

21st August 2017

E-Zine



**Supporting
Communities™**
Empowering Society

Welcome to Supporting Communities 81st Edition of E-Zine, bringing you Best Practice from the Community Sector; Funding and Training Updates and Policy Developments in Northern Ireland, Great Britain and Republic of Ireland.

Supporting Communities pays tribute to a good friend and colleague - John Leathem

It was with great sadness that Supporting Communities learned of the death of our friend and colleague John Leathem of Divis Residents Association and long time member of the Housing Community Network.

John had been a tireless and energetic worker in his community and a champion for the residents in Divis Tower and surrounding area for many years.

John had been ill for a long time, an illness he bore with courage, with humour and a determination not to be laid low, rarely missing meetings and always on hand to respond to the needs of his neighbours and friends.

The housing sector recently recognised his selfless commitment to his community making him the recipient of the 'Housing Hero' Award at the recent Chartered Institute of Housing awards and dinner.

Conor Flanagan, Supporting Communities Operational Services Manager commented;

"It was with great sadness to learn of the sad passing of John Leathem. I had known John for more than 12 years and anyone who knew him could easily see his passion for housing, community development and the rights of the individual."

John was unique, friendly, passionate and was a true gentleman. His work in the Divis area of West Belfast and his contribution to the Housing Community Network at both District and Regional level will be sorely missed by his fellow community reps and by both Housing Executive and Supporting Communities Staff alike.



John is pictured here with Paddy Kelly and Sharon Beattie of the West Belfast Housing Executive Office.

As well as working with myself, Murray Watt, Supporting Communities Liaison Officer also worked with John for many years and he would very much echo these sentiments.

Last year John won the prestigious CIH 'Housing Hero' Award which he greatly deserved and even in his last weeks he was attending and supporting the Housing Executive at the CSE Award event in Housing Centre."

Conor added; "Towards the end of his life, John continued to work to support the residents in his local area as best he could and he kept going when others would have surely stepped back.

A testament to an individual who will be fondly remembered but sadly missed by all who knew him."

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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](#).

Delivering Together and Health and Social Care Transformation



An invitation to contribute to the development of a Strategic Framework for expanding community development approaches to reducing health inequalities. As part of the Health Minister's Vision Health 2026, set out in *Delivering Together*, a Community Development Work Stream was set up to examine how best community development can contribute to the HSC Transformation process.

The purpose of the work stream is to set a clear direction and expand community development approaches to reducing health inequalities in Northern Ireland.

Having now drafted statements of the purpose, principles and outcomes of community development and health, we hope that you, and others working in community development, will help by sharing your expertise to test these and inform the next stages of development.

A series of events has been arranged for each Council area during late Summer and early Autumn to:

- explore how community development is carried out at a local level;
- look at outcomes and the rationale for the vital role that community development can play in reducing health inequalities;
- examine critical success factors, enablers and barriers to creating effective community development outcomes in Northern Ireland.

NICVA Position Paper on Brexit



With the Brexit negotiations now underway, and the 'EU Withdrawal Bill' which will determine how over 12,000 pieces of EU legislation will be transferred into domestic law published on the 13 July, NICVA has been working to gather information about the sector's priorities and concerns about the potential impacts of these processes and to ensure they are represented to policy and decision-makers at all levels.

Following a series of consultations with the sector, NICVA has published its position paper with its key recommendations for the negotiators.

The paper is available at; http://www.nicva.org/article/nicva-position-paper-on-brexit?utm_source=eNews+subscribers&utm_campaign=63fadf46b8-eNews+-+31+July+2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3f6979e667-63fadf46b8-313465361

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/>

What future for civil society in Europe?

The European Network of National Civil Society Associations (ENNA) is asking organisations across Europe to contribute to a major international study for the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on the future of civil society in the EU by year 2030. It will analyse the challenges, trends and various factors, which are likely to affect the development of civil society and its relationships with national and European institutions.



Based on the analysis, it will also examine possible measures and steps, which can be taken to help civil society organisations deal with these challenges. Part of the study is this EU-wide online survey.

It consists of 8 questions, which will take you approximately 5-10 minutes to answer.

[You can access the survey here](#)

Concern Debates 2017 – 18: Volunteer Adjudicators

Concern is looking for volunteer adjudicators to hear the insightful views of today's youth on global issues, by supporting local schools in the [Concern Debates programme 2017-18](#).



All we need are good listeners who can see arguments from both points of view, we offer free training to all our volunteers. Each debate runs for just over an hour and takes place in the evening from Oct - May.

If you would like to volunteer please email debatesni@concern.net or call 028 9026 1524 before end Sept 17.

Social Sector Size Criteria

If you're a Housing Executive or housing association tenant and receive Housing Benefit then since 20 February the rent used to calculate this entitlement may have been reduced because you're considered to be 'under-occupying' your home.

You may not have seen a difference in your payments but your rent statement will show the reduction and a Welfare Supplementary [mitigation] Payment (WSP) to cover this shortfall. However, this financial help is only in place until **March 2020**.

If you are considering moving but do not have 'Management Transfer' status and think you may lose the financial help (WSP) talk to your housing officer. A move does not always mean a loss of WSP.

Universal Credit

This new payment system is for working age (18 + and under State Pension age) people who are on a low income or out of work. It will be introduced gradually across Northern Ireland starting September 2017 in Limavady, reaching Belfast at the end of May 2018.

Find out more on the government's website at:
<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/welfare-changes>

Help with Welfare Changes

If you need advice a helpline is available freephone **0808 802 0020: Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm**. You can arrange a face to face talk with an independent adviser. This service is free for anyone who needs help or advice relating to any changes to the welfare system.

Apply for housing benefit online

You can make an application for housing benefit online at nihe.gov.uk. The online form is quick, easy, will make assessment quicker (provided we get all the information needed) and is available on your smartphone, tablet, PC in your home or where there is free WiFi.

Useful Contacts

- Housing Executive's local office: 03448 920 900 or textphone 18001 03448 920 900
 - Housing Executive's Housing Benefit team: 03448 920 902 or textphone 18001 03448 920 902
 - Citizens Advice: 0800 028 1881
 - Welfare Changes Helpline: 0808 802 0020
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Consultations



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

Special Focus



Street Collections – Police issue reminder regarding Regulations

Denise Copeland, NICVA, writes

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is responsible for granting permits for charity street collections and as such, have issued the following guidance to assist charities when conducting street collections.

A charitable organisation must apply for a street collection permit prior to conducting any collection on the street. Charities are provided with a copy of Regulations governing Collections in Street and Public Places when they are granted a permit to carry out a street collection.

Through engagement with the public and a number of charitable bodies, PSNI have become aware of a lack of understanding or confusion around some of the regulations governing street and public place collections.

The following aspects have been highlighted as causing concern from members of the public:

Use of Roundabouts/Roadways for Collections

There has been a significant increase in the number of charities that are collecting on main arterial routes and in particular at roundabouts. In some cases this has created difficulties for emergency services such as ambulance and Northern Ireland Fire Service responding to calls. Ultimately this has the potential for fatal consequences. Collectors are not permitted to collect at roundabouts.

The regulations clearly state that:

“No such collection or sale shall be made in any part of the carriageway of any street; nor shall any collection or sale be made on the footway or in any public place to the obstruction or annoyance of any person in such street or public place”.

Collecting in Buckets

There has been a steady increase in the number of charities that are using open buckets for collecting and this is not permitted. This also partly relates to point 1 above, where collections have taken place on main roads

and at roundabouts leading to tailbacks etc. This has resulted in a number of complaints, especially from elderly people, who felt intimidated by collectors shaking buckets at their car window.

The regulations are very clear in this regard:

“Every collector or vendor shall carry and present to all contributors or purchasers for the reception of money contributions, a box or other receptacle numbered and securely closed and sealed in such a way as to prevent the same being opened or the money extracted without such seal being broken, and into his box or other receptacle all money received shall be immediately placed. All such boxes or receptacles shall be numbered consecutively. Every collector or vendor shall deliver his boxes or other receptacles with the seals unbroken to one of the persons responsible for the proper application of the money received”.

Submitting Accounts within two months after the date of collection

There is a requirement that within two months after the date of collection the Charity, or whoever has to submit their accounts and other supporting documentation, shall forward these to the Police Station that issued the permit.

These include the form showing in detail the amount received and the expenses incurred in connection with such sale and the relevant press cuttings.

PSNI are very keen to work with all those involved in street collections however a failure to comply with the regulations will be taken into account on any applications submitted by these organisations in the future.

If you would like more information on charity collections, please see [NICVA's advice note on collections](#)

Publications



JRF highlights sharp increase in poverty, evictions and forced moves

Over 40,000 tenants were evicted from their homes across England and Wales by landlords in 2015; an increase of a third since 2003 and the highest level recorded, according to the latest available figures in [research conducted by Joseph Rowntree Foundation \(JRF\)](#).

A new report, published this month by JRF - '[Poverty, evictions and forced moves](#)', explores this rapid increase in evictions in England and Wales over the last 12 years, querying whether tenants felt forced to move from their homes due to

- ◆ problems of affordability,
- ◆ the condition of the property, or
- ◆ disputes with their landlord.

JRF highlights that the increase in repossessions in recent years has been almost entirely due to the increasing use of 'no fault' evictions, whereby landlords are able to evict a private tenant after the end of the fixed term without giving a reason, and without any wrongdoing on the part of the tenant. Crucially, the report also highlights that the number of tenants evicted by private landlords exceeded the number evicted by social landlords for the first time in 2014.

Benefit rates are not keeping pace with rental increases

JRF identifies that tenants on low incomes receive benefits that often do not pay market rents, leaving them to pay significant monthly shortfalls between housing benefit and rent costs. This ultimately leads to affordability issues which in turn lead to eviction or a

tenancy not being renewed. Housing benefit is, therefore, no longer a safety net for low income households in many parts of the country.

Importantly, JRF states that the cumulative impact of freezing Local Housing Allowance (LHA) or permitting only below-inflation increases has meant that the LHA now sits significantly below the 30th percentile of market rents, meaning that tenants in receipt of housing benefit are either squeezed into the bottom end of the market or are forced to make up the difference from other income. Noting that this can leave tenants unable to afford homes in the private rented sector, and with limited options if evicted, JRF calls on the government to end the freezing of local housing allowance rates and to uprate housing benefit in line with local rents.

Time to lift the freeze on housing benefit?

Commenting on the report, chief executive of JRF Campbell Robb said -

"These stark figures and harrowing stories show the struggle people on low incomes face in the private rented sector. Facing higher rents, a benefits freeze and impossible choices about what bills to pay, evictions have reached record levels and put families under enormous strain. Tenants told us about the misery and insecurity they face. The government has made welcome moves to offer renters more protection. But it is intolerable that over 100 families a day are losing their homes. The government must act now and take immediate action on housing costs. This means lifting the freeze on housing benefit."

Northern Ireland Housing Bulletin January – March 2017, Publication Released

The Bulletin and previous editions can be found on the Analytical Services Unit website, at the link below <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/housing-statistics>
The next edition of the bulletin will be available October/November 2017.



NI Environment Link Publications

The most recent NIEL e-bulletin is available on the NIEL website at; <http://www.mailings.tc/t/r-7F142DE830987A3C2540EF23F30FEDED>

The European Environmental news bulletin is available at;

<http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/cmsfiles/EU-Matters-May-2017.docx.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 Development & Health Network Newsletter

The latest update is available at; <http://mailchi.mp/f1126755e86a/cdhn-news-events?e=09b1f9112e>



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/default.aspx>



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; Northern Irelands ecological disaster and Volunteering Survey by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport in London

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>

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 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

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.

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



Social Enterprise



NatWest SE100 Social Business Club Insight event and Social Enterprise NI



Social Enterprise NI



Supporting
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This event is designed to give you practical insights into how to strengthen your organisation, as well as to help you network with like-minded businesses, consultancy experts and local policy makers. We have put together a fantastic set of talks and workshops including:

- **Getting a Grip on Social Impact** – understanding social value, and not getting in a pickle with it
- **Money Talks** - managing your business finances, planning for investment, and reaching new markets
- **Building a Brilliant Board** - when to have one, getting the right mix, and working with corporates.
- **Winning New Business 101** - an exploration into different revenue making opportunities for social enterprises from bid writing and going to tender to trading and direct sales, and thinking about business innovation strategies.

For more information and to register follow this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/natwest-se100-social-business-club-insight-event-social-enterprise-ni-tickets-36542207727>



Digital Marketing & Branding Workshop - Belfast

Wednesday, 6 September 2017 9:45am - 1:00pm

Defining a branding and digital marketing strategy is key for developing and growing your social venture.

This workshop provides you with the opportunity to learn from those in the know!

For more information and to register follow this link:
<http://events.unltd.org.uk/event/2017096-marketing-branding-workshop-belfast-6th-september-2017>

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 specifically for your organisation and we will deliver the programme in your local area.

For more details please contact Stephen Marks on 02825 645676 or by email; stephen@supportingcommunities.org

The Following Courses currently have spaces available:

Derry/Londonderry- Understanding Social Enterprise Level 2
(6 weeks, one session every Wednesday per week)

Venue and Dates: Derry/Londonderry Social Enterprise Hub commencing **Wednesday 6th September 2017** at 10.30am - 2.30pm

Newry - Understanding Social Enterprise Level 2
(6 weeks, one session every Friday per week)

Venue and Dates: SPACE commencing **Friday 13th October 2017** at 11.00am - 2.00pm

Lisburn - Developing Social Enterprise Level 3 (NEW)
(12 weeks, one session every Tuesday per week)

Venue and Dates: Lisburn and Castlereagh, The Bridge Community Centre commencing **Tuesday 12th September 2017** at 7pm - 9.30pm

To Register for a course or to find out more information please contact Stephen Marks on 02825 645676 or by email; stephen@supportingcommunities.org.

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

Charity Commission Annual Public Meeting

Date & Time: Monday, 18 September 2017 at 2.00pm

Venue: Malone House, Belfast

The meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to find out more about the role and work of the Commission, ask questions and share views on charity regulation, as well as meet Northern Ireland's Charity Commissioners. Keynote speaker: Joe Saxton, nfpSynergy



For more information and to book a place, go to;

<http://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk/news/annual-public-meeting-details-announced/>

MELA BRINGS THE WORLD TO BELFAST

A new decade of multicultural magic was ushered in at the MAC as the programme for the eleventh Belfast Mela was launched amidst a whirl of internationally-flavoured creativity. The preview performance set the scene for the global entertainment and atmosphere which will bring with it a cultural wealth of nations to Belfast's Botanic Gardens on Sunday 27 August.

Delivering Northern Ireland's largest annual celebration of diversity is the multi award winning arts organisation, ArtsEkta. Looking forward to welcoming thousands of people the Founder and Executive Director Nisha Tandon says the event has never been more important to the city and region it serves. She says, "*The Belfast Mela – the name originates from the Sanskrit word meaning 'to meet' – is a celebration of our continuing journey to become a truly shared and cosmopolitan society where communities come together harmoniously and with mutual respect. With recent events at home, and across the world, the significance of this has never been more important. As a society we should continue to forge new friendships, increase understanding of others and*

find strength in our community spirit. Those are serious and important concepts, but diversity is of course a cause for

celebration. Belfast Mela combines craic, camaraderie and culture from around the world with a wonderful spirit of exuberance and, over the last decade, Belfast has truly taken the event to its heart. This year we're looking forward to a people's party in the park which will show the world just how far the city has come."



Peter Osborne, Chair of the Community Relations Council, added, "*Few other Festivals, anywhere, are as potent in symbolising how far a society has come. Few other Festivals, if any, contribute more to a genuinely intercultural future in a region plagued in the past by intolerance of diversity. Few Festivals are as powerful and enriching. The Belfast Mela represents the forward-thinking future of 21st Century Northern Ireland."*

For bookings and full details of the world class line up at Belfast Mela 2017 visit www.belfastmela.org.uk

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:

1. Halifax Foundation for NI (Charities only)
2. Big Lottery Fund (Awards for All)
3. Big Lottery Fund (People in Communities)
4. Trusthouse Charitable Foundation (Charities only)
5. 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

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>

CIH Level 5 Diploma in Housing

Want to take your career to the next level? Then sign up now for the CIH Level 5 Diploma in Housing. Here's why we think it's a good idea:

- The flexibility of e-learning as part of the blended learning programme means you can fit your study around your other commitments
- An induction period allows you to settle in and get to know your tutor and fellow learners
- You will be allocated an academic tutor who will offer you support throughout your course via email and telephone on request
- Assessment and feedback through coursework
- No examinations
- CIH membership is included in the cost of study for the duration of your course. This allows you to use the letters CIHM after your name

With of our blended learning programme, running in Belfast, you'll study through a mix of online learning and face-to-face study.

You'll cover five key housing topics, including professionalism and ethics, leadership and management, strategic and business planning alongside the context of housing and maintaining relationships.

Cost: £2,778

Duration: 11 months, delivered through a combination of online learning and five face-to-face study days plus an induction

Interested? go to; http://www.cih.org/training/display/vpathDCR/templatedata/cih/training/data/NI/Level_5_diploma_in_housing

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>

University of Ulster Business School Third Sector Leaders Programme



Third Sector Leaders today are facing unprecedented challenges and more than ever, need professional development and support.

There are considerable opportunities and challenges presented by the significant transformation in the sector's shape, its role and its relationship with the state. However, for many the focus has had to be on organisational survival and resilience.

The Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) in Executive Leadership for the Third Sector has been developed to extend knowledge and perspectives of leadership in a way that acknowledges the uniqueness of the sector.

For more information on the course, including the fees, contact;

Steve Pollard

Email sf.pollard@ulster.ac.uk

Mobile 0044 (0) 7710 717161

Tel 0044 (0) 2890 366572

Graduate Trainee Position



The NI Housing Executive have a current vacancy for a Graduate Trainee job - click on link below:

<https://nihe.erecruit.co.uk/erecruit/job/details.do;jsessionid=C301C55DDEB4146CAA4C54BE7DD26ADB?jobId=1021>

Funding



Energy for Generations Fund - ESB Group

The ESB has a fund for projects that focus on Suicide Prevention, Homelessness, and Education Access and Support. In order to apply to ESB'S Energy for Generations Fund, projects must meet the following criteria:

The project must operate in one of the following areas:

Suicide Prevention

- ◆ We will fund services and projects working to promote positive mental health and to build capacity, skills and training to make effective suicide prevention interventions.
- ◆ We have a particular interest in funding programmes with a focus on youth suicide and positive mental health promotion for young people

Homelessness

- ◆ We will fund services and projects benefiting homeless people and those at risk of homelessness.

Educational Access and Support

Proposals are invited from the following:

- ◆ Early years and early primary school projects focusing on literacy and numeracy;
- ◆ Secondary level proposals promoting science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM);
- ◆ Adult education return-to-education programmes aimed at those long-term out of work.

The deadline for applications is the 4th September 2017

For information, please click on the link below.

<https://www.esb.ie/acting-responsibly/community-stem-and-the-arts/esb-corporate-responsibility>

Spaces for Change – 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.



Awards will be available for young leaders consisting of up to £5,000 project funding, a dedicated award manager providing tailored support, cohort support, and peer to peer networking opportunities for sharing knowledge and learning.

Young people aged 18 – 24 will also have the opportunity to crowd fund alongside their award with support from **Spacehive**.

This will enable the young person to demonstrate tangible support from the local community for their idea, learn valuable skills, as well as increasing the chances of sustainability of the social venture.

To apply for a Spaces 4 Change please go to

<http://youngunltd.org.uk/looking-for-support/spaces-4-change/> and complete an Expression of Interest.

The closing date for expression of interest is 30th October 2017.

For further information please contact:

Nuala Smyth, Award Manager - 028 9094 1619 / 07545 933 816

Email: nualasmyth@unltd.org.uk

Comic Relief Launch New Active Ageing Grants Programme (UK)



The new Active Ageing: Creating Change in Communities initiative is providing £1.5 million of funding in order to engage older people aged 65 and over from 'harder to reach' groups to get involved in opportunities which use their skills, knowledge and experience to contribute to their communities.

Grants of between £40,000 and £80,000 to support projects, initiatives and activities which primarily focus on benefitting older people, specifically those older people who do not usually participate in volunteering or social activities because they are from a disadvantaged community, or face barriers to participation.

Comic Relief is also interested in supporting activities which will have a wider benefit for the community in which they are taking place.

To be eligible for funding, projects should:

- ◆ Meet at least one of the following outcomes:
 - Older people improve their mental health and wellbeing.
 - Older people increase the quality and quantity of their social connections.
 - Older people develop an enhanced sense of purpose and empowerment.

- ◆ Provide creative, fresh approaches to engage beneficiaries in social action activities which bring people together and help to improve their lives and solve problems that are important to their communities. This may include activities around campaigning and fundraising as well as volunteering, all of which can create a double benefit for communities and the older person themselves. For the activities to have positive benefits for the older people involved, they should:
 - Provide meaningful roles with opportunities for social interaction and leadership.
 - Ensure that older people are recognised and valued for their contribution.
- ◆ Make older people feel valued and enable them to be creative and productive. To do this, activities might focus wholly on older people, or use a broader community or intergenerational approach. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they really understand the needs of their community, the role that older people can play in catalysing social change and make the case that they can deliver.

The deadline for applications is 29th August 2017 (midday).

For further information visit <https://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-grants/open-grants-initiatives/active-ageing>

The Wesleyan Foundation Small Grants Fund

The Wesleyan Foundation was established in 2017 to support various good causes throughout the UK. The Wesleyan Foundation aims to help; Community Groups and Organisations based within the regions covered by the Wesleyan Assurance network.

Grants will be considered from charities and constituted community groups that focus on:

- Health – promoting health and wellbeing
- Social – provide local solutions to meet local needs, promote community cohesion and develop sustainable & supportive communities
- Education – educational charities or projects (see exclusions)

Grants can be made for a wide range of purposes. The maximum grant available is £2,000 and should be completed within one year.

The Fund will be managed on behalf of the Wesleyan Foundation by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

For further information, please visit www.communityfoundationni.org

Community Foundation for NI have launched a NI Brexit Dialogue Fund

Helping Community organisations listen, think, plan and lobby as they deal with the approaching Brexit. The purpose of the Fund is to allow community organisations the scope to have engaged conversations, to action plan and explore other options.

Grants of between £1,000-£10,000 are available, the fund will close on 1st September 2017 at 1pm.

For further information, please visit www.communityfoundationni.org

Peter Harrison Foundation - Grants Opportunities through Sport Programme

Grants are available to charities within the UK running sports projects which provide opportunities for people who are disabled or otherwise disadvantaged to fulfil their potential and develop personal and life skills.

Registered charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) in the UK are eligible to apply.

Local branches of national charities may apply, but they must have a separate legal constitution or the endorsement of their national Head Office. Grants are usually made for capital projects.

Consideration will be given for revenue funding for a new project or if funding is key to the continuing success or survival of an established project.



The Trustees welcome applications for the following types of project:

- Projects which provide a focus for skills development and confidence building through the medium of sport.
- Projects that have a strong training and/or educational theme within the sporting activity.
- Projects that provide sporting equipment or facilities for disabled or disadvantaged people.
- Projects with a high degree of community involvement.
- Projects that help to engage children or young people at risk of crime, truancy or addiction.

For further information visit

<http://www.peterharrisonfoundation.org/grant-programme/eligibility>

Heart Research UK and SUBWAY® Healthy Heart Grants



HRUK and SUBWAY® Healthy Heart Grants of up to £10,000 are available for new, original and innovative projects that actively promote Heart Health and help to prevent, or reduce, the risk of heart disease in specific groups or communities.

The grants are as a result of the partnership between the two organisations and in store regional fundraising by SUBWAY® stores. Funding is available for innovative projects designed to promote heart health and to prevent or reduce the risks of heart disease in specific groups, or communities.

Grants are available to not-for-profit organisations, from small voluntary or grass-root development groups right through to charitable arms of sporting organisations.

The deadline for applications is 29th September 2017

For further information visit, <https://heartresearch.org.uk/community-grants/hruk-and-subway%C2%AE-healthy-heart-grant-alert-sign>

Micro Grant Programme

The Micro Grant Programme has been established in recognition and celebration of the contribution of voluntary groups and people to our society and the need for a simple application process for small amounts of funding.

If you're thinking about a project that does one or more of the following we might be able to help.

- ◆ Reduce isolation and vulnerability
- ◆ Focus on the positive contribution of people within the community
- ◆ Enable active participation of a community in decision-making and addressing of local issues
- ◆ Help get people engaged in taking community action where it hasn't happened before

The fund is open for applications on a rolling call basis, subject to fund availability.

For further information, please visit www.communityfoundationni.org



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/>



BBC Children in Need is hosting a funding information session in Belfast to explain our current funding opportunities and to give you a chance to talk specifically about your project to one of our staff.

Right now BBC Children in Need is funding over 200 projects in towns and villages all over Northern Ireland with grants totalling over £9.9m. These are projects working with children and young people who need a bit of support in order to get the best out of life. They may be sick or living in poverty; they may have been abused or neglected or have a disability or be dealing with other challenges that the groups we fund can help them to overcome.

This year because of the generosity of everyone who donates to the charity, **over £3.5 million** will be spent on projects working with disadvantaged children and young people here in Northern Ireland.

Date: 12th September

Time: 10.30am

Venue: Skainos, 239 Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1AF

If you would like to attend the funding information session in **Belfast** please get in touch with Siobhán McKenna – Siobhan.McKenna@bbc.co.uk / 028 9033 8221

GSK Impact Awards

The IMPACT awards from £3,000 - £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>
