

6th November 2017

E-Zine



**Supporting
Communities™**
Empowering Society

Welcome to Supporting Communities 86th 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.

CIH 2018 Housing Awards now open for nominations

Nominations for the CIH 2018 Housing Awards are now open.

The awards ceremony, now in its ninth year, is run by the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) and recognises and rewards achievements in housing and communities across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Sponsored by Radius Housing, this year's event features 12 different award categories covering many aspects of housing and support services.

Nominations are encouraged from social and private housing providers, voluntary and community organisations, private landlords and letting agents as well as individuals working in the industry.

Nicola McCrudden, Director for CIH NI & ROI, said:

"This is the highlight of the year for people who work in housing and homelessness - an opportunity to be recognised amongst peers. Housing is very much a people business and our awards help to recognise the brilliant work of individuals and organisations who work year in and year out to improve people's lives. We are delighted that this year's sponsor is Radius, which provides housing care and support to 33,000 homes."

John McLean, Chief Executive of Radius Housing said:

"We are proud to sponsor the CIH awards which showcase the dedication, professionalism and creativity within our sector. Our tenants and service users are facing unprecedented challenges. Therefore the need to be innovative and go the extra mile has never been greater. There will doubtless be many examples of how housing providers across the island are providing the best housing, care and support."

The closing date for entries is Friday 1 December 2017.

Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on 23 February 2018 at Titanic Belfast.

For more information, go to; <http://www.cih.org>



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Empowering Communities nominated for a Social Enterprise award



Social Enterprise NI, an organisation promoting and supporting social enterprises across Northern Ireland, hosted the Social Enterprise NI Awards on Friday 27 October at The Stormont Hotel, Belfast.

The awards, presented by UTV's Paul Clark, recognised and celebrated the excellence in social enterprise and the outstanding achievements of social entrepreneurs to deliver social impact.

Laura O'Dowd, Director, Empowering Communities Enterprise Ltd said;
"Although on this occasion we did not win, we were delighted to be a finalist in this year's Social Enterprise Awards 2017. We found it a useful networking night and thoroughly enjoyed celebrating the great work that is done in this sector."

"Well done to all the award winners on the night"



Laura O'Dowd, Director of EC
with Aidan Kearney,
Senior Training Officer

More of the same will not work, Head of Civil Service says

The new Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, David Sterling, has told Voluntary and Community leaders that the cost of not changing will be to make things worse.



He was speaking to NICVA members at a special event held at NICVA on Wednesday (25 October) when he outlined how the Programme for Government would seek to transform the areas of Health, Education, Justice and Housing which together account for between 75% and 80% of devolved spending in Northern Ireland.

Around 150 delegates from NICVA member organisations were present to hear a full briefing, entitled, *Making this a better place (by tackling disadvantage and driving economic growth)* from Mr Sterling who then took a variety of questions from the floor.

Mr Sterling disclosed figures that outlined Northern Ireland's vastly differential health and education outcomes and outlined how the actions in the PfG would restructure both areas to address those outcomes, as well as the actions that needed to be taken.

Underlining that health required an annual 6% budget increase – equivalent to £300 million – annually just to remain consistent, not changing would only result in increasingly divergent outcomes. Not taking action in Education will lead to a continued growth in the number of schools that are financially or educationally unsustainable, inefficient or delivering sub-optimal outcomes.

In the area of Justice, Mr Sterling outlined the Justice 2020 strategy and how it focussed on the courts, policing, reducing offending and access to justice. On Housing, Mr Sterling outlined that Northern Ireland faces a population that is growing, ageing and changing. He identified a need to build 6,700 houses a year to cope with demand – a demand that was currently not being met.

All this needed to be performed, he emphasised, against the backdrop of a real terms cut to the Executive's budget of 1.6% next year and 3% the year after.

Joint Forum Voluntary and Community Sector Panel Meeting



The Voluntary and Community Sector panel got together last Tuesday 17 October ahead of the Joint Forum meeting between the public sector and voluntary and community which took place Friday 27 October 2017.

The purpose of this meeting was to provide new members of the panel with an update on the work being carried out, their role in the Joint Forum, as well as identifying emerging issues impacting the sector.

The initial discussion focused on the ongoing review of the Concordat and the work being carried out by the CAT sub-group in relation to this. The CAT team advised that they have drawn up a new draft Concordat which will be consulted upon at the upcoming Joint Forum meeting. It was proposed that members break into small groups and discussion sessions on the draft Concordat will be facilitated by CAT team members.

Three questions have been suggested to help focus the discussion and these are as follows:

1. *What benefits and outcomes would you expect to see if the Joint Forum was working well? What mechanisms would help deliver this?*
2. *How can we ensure that the right people in the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector and in government (inc. statutory bodies and local government) are fully involved in the business of the Joint Forum?*
3. *Can you suggest good examples of case studies to illustrate where government and the VCSE sector are working well together to co-deliver positive outcomes? (Examples identified could provide good practice lessons for co-delivery and possible ideas for venues for future Forum meetings incorporating suitable presentations on good practice)*

Further to this, there was a discussion about emerging sectoral issues and concerns. A wide-ranging number of issues were identified by members including:

- The growing issue of drugs misuse pervading all sections of society and the co-ordination by government and Voluntary and Community sector to ensure awareness of and access to suitable resourced services to help those affected.

- The two-child cap and the rape clause and associated implications.
- The latest situation regarding the future government funding for voluntary and community sector organisations beyond the current approvals to March 2018 to facilitate future planning of services.
- The issue of, and current Department for Infrastructure consultation on, the introduction of new requirements to hold '10b' minibuses potentially affecting employees of many voluntary and community organisations.
- The latest situation in relation to the spend and progress of funding programmes related to the Fresh Start agreement
- The issue of how Brexit may affect voluntary and community organisations who operate in NI and ROI and what their governance requirements and option might be. (It was highlighted that the Charity Commission was planning events in December which could provide guidance on this issue)
- The issue of the requirement and challenge for very small voluntary and community sector organisations to register with the Charity Commission
- The impact of the new General Data Protection Regulations on how and why voluntary and community sector organisations and the public sector gather information.

Concluding the meeting, the Chair and Vice Chair agreed to take forward the emerging issues that were raised to the Joint Chairs' meeting on Friday 20th October for discussion on how they might be incorporated into the agenda of the full Joint Forum meeting on 27th October and the future workplan of the Joint Forum.

For more information on the Joint Forum, go to the NICVA website at; <http://www.nicva.org/article/joint-forum-voluntary-and-community-sector-panel-meeting>



Introducing: CAP

Living on a low income and unmanageable debt can cause a real impact on so many people living within our local communities. The stress and anxiety of bills that you are not able to pay, along with the fear of the constant contact from creditors can lead to feelings of despair and hopelessness.

Christian's Against Poverty (CAP) are a UK wide charity that are passionate about releasing people from a life sentence of poverty, debt, unemployment and addiction. Working in partnership with local Churches they deliver a network of front line services dedicated to supporting those in most need, with 21,000 people being helped during 2016.

Emma Jackson, Area Manager for CAP in Northern Ireland, explains the network of services based locally and the support that people can receive from CAP, all free of charge. *"We recognise that unmanageable debt can become a problem for any of us and that things can quickly spiral."*

And as we work through the introduction of Universal Credit, we are also aware that people may find themselves under real financial pressure and accrue debts.

We would urge anyone with debt problems to contact our award winning debt counselling service as soon as possible, via our free phone 0800 328 006. No matter where you live in Northern Ireland, we can support you. It doesn't matter how big or small your debts may be, we are here to help."

To find your local Debt Centre, you can enter your post code [here](#).

If you would like to find out more about the work of CAP, including having someone from CAP come and speak to your team, please get in touch with:

Emma Jackson emmajackson@capuk.uk



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, Derry/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

The consultation document is available at: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/fundamental-review-social-housing-allocations>

Closing date; 21st December 2017

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

To Claim:

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

Special Focus

Nick Garbutt writes;



The Funding Revolution that gives power to the people

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is an idea whose time has come. Scope examines the model giving communities more power over spending.

Why can't local people get to decide how money invested in their communities is spent?

Like all powerful ideas it is simple, obvious and hard to contest. After all residents know what the needs of a community are because they live there. They are therefore just as much experts as policy-makers and planners and philanthropists and voluntary sector organisations, politicians, government departments and planners.

Yet in Northern Ireland not only is participatory budgeting rarely discussed, most people have never even heard of it. An initiative led by CommunityPlaces NI and funded by the Building Change Trust has just been launched to set that right. It will promote the idea of local people deciding how to allocate part of a public budget and provide all the training and facilitation required to make that a reality.

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is an idea whose time has come. It is gaining traction all over the globe. It is improving communities, deepening engagement between citizens, governments and local authorities and helping to reshape our ideas of how democracy and philanthropy should work. It does not represent a threat to politicians, public servants and experts. Instead it is slowly reviving representative democracy, making it more suited to the present era.

The movement started in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 1989 and has spread rapidly, first within that country, and then across the world. The Porto Alegre scheme has been examined by the World Bank which noted dramatic improvements in the education system, sanitation and public health as a direct result.

New York has the biggest PB scheme in the USA. Last year 31 of the city's 51 districts permitted community members to decide how at least \$1 million of their funds should be spent.

The world's biggest PB project is in Paris. Between 2014 and 2020, the city has committed to reserving €500 million (about 5% of the city's capital fund) to be spent through participatory budgeting. In 2016, 158,964 people voted on how to spend nearly €100 million, including €10 million set aside for schools.

In each cycle, there is a PB for each of the 20 Districts to decide on local projects, and 1 city-wide PB for Paris-wide projects. They also specified that €30 million would be specified for working-class neighbourhoods in the city. They had 37 city-wide projects, 587 district projects, and 20 school projects submitted for the ballots. 219 projects won. Each project is labelled "fait avec les Parisiens" – Made by Parisians.

In 2015 the Scottish Parliament enacted the [Community Empowerment Act](#). It places a duty on public bodies in Scotland to involve communities much more closely than before in decision-making in order to strengthen democracy.....

One of its key themes is promoting participatory budgeting. Already 20 local authorities are taking part in a consultation designed to involve local communities in deciding how their budgets should be spent.

In Scotland the lowest tier of statutory representation are community councils which sit below local authorities. The community council for Leith, which is part of Edinburgh has been running a participatory budgeting programme for the past seven years, called [Leith Decides](#).

Last year it distributed just under £45,000 to community projects. Groups were invited to put forward submissions for support and then everyone in the area from the age of eight (sic) was invited to vote. Funds were distributed accordingly. Last year it was decided that the entire community budget would be allocated that way.

Most recently South Dublin County Council has run a PB scheme, the first in Ireland called: "€300k – Have Your Say". It has just been evaluated by the Institute of Public Administration. It selected one of the six local electoral areas by lot to pilot the project. The Lucan area won. Local people submitted 160 ideas which were eventually whittled down to 17 projects which went out to ballot. Eight were ultimately accepted. These included a new playground, an apple orchard and free library book banks.

The Institute of Public Administration stated that the project was both successful and popular. It had cross party support and there was praise for politicians of all parties for supporting the exercise and refraining from pushing pet schemes. It is expected that the scheme will be extended to all South Dublin County Council areas and trialled across the country. The idea has yet to gather momentum in Northern Ireland although Causeway Coast and Glens Council is leading the way with a small scale pilot.

The Building Change Trust project sees huge potential for PB in Northern Ireland: "Participatory Budgeting can be used to allocate spending from a range of sources including local authorities; housing associations; schools, public health trusts, police and community safety partnerships, trusts, charities and social enterprises."

There is also potential for the private sector to be involved by using PB approaches to distribute community funds. It will train around 20 people from a range of sectors (statutory, community, voluntary, local authority). To qualify for this their organisations will have to have committed to undertake a PB pilot.

Participatory Budgeting is already gaining traction amongst major funders. Big Lottery has provided funds for schemes in Scotland and has taken part in a pilot in England. There is a compelling logic to its adoption by the Third Sector. All it really takes is the acknowledgement that communities themselves are every bit as qualified to define their needs as outside experts.....

Publications

Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together - 12 month progress report from the Department of Health

The Department of Health has reported on the progress to date of the Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together vision.

Delivering Together was launched by the then Minister of Health, Michelle O'Neill on 25 October 2016 and is driven by the Northern Ireland Executive's draft Programme for Government, setting out an ambition to support people to lead long, healthy and active lives.

The approach is the outcome of previously commissioned reports on the future of health in Northern Ireland, including Transforming Your Care, The Right Time, The Right Place and Professor Rafael Bengoa's Systems, not Structures: Changing Health and Social Care, which was published on the same day as Delivering Together.

The direction of travel in Delivering Together secured universal buy-in at political, system and service user level and is now the single roadmap for radical health and social care transformation.

It seeks to radically reform the way services are designed and delivered with a focus on person centred care rather than the current emphasis on buildings and structures. The aim of this report is to demonstrate the progress on the commitments in Delivering Together one year into the programme.

For more information and to access the full report, go to: <http://www.nicva.org/article/health-and-wellbeing-2026-delivering-together-12-month-progress-report-from-the-department>



Experience of sport by adults and young people

The Department for Communities (DfC) has released reports on experience in sport by adults and young people.



Main findings for Adults:

In 2016/17, the proportion of adults who had participated in sport in the last 12 months was similar to the previous year's figure (54% and 53% respectively). This is also consistent with the longer term trend. 'Swimming or diving', 'Keepfit, Aerobics, Yoga, Dance exercise', 'jogging' and 'cycling for recreation' continue to be the most popular sports amongst adults.

The proportion of adults who were members of a sports club within the previous year was greater than the previous year's figures but still in keeping with the longer term trend.

Six out of every ten adults (60%) who had participated in sport cited "Improved health" as a benefit of participating. Other benefits of participating that were stated by respondents include "Have fun" (56%), "Improved my feeling of wellbeing" (54%) and "Lose weight" (41%).

And for Young people:

In 2016, almost all young people (99%) had taken part in sport or physical activity at least once within the year. Over nine out of every ten (96%) young people had been involved in sport or physical activity within the last week. Both figures were consistent with the 2013 results. Boys were more likely to state that they enjoyed sport or physical activity a lot (76%) than girls (57%).

As may be expected, the most frequently cited benefits of having participated in sport or physical activity were "having fun"; "keeping fit"; "learning new skills or developing existing skills"; and "improving health". It is interesting to note that in addition, around half of young people said that participating in sport or physical activity helped "develop their confidence" and helped "develop their skills as a team player". Just over seven out of every ten (73%) young people described themselves as being "very" active, with 58% stating that they ate healthily. However, combining these behaviours shows that almost two fifths (38%) stated that they both ate healthily and were very active.

The reports are available on the DfC website at: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/news/experience-sport-by-adults-and-young-people>

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/>



The NIEL Bulletin for October 2017 is now available at; <http://www.mailings.tc/t/ViewEmail/r/23977DC26AC65D012540EF23F30FEDED/289A8284BCB96248907C5D7C792C0FF8>

Community Development & Health Network Newsletter



Community Development & Health Network

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

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>



Social Enterprise



Supporting
Communities™
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SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES SOCIAL ENTERPRISE COURSES

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

Social Enterprise NI

is delighted to have partnered with NatWest SE100 Social Business Club to bring you the first Insight event held in Belfast.

Social Enterprise NI



As part of the SE100 support for the social enterprise sector you are invited to this half day event which will look at :

- ◆ Getting a Grip on Social Impact – understanding social value, and not getting in a pickle with it
- ◆ Money Talks - managing your business finances, planning for investment, and reaching new markets
- ◆ Building a Brilliant Board - when to have one, getting the right mix, and working with corporates.

- ◆ Winning New Business 101 - an exploration into different revenue making opportunities for social enterprises from bid writing and going to tender to trading and direct sales, and thinking about business innovation strategies.

Speakers will be announced shortly, however whether you are a start-up or established social enterprise there is something in this session for all. It will be a great opportunity to meet with other likeminded organisations and to learn from this established source of social enterprise support.

Make sure to book your space by going to the following Eventbrite link <http://bit.ly/2y36frU>

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

**Expression of Interest deadline:
13th 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:
13th 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/doi> 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





Apply Now! Programme starts January 2018

2018 Advanced Diploma in Social Enterprise

Ireland's leading qualification in SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

£1000 Bursaries Available

Are you interested in social innovation? Could a social enterprise development programme be for you? **Come to us with a passion to make a change, develop something new, deal with a social problem – we will support you with the knowledge, skills and tools to turn ideas into real world projects that change lives.**

The programme includes

Six 2-day Modules over a 12 month period / Six ½ Day Peer Learning Groups
Study Visits & Social Enterprise Masterclasses
Guest Lectures from Business Leaders and Social Innovators
Full accreditation by the Ulster Business School, Ulster University, Jordanstown

Closing date for applications is Wednesday 29th November 2017

Interviews for those seeking bursaries of £1,000 will be held on 12/13/14 December.

The **School for Social Enterprises in Ireland (SSEI)** is a University of Ulster / Flax Trust initiative. This is a one year social enterprise development programme which attracts a number of **£1000 bursaries** from The Flax Trust. These bursaries are provided to support individuals who have an idea to start a social enterprise or those in existing community organisations and charities who are trying to diversify their income streams. The total programme fee is £1,666.

For information about the content and an application pack visit

www.ssei.tv/advanced-diploma/

What the participants say.....

The programme give me the frame work needed to realise the opportunities that are required to sustain new businesses, looking at various social business models, creating social values, The social impact plan challenged me to build a business idea in a more structured and sustainable way. I enjoyed getting to know and hearing from the various social businesses out there. Some great discussions and sharing of ideas

Gerard O'Neill, Operations Manager, Springfield Charitable Association.

For someone new to sector or has limited knowledge I definitely would recommend it. Reading around the subject area forced me to read journals and books that I may never have read. It is most likely that I couldn't have done it without the very valuable Flax Trust Bursary support

Enda Daly Business Enterprise Team Leader, The Workspace Group.

A great deal of my inspiration, understanding and learning came from my peers. I have gained connections and friends that will be with me for a very long time. It was beneficial to see how others think and approach community work and fantastic to hear their innovations and ideas for the future. I wish to commend all who were involved in the teaching and delivering of this programme as well as The Flax Trust for the very essential support to make it possible for me to participate.

Christine Edgar, Social Entrepreneur.



This programme is generously supported by The Flax Trust

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.

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

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



NIFHA 2017 FINANCE CONFERENCE

22 November 2017 | Stormont Hotel, Belfast

Celebrating 40 years of great homes & thriving communities



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
Chief Executives, Board members
Executive teams, Sector lenders
Legal and financial advisers
Department for Communities
NI Housing Executive



Plenary Sessions

- Financial Review and Outlook
- 2017 Global Sector Accounts
- Value for Money
- Lender Panel
- New Regulatory Framework and Returns
- Unlocking House Building Capacity Through Innovative Financing

Breakout Sessions

- Financial Governance, Risk and Assurance
- GDPR: What You Need to Know
- Funding Future Supported Housing

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Training

Housing Rights

Housing Rights Training Courses

Universal Credit and Housing: Elements and Impacts

Belfast - Housing Rights

Thursday, November 23rd 2017

10:00 to 13:00

Universal Credit is gradually being introduced in Northern Ireland and will bring a new set of challenges for housing providers, tenants, homeowners and those who advise them. Housing Rights upcoming training course will provide a complete introduction to the housing element of Universal Credit and the likely impacts of this new system on tenants and homeowners.

Through detailed instruction, practical case-studies and discussion, participants will learn

- What type of accommodation will remain under the Housing Benefit system
- How Universal Credit differs from Housing Benefit
- How to assist people to claim Universal Credit
- Who is eligible to receive help with housing costs and what restrictions may apply to certain categories of claimant
- How housing costs will be dealt with under Universal Credit
- What assistance is available to help Universal Credit claimants who have to pay rates
- How to estimate how much someone will receive under Universal Credit
- About sources of financial support to help people who are struggling with the new system
- The eligibility criteria, application process and repayment procedures associated with the new system of loan support for mortgage costs
- How other elements of Welfare Reform, including the bedroom tax, benefit cap and welfare supplementary payments, interact with Universal Credit

Universal Credit-The housing impacts

Belfast - Housing Rights

Thursday, November 9, 2017 -

10:00 to 13:00

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

Participants will receive a comprehensive guide to Universal Credit and Housing in Northern Ireland and will have opportunities throughout the day to apply what has been learned. This course will be of particular interest to people working within the social housing sector, private landlords and agents and advice agencies who regularly deal with housing queries.

By the end of the day, participants can

- Understand the types of accommodation which will be assessed under Universal Credit
- Understand the application, assessment and payment cycles for Universal Credit
- Assist customers who have difficulty understanding their entitlement to assistance with payments relating to rent, service charges, mortgages and secured loans and rates
- Signpost customers to relevant sources of statutory and charitable support to ease financial hardship

This course will be of particular interest to people working within the social housing sector, private landlords and agents and advice agencies who regularly deal with housing queries. The Department for Communities has made a number of bursaries available for these groups to attend this one-day course.

We anticipate that these will be snapped up quickly, so please contact us urgently to schedule your place.

There will be a limited amount of spaces per organisation.

If you are interested in attending one of these courses [please register your details](#).

- 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



Young People & Volunteering: The Essentials

Date: 30th November 2017
Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm
Location: Volunteer Now, 34 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast BT2 7DB
Cost: FREE

Do you support young volunteers in your organisation? Then this FREE workshop is for you!

Young People & Volunteering: The Essentials is designed specifically for people, whether in a paid or unpaid role, that support and work with volunteers under 25 years old.

Recruitment, selection, support and management of young volunteers can be a lot different to working with adult volunteers. It brings a whole different set of skills and ways of working into play!

This FREE workshop is for anyone who supports young volunteers in their organisation. It will explore key principles in the development and promotion of volunteer opportunities for young people, good practice in recruitment and selection and a range of effective and appropriate methods for the support and management of young volunteers.

It will also help you develop your own youth volunteer programme action plan and provides an opportunity to share experience, both the highs and the lows of working with young volunteers, with colleagues in your field.

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



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>

Funding

The Henry Smith Charity Re-launches Grants Programmes

The Henry Smith Charity distributes over £28 million a year in grant programmes designed to reduce social and economic disadvantage in the UK. Following a review of its grant procedures, the Funder has refined its Main Grant programmes, separating it into two defined funds under the same new strategy that aims to work with people for whom other sources of support have failed, been inappropriate or are simply not available.

This will be achieved through the following priorities:

- Increasing resilience - empowering people, encouraging integration and personal independence, helping people to recover and move on.
- Creating opportunities and life chances - raising aspiration, equipping people with new skills, unlocking and enabling potential, and providing the means to improve life circumstances.
- Empowering communities - strengthening and connecting communities and making people feel valued, providing opportunities for social connections and relationships, encouraging participation and inclusion.

The Charity's grants programmes now stand as follows:

- The Main Grants: Improving Lives Fund is the largest of the Charity's funds, and will support the work of established charitable organisations with incomes of up to £2 million. Funding is available for projects that help people when other sources of support

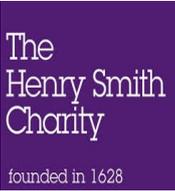
have failed, are inappropriate, or are simply not available.

- The Main Grants: Strengthening Communities Fund is designed to support small charitable organisations working at grassroots level in the most disadvantaged areas of the UK.
- The County Grants programme provides grants for smaller organisations working with disadvantaged people and communities in one of eight English counties. Groups should note that funding for Surrey is not available until early 2018.
- The Holiday Grants for Children programme provides grants for recreational trips and holidays for groups of children aged 13 and under in the UK who are disabled or disadvantaged. These are one-off short grants.
- The Christian Projects grant programme awards grants to projects that explicitly promote the Christian faith in the UK.

Grant sizes are generally between £10,000 and £60,000 and are for charities and not-for-profit organisations, including social enterprises that are based and working in the UK.

There are no deadlines. Applications are considered on a regular basis, depending on the fund applied to.

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



The
Henry Smith
Charity
founded in 1628

Community Foundation for NI: Community Innovators Programme

The Community Foundation, as a partner organisation of Social Innovation NI, a cross-sectoral collaboration of organisations who want to see innovation at the heart of solving social problems in Northern Ireland, is offering its Community Innovators programme to help organisation's develop innovative solutions to social challenges.

The Community Innovators Programme is targeted at community and voluntary organisations who have an interest in learning about and using social innovation methods to tackle challenges facing communities in Northern Ireland.

It comprises a two phase programme of training and mentoring based around the Human-Centred Design course delivered online by leading global innovation experts IDEO.

Human-Centred Design is a creative approach to problem solving that puts end users at the centre of the solution and focuses on experimentation, prototyping and evidence-gathering as key methods.

The programme is free to access and all applicant organisations need is an issue they're passionate about, an interest in social innovation and the time and ambition to develop an innovative new solution to their challenge together with a team of fellow trainees.

Application Closing Date 1st December 2017

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

Garfield Weston Foundation

The Garfield Weston Foundation is one of the largest grant-making trusts in the UK supporting the broadest range of charitable purposes.

The Foundation appreciates how challenging it is for charities to raise funds and aims to keep the process of applying uncomplicated with a one-stage application.

They have two main streams of activity:

1. Major Grants - £100,000 and above
2. Regular Grants - ranging from £1,000 - £99,999

On average, approximately 1,500 charities across the UK benefit each year from grants made by the Foundation ranging from the smallest community and volunteer projects through to large national organisations.

Their recent rounds of funding have helped projects in the following categories:

- ◆ Arts
- ◆ Community
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Welfare
- ◆ Medical
- ◆ Religion
- ◆ Youth
- ◆ Environment



Mindful of the challenging economic climate, the Foundation has continued to grow its donations (giving almost £55 million in the last year) and the Trustees are especially keen to see applications for core and project costs for charities delivering services directly to beneficiaries, especially in the welfare, youth and community fields, and also in regions of economic disadvantage.

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

Clothworkers Foundation: Small Grants Programme

The Clothworkers Foundation is the independent charitable arm of The Clothworkers Company. The Foundation aims through its funding to improve the quality of life, particularly for people and communities facing disadvantage.

It seeks to achieve its aims primarily through making grants in the following areas:

Alcohol and substance misuse - projects supporting people affected by, or at risk of, drug and/or alcohol dependency, and their families.

Disabled people - projects providing services for people with physical and/or learning disabilities, and/or for people with mental health issues. (We will not fund projects which focus only on meeting the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.)

Disadvantaged minority communities - Projects that work with minority communities facing both disadvantage (e.g.: economic or cultural) AND discrimination (e.g.: due to ethnicity, sexuality, faith) to: Promote integration between minority communities and mainstream society, and/or provide specialist services, and/or provide access to mainstream services

Disadvantaged young people - projects which support disadvantaged young people, particularly (but not limited to) those in or leaving care, or not in employment education or training (NEET).

Domestic and sexual violence - projects supporting people affected by domestic or sexual violence.

Elderly people - projects providing services for elderly people, in particular those living in areas of high deprivation and/or where rural isolation is an issue.

Homelessness - projects providing services for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.



Prisoners and ex-offenders - projects supporting prisoners and/or ex-offenders, or those at risk of offending, and their families.

Visual impairment - projects providing services for blind or visually impaired people.

What they fund

One-off grants are for the purchase of specific and pre-determined capital item(s), or service(s) for a particular project. "Capital" means tangible items or work; things that can be seen and used.

This includes:

Buildings: For example purchase, construction, renovation, refurbishment, redecoration.

Fittings, fixtures, and equipment: For example office equipment, sports or gym equipment, digital or audiovisual equipment, camping equipment, garden equipment, specialist therapeutic (but not purely medical) equipment. Soft or hard furnishings, bathroom/kitchen fittings and fixtures.

Please note that they do not fund equipment which will be purchased on an ad-hoc basis or which will be given to service users as part of your organisation's everyday operations.

Vehicles: For example minibus, car, caravan, people-carrier, 4X4. Please note that it is rare for them to fully fund brand new vehicles.

For further information visit, <http://foundation.clothworkers.co.uk/>