

11th September 2017

E-Zine



**Supporting™
Communities**
Empowering Society

Welcome to Supporting Communities 82nd 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.

Join a strong unified voice for older people



Aged over 50 and have an interest in making your voice heard on the issues that matter to you? Age Sector Platform represents a strong unified voice for older people in Northern Ireland and is the charity responsible for the Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament.

A membership organisation, Age Sector Platform's group members include senior citizens' forums, older people's networks and trade union retired member groups that represent approximately 200,000 older people across the province. Individual membership also means that any older person with an interest in campaigning or lobbying can get involved.

"This is grey power – not threatening, but being real and saying what older people want for their old age."

Age Sector Platform member

The Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament was launched in 2011 and allows older people from across Northern Ireland to have their say on the issues that matter to them. Since its establishment, the parliament has engaged with thousands of older people across Northern Ireland through its events and research. Some of the issues the parliament has examined and campaigned on in the past have included the cost of living, fear of crime, access to health and social care, transport and age discrimination.

Campaigns have targeted both Stormont and Westminster Governments, with Ministers and elected representatives being held to account on issues affecting older people.

"I've just become a pensioner and haven't joined any groups, but I think the Pensioners Parliament is brilliant. The more of us that become involved, the louder our voice will be, and then we will have influence."

Participant in NI Pensioners Parliament

The Pensioners Parliament Research Panel gives you the chance to use your spare time to voice your opinion on older people's issues – through online surveys, consultations and focus groups. The panel is open to anyone, Age Sector Platform members and non-members alike; and you can get as involved as you wish.

To join the research panel, you must simply live in Northern Ireland, be aged 50 or over and have an interest in expressing your views on issues of relevance to older people.

Find out more about Age Sector Platform and the Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament by visiting www.agesectorplatform.org or phone 028 9031 2089.



Speaker of the NI Assembly, Robin Newton MBE MLA with Michael Monaghan, Chair of the NI Pensioners Parliament, Eamonn Donaghy, CEO of Age Sector Platform and Anne Watson, Chair of Age Sector Platform

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Knowing Your Rural Social Value Project



Thanks to funding from the Halifax Foundation, RCN is about to begin a 12 month Pilot project helping Rural Groups to measure the wider economic, social and environmental outcomes of the work that they do in their local areas.

Rural Community Network is looking for Rural Groups to Volunteer to be a part of a project which will assist 6 individual organisations to measure the impact of their work via a number of support structures, namely:

- a facilitated support group that will meet quarterly,
- regular one-to-one mentoring from RCN staff to assist groups in capturing essential information about the impact of their work within their local areas,
- providing 12 months access to the “Social Value Engine”, an online toolkit to help groups carry out this work within their own setting.

- a final report outlining the effectiveness of the work of your organisation within the local community

The Social Value Engine has been developed by Rose Regeneration and East Riding of Yorkshire Council over the last 5 years and has been piloted by 25+ public bodies and voluntary & community sector organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It provides a systemised and academically robust assessment of social value, in monetary terms, that groups can use to forecast, plan and evaluate their activities, as well as providing a description of how the work being undertaken by the group illustrates value for money.

It also allows the groups to measure the impact of their work themselves and within their own group without the need of external assistance and thereby saving costs. This is the part that excites RCN most.

You can find out more about the Social Value Engine by visiting their website <http://socialvalueengine.com/>

Not only will groups get access to the Social Value Engine. They will take part in Quarterly Project Meetings to discuss effective ways of measuring the effectiveness of their work (travel costs included), receive up to 10 hours mentoring support by RCN staff around measuring the effectiveness of their work, and will receive an individualised report on the impact of their work at the end of the project that they can use to promote and highlight their work as well as accompany any future funding applications. If your organisation is interested in being one of these 6 groups, you are invited to submit an Expression of Interest to participate. To receive this and find out more about the project, give Conor a ring on 028 8676 6670 or email conor@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

Community Development and Health Network Launch of Impact Report and New Logo for the BCPP Programme



Pictured l-r Michael Cooper, Coopers Pharmacy; Fionnuala McCaughley, West Belfast Parkinsons Group; Kathy Martin, BCPP; Jude Austin, CPNI; Tracy McAlorum, HSCB; Kathryn Turner, HSCB

The Community Development and Health Network (CDHN) are delighted to launch their new Impact Report and Card for the Building the Community-Pharmacy Partnership (BCPP) programme, both branded with their newly designed logo.

BCPP has a proven track record demonstrating improvements in health, positive changes in how people use pharmacy and better relationships between pharmacists and communities. After participating in BCPP, 81% of participants felt more in control of their health and 93% of pharmacists agreed they are making better use of their skills.

Kathy Martin, Strategic Impact Manager at CDHN said, *“There are hundreds of BCPP projects each with individual stories of change at a local level. The Impact Card and Impact Report give us an opportunity to collate and aggregate our evaluation data and demonstrate the impact that BCPP has at a population level.”*

Michael Cooper from Cooper’s Pharmacy in Andersonstown hosted the launch. Michael has recently been awarded a BCPP grant to work in partnership with the West Belfast Parkinson’s Group, represented by Fionnuala McCaughley. Speaking about the launch Michael said, *“BCPP is an invaluable resource to help empower community-led health promotion. The approach is a proven mechanism to deliver localised improvements in health outcomes. We are delighted to be involved with the programme.”*

Kathryn Turner, Pharmacy Lead said, *“The HSCB is delighted to be part of this very successful programme. BCPP has enabled community groups and community pharmacists to work together and build partnerships to deliver health & wellbeing improvements within their local communities.”*

Kathryn Turner and Tracy McAlorum represented the HSCB who fund the programme and Jude Austin from Community Pharmacy NI (CPNI) attended to show support for the programme.

Live Here Love Here Coast Care Awards 2017

In June, Live Here Love Here joined forces with different businesses, community and



COAST CARE AWARDS

sports groups throughout Northern Ireland for Coca-Cola Clean Coasts Week. The team took part in different events to raise awareness and have a bit of fun, all while combating litter! To celebrate these fantastic events and the 10th anniversary of the Coca-Cola Coast Care Awards, Live Here Love Here are calling for you to nominate your Coastal and Inland Waterway Champion!

Live Here Love Here wants to celebrate the success of volunteers who work throughout the year, striving to tackle marine litter and going the extra mile to ensure our waterways are clean and safe for us to enjoy. So, if you know a group or individual who is so inspiring they deserve to be recognised for their contribution to protecting their waterways then submit your nomination.

In addition, there is also a Picture Perfect Award which showcases the fun you can have in our beautiful coastal and inland waterway locations; so get snapping! It's FREE and EASY to enter, simply say in 250 words about your Coast Care Hero and they could be in with a chance of winning one of our impressive awards. There is even a category for you to nominate a business who goes beyond the workplace, actively cleaning up our waterways.

You can download an entry form at; <http://www.liveherelovehere.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=9>

For more information go to www.liveherelovehere.org or call Nicola on 02890736920 or email nicola.fitzsimons@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org.

Send it in before 12noon on Monday 18th September 2017 so your group doesn't miss out!

NI Pensioners Parliament Survey: Scams

The Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament has launched a survey seeking views from older people on their experiences of responding to and avoiding scams. <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3763969/a794588901f6>

Scams are when criminals use lies and deceit to fool you into parting with your cash. You usually get nothing in return and lose your money.

The Parliament wants to know:

- Your experience of scams
- How easy you find it to spot a scam
- How proactive you are in avoiding scams



The survey should take 5 - 10 minutes to complete, and responses should be submitted by Sunday 24th September. Just click on the link above to access the survey.

For more information contact: Eleanor Mallon, 028 9031 2089, Age Sector Platform www.agesectorplatform.org

We need your help!

Co-operative Alternatives is carrying out a survey into opinions and awareness of co-operatives in Northern Ireland –it would be helpful if you could take five minutes to fill it in.



CO-OPERATIVE alternatives

Everything you need to know about co-ops and community shares.

Your opinion is important to us!

We are looking at the current understanding of co-ops in order to help inform future discussions on this model and to bridge any gaps in knowledge. Whether you know a little or a lot about co-ops we would love to know your opinions

[TAKE THE SURVEY NOW](#)

Consultations



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

Boundary Commission for NI 2018 Review: Secondary Consultation

The Commission is currently carrying out the 2018 Review of Parliamentary constituencies and is now entering a secondary consultation period. The responses received during the Commission's initial consultation period are the subject of this secondary consultation.

The consultation will open on 5 Sep 2017. Please visit the [Boundary Commission website](#) on or after this date to give your views.

Agent prosecuted for issuing 'licence' agreements to tenants

Etain Ní Fhearghail of Housing Rights explains the case and its implications for private tenants in England and Wales and the likely impact on the sector Northern Ireland

Tenancy legislation provides people with vital protection against homelessness, by legislating against harassment and unlawful eviction and ensuring that certain rights are enshrined in law.

Some agents have tried to circumvent these protections by issuing tenants with "licence agreements", which purport to diminish the tenant's legal status. [A London council has successfully prosecuted one such agent using consumer protection legislation.](#)

In this case, a letting agent had issued 'licence' agreements to tenants in a house share, despite the fact that the facts of each arrangement satisfied the tests to establish a tenancy, as per *Street v Mountford*, [1985] UKHL 4, [1985] AC 809, [1985] 2 WLR 877.

Over the years, case law has established that a tenancy will exist if certain conditions have been satisfied. The tenant must have exclusive occupation of defined premises, there must be some form of consideration paid by and to defined parties for this occupation and the occupation must be granted for a defined period of time, usually denoted by the frequency of payments. In *Street v Mountford*, the court also held that a tenancy could not be created in limited, exceptional circumstances, such as in an act of charity.

Agent ordered to pay over £20K in fines for breach of consumer protection legislation

The tenants in question originally complained to Islington Council because the landlord refused to return their tenancy deposits. On investigating this issue, the council became aware of the "licence" agreements. Islington Council's Trading Standards division began an investigation, which resulted in a successful prosecution and in the agent being ordered to pay significant fines, including £3000 compensation to the tenants affected.

The council's case was predicated on the agent's breach of [Regulation 3 of the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008](#), which prohibit traders from unfair trading practices. Under Regulation 8 of this legislation a trader will be guilty of an offence if he knowingly or recklessly engages in a commercial practice which contravenes the requirements of professional diligence and this practice materially distorts or is likely to materially distort the economic behaviour of the average consumer with regard to the product.

In this case, the council argued that the tenant's behaviour was likely to be distorted by the agent's practice as the tenant would mistakenly believe that the protections afforded to tenants by legislation would not apply to him. This could, for example, give rise to a tenant being unwittingly illegally evicted from his or her home.

Trading Standards made the following points in support of its argument:

- the facts gave rise to a tenancy
- issuing a licence agreement was likely to distort the behaviour of the average person entering into an agreement, as they would no longer pursue remedies available to them
- the agent is a professional letting agent and is required to understand the circumstances which give rise to a tenancy and the distinction between a licence agreement and a tenancy
- the average consumer is unlikely to understand the distinction between a tenancy and a licence and cannot, therefore, be said to have willingly entered into an agreement that greatly reduced his or her legal rights

The agent entered a guilty plea and was ordered to pay fines totalling £20,500.

Sham 'licences' in Northern Ireland?

Practically, we have seen evidence of such practices being adopted by landlords and agents in Northern Ireland who may, mistakenly, believe that they can grant a licence agreement in circumstances which otherwise present as a tenancy. This largely occurs in shared housing, where the property is rented room by room or one tenant may be authorised to sublet the remainder of the rooms. In the majority of these cases, the occupant will be a tenant and will enjoy the protections of tenancy law, regardless of what the agreement says.

Landlords and property managers should ensure that they are aware of the distinction between a tenant and licensee and that their agreements accurately reflect an occupant's legal status.

Any tenant who is unclear as to their status or who has been issued with a licence agreement should [contact Housing Rights for advice.](#)

Trading Standards is responsible for investigating breaches of consumer protection legislation in Northern Ireland. You can contact Trading Standards via [Consumerline](#) on 0300 1236 262

Publications

Northern Ireland Benefits Statistics Summary at May 2017 is published



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

Unless stated otherwise, the figures are at May 2017.

Key findings include:

- As at May the number of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants was 30,030. This represents a decrease of 5,530 on a year earlier.
- The number of Employment and Support Allowance claimants was 127,900 and the number of Employment and Support Allowance recipients was 119,260. This represents an increase in claimants of 6,180 on a year earlier.
- As at June the number of Incapacity Benefit claimants was 1,970 and there were no recipients of Incapacity Benefit.
- As at June the number of Severe Disablement Allowance claimants was 1,350 and the number of Severe Disablement Allowance recipients was 1,310.
- There were 36,320 claimants of Income Support. This represents a fall of 2,320 since May 2016.
- There were 246,160 people of working age claiming a key benefit. This has fallen by 6,720 from a year earlier. This fall is partly due to the managed reassessment of the existing Disability Living Allowance caseload to Personal Independence Payment, for which data is not yet included.
- The number of State Pension claimants was 306,860, a decrease of 690 on a year earlier.
- There were 76,140 claimants and 92,530 beneficiaries of Pension Credit. Claimants have fallen by 4,440 since May 2016, mainly as a result of an increase in the age of entitlement and increases in State Pension amounts.
- There were 312,030 people over state pension age claiming a key benefit, a decrease of 70 since May 2016.
- The number of Disability Living Allowance recipients was 199,680. This has fallen by 12,530 in the last year, mainly due to the introduction of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for people of working age.
- The number of Attendance Allowance recipients was 51,100 representing a fall of 480 on a year earlier.
- The number of Carer's Allowance claimants was 72,970. This represents an increase of 1,750 since May 2016.

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

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/>



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>



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 August 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-august-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>



KEY INEQUALITIES
IN HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES

Social Enterprise



**Supporting
Communities**
Empowering Society



**Social
Enterprise**

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 4th October 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

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

Floods and Bad Weather

In the light of the recent bad weather including flooding and with Winter setting in, Supporting Communities encourages all tenants to take out household contents insurance

You can either apply through the scheme run by RSA or make your own private insurance cover.

Many tenants believe that their Landlord automatically insures their furniture, belongings and decorations against fire, theft, vandalism or water damage such as burst pipes.

THIS IS NOT THE CASE!

For a Home Contents Insurance Information Pack please contact RSA on 03456718172 or Supporting Communities on 02825645676

JUST FOR YOU
HOME CONTENTS INSURANCE

Household Contents Insurance
Application Form

Either complete and sign the application form and post it to RSA, Ryan Direct Group, Quay Point, Lakeside Boulevard, Doncaster, DN4 5PL. Or telephone 0345 671 8172 and apply over the phone instead.

Supporting Communities
Empowering Society

RSA

Events

Housing Rights Conference November 2017



Private Rented Sector - Working Together for Positive Change

Housing Rights, with support from TDS NI, will be holding its annual conference on private renting in Northern Ireland on Wednesday 15 November 2017, at the Skainos Centre, East Belfast. The conference will examine best practice for the private rented sector (PRS) across the UK and Ireland.

Reserve your place by [booking online](#) or email frances@housingrights.org.uk.

With 17% of households now living in the sector, the PRS in Northern Ireland has seen unprecedented growth over the past decade.

This growth has seen the landscape of the sector change- including becoming home to people from all demographics. This, coupled with the ongoing impacts of Welfare Reform, means there is a need for a greater focus on creating a sustainable sector which will work for all involved.

This one day conference will identify steps we can take to ensure change will work for all. It will

- explore alternative ways of resolving housing disputes to help both parties maintain a tenancy,
- examine how promoting good practice and compliance throughout tenancies is beneficial for both tenants and landlord
- consider some of the models that have worked in other jurisdictions.

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 Brexit Series: Department of Health 28 September 2017 - 10:00am to 12:00pm



NICVA is inviting each of the departmental leads on Brexit along to hear your concerns regarding the potential policy impacts Brexit will have on your organisation and service users.

NICVA has invited the Department of Health Brexit lead Laverne Montgomery along to provide a briefing on the work the department has undertaken so far and to hear the sector's concerns about policy impacts of Brexit relevant to the work of DoH. The session will also be used to inform the NICVA position on Brexit in our engagement with decision makers here, in Westminster, in Dublin and in Brussels.

For more information and to book a place, go to;
<http://www.nicva.org/event/brexit-series-department-of-health>

Belfast International Arts Festival 6 - 28 October 2017

Belfast International Arts Festival brings an eclectic fusion of cutting edge performances to the Belfast stage, with 191 events from 14 countries taking place over 23 days from the 6 – 28 October 2017, including 12 premieres.



View the full programme on the Festival website. Tickets are available on the website, by calling 028 9089 2707 or at the Festival Box Office in The MAC.

What is Co-Innovate?

Co Innovate, is a FREE programme supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

In an ever changing and increasingly competitive marketplace, innovation is integral to business growth and success. With Co-Innovate, you can learn about the benefits of innovation, identify opportunities for growth in your business and create a vision to make it happen.

This is the first step in taking part in the full co-innovate programme which involved one to one dedicated mentoring with an experience innovation advisor to help take your business further.

Co-Innovate will help you:

- Work smarter
- Equip you for future challenges
- Add value to your business
- Stand out from the competition
- Boost your bottom line



DATE AND TIME
Tue 26 September 2017
10:30 – 12:30 BST

LOCATION
The Ortus Group, Filor Building, Twin Spires Complex
155 Northumberland Street
Belfast
BT13 2JF

For more information and to book <http://bit.ly/2xy5Gqd>

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



Volunteer Policy - The Starting Point!

26th September 2017, 14:00 – 16.30

Derry Central Library, 35 Foyle Street, L'Derry, BT48 6AL

This masterclass looks at a framework to help guide you in the content and theory of policy development.

The Investing in Volunteers UK Quality standard for volunteer involving organisations states that organisations should have a 'written policy on volunteer involvement that sets out the organisation's values for volunteer involvement and highlights the need for procedures for managing volunteers, based on principles of equality and diversity'.

Learn how to get buy in from staff and volunteers while covering all the key elements.

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

There is also another Masterclass running in the morning in the same venue called 'Achieving Quality in Volunteer Management'. [Click here](#) for more information.

Attracting & Selecting Volunteers

Date: 4th October 2017, 10:00am

Planning out exactly what you want a volunteer to do is the fundamental building block that informs all other aspects of managing that volunteer.

Using a role description planning tool, you will identify the key information needed to demystify your roles. Explore how to make role descriptions more volunteer friendly and attractive for inclusion in information packs and websites. With a well-designed volunteer role description in hand, you will explore how to find, promote and attract the right people for the right role. Exploring marketing principles and techniques, we look at who your target audience is, how to write an effective recruitment message and explore your organisation's image.

Then we will look at how to create an effective, yet volunteer friendly and welcoming, selection and matching process. Explore how to tailor the selection process to the volunteer role you are recruiting for, how to keep potential volunteers engaged throughout the process and how to best manage and turn down an offer of help.

Exploring volunteers' skills, knowledge, experience, expectations and motivations are vital in effectively selecting volunteers and matching them to the most suitable role. Learn how to create the right environment for a volunteer selection meeting/informal chat, enhance your interview skills by putting interview skills theory into practice and go away with top tips and example selection questions.

Accreditation is available on successful completion of an assessment workbook at OCNNI Level 2 accreditation in Attracting and Selecting Volunteers. Or a Certificate of Attendance is awarded if you book the non-accredited course.

For more information on these and other courses run at various venues across the province go to;
<http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training-and-standards?all=1>

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

Top of Form



**Supporting™
Communities**
Empowering Society

FREE

**Funding
Surgery
for Community
and Voluntary
Groups in the
South Area**

Will be held on
**Monday 18th
September 2017**

10.30 am - 3.00 pm

Banbridge Housing
Executive District
Office,
56 Bridge Street,
Banbridge
BT32 3JU

To register for an appointment contact
Supporting Communities Funding Officer
Roisin on (028) 77740722 or
Email: roisin@supportingcommunities.org

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

Funding



Comic Relief's Core Strength – Local Communities Grants Programme Opens



This programme offers grants to help cover the day to day costs of small locally led and based voluntary and community sector groups that are doing 'much needed' work in their local communities.

Grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 or between £1,000 and £5,000 are to be used to support groups that can evidence a sustained beneficial impact on people's lives who are excluded or disadvantaged. This may be through low income, rural or social isolation, age, disabilities, race, sexuality or gender.

Priority is to be given to small, locally based groups or organisations in areas of disadvantage that have a clear understanding of the needs of their community and are undertaking actions to address these needs.

The work and main focus of the applicant organisation should fit one of Comic Relief's priorities, which are:

- Connected communities - seeking to improve inclusion and cohesion in communities.

- Productive communities - investing in local residents to help them solve the issues they are facing using local people and resources.
- Empowered communities - working to empower marginalised and disadvantaged communities.

The aim is to provide funding for groups' core costs - meaning expenditure that is not connected to delivering projects but focusing on investing in the organisation as a whole, such as basic running costs.

We know securing core funding can be tough and want to use this programme to help support those doing much needed work in their local communities.

The closing date for applications is on Monday 9th October at 1pm.

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

Acorn Flood Fund

The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland has launched the Acorn Flood Fund to assist with the severe impact of summer flooding on the lives of people living in the North West.

Community Foundations are uniquely placed to support communities with a wide range of issues, and we have many years of experience and connections to local community groups and local government bodies.

It is our intention to support groups who apply to us for this emergency funding with grants of between £1000 up to a maximum of £2500 to those who are eligible.

Funding Criteria

We are funding groups, and will refer individuals to:

- The local council
- Groups we are funding
- We will prioritise groups who are working to provide emergency support

We will fund groups providing ongoing support to those affected by the floods

We will fund groups whose work is in line with the charitable purposes of the Foundation and whose work has been impaired by the flooding

Typically we will be able to provide grants of £1k but will consider applications for up to £2,500

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

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



Building Community Pharmacy Partnership - Level 1 Funding

The Building the Community-Pharmacy Partnership (BCPP) is a partnership between the Community Development and Health Network (CDHN) and the Health and Social Care Board with strategic direction offered by a multi-agency Steering Group.

The programme aims to:

Promote and support local communities to work in partnership with community pharmacists to address local health and social wellbeing needs using a community development approach.

The programme works towards:

- Increasing local people's skills, encouraging community activity and self help
- Increasing local people's understanding of health issues
- Encouraging local people to play a role in promoting health

Level 1 funding is for those interested in developing ideas and a community pharmacy partnership. Grants of up to £2,000 will be awarded for projects lasting up to 6 months.

The closing date for applications is: Thursday 14th September 2017

For further information visit. <https://www.cdhn.org/building-community-pharmacy-partnership-bcpp>



Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust's UK Grant Programmes – December Deadlines

The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust is currently accepting application for projects involving removing problems through radical solutions, and not simply about making problems easier to live. Generally, the Trust funds work that is about addressing the root causes of problems rather than delivering services or alleviating immediate needs and recognises that change can take many years to achieve. As a result, the Trust is willing to take the long view and to take risks.

Applications are accepted under the following priority areas:

1. Peace and Security to support a transition towards:
 - The use of 'soft', rather than 'hard' power as a first line of response to conflict within society and around the world.
 - The de-legitimisation of violence as a tool for responding to conflict, securing interests or projecting power.
 - A culture of human rights and non-violent problem-solving, promoted at all levels of society

2. Power and Accountability - to support people to create a world in which power is more equally shared, and in which powerful institutions are responsive and accountable to wider society and aligned with the long-term public interest.
3. Rights and Justice - to promote racial justice and equality of opportunity as a basis for a harmonious multi-racial, multi-ethnic society in the UK.
4. Sustainable Future - to develop and promote sustainable, low-carbon alternatives to the current consumerist and growth-based paradigm.
5. Northern Ireland - to fund work which will contribute as a strategic level to the ongoing transformation of the Northern Ireland conflict.

The deadline for applications for Power & Accountability, Rights & Justice, Northern Ireland, Sustainable Future and Cross Cutting applications is 4 December 2017 (12 noon).

The deadline for Peace & Security applications is 10 December 2017 (12 noon).

For further information visit,
<https://www.jrf.org.uk/Data>

Aviva Community Fund

The Aviva Community Fund is an initiative that offers support and funding for inspirational local causes. The scheme aims to help both large charities and smaller ones who may otherwise find it difficult to gain financial backing or recognition. Projects could receive funding of from up to £1000 up to £25,000. Knowing that the Aviva Community Fund had such positive outcomes for community projects in 2015 and 2016, Aviva are running the initiative again in 2017 to support more grass roots organisations.

The Aviva Community Fund offers you the chance to get funding from £1,000 up to £25,000 for an important cause in your community. Whether you're looking to solve a problem or speed up an ongoing project, this is your chance to make a real difference to your local community. And it all starts with your great idea...

All you have to do is enter a project for your community organisation – even if you took part previously – and tell them what a difference these much-needed funds could make.

You can enter your project in one of the four following categories:

1. Health and wellbeing

Projects related to helping people take control of their physical and mental health. These could include anything from walking clubs to reduce loneliness, improving playgrounds and sports clubs and associations to community centres running wellbeing initiatives.

2. Skills for life

Projects that aim to help communities and individuals improve their lives by learning useful new skills, particularly digital ones.



Projects in this category can help people of all ages develop skills to make their lives easier or more fulfilling. This could include budget training for families, job skills or getting up to speed with new technology.

3. Inclusivity

Successful communities value all people, recognising that every person adds something to the whole. Projects in this category will understand that and work to develop closer ties within the community, such as multi-faith education, accessibility improvements and community integration programmes.

4. Community support

From regeneration projects to local support groups, this category offers support for anything that is important to your wider community, including community events. Our Community Support category aims to help communities make their surroundings and aspects of their life sustainable.

The funding levels you can apply for are:

- Up to £1,000
- Up to £5,000
- Up to £10,000
- Up to £25,000

They offer additional awards for entries submitted by insurance brokers and financial advisers in each of the funding levels.

You can submit a project by filling in their short entry form once the Aviva Community Fund opens on 12 September 2017.

For further information visit
<https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/>

Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2017

This Scheme is funded under the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme. Micro Capital grants of between £200 and £1,500 are available to rural community-led, voluntary organisations for projects tackling issues of local poverty and/or social isolation. Projects must clearly address an issue of rural poverty and/or social isolation and applicants must provide a minimum of 15% match funding.

The total project cost must not exceed £3,000

The scheme is being delivered by the Rural Support Networks on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. Application forms, guidance notes and further advice and information is available from the **Rural Support Network in your council area, details below.**

The Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2017 (RMCGS 2017) has been designed to:

- ◆ Help rural community-led, voluntary groups to address local issues of **access poverty, financial poverty** and **social isolation**; and
- ◆ Improve the lives of rural communities, and in particular the wellbeing of isolated individuals.

Projects must focus on one of the following three themes:

- ◆ Modernisation (of premises / assets)
- ◆ Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- ◆ Health and Wellbeing

The closing date for application is 4pm on Friday 29th September 2017.

For further information about the Scheme, please contact the Rural Support Network for your council area - see below:

Council Area	Rural Support Network
Antrim & Newtownabbey and Mid & East Antrim	South Antrim Community Network (SACN) https://www.facebook.com/South-Antrim-Community-Network-120614424769642/ Tel: 028 9447 8645 e-mail: wendy@southantrimcommunitynetwork.org North Antrim Community Network (NACN) www.nacn.org Tel: 028 2177 2100 e-mail: grants@nacn.org
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	The Armagh, Down and Antrim Network (TADA) www.tadarsn.com Tel: 028 3839 8888 e-mail: info@tadarsn.com
Causeway Coast and Glens	North Antrim Community Network (NACN) www.nacn.org Tel: 028 2177 2100 e-mail: grants@nacn.org
Derry and Strabane	Rural Area Partnership in Derry (RAPID) www.rapidni.com Tel: 028 7133 7149 e-mail: philip@rapidni.com Dennett Interchange Tel: (028) 71 397990 e-mail: dennettinterchange@gmail.com
Fermanagh and Omagh	Fermanagh Rural Community Network (FRCN) www.fermanaghrcn.org Tel: 028 6632 7006 e-mail: info@fermanaghrcn.com Omagh Forum for Rural Associations (OFRA) www.omaghforum.org Tel: 028 8825 1559 e-mail: info@omaghforum.org
Mid Ulster	Cookstown and Western Shores Area Network (CWSAN) www.cwsan.org Tel: 028 8773 8845 e-mail: microgrants@cwsan.org Community Organisation of South Tyrone and Area (COSTA) www.costaruralsupportnetwork.org Tel: 028 8555 6880 e-mail: info.costa@btconnect.com
Newry, Mourne & Down; North Down & Ards and Lisburn & Castlereagh	County Down Rural Community Network (CDRCN) www.countydownruralcommunitynetwork.com Tel: 028 4461 2311 e-mail: info@countydownrcn.com

The Older Peoples Training Fund

The Older People's Fund offers funding for projects that are planned and run by and for older people.

Through our [Vital Signs](#) research we have found that older people are particularly concerned with:

- GP waiting times
- Social isolation
- Antisocial behaviour (ASB)

We also found through our research that older people are more likely to be in poverty (along with single working age adults, those living with disabilities and families with children). A key priority for the Foundation will be that projects supported under this fund support the needs identified within Vital Signs

Key priority:

Help get older people engaged in taking community action where it hasn't happened before, through capacity building. Enabling active participation of older people in the community in decision-making and addressing of issues facing their sector.

Applicants must demonstrate that there is a need and interest among older people to participate in the training.

Grants available: Up to £1,500

What can be supported?

- Running costs, such as sessional costs for tutors, venue hire, transport. Examples may include costs to deliver IT training for older people.
- Capital costs will not be considered.

An end of grant monitoring report must be submitted upon completion of the project.

The fund will open on Monday 4th September 2017 and will close on Friday 9th October 2017 at 1pm.

For further information visit, <http://www.communityfoundationni.org/the-older-people-s-training-fund-1>



The Older People's Fund - Reducing Isolation

The Older People's Fund offers funding for projects that are planned and run by and for older people.

Through our [Vital Signs](#) research we have found that older people are particularly concerned with:

- GP waiting times
- Social isolation
- Antisocial behaviour (ASB)

We also found through our research that older people are more likely to be in poverty (along with single working age adults, those living with disabilities and families with children). However it should also be recognised that the range of issues raised in Vital Signs affect older people, such as lack of opportunities for lifelong learning, poor availability and quality of public transport and the lasting impact (particularly around mental health) of troubles related violence.

A key priority for the Foundation will be that projects supported under this fund support the needs identified within Vital Signs.

- ♦ Reducing isolation and supporting independent living Fund
- ♦ Key priority: Reducing isolation and vulnerability of older people and carers through supporting participation in activities where they haven't happened before.

Enabling active participation of older people in the community in decision-making and addressing of issues facing their sector.

- ♦ Applicants must demonstrate how older people and/or carers will be fully involved in the in the consultation and design of the project as well as the planning and delivery of the project.
- ♦ Applicants must clearly demonstrate the need for the project and how this will support independent living.

What can be supported?

- ♦ Revenue costs, such as sessional costs for tutors/activity providers, venue hire, transport. Examples may include costs to develop an older people's forum/club, in an area where there are none, or to develop an existing forum that will encourage isolated individuals to become more independent.
- ♦ Capital costs, such as IT equipment, will only be considered if absolutely essential to the project.

Grant Size: Up to £1,500

The fund opens for applications on 4 September 2017 and closes at 1pm on 9 October 2017

For further information visit, <http://www.communityfoundationni.org/the-older-people-s-fund-reducing-is>