 10th CommsHero certainly provided in bucket loads. It was wonderful to meet up with good friends in the form of [Alison Inman](#) (Vice President & soon to be President of CIH recently honoured with an OBE) who provided an excellent presentation on the need for a strong voice in a society "that has too many voices." Alison, who is also on the board of TPAS England, said there was a need for a change in terms defining people by their housing tenure.

"If you ask anyone to define themselves in three words, they won't use their tenure. So society has to stop defining people by theirs."

We also got some expert advice from [Helen Reynolds](#) on how to get tenant voices heard on social media, on the importance of personal brands from [Asif Choudry](#), and from [John Popham](#) on how the best stories come from tenants themselves.

The delegates present also heard from [Sinead Butters](#), current Chair of [PlaceShapers](#), on the importance of tenacity. "If the door is open an inch, kick it wide open!" was the key quote from the day. [Soha Housing](#) told us about their inspiring [#RealPeopleRealLives](#) campaign to tell their tenants' stories and how a second series of films was being produced with very little staff input.

We were delighted to meet with tenants and social landlord tenant participation practitioners from right across England including our friend David Yates from Preston Gateway Housing. It was also really useful to meet with [Jonathan Lawn](#), Head of People & Communications for Phoenix Community Housing, who showed us around their wonderful premises and introduced us to staff across the organisation, including the kitchen staff who showed us how they are involved in working with young tenants and families on how to make meals on a budget.

It would be remiss of me not to thank and congratulate my colleague [Jenny Osbourne](#), from TPAS England, who chaired the event so professionally as she always does. Given the success of this one day, Linda, Deirdre and I left hoping that we can organise a similar event in Northern Ireland next year where we can showcase all the wonderful work that both the Housing Executive and our Housing Associations are involved in delivering to tenants right across the province.

**Roll on the
11th
CommsHero
Event**



Housing and Communities Key Inequalities: Equality Commission NI Statement



The Equality Commission has published a 'Statement on Key Inequalities in Housing and Communities in Northern Ireland', its assessment of inequalities and differences in experiences of housing faced by people from different equality categories.

The Statement draws on a wide range of sources and highlights seven areas where the Commission considers key inequalities persist. These are:

- longer waiting times for Catholic applicants for social housing;
- limited access to appropriate accommodation for Irish Travellers;
- vulnerability to racial attacks of the homes of minority ethnic and migrant groups;
- susceptibility of migrant workers to tied accommodation with poor conditions;
- limits on the opportunity for people with a learning disability to live independently;
- people with disabilities living in homes inadequate for their disability-related needs;
- Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people who can feel harassed and unsafe in their homes and neighbourhoods.

Dr Evelyn Collins, Chief Executive of the Equality Commission, said:

"We acknowledge that progress has been made to improve housing stock and develop access to suitable accommodation across Northern Ireland over the past decades, but there is compelling evidence that work still needs to be done to

address enduring inequalities, which continue to affect people across our community. Ensuring that everyone has access to a sustainable, secure home and enjoys the right to independent living; that the specific housing needs of particular equality groups are addressed; and the development of shared, safe communities are essential building blocks to a successful, flourishing Northern Ireland. As a society we must not ignore inequalities in this crucial area. Unchallenged, they will continue to affect the lives of many people across Northern Ireland and the life chances of future generations. A revised Programme for Government should provide an opportunity to develop actions to address these inequalities. At its heart must be the aim of meeting objective need whilst ensuring equality of opportunity. Of course, we recognise that not all of these issues can be successfully addressed by housing policy changes alone.

"They need a focus from politicians and policymakers across all Government departments and agencies, as well as organisations within the wider community, to prioritise actions and interventions to address these persistent inequalities."

See more at: <http://www.equalityni.org/Footer-Links/News/Delivering-Equality/Housing-and-communities-key-inequalities-Commissionio#sthash.ndZlcss8.dpuf>

Support the Charter for Trees, Woods and People!

As you may be aware, the 6th November 2017, will be the 800th anniversary of the 1217 Charter of the Forest. To mark this important moment in history, the Woodland Trust and partners will launch a new Charter for Trees, Woods and People. The new Tree Charter will recognise, celebrate and protect the right of the UK public to access trees and woods. The Tree Charter will draw its strength from the participation of the people, and they want hundreds of thousands of people across the UK to sign up.

Be a part of this historic moment, support the Tree Charter today. For every signature received, the Woodland Trust will plant a tree!



What you can do to help

1. Sign the Tree Charter! Add your name to the 70,000 who have already pledged their support: <https://sign.treecharter.uk/page/6023/petition/1>
2. Print copies of the Tree Charter signature sheet and share them with your friends, family and co-workers

Please deliver completed signature sheets to:
Northern Ireland Environment Link 89 Loopland Drive Belfast BT6 9DW or
The Woodland Trust 1 Dufferin Avenue Bangor BT20 3BX. Alternatively, you can scan completed signature sheets and e-mail these to connor@nienvironmentlink.org

For more information on the Tree Charter, go to: <https://treecharter.uk/>

Spot the Spam, avoid the Scam

Ian Kelly of NICVA offers this advice

Be aware of the details to look out for in a potentially suspect email and avoid being conned out of your personal details, computer security or your money.

Somewhere between 50 and 90 billion spam emails are being sent on a daily basis and make up approximately 75% of all email traffic (Source: [CommTouch](#)) The most common type of spam these days and the one with the most potential for damage is the phishing email. Phishing is a method used by scammers to attempt to fool you into falling into their trap and handing over your personal details or account information.

Despite valiant efforts being made to filter, junk or block these there is always a risk of a false positive and one or two nefarious emails slipping through the net. Some of these are very obvious and can be easily avoided, unless you really have just recently lost a distant relation in South Africa who just happened to be a Prince looking to leave you his inheritance?? On the other hand there are quite a few very committed con artists who put a lot of effort into creating a quality scamming system with a concerted effort into creating a sometimes indistinguishable replica of a bank email, or will make efforts to find out your organisation structure and create an internal targeted email from a senior staff member.

How to spot one:

- ◆ **The sender address**
Does it differ from the organisation it is reportedly from? (eg. @pay-pal.com ; @e-bay.co.uk ; @hsbcpayments.com)
- ◆ **Check any link before clicking**
Hover your mouse over the link, does it reflect a familiar website address or a false one? Also be wary of any shortened links (bit.ly or tinurl.com etc.) these can connect to any site. (Check links here first: <http://onlinelinkscan.com>)
- ◆ **What is the purpose of the email?**
Does it just happen to be trying to scare you into thinking one of your accounts have been compromised? Click here to check or reset your password etc. This should be ringing alarm bells



- ◆ **Is it from your bank?**
In most cases your bank will never contact you regarding the security of your account or any breaches thereof, by email. They will always contact by phone or letter. If it is a statement notification, check all of the above before clicking anything.
- ◆ **Is it an unusual request?**
Has your Director just asked you to wire some money to his off-shore account? Don't reply, always check this out with the staff member first and make your systems administrator aware, as the actual replying address may differ to what you see.
- ◆ **Spelling or grammatical errors**
This may seem obvious, but a few minor errors in the content should ring alarm bells for further checks.
- ◆ **Check for attachments**
If someone has asked you to check the attached invoice, delivery note or other in the format of a document, zip file or other unknown file type, do not open or save these files. They are also a good indicator that the email is not what it says it is.

What to do if you receive a possible scam email

- Don't click on any links within it.
- Don't open any attachments.
- Don't reply to the sender, you will only validate your address.
- Never give any personal information.
- Report it to whoever looks after your IT system, they can blacklist senders.
- Find out if you have a filtering system in place, if not look into one (see below).

Further Information:

Action Fraud: www.actionfraud.police.uk
Get Safe Online: www.getsafeonline.org
Citizen's Advice: www.citizensadvice.org.uk
MailWasher Free (Desktop based): www.mailwasher.net
SpamFighter (Desktop): www.spamfighter.com
Panda Email Protection (Cloud based): www.pandasecurity.com
Trend Micro Email Security (Cloud): www.trendmicro.com



Stick the kettle on this Summer with Mencap!

Stick the kettle on, grab the traybakes and throw your own Big Tea Party this summer! Help support Mencap's local services to make a difference in the lives of people with a learning disability by gathering round your friends and family and brewing up your own fundraiser.

It is really easy to throw your own tea party. All you need to do is stick the kettle on, invite your guests and ask them to donate to Mencap! When you sign up we will give you everything you need to make your fundraising a success from tips and hints to [invites](#) and [posters](#).

Every penny you raise will help make a difference in the lives of people with a learning disability. You can read some of their stories to see the difference you can make [here](#).



Appointment of a Delivery Agent to deliver a Programme for Women Involved in Community Transformation

The Department for Communities' Voluntary & Community Division wishes to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced organisation (or a consortium) to act as its Delivery Agent for the Programme for Women Involved in Community Transformation.



The tender opportunity can be viewed [here](#). An Information Session for potential applicants will take place on Wednesday 26th July at 2pm at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Belfast.

To register your attendance please email barry.kilpatrick@communities-ni.gov.uk or call 028 9082 9413.

Consultations



Review of Road Safety Strategy

Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

<https://www.nifrs.org/consultation/>

Closing date; 28th July 2017

The Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy to 2020 Annual Statistical Report

Department for Infrastructure

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/user-consultation-northern-ireland-road-safety-strategy-2020-annual-statistical-report>

Closing date; 25th August 2017

Policy and Programme Screenings

Invest NI

<http://www.investni.com/about-us/our-approach/equality-commitment.html>

Closing date; 30th August 2017

Draft Equality Scheme

Community Relations Council

<https://www.community-relations.org.uk/file/400>

Closing date; 8th September 2017

Continuing Healthcare in NI: Introducing a Transparent and Fair System

Department of Health

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/continuing-healthcare-northern-ireland-introducing-transparent-and-fair-system>

Closing date; 15th September 2017

Publications



citizens
advice

Understanding Money Skills - report from Citizens Advice

In their recent report, Understanding Money Skills, Citizens Advice surveyed over 1,000 clients on their money skills. Their clients represent some of the most disadvantages and vulnerable people in society. In their findings, they discovered a range of strengths and weaknesses in people's money skills.

- Most people need support in at least one money skills area (63%) - while a significant minority - 1 in 10 - need help in all money skill areas.
- People primarily need support in being confident about taking action on their money matters (49%), knowing the main information about their money services (42%), as well as acting to stay informed about this (45%).
- Core money skills are where clients do well, in how often they keep track of money (58%) and in their knowledge of controlling spending (58%).

However, high capability doesn't preclude the need for support. There can be notable differences between what people know and how they act. A range of fixed and transient factors play a role in people's money skills, e.g. demographics, related needs and life events. Some people need more help than others, for example because of ill-health or being a renter. Their findings show that services and advice should be tailored to help the vulnerable with their money management.

See more at: https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/Global/Public/Impact/Understanding_money_skills.pdf

NI Environment Link Publications

The most recent NIEL e-bulletin is available on the NIEL website at;
<http://www.mailings.tc/t/r-85C731ACF46D432A2540EF23F30FEDED>

The European Environmental news bulletin is available at;
<http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/cmsfiles/EU-Matters-April-2017.pdf>

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 Arts Partnership



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/>

Scope^{NI}

Available online, including articles such as; Welfare Reform and mitigation, reforming prisons, the Dormant Accounts Scheme and charity fundraising.

Scope can be accessed at;
<http://scopeni.nicva.org/>



Please click the link below to access the June 2017 edition of inpartnership – the newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives.

<https://www.pcsp.org/sites/pcsp/files/media-files/inpartnership-issue-june-2017.pdf>

Community Development & Health Network Cook it! Newsletter

<http://www.cdhn.org/sites/default/files/Summer%20Newsletter%202017.pdf>



Community Development
& Health Network

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.org/publications/publicationdocument.aspx?doc=10624>

Events

Health and Housing 2017

14 & 15 September 2017, La Mon, Belfast
Creating a shared vision for health, housing and social care



Housing plays a central role in offering vulnerable people and those with complex needs the independence that enhances life opportunities. This conference will explore how housing, health and social care can work together to deliver housing and health options for the future, to lessen the pressure on services and deliver positive outcomes. Delegates will leave with strategic and practical solutions which they can apply in their own organisations and communities.

Day one will explore how health, social care and housing can work together to design and deliver better services, which promote positive health outcomes. Bringing together experts from across the three sectors, delegates will have the opportunity to explore a range of options.

Day two will explore ways to listen, understand and respond to people's changing health and housing needs. Delegates will have the opportunity to hear from the experts about sustainable options for the future which will offer people appropriate and secure homes in desirable environments.

Conference sessions will include:

- Creating a shared vision for housing, health & social care
- Place based approaches to care and support
- Homes fit for the future
- Housing options for older people
- Meeting the needs of people who are vulnerable
- A number of interactive masterclasses

Radius
HOUSING

For more information and to book a place, go to; http://www.cih.org/events/display/vpathDCR/templatedata/cih/events/data/northernireland/Health_and_Housing_2017

Autumn Social Innovation Workshops

Do you want to learn more about social innovation? What it is and how you can use it to improve what you do and how you do it? NICVA are running a further round of 11 workshops throughout Northern Ireland in the last quarter of 2017. Simply put, social innovation is finding new and innovative solutions to existing social problems. These solutions can take the form of new products, services, models, markets or processes. Crucially, social innovation seeks not only to resolve the immediate social problem but also enhances society's capacity to act in future.

Now in its second year, this initiative of the Building Change Trust, Social Innovation NI, is a cross-sectoral collaboration of organisations who want to see innovation at the heart of solving social problems in Northern Ireland.

These are:

- The Building Change Trust (overall coordination)
- NICVA (Social Innovation Workshops)
- Work West (Social Innovation Skills Programme – lead)

- Enterprise North West (Social Innovation Skills Programme)
- Innovate NI (Techies in Residence)

The term 'Social Innovation' can be alienating to many people and with these workshops NICVA will hope to demystify the concept showing participants how social innovation is really something anyone can try. You will hear from participants on the first year of the programme, many of whom accessed seed funding to bring their idea and concept to the next stage.

There will also be an opportunity to try out one of the key methods involved in social innovation – Design Thinking – so groups and organisations can see for themselves whether it can help them find new solutions to whatever societal challenges they are passionate about. 'Design thinking' is a creative approach to problem solving that starts with the people you're designing for and ends with new solutions that are tailor made to suit their needs.

For more information and the dates and venues of the workshops, go to; <http://www.nicva.org/article/autumn-social-innovation-workshops>

nicva

Social Enterprise



UnLtd is the leading provider of support to social entrepreneurs in the UK and offers the largest such network in the world. UnLtd resources hundreds of individuals each year through its core Awards programme.



There are currently three awards that you can apply to:

UnLtd GROW IT AWARD – NOW OPEN

£15,000 Cash Award & Support

Expression of Interest deadline: 3rd August 2017

You're a social entrepreneur creating compelling impact and you want to scale.

The Grow It Award is for social entrepreneurs looking to scale their venture providing tailored support, access to workshops and networks, and up to £15,000 cash.

UnLtd DO IT AWARD – NOW OPEN

Up to £5,000 Cash Award and Support

Expression of Interest deadline: 3rd August 2017

Do you have an idea to address a social or environmental issue?

We may be able to help with an UnLtd Do It Award

SPACES FOR CHANGE – OPENING: 3RD JULY 2017

For 16-24 year olds up to £5,000 Cash Award & Support
Spaces for Change (S4C) is a UK wide programme that will find, fund, support and connect young people aged 16-24 to start and run social ventures that unlock the potential of unused or under-utilised spaces for the benefit of the local community, especially other young people.

For further information please contact:
Nuala Smyth, Award Manager UnLtd
Room 112, City East Business Centre
Tel: 028 9094 1619 / 07545 933 816
Email: nualasmyth@unltd.org.uk



Social Enterprise NI

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES SOCIAL ENTERPRISE COURSES

- ◆ Considering starting a Social Enterprise?
- ◆ Having Trouble Accessing University?
- ◆ Just want to learn more about Social Enterprise?

If the answer to any of the questions above is 'Yes', then our suite of courses may well be for you!

You can attend a scheduled course as an individual or book us specifically for your organisation and we will deliver the programme in your local area.

The Following Courses currently have spaces available:

Understanding Social Enterprise Level 2 (6 to 8 weeks, one session per week)

- Understand the purpose and function of a Social enterprise
- Be aware of a range of social enterprises
- Recognise the challenges and opportunities for the development of social enterprises

Venue and Dates: Derry/Londonderry Social Enterprise Hub commencing in September 2017

Developing Social Enterprise Level 3 (12 weeks, one session per week)

- Identifying your Model, Structure and Governance
- Market Research, Market Testing and your Business
- An Introduction to Marketing
- Preparing for your Business Plan
- Finance, Investment and Growth

Venue and Dates: Lisburn and Castlereagh, The Bridge Community Centre commencing in September 2017

For more information, to register for either of these courses or for any other enquiries, please contact:

Stephen Marks Tel: 028 2564 5676 or
Email stephen@supportingcommunities.org

The warmer weather certainly is welcome but it is also a time to take extra care to look out for older neighbours, friends and relatives, particularly those living alone or with serious underlying health conditions. The importance of staying cool and keeping well in hot weather cannot be over-estimated.

Here are some of Age NI's top tips:

- Stay inside during the hottest time of the day
- When inside, try to keep your house cool - close curtains
- Avoid or limit strenuous activities like housework and gardening
- Drink 6-8 glasses of fluid a day, even if you aren't thirsty
- Watch what you eat - try to have more cold foods
- Be careful when eating outside - hot weather causes bacteria to multiply
- Choose the right clothes - light-coloured, loose cotton clothing
- Think about your feet - wear open toe sandals
- Cool off with water - splash your face with cool water



If you, or an older person you know, needs advice or support, please call the **Age NI Advice Team** on freephone **0808 808 7575**.

Housing Rights 2nd Annual Football Tournament

The 5-a-side tournament will take place at the Stormont Pavillion on Saturday 12 August from 11:00-14:00

The 3G pitches will be perfect for players of all standards. It will be £60 per team, with 5 players (and an optional 2 subs).

If you would like to register a team, you can apply online or by emailing claire@housingrights.org.uk.

All funds raised will go towards helping Housing Rights prevent homelessness in Northern Ireland.

Universal Credit-The Housing Impacts

24 August Derry/L'Derry 30 August Belfast 10.00-1.00

Universal Credit will go live in Northern Ireland from 25th September. Its introduction will bring very real challenges for clients, advisers and social housing providers. This essential half day course will be the first in a series of sessions that will ensure you are prepared for all the key housing impacts of Universal Credit as they unfold.

The first session will look at:

- The differences between Housing Benefit and Universal Credit
- Initial payment timelines and the risk of arrears
- Calculating Universal Credit payments
- The removal of housing costs for 18-21 year olds and what it will mean
- The extension of LHA to the social sector and its possible impacts
- Converting Support for Mortgage Interest to a loan for homeowners

Housing Rights

Costs from £48-£110

Email training@housingrights.org.uk to book your place

Heritage Angel Awards - Celebrating the Unsung Angels of Local Heritage



HERITAGE ANGELS AWARDS ROADSHOW – Wednesday 26 July 2017 in Burnavon, Cookstown from 10.30am -12.30pm

The Ulster Architectural Heritage society is delighted to bring the Heritage Angel Awards to Northern Ireland for the first time to celebrate the efforts of local people, either individuals or groups, who have saved historic buildings and places.

The awards which have been running in England and Scotland are funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and the Department for Communities.

The Award Categories are:

- Best Rescue of a Historic Building

- Best Contribution to a Heritage Project by Young People (25 and under)
- Best Craftmanship or Apprentice on a Heritage Rescue or Repair Project
- Best Rescue, Recording or Interpretation of a Historic Place

The Heritage Angels Awards Roadshow has been organised to assist anyone applying or wishing to nominate an individual or group.

To book a space reply to Allison by email or ring 028 8772 8655.

If you would like to apply/nominate others or require further information log on to www.heritageangelawards-ni.or.uk.

Training

Chartered Institute of Housing Training



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

Level 2 Certificate in Housing Practice

Commencing September 2017

The Level 2 Certificate in Housing Practice provides a general introduction to the housing sector, and includes the following 4 mandatory units:

- Housing provision & housing organisations
- Customer care in the housing context
- Careers and opportunities in housing
- Developing skills for working in housing

Who is it for?

- ◆ People who are new to housing or work in a frontline housing role and want to improve their understanding of housing
- ◆ People not currently working in housing but considering working in a frontline housing role.

Level 3 and 4 Certificate Training Courses are also available.

For more information and to register, go to the CIH website at; <http://www.cih.org/qualifications>

Chief Officers 3rd Sector

CO3 offers a range of training programmes and networking events designed to support Chief Officers and Senior Managers to build their leadership development and help create new connections.

Strategic Planning with Roger Courtney

Friday, September 8, 2017 - 09:30 to 16:30

CO3 Offices, 34 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast, BT2 7DB

This one day workshop strategically planned for October, for those of us who will be launching new Strategic Plans in April 2018, will support leaders to develop their strategic and operational planning processes to enable organisations to achieve their potential. It will be led by Roger Courtney who has facilitated hundreds of Third Sector executive teams in developing their strategic plans.

Most Third Sector organisations have a strategic plan these days, but the evidence suggests that in most cases the plans are of little use in guiding the development of the organisation, or helping to make difficult decisions. The process of drawing up the plan, also often leaves many people who will be delivering it less than enthusiastic. This workshop will ensure that your strategic and operational planning processes enable your organisation to achieve its potential. It will be led by Dr Roger Courtney one of the UK's leading writer's on strategy in the Third Sector.

Cost: £99 CO3 Member £130 Non Member

To book contact: Sarah@co3.bz or tel. 028 90245356

For more information on CO3 events and courses, go to; <http://co3.bz/>



Volunteer Now Training

Keeping Children Safe: Designated Officer Training

14th September 2017 - 10.00am—4.00pm

Venue: Ballymena Library, 5 Pats Brae, Ballymena BT43 5AX



This one day certificated training course is suitable for Designated and Deputy Designated Child Protection Officers.

It will cover:

- knowledge of the legal context of child protection;
- an understanding of the role and responsibilities of a Designated Officer;
- knowledge of Health and Social Care Trust structures and processes; and
- exploration of issues and concerns around referrals and sharing information.

All participants must have completed a child protection awareness raising course prior to attending. Keeping Children Safe: Training for Staff and Volunteers or Keeping Children Safe: Training for Managers, Supervisors and Management Committee members are suitable foundation courses.

Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis and are limited to a maximum of five per organisation.

Cost: £75.00 per person

Further information: <http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training-events/view/622>



Action for Warm Homes

Free workshops for community groups

Energy Efficiency in the Home **Getting the most from the energy we use**

NEA is offering to hold a limited number of workshops on energy efficiency in the home for community groups in Northern Ireland

The two hour interactive workshops are focused on making energy efficiency come alive for those who attend

The following topics are included:

- Energy and where we use it
- Energy efficient heating
- Controls on the central heating system
- Energy efficient lighting and appliances
- Keeping the heat where it is needed – reducing heat loss
- Comparing and switching energy suppliers

For further information and for booking please contact Paul Wallace paul.wallace@nea.org.uk Tel 028 9023 9909

The workshops are supported by the NIHE

Funding



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

Reconciliation Fund Opens for Round 2

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 second 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.

Although there are no set minimum or maximum amounts, grants from the first round of 2017 ranged from €1,800 to the exceptional €930,000. Most grants were in the €5,000 to €10,000 range.

The funding is for projects that 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.

These issues are deliberately broad to remain accessible to a wide range of organisations and projects. Projects must contribute to repairing, or building, as a general rule.

The deadline for applications is 19th September 2017 (5pm).

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

GSK Impact Awards

The IMPACT awards from £3000 - £40,000 (+free training) recognise and reward charities doing excellent work to improve people's health. The awards are open to registered charities that are at least three years old, working in a health-related field in the UK, with a total annual income between £80,000 and £2.5 million

The closing date for applications (5pm) 22nd September 2017

For further information visit, <http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/gskimpactawards>

BBC Children in Need - NEW Curiosity Grant Programme

Curiosity is a brand new £2.5m partnership between BBC Children in Need and the Wellcome Trust which will use the power of informal science activities to create change for children and young people experiencing disadvantage in the UK.



We are inviting applications for grants of **up to £10,000** to fund projects that engage children and young people in science based activities. This is **not** about formal education.

Projects should encourage young people to be curious about the world around them and inside them, making a positive difference in their lives: building confidence and self-esteem, developing life skills and expanding horizons.

You do not have to be an expert in science, or even have delivered science activities before to participate, and we encourage organisations who want to try something new to apply.

If you feel inspired by the idea of helping children and young people to understand more about the world around them, visit our [website](#) to find out more about the scheme.

For further information contact siobhan.mckenna@bbc.co.uk / 028 9033 8218

GrantNet Funding Conference: Thursday 14th September 2017 at NICVA's Offices, Belfast.



Free event for all RCN Members

With funding becoming ever more competitive we all need to increase our sustainability through more effective fundraising especially if we want to continue making a real difference to the lives of those we serve.

This is a free event for NICVA and RCN members to help you to get a key funding skill under your belt, i.e. – making successful grant applications.

What will be happening?

The day will start with refreshments at 9.45am followed by 2 very short presentations on the new system of Fundraising Regulation in NI/The Code of Fundraising Practice and Developing a Fundraising Plan.

Participants can then attend one morning and one afternoon workshop where individual funders will take them through what makes a “good” application for them.

The five funding workshops available will be:

- Halifax Foundation for NI (Charities only)
- Big Lottery Fund (Awards for All)
- Big Lottery Fund (People in Communities)
- Trusthouse Charitable Foundation (Charities only)
- Heritage Lottery Fund (Sharing Heritage)

There will also be extended coffee and lunch breaks so that participants can meet other key NI funders including [Community Foundation for NI](#), [BBC Children in Need](#), [Enkalon](#), [Big Lottery Fund](#), [Heritage Lottery Fund](#) and others.

Places are limited to 2 people per organisation (subject to availability) and are made available specifically for NI voluntary and community sector organisations.

To register, please click on this link <http://www.nicva.org/event/grantnet-funding-conference> or ring Conor on 028 8676 6670

Royal Voluntary Service: Sheds Grant Fund

Royal Voluntary Service, with funding from the Asda Foundation, has established a Sheds Grant Fund to provide small scale funding of £250 to £1000 to Sheds (Men's Sheds/Community Sheds) who are looking for help with either set up or early stage development costs.

All applications / projects must address one or more of the Sheds Grant Fund objectives. The objectives are:

- Assisting people in setting up new Sheds.
- Helping people learn new skills and pass on existing ones.
- Increasing opportunities for community spaces where members determine the projects they work on and have a say in how their Shed develops.

- Helping communities tackle social isolation and loneliness amongst their ageing population.

Funding is available to support any of the following;

- ◆ Purchasing new tools or equipment
- ◆ Building renovation costs
- ◆ Revenue costs (e.g. rent/insurance contribution/electricity)
- ◆ Promotional Materials

Round 3 Closing Date for Applications 24th September 2017 (5pm)

For further information visit, <http://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/volunteer/volunteers-leading-the-way>

Co-operative Local Community Fund

The Co-operative Local Community Fund welcomes applications for funding from across the UK as a way of giving back to their millions of members and their communities by providing funding to local causes that their members care about.

Co-op members get 1% of everything they spend on Co-op products to give to a local cause that matters to them. You can now apply to be one of these causes.

To apply to be a Co-op cause you must have a project or event in mind that:

- takes place in the UK or Isle of Man
- doesn't have religious or political aims (although you can still apply if you're a religious organisation)
- meets the Co-op's values
- takes place or will still be running after October 2018
- benefits your local community



Local Community Fund

The Closing Date for applications is on 8th August 2017

For further information visit, <http://www.coop.co.uk/causes>

Mental & Emotional Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention 'Take 5' Steps to wellbeing - Small Grants Scheme 2017-18 (Western, Belfast, Southern and South Eastern areas)

The Public Health Agency (PHA) has identified funding for a small grants scheme to address the themes of Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing, Suicide Prevention and Self-Harm, and have commissioned CLEAR to facilitate this process.

The PHA are keen to fund programmes founded on evidence based practice with a particular focus on those using one or more of the 'Take 5' Steps to Wellbeing. The PHA are inviting community and voluntary sector organisations, through the CLEAR Project, to apply for non-recurring small grants to address the outlined themes.

Two types of awards are available under this scheme:

Award one grants - Up to £1,000 that non-constituted and constituted non-profit taking Community / Voluntary Sector groups can apply for.

Award two grants - Between £1,001 and to a maximum of £5,000 for constituted, non-profit taking Community / Voluntary sector groups.

If you are interested in applying for the small grant go to www.dhcni.com/grants for the following documents:

- Guidance notes
- Application form
- Guidelines for completing application form
- 'Take 5' Step to Wellbeing leaflet
- Snapshot flyer of 2016/17 grants
- News release on small grants

There are also examples of projects from 2015/2016.

Closing date – Monday 31st July 2017 at 3 pm

CLEAR Project, Tel: 028 7138 3386

Email: clear@dhcni.com

For further information visit, www.dhcni.com/clear





Project supported by the PHA

FREE WORKPLACE HEALTH & WELLBEING SUPPORT SERVICE



Want a healthier & happier workforce?



Is your business located within the Southern, South Eastern or Belfast Trust Area?

If yes, your business is eligible for **FREE** health & wellbeing support services.

For more information contact us on
Newry: **028 3025 6482** | Belfast: **028 9002 0044**
Email: workplacehealth@healthmattersni.com
www.healthmattersni.com



Could your organisation benefit from FREE support to improve workplace health and wellbeing? If so, Health Matters are requesting registrations of interest for their PHA funded 'Health Matters at Work' initiative by 31st July 2017 (places are limited).

Please see attached web link for further information and to sign up
<https://healthmattersni.com/courses/health-promotion/>.