



Welcome to Supporting Communities 85th 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.

## Housing Executive areas recognised as Best Kept

**The outstanding work by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive helped a number of areas clinch Best Kept award.**

The outstanding work by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive helped Blackstone Park, Magheramason and Lismore Drive, Donaghmore secure awards at the Northern Ireland Best Kept City, Town and Village and Housing Area Awards, sponsored by George Best Belfast City Airport. Blackstone Park, Magheramason was awarded Medium Housing Area winner, while Lismore Drive, Donaghmore picked up two gongs for Small Housing Area winner and the Ellen McGowan award for best Housing Executive area.

The Awards were attended by Mr Clark Bailie, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, who assisted in the presentation of awards to all housing winners.



Clark Bailie, NIHE; Joe Mullan, NI Amenity Council; Michelle Hatfield, Belfast City Airport & Doreen Muskett, Presidents of the NI Amenity Council with Sheila Donaghy, Angela Mullan and Sammy Wilson with their award for Lismore Drive, Donaghmore

**Speaking at the awards ceremony, Doreen Muskett, President of the NI Amenity Council, said:**

*“The standard of applications received from all of the Council areas this year was extremely high. Our judges faced a difficult decision in choosing the city, town and village winners as well as the overall winner.*

*The Best Kept Awards initiative is a fantastic opportunity for cities, towns, villages and housing areas across Northern Ireland to work with their local community to encourage residents, businesses and volunteers to have a practical and positive effect on their direct environment. We are extremely grateful to Belfast City Airport for its support this year.”*

**Michelle Hatfield, Director of Human Resources and Corporate Responsibility at Belfast City Airport, said:**

*“On behalf of George Best Belfast City Airport, I would like to congratulate every city, town, village and housing area that has taken part in this year’s competition. The efforts have been incredible and it’s fantastic to hear about the direct impact that the volunteers have had on residents, businesses and the community at large.*

*It is a pleasure for the airport to support the Best Kept Awards in its 60th anniversary year. At Belfast City Airport, we deliver an award-winning Community Commitment Plan which focuses on Community, Education, Environment and People. Over the last six decades, the initiative has played a huge role in engendering a sense of civic pride among communities across Northern Ireland.*

*We want to support local communities as they strive to improve the environment and the lives of its people – core values which we share.”*

The Best Kept City, Town, Village and Housing Area Awards is the final ceremony of the wider Northern Ireland Best Kept Awards initiative, which has already recognised schools and healthcare facilities.

First established in 1957, the competition has grown over the years and now includes 90 awards across a number of categories.

**Housing  
Executive**

## Rural Groups urged to review funding options



Since its inception in 2001, UCIT has provided loan commitments totalling over £60m to over 400 third sector organisations in Northern Ireland, many of which are based in rural areas.

Among the rural projects which UCIT has helped fund is Cookstown Enterprise which has been supporting small business development in Mid Ulster for almost a quarter of a century.

A core area of the company's business is the provision of business accommodation for local start-up and expanding enterprises. With the assistance of a loan from UCIT the organisation purchased and brought back into use a vacant and derelict town centre building.

Mary Monaghan, Property Manager at Cookstown Enterprise, confirmed: *"With the support from UCIT, today the ground floor houses four separate business ventures with further commercial and residential accommodation located on the first and second floors. This is an innovative and extremely successful property development project supporting the retail and service sector locally."*

Harry McDaid, Chief Executive of UCIT, said: *"We are fortunate in Northern Ireland to have a very active community sector and a strong sense of community cohesion, particularly in rural areas. These groups do an incredible amount of work locally and UCIT loans are designed to support a wide range of activities, including the purchase of buildings and equipment, repairs, energy efficiency or funding shortfalls in larger grant assisted projects."*

For further information visit [www.ucitltd.com](http://www.ucitltd.com) or contact UCIT on Tel: 02890315003.

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**St Matthews Housing Association Limited (SMHA)** is a housing association registered with the Department of Social Development and based in Belfast. The Association provides housing consisting of general family housing, single adult housing and active elderly housing.

The Association has welcomed the addition of 11 new houses in Bryson Street with the help of APEX Housing Association and has produced a short video demonstrating the positive impact new housing has on the lives of local people.

You can view the video at; <https://vimeo.com/236079959/363841b546>



**St. Matthew's**  
Housing Association

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## Participatory Budgeting primed for development in Northern Ireland

Building Change Trust has made a £50,000 award to a new collaborative project which will support Participatory Budgeting initiatives across Northern Ireland.

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a 'democratic innovation' that involves giving members of the public a direct say over how a portion of a public budget is spent.

The project was one of a number that emerged from our recent workshop series entitled 'Deepening Democracy: Time for Collaborative Action'.

The project will boost awareness of PB amongst councils and public agencies and provide training and support to try it out in practice.

The project will be led by Community Places and is a collaboration of a wide range of organizations.

Community Places' Louise O'Kane said: "The project is a real opportunity to both raise awareness of PB and put in place some of the skills and knowledge needed to develop PB initiatives across the region.



We are delighted to be working with all the partners in developing a PB infrastructure for the future".

PB has been delivered by councils, municipalities and governments all over the world since it first emerged in Brazil in the 1980s. The City of Paris currently spends EUR100m every year through PB and nearly 160,000 people participated in the process last year.

The project's first step will be a series of awareness roadshows in the coming months to ensure key people in the public and VCSE sectors are aware of the opportunity. For those that want to develop an idea further, expert training and facilitation support will be provided.

For further information about the project please contact Louise O'Kane at Community Places via [Louise@communityplaces.info](mailto:Louise@communityplaces.info)

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# Are your Household Contents Insured?

 Supporting Communities  
Empowering Society

## JUST FOR YOU

HOME CONTENTS INSURANCE



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!**

Unfortunately, some tenants only realise this after the damage has been done. Supporting Communities encourages all tenants to take out household contents insurance.

**Contents insurance** is insurance that pays for damage to, or loss of, an individual's personal possessions while they are located within that individual's home.

Supporting Communities has negotiated a home contents insurance scheme with Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance plc specifically designed for tenants in Northern Ireland to give you peace of mind against life's little accidents. **Cover is provided from just £2.01 a week!**

## What is covered?

Most of your household goods and contents including pedal cycles and computer equipment are insured when in your home. They are covered against loss or damage caused by specific events such as theft, fire and flood, but accidental loss in the home is not covered.

Also insured are lost or stolen keys, freezer contents and your own legal liability to the public and cost of alternative accommodation. Also covered are improvements you have made to your home such as fitted kitchens, bathrooms, wardrobes, laminate flooring, patio doors etc (but not greenhouses or conservatories).

Some Accidental Damage cover is provided automatically by this policy as shown in the Summary of Cover on the back page. However, you can choose to add the full Accidental Damage option to your policy for payment of an additional premium. Full Accidental Damage cover would also include damage caused by pets.

You also have the options to add cover for Personal Belongings, Hearing Aids, Wheelchairs, Garden Huts, Outbuildings, Garages and Greenhouses. See the Cost of insurance tables for further information.

**A summary of cover is given on the back page and full details are available on request.**

Please note that the policy does not cover maintenance, wear and tear, anything which happens gradually, electrical, mechanical or electronic breakdown, rot, radioactive contamination, sonic bangs, pollution or contamination, date change and computer virus, war risks and terrorism.

**You should read your policy carefully. Make sure it meets your needs.**

## Easy payment

The cost of insurance is payable fortnightly or monthly by payment card, monthly by direct debit or annually by cheque, debit or credit card. The application form below has a full list of prices.

## 'New-for-old' insurance

The policy insures your contents other than clothing and household linen on a "new-for-old" basis, meaning they would be replaced as new if destroyed by an event insured by the policy. You do however have a duty to maintain your household contents and personal belongings in sound condition and good repair.

Therefore, you should add up the value of all items at their current replacement cost, less an allowance for wear and tear for clothing and household linen. It is important not to undervalue your contents otherwise the insurer will not pay the full value of your claim.

**Download the application form for more information.**

## To apply:

1. Complete the application form answering all the questions. Remember to tick the appropriate method of payment on the application form.
2. Check your total sum insured figure is adequate.
3. Supply any additional information required.
4. Read the Declaration and sign at the bottom of the application form.
5. For general enquiries, please call 03456 718 172. Calls may be recorded and monitored.
6. Complete the application form and insert your name/s into the signature box.
7. Email your form to [datamanagement@ryandirectgroup.co.uk](mailto:datamanagement@ryandirectgroup.co.uk)

## To Claim:

Policy holders can now claim online here:  
<http://www.ryandirectgroup.co.uk/tenants-contents-insurance-claims>

# Consultations



## Charities Annual Monitoring Return – consultation on proposed changes

The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland is holding a seminar to consult on proposed changes to the Annual Monitoring Return for registered charities. The Commission has stated that the proposed changes do not place any new requirements upon charities but rather should assist charities to submit the correct information and in the correct format. For full details of the consultation please visit the [Charity Commission's website](#).

The consultation will close on 20 November 2017 if you would like to respond please see the [consultation documents](#) for more information.

## Department for Communities - Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations

The NIHE's Housing Selection Scheme has been in place, largely unchanged, since 2000. Housing stress is affecting over 22,000 households in Northern Ireland and 11,000 households per year are considered homeless. The Department recognises the need for changes to the current Housing Selection Scheme to make the allocations process more fair, transparent and effective for all.

The document sets out 20 proposals, which support the following five outcomes for the review;

- a greater range of solutions to meet housing need
- an improved system for the most vulnerable applicants
- a more accurate waiting list that reflects current housing circumstances
- those in greatest housing need receive priority, with recognition of their time in need
- better use of public resources by ensuring the waiting list moves smoothly

### Public Events

The Department will hold public events as outlined below to facilitate discussion on this document;

City Hotel, Queens Quay, Londonderry	13th November 2017
Omagh Enterprise Centre, Great Northern Road, Omagh	15th November 2017
NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast	21st November 2017
Craigavon Civic Centre, 66 Lakeview Road, Craigavon	24th November 2017

To book your place at any of the above events please notify the Department by email: [allocations@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:allocations@communities-ni.gov.uk)

The consultation document is available at;

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/fundamental-review-social-housing-allocations>

**Closing date; 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

# Publications

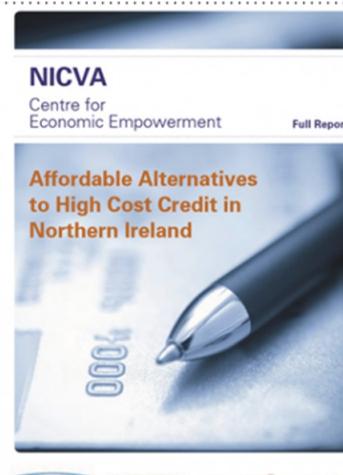
## Affordable Alternatives to High Cost Credit in Northern Ireland

In 2013, amidst growing concern about high cost credit and illegal lending, NICVA commissioned POLICIS and Liverpool John Moores University to explore options for an alternative affordable credit model. This report contains the results of their research.

The project was structured as a collaborative development with an advisory board of key stakeholders. It was informed by qualitative interviews with stakeholders, credit union leaders in Northern Ireland and the CEOs of various affordable credit organisations in GB and secondary analysis of consumer data on high cost credit. The project was originally conceived as an alternative to payday lending but on the basis of the evidence on the profile of payday lending users and the desire of the stakeholders for an affordable credit model to serve the most disadvantaged, was reframed as seeking to provide an alternative to home credit and illegal lending. The report concludes with a recommended affordable credit model for Northern Ireland.

For the full report and summary, go to;

<http://www.nicva.org/resource/affordable-alternatives-to-high-cost-credit-in-northern-ireland>



## Payment Statistics covering the period from the introduction of PIP in June 2016 to July 2017 is published

The first official statistics for Personal Independence Payment in Northern Ireland have been published by the Department for Communities.



These statistics are classed as experimental. Experimental statistics are new official statistics undergoing evaluation. They are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to build in quality at an early stage.

Unless stated otherwise, the figures are from June 2016 to July 2017. Key findings include:

- As at July 2017, almost 60,000 PIP claims had been registered.
- There were 43,000 claims cleared to July 2017 with 22,450 (53%) being awarded PIP at the initial decision.
- The award rate (based on initial decision) for New Claims overall has been 41%, while the award rate for DLA Reassessed claims has been 64%. The overall award rate is currently 53%.
- The average (median) clearance time, from the date a claim is registered to the initial decision being made, was 13 weeks.
- Almost 24,000 claimants were in receipt of PIP at July 2017.
- The volume of DLA Reassessed claimants in receipt of PIP was 14,810 at July 2017.
- Over a quarter (29%; 7,030) of claimants are awarded the enhanced rate for both the daily living and mobility components.
- Psychiatric Disorders (39%; 9,220) is the most prominent main disabling condition.

The full report and tables can be accessed at;

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/personal-independence-payment-statistics-july-2017>



Please click the link below to access the October 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-october-2017.PDF>

## Scope NI

Available online, including articles such as; social innovation, participatory budgeting and the robots that are coming to take our jobs.

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

## 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>



# Special Focus

## Introduction to the Fundraising Regulator



**This is the first in a series of blogs from The Fundraising Regulator. The first one, by Stephen Dunmore Chief Executive of the FR, is an introduction to the Fundraising Regulator, an update on what has been happening and plans for the future.**

"The charity sector has been through a high profile and difficult period since 2015, when concerns about fundraising practices and donor protection made headline news. The Government at Westminster shared these concerns and asked Sir Stuart Etherington, Chief Executive of NCVO, to chair a cross-party review of fundraising regulation. His review, published in September 2015 and supported by the Government, the Institute of Fundraising and the Charity Commission for England and Wales, called for an independent charitable fundraising regulator, supported and funded by charities as a commitment to self-regulation. The new Fundraising Regulator was thus born in 2016, not only to strengthen charity regulation but, crucially, to restore public trust in fundraising. Our initial remit was England and Wales and we have close working arrangements in place in Scotland. We are pleased that Northern Ireland is now joining us.

Following a period of consultation, NICVA invited us to oversee and regulate fundraising in Northern Ireland. As part of our commitment we will soon be looking for an individual to become a member of our board – representing Northern Ireland's fundraising charities and donors with a voice at our table.

### *Working with the sector*

Despite only just celebrating our first birthday, the Regulator has been busy working with the sector and helping charities think about the way they fundraise. We have spoken at around 150 conferences and other events, including consultation and briefing meetings arranged by NICVA. We also have Memorandums of Understanding in place with all our key partners, including the Charity Commissions in England and Wales and Northern Ireland and the Scottish Independent Panel on Fundraising. We also have Memorandums with the Information Commissioner and the Institute of Fundraising and will soon have one in place with the Gambling Commission.

We regulate all forms of fundraising. Importantly, we assumed responsibility for the Code of Fundraising Practice from the Institute of Fundraising as well as the associated rulebooks for on-street, door-to-door and private site fundraising from the former Public Fundraising Regulatory Association. This was another recommendation of the cross-party review intended to safeguard the independence of fundraising regulation. The Code applies right across the UK and maintains standards for charitable fundraising. On 31 July 2017, we published our first set of changes to the Code following a consultation, and more changes are set to come. These will bring the Code up to date on data protection and consent, while also making the Code easier to use.

Similarly, we have issued guidance that outlines how charities should approach consent, legitimate interest and the use of data charities hold about their donors and other supporters. These have one eye on next May's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR); both our guidance and the Code will be further updated when GDPR is implemented.

### *Fundraising Preference Service*

On our first anniversary in July, we launched the Fundraising Preference Service (FPS) – a service which enables members of the public to block phone, email, text and mail communications from named charities. This gives individuals far more control over their contacts with charities. The successful launch of the FPS and subsequent invitation from NICVA to oversee fundraising means that we expect that the service will be rolled out to include charities in Northern Ireland from January next year. In the meantime, donors in Northern Ireland can already use the service to block communications from charities based in England and Wales.

Already, we have seen significant demand for the FPS. It is an important tool and one that will benefit both charities and the public, helping to rebuild trust between the two.

### *The levy*

Our role in Northern Ireland will mean that some of Northern Ireland's larger fundraising charities will come into the scope of our levy and many more will be able to register with us.

The voluntary levy gives us the resources to regulate the sector. It is collected from charities in England and Wales (and soon Northern Ireland) that spend £100,000 or more each year on fundraising. The levy is banded in steps ranging from £150 a year to £15,000 for the largest fundraising charities. We are hugely grateful to over 1400 charities in England and Wales who have paid our first-year levy, and look forward to greater collaboration across the UK as we now enter our second-year levy.

Meanwhile, smaller charities spending less than £100,000 a year on fundraising will be able to voluntarily register with us for an annual fee of £50, as nearly 900 charities in England and Wales have already done. Paying the levy and registering with us demonstrates that a charity is serious about committing to a high standard of fundraising. What's more, registration is noted on our public register and charities can display our registration badge for fundraising materials – a visual representation of a charity's respect for its donors.

### *The future*

It has been a successful 12 months for us, and we are extremely excited to work positively and collaboratively with NICVA, the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and most of all with charities across Northern Ireland.

# The Hummingbird Project

The Hummingbird Project CIC was founded in 2016 by Leigh Carey and Sandy Webb to create innovative and inclusive solutions to improve the mental health and wellbeing for the people in our community. Their focus is early intervention and prevention for everyone struggling to cope by helping individuals, organisations and communities onto their path to recovery.



Mental wellbeing is the responsibility and foundation of any thriving and inclusive community. Their mission and ethos is to provide person centred, strengths based programmes, one to one support and training thereby sharing knowledge with other stakeholders to provide a better quality of life for everyone. Their passion is to give people the skills and hope to determine their own future.

## Their Model of Working

Their model of work is based on the 3 key themes of Understand, Unlock and Uplift with lived experience being an essential tool in helping people to become experts in themselves and what keeps them well. Their one to one recovery mentoring service facilitates an individual to focus on their own unique circumstances and life skills to identify barriers to wellbeing and set achievable goals.

## What they do

They provide bespoke training programs to the voluntary and community sector that tackle some of the difficulties that their client group faces. They can inspire them to work together to overcome fears, use peer support and identify their strengths to find a positive way forward.

They also provide training programmes to employers to improve knowledge and provide tools to look after workplace wellbeing. Their role is to take mental health in the workplace out of the shadows and allow employers and employees alike to feel more supported and confident in dealing with mental health concerns.

They can provide the skills to allow employers to engage with their staff about mental ill health with the same confidence that they deal with a physical health issue. They show you how to reduce stigma in employees that may have issues and help them to look after themselves and others better. They deliver a half day endorsed programme that provides an introduction into improving mental health in the workplace. They also deliver a two accredited course, suitable for team leaders, managers or appointed workplace mental health champions to gain specific skills and tools to support others in their team who may be struggling.

## Contact Us

If you would like to know more about the work that The Hummingbird Project does, how they can help you or your organisation or just want to chat, please feel free to contact them using one of the options below:

Leigh Carey: [leigh.thehummingbird@outlook.com](mailto:leigh.thehummingbird@outlook.com) 07921 840815  
Sandy Webb: [sandy.thehummingbird@outlook.com](mailto:sandy.thehummingbird@outlook.com) 07714 269091

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## Advice NI

Advice NI are holding their Annual General Meeting on Friday 24th November 2017 in Crumlin Road Gaol, Belfast

### Keynote Speakers will be:

- ◆ Neil Couling CBE, Director General for Universal Credit Programme
- ◆ Steve Cullen CEO, Warrington District CAB
- ◆ Professor Eileen Evason CBE
- ◆ Hilary Hanberry, Business in the Community

### How to book:

To book a place/s at the Annual General Meeting, email [agm@adviceni.net](mailto:agm@adviceni.net)



# Social Enterprise

**SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES**  
**SOCIAL ENTERPRISE COURSES**



**Supporting  
Communities™**  
Empowering Society



**Social  
Enterprise**

## Causeway Area

- ◆ *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.

**The Following Course currently has spaces available:**

**Understanding Social Enterprise Level 2 (6 weeks, one session every Wednesday per week)**

Venue and Dates: Westbann Community Development, Coleraine commencing 24th January 2018 at 10.30am - 1.30pm

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

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## UnLtd Grow It Award (£15,000 Cash Award & Support)

**Expression of Interest deadline:  
13<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

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

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

### **Next Steps:**

To apply for a Grow It Award please go to <https://unltd.org.uk/grow-it-award> and complete an Expression of Interest.

## UnLtd Do It Award (up to £5,000 Cash Award & Support)

**Expression of Interest deadline:  
13<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

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

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

### **Next Steps:**

To apply for a Do It Award please go to <https://unltd.org.uk/doit> and complete an Expression of Interest (EOI). EOIs can be submitted all year round.

For further information please contact: Nuala Smyth, Award Manager, UnLtd Room 112, City East Business Centre

Tel: 028 9094 1619 / 07545 933 816  
Email: [nualasmyth@unltd.org.uk](mailto:nualasmyth@unltd.org.uk)



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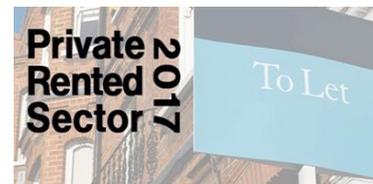
[info@supportingcommunities.org](mailto:info@supportingcommunities.org)  
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# Events

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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.

## Energy Saving Week

### 30 October –

### 3 November 2017

Between 30<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November the Housing Executive will support the Energy Saving Week initiative across Northern Ireland to get the message out to save money by making households more energy efficient via simple steps and/or availing of energy efficient grants. This collaboration is with Energy Saving Trust, National Energy Action, Bryson Energy, Choice Housing, NI Consumer Council, Phoenix Natural Gas, Firmus Energy, SGN Natural Gas and Power NI.

During the energy efficiency week representatives from across the collaboration will promote energy efficiency via local media and visiting shopping centres in Belfast, Lderry, Ballymena, Bangor, Newry, Craigavon, Omagh and Enniskillen.

During the half day sessions in the shopping centres the aim will be to promote the energy efficiency message including savings tips, advice, benefit checks, and switch & save.

DAY/DATE	MORNING 10.00am-1pm	AFTERNOON 2pm-5pm	SHOPPING CENTRE
Monday 30th October	AM		Kennedy Centre Belfast
		PM	Forestside Belfast
Tuesday 31st October	AM		Bloomfield Bangor
		PM	Fairhill Ballymena
Wednesday 1st November	AM		The Quays Newry
		PM	Rushmere Craigavon
Thursday 2nd November	AM		Foyleside Derry
		PM	Asda, Omagh
Friday 3rd November	AM		Erneside Enniskillen

## Co-operatives: Can Do, Will Do, Must Do

### 2017 Network Dinner and a Seminar 22nd & 23rd November 2017

Co-operatives are people with a can-do attitude, determined to make a difference and get things done. In the face of the growing complexity of our geographies, politics and trading environments, co-operatives must continue to do business in a co-operative way to ensure that we 'create a world of dignity and opportunity for all.'

Co-operatives are an important part of the Northern Ireland economy and we want to tell civic and political

representatives about the vibrant organisations that make up our sector. We want to show them the impact that co-operatives have on local communities, jobs creation, wealth generation.

Co-operatives are innovative and respond to the needs of local communities in a variety of ways and your story should be told at this event!

If you have any questions, please contact [tiziana@coopalternatives.coop](mailto:tiziana@coopalternatives.coop)



### NI Youth Sitting Congress 2018



#### Call for expressions of interest to attend:

The NI Youth Congress was set up by the Northern Ireland Youth Forum in 2014 in the absence of a Youth Assembly.

Young people have become frustrated that despite receiving support from local politicians, youth work organisations and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, government have still not acted to set up a Youth Assembly in NI.

The Youth Congress is entirely youth led by young people, for young people and is made up of 11 – 25 year olds from across NI. Its function is to:

- ◆ To provide a youth led; democratic; representative voice for young people in Northern Ireland;
- ◆ To provide a mechanism whereby young people can raise and discuss issues of importance to them and bring directly to the attention of decision makers;
- ◆ To support young people to campaign and lobby on issues that are important to them on a regional, national and European basis;
- ◆ To provide a mechanism whereby government departments can seek the views of young people.

We are inviting young people aged between 11 – 25 to attend the next sitting of the Youth Congress. It will take place in Stormont from 10.30am – 3.30pm on the 22nd February 2018. Based on the last event we anticipate a huge demand for places.

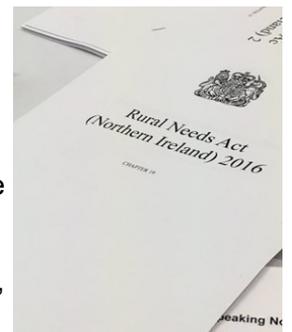
To register your interest in attending this year's sitting please e-mail: [Info@niyf.org](mailto:Info@niyf.org)

### Introduction to the Rural Needs Act-Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 10am-12:30pm

#### Free Event

RCN are delivering an information session on the Rural Needs Act NI 2016.

The Act introduces the duty on named public authorities to "have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans, and designing and delivering public services" in effect this means that government departments, local councils and other named public authorities should be "rural-proofing" their policy and service delivery.



The session will look at:

- The Legislative Basis of the Rural Needs Act
- The Definition of Rural
- What are the key elements public authorities should include in a Rural Issues Statement
- Mitigating the Impact
- Case studies of Rural proofing by public authorities
- Scrutinising and challenging rural proofing
- What are the opportunities and limitations of the process.

The session will last between 2 -3 hours long and will be a mixture of Powerpoint delivery, interactive exercises and small group discussion.

If you would be interested in taking part in this information seminar contact Teresa on 028 8676 6670 or email [teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org](mailto:teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org)

## Housing Rights Training Course

### The Essentials: accessing social housing

**Belfast - Housing Rights**  
**Thursday, November 2, 2017 -**  
**10:00 to 13:00**

Demand for social housing is consistently high. 15/16 housing statistics show that at the end of March 16 over 37,500 people had applied for social housing. Over 22,500 of those applicants were in housing stress.

Everyone who applies for a home from the Housing Executive or a housing association goes on the waiting list, a points based system. Many people can be on the waiting list quite a while before being offered a suitable home.

This course will help you understand the points system and help people maximise their points to increase their chances of getting an offer.

#### This course will cover:

- Accessing social rented housing
- Assessment and ranking of applicants
- Transfers
- Complex needs assessments
- Allocations
- Challenging decisions

#### Who should attend?

- Advisers
- Hostel workers
- Housing Association staff
- Support workers

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### Universal Credit-The housing impacts

**Belfast - Housing Rights**  
**Thursday, November 9, 2017 -**  
**10:00 to 13:00**  
**3.0hrs CPD**

Universal Credit began its rollout in Northern Ireland on 27th September. Its introduction will bring very real challenges for clients, advisers and social housing providers.

This essential half day overview that will ensure you are prepared for all the key housing impacts of Universal Credit as they unfold.

The session will introduce:

- The differences between Housing Benefit and Universal Credit
- Initial payment timelines and the risk of arrears

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

#### Who should attend?

- Advisers of all levels who need an understanding of Universal Credit and its impacts on housing.
- Housing associations
- Constituency office workers
- Community/residents groups
- Hostel workers

**For more information on Housing Rights courses, for costs and to book places visit**  
**<https://www.housingrights.org.uk/training-events>**



## Volunteer Now Training



### Keeping Adults Safe: Training for Staff and Volunteers

**Date:** 10th November 2017  
**Time:** 10.00am - 4.00pm  
**Location:** Training Room 1, Gransha Park, Clooney Road, Derry BT47 6TF  
**Cost:** This course is provided free of charge through support received from the Health & Social Care Board

*This is a FREE 1 day certificated course for those working/volunteering with adults at risk.*

*It covers:*

- ◆ awareness of vulnerability;
- ◆ legal context of adult safeguarding;
- ◆ awareness of abuse issues;
- ◆ procedures for reporting concerns;
- ◆ procedures for planning activities and assessing and managing risk;
- ◆ confidentiality issues; and
- ◆ code of behaviour for staff/volunteers.

The training will raise awareness of of risk of harm in adulthood and assist voluntary, community and independent organisations working with adults at risk to achieve the minimum standards of best practice as outlined in the publication 'Keeping Adults Safe - A Shared Responsibility'.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This training will be provided for Voluntary, Community and Independent sectors and a maximum of 5 participants from any one organisation will be accepted on to each training course.

***Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis and are limited.***

This course is for organisations in the Western Trust area only.  
For other areas, please view the training calendar by clicking [here](#).

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### Management of Volunteers Delivering Public Services

**Date:** 21st & 22nd November 2017  
**Time:** 10.00am - 4.00pm  
**Location:** Volunteer Now, 34 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast BT2 7DB  
**Cost:** Public Sector—£250 + VAT per person or  
VCSE Sector—£150 + VAT per person

***Do you manage volunteers who deliver public services?***

This training will support you within this role and is a follow on from the very successful conference held by Volunteer Now on May 2017 at Crumlin Road Gaol.

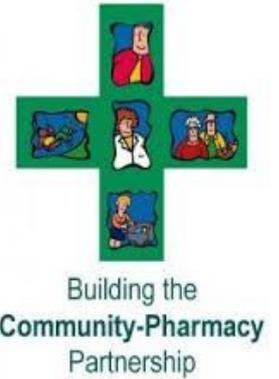
Day 1 explores best practice in recruitment and selection of volunteers and managing and motivating volunteers.

Day 2 then explores safeguarding children and adults and strategy and policies.

**For more information or to book a place, go to;**  
<http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training-events/view/702>

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# Funding



## Funding Available For Building Community Pharmacy Partnerships in Northern Ireland

The Building Community Pharmacy Partnerships programme provides an opportunity for local groups to work with pharmacists to focus on either generic needs within the community, or specific needs such as sexual health and carers.

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.

Two of the three grant streams are currently open to applications from community organisations working in partnership with community pharmacists:

- Level 1 - for groups interested in developing ideas and a community pharmacy partnership. Grants of up to £2,000 will be awarded for projects lasting up to six months.
- Level 2 - for groups seeking to develop a community-pharmacy partnership that will address a range of locally identified health and well-being needs. Grants of up to £10,000 will be awarded for projects lasting approximately one year.

Community organisations working in partnership with community pharmacists can apply. Participants must be key in the planning, delivery and evaluation of initiatives.

The deadline for applications depends on the level of funding being sought.

**The deadline for Level Two applications is 16 November 2017, and the deadline for Level One applications is in February 2018.**

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

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## The Halifax Foundation NI has launched it's new programme – Pitching 4 Pounds

The Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland supports underfunded, grassroots charities that enable people, especially disabled and disadvantaged people, to play a fuller role in society. Their programmes are open to registered charities with an income of less than £1 million. Pitching 4 Pounds is a new pilot, grants programme offering 2 organisations a £15,000 grant over 12 months.

The overall aim of the Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland is to support grassroots charities that enable disabled and disadvantaged people to play a fuller role in society.

Pitching 4 Pounds is an exciting Foundation initiative aimed at registered charities in Northern Ireland. What makes this programme unique is that charities can pitch for funds based on the needs of their organisation. It gives charity representatives space to develop their ideas and be creative. Successful charities will be awarded a £15,000 grant over 12 months.

**The closing date for applications is 5pm Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017.**

For further details, please check the website for guidance notes and an application form – [www.halifaxfoundationni.org](http://www.halifaxfoundationni.org)

## CRC Community Relations/ Cultural Diversity Grant

Community Relations Council funding is intended to help community/voluntary groups throughout Northern Ireland develop their capacity to engage in community relations work and to enhance the community relations potential of projects they undertake. The CR/CD scheme is aimed at increasing opportunities for people from differing traditions to develop relationships of trust and understanding and the confidence to address issues of difference between them.

Grants of up to £10,000 are available per application to this scheme however most awards are between £2- £5k.

This grant scheme seeks to achieve the aims listed below by providing advice and financial support for projects.

- To develop opportunities for groups to explore their own cultures, beliefs and traditions, thus increasing their capacity to develop relationships of trust with those of different traditions and values.
- To develop opportunities for groups to extend their knowledge and understanding of others' cultures, beliefs, traditions; increasing their

acceptance of and respect for diversity.

- To enable groups to challenge stereotypes of their own and other communities in order to acknowledge and address difference.
- To increase the ability and confidence of groups and organisations to identify and address those issues that divide them.
- To develop networks of communication, trust and co-operation between divided communities.
- To promote models of good practice for community relations work in Northern Ireland.

The scheme is aimed at locally based groups such as community development groups, cultural organisations, women's groups, church groups, tenants associations and other organisations and groups involved in community relations, reconciliation projects and cultural engagement.

**The closing date for applications is on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

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



## Paul Hamlyn Foundation: Shared Ground Fund

The Shared Ground Fund will provide organisations with the financial support they need to test new approaches, explore ways of exploiting emerging opportunities and address new challenges in this area of great change and uncertainty. It will also support organisations with an already strong track record of achievement with substantial help to achieve a greater impact.

Applicants must contribute to one of the following aims of the Shared Ground Fund:

**Staying safe** – ensuring that young people who have migrated can address the significant barriers that affect their ability to thrive

**Living well together** – supporting work which helps communities experiencing high levels of migration become stronger and more connected

The Shared Ground Fund offers two kinds of grants to support organisations at different stages of development:

Shared Ground '**explore and test**' grants – each year we expect to make around 10 grants to help explore and test new approaches and ways of addressing new challenges (awards will be for a maximum of £60,000, usually for up to two years)

Shared Ground '**more and better**' grants – each year we expect to make around 10 longer, larger grants to help develop and embed more established activities (awards will be for between £100,000 and £400,000 for up to four years). We expect most grants to be in the range of £100,000 – £250,000. Larger grants will be considered on an exceptional basis and usually by invitation.

For further information visit, <http://www.phf.org.uk/funds/shared-ground-fund/>

## Church of Ireland Priorities Fund

The objective of the Priorities Fund is to raise and distribute money, on behalf of the Church of Ireland, to various worthy projects within the island of Ireland – Funding is provided for Training – Lay and Ordained, Christian Education, Outreach Initiatives and Innovative Ministry in a Rural Context

**Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017**

For further information visit, <http://priorities.ireland.anglican.org/>