



Welcome to Supporting Communities 92nd 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.

Independent Reference Group releases report into Fire Safety in Housing Executive Tower Blocks

A report by an Independent Reference Group set up to look at fire safety in Housing Executive tower blocks has been released.

The key findings from the Group include:

- The two cladding systems used in four Housing Executive tower blocks did not include the Aluminium Composite Material as found in Grenfell Tower.
- Both cladding systems had been subject to a full-scale fire test and they were found to be compliant with Building Regulations.
- Fire safety and building control inspections, as well as Fire Risk Assessments undertaken across all 33 Housing Executive tower blocks identified a number of areas of remedial work.
- As a result, the Housing Executive is progressing a detailed action plan to remedy Building Regulation contraventions and implement Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service recommendations.

The Independent Reference Group set out a number of recommendations which include:

- The remedial and enhancement work identified by the inspections and Fire Risk Assessments should be completed as soon as possible.
- The Housing Executive considers installing sprinkler systems within its high-rise accommodation.
- Future learning outcomes or recommendations from the Grenfell tragedy are considered and implemented where necessary by the Housing Executive as soon as practically possible.
- The cladding systems used on the four Housing Executive tower blocks should be assessed against any new regulatory standards which may arise from ongoing reviews.
- The Housing Executive enhances the resources within its existing compliance team to ensure a robust inspection, testing and maintenance regime is in place.



Independent Reference Group
INTO FIRE SAFETY IN
HOUSING EXECUTIVE
TOWER BLOCKS

- All residents are updated through a further Housing Executive communication that sets out key findings for each block and what actions are being undertaken by way of mitigation.

Following the tragic Grenfell Tower fire in June, the Board of the Housing Executive asked that an independent group should be established to review the cladding systems used on four of its residential tower blocks. This review was then extended to look at all aspects of fire safety in the organisation's 33 tower blocks and take into account any lessons from the Grenfell fire.

The group was chaired by Professor Alastair Adair, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Ulster University, and made up of officers from Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service, Building Control, the Housing Executive, the Department for Communities and the Department of Finance. The main findings of the report have been shared with the Housing Executive Board, tenant representatives and political representatives.

It is available on the Housing Executive's website at www.nihe.gov.uk/news

The primary focus of the group was on four tower blocks in which cladding systems were already installed (Cúchulainn House and Eithné House in North Belfast) and those in the process of being installed (Carnet House and Whincroft House in East Belfast). The investigation was extended to all 33 Housing Executive tower blocks in order to identify any potential fire risks associated with these in light of the Grenfell tragedy.

The Independent Reference Group also considered the recent fire at Coolmoyne house, Dunmurry, and has suggested that:

- The communication to residents of the 'Stay Put' statutory guidance is reviewed and enhanced to ensure fire safety evacuation procedures are clearly understood; those residents in each block potentially requiring assistance are identified.

Cont'd overleaf

Professor Alastair Adair said:

"The investigations of cladding systems, fire safety measures and the risk assessments across all 33 Housing Executive tower blocks have highlighted that there are necessary actions required to ensure buildings are safer for residents. We recommend that this work is carried out as soon as possible. The group has made a number of recommendations. For example we have suggested that the Housing Executive consider the installation of sprinklers as a fire suppression measure to give greater confidence to residents."

Whilst is it never possible to give 100% assurance on the safety of any building, the group has been reassured that the work carried out prior and subsequent to the Grenfell fire, has put residents' safety first.

We are also confident that remedial measures and enhancements which the Housing Executive plans to do, will provide extra reassurance to residents and others regarding fire safety in all tower blocks. The Independent Reference Group commends the Housing Executive and representatives of the contributing statutory agencies for the priority they attached to fire safety. This was evidenced in the proactive manner in which the agencies reviewed the cladding systems and the details of the full scale fire tests, undertaken at an early stage of design development, to provide assurance on fire safety.

This highlighted the benefits of an inter-agency collaborative approach to review the construction of the cladding systems and to ultimately ensure they are fit for purpose."

Consultations

Call for evidence for Independent Review of Personal Independence Payment assessment process

Individuals and organisations who have information or experience of how the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) assessment process is working in Northern Ireland are being asked to share their views as part of the Independent Review.

The Review by Walter Rader will look at the operation of the PIP assessment since its introduction in June 2016.



Personal Independent Payment

This call for evidence is aimed at organisations and individuals who have information that is relevant to how the PIP assessment process is working for both new claims and Disability Living Allowance (DLA) reassessment claims. This is one of several methods that will be used to gather information during the review. It will be used to help inform the Independent Reviewer's conclusions and recommendations.

More information and details of how to respond to the [consultation](#) are available online.
The deadline for responses is Friday 16 March.

Department for Communities

Changes to the Affordable Warmth Scheme
AWSConsultation@communities-ni.gov.uk
Closing date; 16th February 2018



Department of Health

Equality Action Plan and Disability Action Plan
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/draft-disability-action-plan-and-equality-action-plan>
Closing date; 28th February 2018

Household Flood Insurance survey

The Consumer Council is researching how financial services work for consumers in Northern Ireland.

Part of this work is looking at household flood insurance. To help The Consumer Council, they would like you to complete a short survey – see link below.
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/73XQCWZ>



The survey is anonymous. Responses will be sent directly to The Consumer Council and will be treated with the strictest confidence. The survey should take no longer than five minutes to complete. If you have any questions, would like to talk about flood insurance or would prefer someone to complete this survey on your behalf via telephone, please call Graham Smith at The Consumer Council on 028 9025 1600.

The survey can be posted to you for you to complete and post back. Please contact The Consumer Council to request this.

Special Focus

'Time for parties to come together to build the housing we need.'

CIH Northern Ireland policy and practice expert Justin Cartwright takes a look ahead to 2018 and says it's time for politicians to come together to build the homes the region needs.



As the New Year gets underway it's beneficial to pause and look to the year ahead, and what it is likely to mean for housing in the UK. In other CIH blogs out today, my colleagues give housing professionals a flyover of the political changes – such as new policy announcements and legislative proposals – to look out for in Scotland, Wales and England.

Political change has a meaningful and long-lasting impact on people's lives. This is particularly true in relation to housing policy – we all know the profound impact it has on people and communities. Especially people who are struggling to keep a roof over their head, or who have no home to call their own.

So it is very unfortunate that Northern Ireland has no government, and hasn't had one for nearly a year – no vehicle to facilitate the changes that people rely upon – with the NI Executive collapsed following the overspend of an incentive scheme to generate heat from renewable sources.

One of the final acts of the former Executive was to publish its draft programme for government (PfG) covering the period 2016-2021. The PfG set a target to provide 9,600 social homes and 3,750 shared equity homes over the five year period.

Averaging 1,920 social homes per annum, this was a welcome target in that it was ambitious; this level of output has been achieved only once in the past seven years. It reflects the Housing Executive's recommendation of an annual target of 2,000 new social homes, based on modelling. The Department for Communities (DfC) back-loaded the target, first aiming for 1,600 starts in 2016/17 and 2,000 in 2017/18.

In the absence of government, DfC is working to the draft PfG. The 2016/17 target was met, but this year's target has, very unfortunately, been reduced to 1,750 due to the political situation; the interim departmental budget was not confirmed until May, causing delays in confirmation of the development programme.

Furthermore, while DfC still hopes to deliver the 9,600 social homes by 2021, the current working target is 7,600.

It's clear that we need our Assembly back up and running early this year to achieve certainty and the level of housebuilding that Northern Ireland desperately needs. Several deadlines for the region's parties to agree a deal to restore power-sharing were missed during 2017, and disagreement between the parties remains on equality issues such as the Irish language and marriage equality.

Housing professionals also need a government in place to implement proposed changes that are outstanding. These include changes to make private rented accommodation a more attractive housing option, and changes to the way social homes are allocated to make the process simpler, fairer and more transparent.

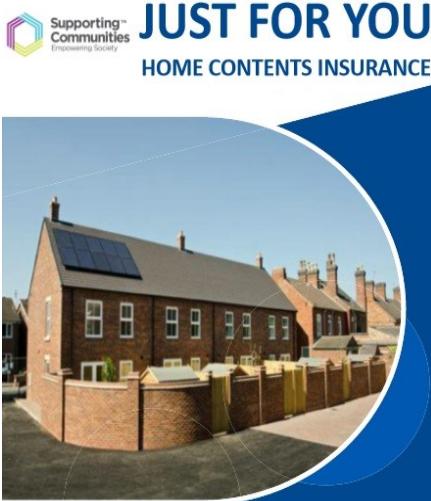
Despite the absence of government, we haven't been idle in our influencing work at CIH Northern Ireland. During 2017 we worked with PfG officials, MPs and the All Party Group on Housing around our research and influencing work. We will continue to do so in 2018 – we are very excited to be shortly announcing a major new project for housing in Northern Ireland.

Every cloud has a silver lining – in Northern Ireland's case, it must be said that housing continues to enjoy a relatively high priority given to housing investment, as well as cross-party support for new social housing. It's time now for the parties to come together and form government, to ensure we achieve the numbers of new homes that people need.

Justin Cartwright is policy and public affairs manager at CIH Northern Ireland.



Are your Household Contents Insured?



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>

Social Enterprise

UnLtd 

Social Enterprise: Starting Well - Belfast

Wednesday 14th March 2018

*Do you have an idea for change? Are you thinking about setting up a social enterprise?
Would you like some help to get started?*

Join us for this half-day workshop to:

- Meet others who want to create social change
- Test out your idea in a supportive environment
- Learn about the essential components of a good social enterprise
- Find out who can help you

For booking information, please click [here](#)

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

Expression of Interest deadline: 27th March 2018

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.

About you:

- You have identified a social issue and developed a business model that works to solve it
- You have already achieved a compelling performance in your venture
- You are committed to delivering local, regional or national social impact at scale and have a track record of creating social impact
- You are experienced, ambitious and capable of growing your venture
- You have a realistic growth plan to scale nationally or internationally
- You are committed to working full time in your social venture

About your venture:

- Your venture is ideally less than 5 years old
- Your venture is dynamic and has been running for at least one year
- Your venture is ready to grow to local, regional or national scale and has a logical and appropriate plan to deliver this
- You have a compelling performance to date and/or a logical and appropriate plan for rapid growth to reach local, regional or national scale
- Your principle objective for the year ahead is not to secure (significant) investment
- Your venture targets beneficiaries predominantly based in the UK

Next Steps:

To apply for a Grow It Award please click [here](#) to complete an Expression of Interest.

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

**Expression of Interest deadline:
27th March 2018**

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

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

What we look for in you:

- You have an idea that will create social impact
- You're passionate about making this happen
- You'd like some help getting started

What we look for in your idea:

- It can deliver a social impact
- It meets a clear social need
- It has the potential to become financially sustainable

Our UnLtd Do It Award can offer you:

- A package of support and funding tailored to suit you
- One-to-one guidance from your UnLtd Award Manager
- Specialist advice from relevant experts
- Access to resources to help get you up and running

Next Steps:

To apply for a Do It Award please click [here](#) to complete an Expression of Interest

Spaces for Change

For 16-24 year olds up to £5,000 Cash Award & Support

Expression of Interest deadline: 27th March 2018



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

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

Young people aged 18 – 24 will also have the opportunity to crowd fund alongside their award with support from Spacehive. This will enable the young person to demonstrate tangible support from the local community for their idea, learn valuable skills, as well as increasing the chances of sustainability of the social venture.

Eligibility

- Be between the age of 16-24
- If over 18 be willing to crowdfund a minimum of £100 via Spacehive to support the sustainability of social venture
- Live in the UK
- Have an idea for a social venture that will unlock the potential benefits of unused or under-utilised spaces for the local community, especially other young people
- Apply as an individual or an informal group of up to four people (with groups only the lead will complete the application form, the lead will also be responsible for the award)
- Fulfil a clear demand and need, with clear outputs and goals

Next Steps:

To apply for a Spaces 4 Change please click [here](#) to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI).

For further information please contact:

Nuala Smyth, Northern Ireland Manager, UnLtd, Room 112, City East Business Centre

Tel: 028 9094 1619 / 07545 933 816

Email: nualasmyth@unltd.org.uk

Social Enterprise NI

Social Enterprise NI's Annual Social Value Conference will take place on 22nd March 2018 – more information will be made available in the coming weeks.

A reminder of some events happening in the sector over the coming weeks:



Social Enterprise NI

| | |
|--|--|
| Employment Contracts and Commercial T&Cs Seminar. Presented By MKB Law FREE | Wed 28 th February 2018, 12.30-2pm (Light Lunch Provided) Venue- 'The Good Room' Bullitt Hotel, Belfast To register: Via Eventbrite- https://goo.gl/EeSzZ8 |
| C03 Leadership Conference 2018 | Thursday 1 st March 2018 La Mon Hotel, Belfast To register: http://bit.ly/2CQx32u |
| The Management and Leadership SuMMit Cost: £85 + VAT | Friday 2 nd March 2018, 8.15am - 1.30pm Venue: Titanic Belfast To register: www.mln.org.uk/summit |
| Pitch & Network Your Business Workshop | Thursday 8 th March 2018, 12pm - 2pm Venue- Social Enterprise Hub, L/Derry To register: amanda@socialenterpriseni.org |
| Programme for Government Roundtable Event | Wed 14 th March 2018, 6pm - 9pm Venue - Members Dining Room, Parliament Buildings To register: amanda@socialenterpriseni.org |

Publications

Delivering Social Change Stakeholder Updates

Since January 2014 the Delivering Social Change Communications Team has been producing regular updates on progress across the Signature Programmes and other work being taken forward under the Delivering Social Change framework.



Access the most recent editions of the [stakeholder update](#)

Northern Ireland Housing Statistics report

The Northern Ireland Housing Statistics report is an annual compendium of statistics containing information on a range of areas relating to housing.



The report is divided into sections covering: supply, energy, social renting demand, private renting demand, owner occupier demand and household characteristics.

The full report is available at; <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/housing-statistics>

Community Relations Council

The most recent editions of CRC e-News is available at; <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/publications/enews>



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/>



The NIEL EU Matters for January 2018 is now available at; <https://www.nienvironmentlink.org/cmsfiles/EU-Matters-January-2018.pdf>

For other NIEL publications and events, go to; <https://www.nienvironmentlink.org/>

Scope NI JRF

JOSEPH ROWNTREE FOUNDATION

Available online, including articles such as; ignorance and the Arts, how the absence of government impacts Human Rights in NI and the loss of rural bus services. Including an article on Poverty.

Poverty – are we doing it wrong?

Two years of research from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Frameworks Institute have found that traditional campaigns against poverty tend to backfire. If this issue is to be tackled, a new approach is required.

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



Please click the link below to access the December 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-december-2017.pdf>



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>

Events

Save the date – 23 March 2018 - Consumer Parliament to be held in the Guild Hall, Derry/Londonderry

Following on from the hugely successful inaugural Consumer Parliament in Belfast earlier this year, The Consumer Council is now pleased to announce we are organising a similar event in Derry/Londonderry on 23 March 2018.

The Parliament will provide consumers with the opportunity to raise the issues most important to them, learn about their consumer rights and, most importantly, how to save money and reduce their household bills.

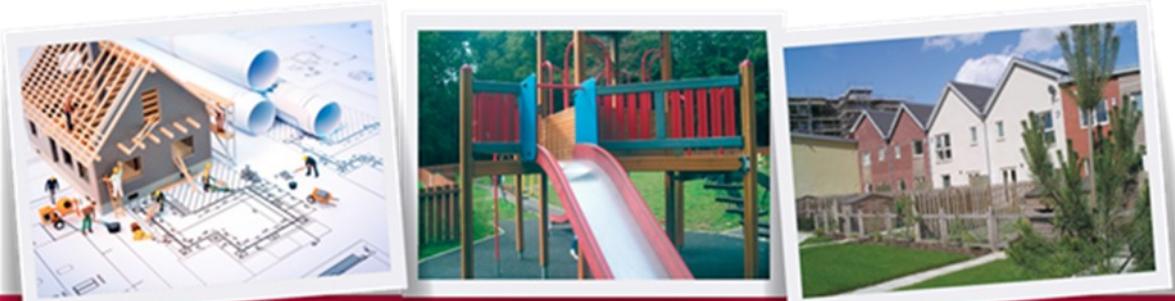
- The event will take place in the Guild Hall, Derry/Londonderry from 10am – 3pm.
- It will include individual workshops, focusing on consumer issues that affect the elderly, the young, rural communities, those living with a disability, small business, and those living on a budget.
- The Parliament will allow attendees to have their say on matters relating to energy, public transport, water services, postal services as well as general consumer issues.

We will also have opportunities for stakeholders to take an active part in the Parliament and engage with regional organisations, groups and individual consumers. Further updates on these opportunities will be released shortly.



If you wish to learn more please email

thomas.mccaffery@consumercouncil.org.uk or Siobhan.rafferty@consumercouncil.org.uk



Northern Ireland Housing Conference

Thursday 15th March 2018, Titanic Belfast

Housing is an issue that is never far from the headlines and as we begin 2018 significant challenges remain, not least the 37,611 households on the social housing list and current political instability. The 2018 Northern Ireland Housing Conference will focus on the challenges that lie ahead and discuss the way forward to ensure we meet current and future housing needs.

Delegate fee: £195 + VAT @ 20% = £234

NIFHA members discounted rate: £175 + VAT @ 20% = £210

Tel: +44 (0)28 9261 9933 Email: registration@agendani.com

Web: <http://www.nihousing.agendani.com/>



Untapping Potential

Thursday 1 March 2018 | La Mon Hotel & Country Club, Castlereagh, Belfast

During the course of the day there will be over 20 conference contributors with keynote addresses from internationally bestselling author and leadership expert Dr Sam Collins, five-time [TED.com](#) speaker Julian Treasure and Muslim Aid CEO, Jehangir Malik.

There will also be contributors from across the Public sector including Anne Donaghy, CEO Mid and East Antrim Council and Liam Hannaway, CEO, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, as well as input from the Charity Commission for NI and the Information Commissioner.

You can view the full programme on the CO3 website here: <https://www.co3.bz/programme-0>
A Special Offer is available if you book by 31 January 2018. Prices start from £100

TO BOOK

Simply email Rachel@co3.bz or telephone 028 90245356

Over 60? Make your voice heard!

The Northern Ireland Pensions Parliament will this year hold eleven 'local parliaments', one in each council area between March and June 2018 and registration is now open for all those wishing to attend. Each local parliament will engage with older people on issues including healthcare, the cost of living, community safety and transport and will feature interactive voting, discussion and Q&A with an expert panel and a panel of local Councillors.

Ivan Baxter from the Northern Ireland Pensions Parliament commented: "*This is a great opportunity for older people from across Northern Ireland to make their voice heard. If you're sixty or over, why not come along and see what it's all about?*



The parliament is a great forum for local older people to raise concerns they may have about healthcare, the cost of living, community safety and much more. It's also a great way to learn more about the campaigns organised by Age Sector Platform on behalf of the older population in Northern Ireland."

Parliaments have been confirmed for Belfast, Craigavon, Bangor, Newtownabbey, Enniskillen, Cookstown and Newry. The remaining four parliaments will be announced in the coming weeks.

Register to attend by phoning 028 9031 2089 or online via www.pensionersparliament.org.

Training

Volunteer Now Training

Managing & Motivating Volunteers

Date/Time: 21st & 22nd February 2018 10.00am - 4.00pm

Location: Volunteer Now, 34 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast BT2 7DB

Cost: £150 + VAT non accredited £235 + VAT accredited



Explore a range of management tools to quickly and effectively settle new volunteers into the organisation. Using example checklists and good practice, identify the benefits of using tools such as induction and settling in periods. We will also look at how to keep longer serving volunteers refreshed, informed of any changes and fully committed to your mission.

Volunteers want and need to feel supported and valued during their volunteering. The organisation needs to ensure volunteers are working to the standard required. How do you ensure a balance between the needs of both the volunteer and the organisation? Come away with useful ideas, example support and supervision activities and sample questions for one to one support and supervision meetings with volunteers.

The management of any human resource creates conflict and problems. We will look at good practice in managing problems with poor or declining volunteer performance and dealing with complaints. It explores the principles of managing conflict and offers useful top tips. Ensure your organisation has a consistent and volunteer friendly approach to managing problems.

Don't panic, ignore or delay – plan and deal with it now!

You will get an overview of the legal obligations an organisation has regarding its volunteers. Discover how to ensure you don't accidentally employ your volunteers, know the relevant legislation around health and safety and duty of care, gain a framework for carrying out a risk assessment and explore the truths and myths around volunteering while on benefits.

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

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

Gaslight Media Trust

Facilitation Training for The JustUs Programme

An Innovative Citizenship Education Programme for Young People <http://www.justusproject.net/>

About The Facilitation Training

This is a two-day Intensive Facilitation Training Programme for youth education practitioners, (teachers, Youth workers and trained youth volunteers) which will equip them with a bespoke set of digital resources to deliver The JustUs Workshop Education Programme to young people.



This course is designed to support youth practitioners to have exploratory conversations with young people in a safe setting.

The workshops will take place over two full consecutive days as outlined below:

Date: Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st February 2018
Time: 9.15 am – 5 pm

Celebrate Belfast's diversity with our extensive 2018 programme

Would you like to learn more about the people, places and communities that make Belfast? Are you interested in visiting different places of worship, understanding why different communities celebrate the events they do?



If so, come along to the DiverseCity events to learn more about the culture and traditions of some of the communities living in Belfast. This is a year long programme with free events happening each month.

You must reserve your place in advance by emailing goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk or calling 028 9027 0663.

Further details on each of the events, including venues will be provided following your reservation

Upcoming events

| Event | Date | Time | Description |
|---|-------------|-----------------|--|
| Celebration of Chinese New Year and visit to Chinese Cultural and Resource Centre | 21 February | 10am - 12pm | This event will enable participants to celebrate the history and culture of one of Belfast's oldest minority ethnic communities. |
| Irish cultural and linguistic experience | 14 March | 10am - 12pm | This Gaeltacht Experience provides the opportunity for participants to experience Irish culture, music and language in the Gaeltacht Quarter of Belfast. |
| Refugee and Arabic Cultural Information Session | 27 March | 9.45am - 3.30pm | This awareness session will cover an introduction to asylum and refugee issues in the UK and NI in particular. It will provide a general awareness of Islamic and Arab culture and factual information about how the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme works. |
| Tour of City Cemetery | 26 April | | This tour, facilitated by Tom Hartley, will introduce participants to the history of Belfast going back 130 years. In the City Cemetery, the inscriptions tell the story of finance, empire, the rise of northern unionism and the golden era of industrialisation in Belfast. |
| Mural and Peace Wall Tour | 17 May | 10am - 12pm | This event will take participants on a facilitated walking tour of some of the murals and peace walls in Belfast. It will provide an insight into the history behind the murals and walls, enabling an understanding of Belfast's troubled past. |
| An introduction to sexual orientation and gender | 23 May | 10am - 1pm | This workshop will enable participants to understand sexual orientation and gender issues and will provide an understanding of the ways prejudice and discrimination can be directed towards people of differing sexual orientations. |
| Facilitated tour of Windsor Park Football Stadium | 7 June | 10am - 12pm | This facilitated visit will enable participants to visit the new Education and Heritage Centre, it will provide an insight into the history behind Northern Irish football, as well as providing a tour of the stadium. |
| Visit to Belfast Islamic Centre | 21 June | 11am - 2pm | This visit will enable participants to explore the history of the Muslim community in Northern Ireland and to learn about aspects of Islam. An opportunity to observe prayer will be included. |

Funding

Central Good Relations Funding Programme

The Central Good Relations Funding Programme supports the achievement of the Executive's strategic objectives relating to good relations. The Fund supports productive, time bound projects which contribute to the promotion of good relations and to building a united and shared community. The programme will support productive time bound projects which contribute to the promotion of good relations. The Central Good Relations Fund is a small central scheme designed to distribute funding in year. The fund does not and will not replace mainstream core or project funding.

Ministerial priorities aimed at building a united, shared and reconciled community are identified in the good relations strategy, Together: Building a United Community, published on 23 May 2013. You can access the strategy document below:

[Together: Building a United Community](#)

The 2018/19 Central Good Relations Funding programme is now open for applications. The application process for project funding will close on Friday 23 February 2018 at 2.00pm. The application process for small grants remains open throughout the year.

All successful project and small grant applicants under the 2018/19 funding programme will be required to deliver projects by 31 March 2019.

The guidance notes, application forms and a list of frequently asked questions are available to download via the links below:

- [Central Good Relations Funding Programme - Guidance Notes](#)
- [Central Good Relations Funding Programme - Project Funding Application form](#)
- [Central Good Relations Funding Programme – Small Grant Application form](#)
- [Central Good Relations Funding Programme - Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Hard copies of these documents may be obtained by emailing the [Central Good Relations Funding Programme](#).

Entries Open for National Lottery Awards 2018

The Awards are open to authorised representatives of projects that have received Lottery funding at any time since the National Lottery began in 1994. The main beneficiaries of the project must be based in the UK.

Entries can be made in the following Award categories:

- Best Arts Project
- Best Education Project
- Best Environment Project
- Best Health Project
- Best Heritage Project
- Best Sport Project
- Best Voluntary/Charity Project



The winner in each category will receive a cash prize of £5,000 (an increase from £3,000 offered in previous years), which can be put towards their project. Winners will be determined by a public vote and will appear at a BBC One Awards Ceremony.

Entry is free and the deadline is 6 April 2018 (11.59pm).

AllAgesApril18: Applications Now Open!



All Ages April is Linking Generation NI's small grant scheme to support intergenerational activity throughout the month of April.

Grants of up to £150 are offered to individuals / groups who have an idea to run an activity / project that connects generations in and with their communities in the month of April.

Applications open Monday 5th Feb and close MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2018 at 5pm

[CLICK HERE TO](#) download application pack and return either by post to: Linking Generations NI, 43-45 Frances St. Newtownards, BT23 7DX or by Email to: infolgni@bjf.org.uk

Application guidelines and criteria can be found within the pack.

[Check out ideas and inspiration from last years #AllAgesApril17 here](#)

Ulster Bank: Skills & Opportunities Fund

For 2018 the Fund will provide grants of up to £35,000 for charities, social enterprises, community groups, state-funded schools and colleges based in Northern Ireland, to fund projects aimed at helping people in disadvantaged communities develop, create or access the skills and opportunities they need to build their financial capability skills or to start or develop a new business now or in the future. ease their financial capability, or enable them to get into work or start a business, now or in the future.

Grants up to a maximum of £35,000 can be applied for, but you cannot apply for a grant higher than 20% of your turnover.

You can apply if:

- You're a not-for-profit organisation or an eligible state funded education body e.g. charity, social enterprise, community group, school, college.
- You're based in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland; England or Wales or Scotland.
- You can demonstrate experience of working in and/or with disadvantaged communities.
- You are able to demonstrate experience in measuring the impact of your projects.
- Your organisation has a turnover of less than £10 million as shown in your most recent set of accounts or is a state-funded school or college.
- Your organisation has traded for at least 2 years. (Not applicable to schools/colleges).

What types of projects are funded?

- They'll consider any application as long as your project helps people in disadvantaged communities to learn new skills that will enable them to become self-employed, set up their own business, grow their business or become financially capable.

- They also consider the regional priorities of each area –see below for the priorities for NI.
- As a general guide, they've funded projects that offer training, support, qualifications, work placements, employment, self-employment, career guidance and enterprise opportunities. For example (and this is not an exhaustive list), projects in the past have targeted women with low literacy and numeracy and no work experience, the homeless, unemployed people, disadvantaged young people, women in rural areas, students about to leave school, ex-offenders and those with a history of addiction.
- Basically, the projects they support are as diverse as the people they help.
- No more than 25% can be spent on capital costs. Capital costs are fixed one time expenses incurred on the purchase of land, building, construction and equipment.

Priorities in Northern Ireland

- They particularly welcome applications for smaller grants (£1,000 upwards) to support smaller-scale projects and rural groups.
- They want to fund projects that support financial capability and financial inclusion and/or enterprise and entrepreneurship.
- They're interested in projects that focus on driving inclusive economic growth and improving social mobility in local communities where there is a measurable economic or social impact.
- They're particularly interested in initiatives that allow our staff to participate in volunteering activities and offer the chance for them to share their business skills.

For more information and application, go to;
<http://skillsandopportunitiesfund.ulsterbank.com/apply/>
Closing date; 23rd February 2018



2018 Baldwins Kick Start Award Offers £20,000 to Young Entrepreneurs in the UK

Baldwins Kick Start is an annual award programme for young entrepreneurs who have a good idea and would like to start their own business. The programme was established by Baldwins Accountants to find and develop the 'Youth Entrepreneurs' of the future. Baldwins hopes to reach those young people who have talent, drive, ambition and ideas but who lack access to the necessary funding and business support needed to start up in enterprise.

The programme has a total budget of £300,000, running over ten years.

The winner of the award will be given a grant of £10,000 coupled with £10,000 worth of mentoring and accountancy advice. Two runners-up will be presented with £5,000 worth of accountancy advice and mentoring. The scheme is open to UK-based young people aged between 18 and 25 who either have an idea and a business plan but are yet to start trading, or a newly founded start-up business where trading commenced on or after 31 August 2017.

Applications for the current round close on 31 August 2018.

For more information, go directly to; <https://www.baldwinsaccountants.co.uk/kickstart/about>



Tudor Trust Grants

Tudor makes grants, and provides other types of support, to voluntary and community groups working in any part of the UK.

They particularly want to help smaller, community-led organisations which work directly with people who are at the margins of society: organisations which support positive changes in people's lives and in their communities.

They want to respond flexibly to your ideas and energy, and to fund effective organisations working to high standards.

Scheme details

As an independent grant maker an important part of their role is to support work which is untried and which has uncertain outcomes. However, innovation is not the be all and end all: they also recognise the need for sound, practical work which seeks to bring stability and wellbeing into difficult places and situations.

They trust the groups they fund and their funding guidelines are broad because they want to support the work that you really want to do. They seek to give you the opportunity and practical tools to do the work that you know is needed and they try to offer high levels of support and engagement when this is helpful and appropriate.

Their two-stage application process gives them more time to work creatively with applicants who reach the second stage. Through careful listening and constructive dialogue they hope to give you the opportunity to think about your options and develop a proposal which focuses on the real needs of your organisation and the people you are working with.

Who do they fund?

They are particularly interested in supporting smaller, under-resourced organisations which they believe are particularly well-placed to deliver positive change because they know their communities and can be highly responsive to need, providing an individualised and holistic response to the people they support.

The best smaller-scale organisations also encourage participation and inclusion and contribute to the resilience of communities by offering opportunities for connection and engagement.

the Tudor trust

They are therefore much more likely to fund groups with an annual income of less than £1 million.

In practice the majority of the organisations they support are much smaller than this: last year 77% of their grants went to groups with an annual income of less than £500,000.

If you are from an organisation with an income of more than £1 million and want to discuss whether it is worth making an application please call the Information Team on 020 7727 8522 for advice.

About their grants

Many of their grants take the form of core funding: funding which goes towards the core costs of running an organisation, including salaries, overheads and day-to-day running costs.

Sometimes they may decide to offer unrestricted funding, through a grant which can be used entirely freely to further an organisation's charitable objectives.

They can also provide project grants, capital grants for buildings or equipment and grants to help strengthen your organisation.

In some situations they may look at making a short-term loan if this is the most helpful solution and you can demonstrate how you can pay it back: if you are interested in loan funding please ring the Information Team on 020 7727 8522 for advice before making an application.

There is no maximum or minimum grant, though in practice it is unusual for them to make a grant of less than £10,000.

At the first stage of the application process they don't ask you to specify exactly how much you are looking for, though it is fine to do so if you wish: if your application progresses to the second stage they will discuss your funding requirements in more detail then.

For more information on how to apply, go to: <http://tudortrust.org.uk/how-to-apply/making-a-first-stage-proposal/>

