



Welcome to Supporting Communities 93rd 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.

## Interested in NI social housing? Here's your chance to join the debate on its future

CIH NI Policy and Practice expert Justin Cartwright takes a look at **Rethinking Social Housing NI** and encourages people to get involved.

Our latest project *Rethinking social housing Northern Ireland* has been launched. Sponsored by the Department for Communities, it will compliment the CIH project currently underway in England that was launched in the wake of the Grenfell tower tragedy.

The reasons for this project are clear – it's time to have a wide-ranging debate about the purpose of social housing and to inform future policy direction.

The project combines original research and engagement with the sector, tenants, politicians and the public to explore fundamental questions including what social housing is, what it does and who it is for?

These questions are transferrable enough that on first glance it might be thought that an additional project for Northern Ireland isn't needed. The reason we decided to launch the Northern Ireland project is that housing policy here differs remarkably to the experience in England in a number of ways.

CIH recently revealed that 150,000 homes for social rent in England were lost over the five years to 2017, mostly due to homes being converted to 'affordable rent' or sold under the right to buy. While Northern Ireland has the right to buy (which has also applied to housing associations since 2003/04), the number of sales since the housing market crash remains small.

Furthermore there is no equivalent to 'affordable rent' in N Ireland. Housing Associations receive capital grant for new build social housing at a rate of around 50 per cent, enabling them to keep their economic rents affordable in the true sense of the term.



*Members of the Steering Group including Colm McDaid, SupportingCommunities*

When this is combined with a broad political consensus in favour of new social housing and relatively high priority given to its investment, the social housing stock is added to year on year. Finally, while conversations around the 'societal' value of social housing in England have included things like enabling the civic participation of tenants and facilitating social mix through section 106 agreements, Northern Ireland remains more traditional.

Northern Ireland is the only region across the UK and Ireland without a system of developer contributions for social and affordable housing. Tenure mix is decided at the local level, with larger social housing developments sometimes including a proportion of shared equity homes through Co-Ownership Housing.

And in recent years social mix has taken the form of 'shared housing', where specific schemes aim to achieve a mix of people in housing need from both Protestant and Catholic community backgrounds, since social housing remains highly segregated in religious terms as a result of the Troubles. So when we ask the fundamental questions of Rethinking Social Housing – **what social housing is, what it does and who it is for?** – but in the Northern Ireland context, the debate begins in a different place and will very likely end in a different one as well.

Nevertheless a local debate is timely, as we work to a new Programme for Government in Northern Ireland that recognises the need to close the gap between housing need and supply, but within a strategic policy framework that has not changed much over the last couple of decades.

*Cont'd overleaf*

So whether you are a housing or associated professional, tenant, member of the public or political party staff or representative, we want to hear your views on the future role and purpose of social housing in Northern Ireland.

What do people think social housing should be? What is the value of social housing? How can providers make sure their work is relevant and responsive to people's housing requirements? And how can government maximise the potential of social housing to provide housing solutions?

Colm McDaid, Chief Executive of Supporting Communities and member of the Rethinking Social Housing NI Steering Group commented; *"This debate on rethinking social housing is very timely and will help inform a new vision for social housing in N Ireland for the next 25-30 years. I am delighted to be part of the Steering Group and hope to ensure the views of tenants, residents and*

*communities are articulated within the Steering Group, however, I would urge as many Housing Executive, housing association tenants to contribute to this important debate over the coming weeks and months."*

*Colm continued; "Supporting Communities and our trading subsidiary - Empowering Communities, will be supporting and assisting CIH NI to engage with as many tenants, residents and communities right across N Ireland and we look forward to hearing what you have to say."*

Your views will help to inform thinking around the future direction of social housing in Northern Ireland. If you would like to have your say as an individual, take our short [Rethinking social housing Northern Ireland poll](#). Or if you would like to participate in one of our upcoming project workshops near you, [register your interest](#).

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## Tower Block Residents encouraged to Have their Say

In the last edition of our E-Zine, we reported on the findings and recommendations of the Independent Reference Group, set up to look at fire safety in Housing Executive tower blocks.

One key recommendation centred around the importance of communication between the Housing Executive and tower block residents.

The importance of this communication extends further than fire safety, with the Housing Executive currently working on a Tower Block Strategy which will consider the long-term future of the 33 tower blocks under its ownership. However, at present there is no collective voice for residents from across all 33 tower blocks, with which the Housing Executive can engage on operational, policy or strategic matters. Given this, the Housing Executive have engaged Supporting Communities to deliver a 12 month pilot project, which will encourage tenant representation from across all 33 tower blocks.

The project will support the development of community representation in tower blocks where none currently exists, and provide additional support to existing community groups based in the tower blocks themselves or the areas in which tower blocks are located. It will also support the establishment of a Tower Block Tenant Forum, which will draw representation from across the 33 tower blocks and sit as part of the Housing Community Network.

## Housing Executive

Sarah Harkness-Robinson, previously a Supporting Communities Senior Liaison Officer for Ards & North Down, Lisburn & Castlereagh, has been appointed Tower Block Project Co-ordinator: *"This project provides residents, both Housing Executive tenants and leaseholders, an opportunity to have their say on issues which are unique to them as tower block residents; particularly issues around fire safety. It also provides the Housing Executive an opportunity to engage directly with residents, who can in turn influence decisions which directly affect them."*

Sarah will be working alongside Housing Executive staff to roll out the project, and will be making contact with existing community groups over the coming weeks.

A flyer will be distributed to all tower block residents in due course, providing more information on the project and how residents can get involved. A community survey will also follow in each block.

Recruitment is also underway for a Training Officer who will provide free, bespoke, capacity building training to residents who would like to get involved.

Anyone interested in finding out more information or getting involved can contact Sarah via [sarah@supportingcommunities.org](mailto:sarah@supportingcommunities.org).

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## Local social enterprise cleaning up thanks to Housing Executive

A social enterprise in Newtownards is providing upcycled domestic appliances for cost-conscious families, charities and landlords across Northern Ireland. Refresh Appliances Limited provides high-quality remanufactured domestic appliances such as washing machines, tumble dryers, fridges, freezers and cookers at affordable prices.



(l-r) Rona Simmonds, GEMS graduate trainee with the Housing Executive; Alan McDowell, Director of Refresh Appliances; Owen Brady, Housing Executive Area Manager and Arthur Cunningham, Director of Refresh Appliances.

The Housing Executive provided £48,000 through the Social Housing Enterprise Programme to help the business's continued growth and training opportunities.

The remanufactured appliances are available with a six month warranty and with free standard fitting on local deliveries. Currently there are 11 people directly employed by Refresh Appliances with plans to increase the workforce following the funding award.

Refresh will also provide training and employment opportunities to people in the Ards and North Down Borough Council area, with capacity to train eight apprentices to ultimately offer them full-time employment within the organisation.

Alan McDowell, Director of Refresh Appliances said: *"Since 2013 we have been remanufacturing domestic appliances such as washing machines and tumble dryers for environmentally-aware customers. We've seen a huge increase in demand from across Northern Ireland, because people know much more about the environmental damage that comes from the manufacture of a brand new machine. For anyone who wants to do their part in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill, one of the best ways to do that is to buy a remanufactured machine. As a social enterprise, we are determined to grow our business along with the local community."*

*"The availability of employment opportunities through our trainee programme will have a positive impact, not only to those seeking careers in the industry, but also to local businesses benefiting from increased wages in the area. We are pleased the Housing Executive is helping us to reach our potential. The organisation clearly understands the role that social enterprises have within the local community."*

Paul Carland from the Social Enterprise Team added: *"It is clear from the professionalism of the business that Refresh Appliances have a long-term goal for success. We are delighted to support their plans to create opportunities for employment through their trainee development programme and to continue to help them provide a vital service for families, charities and landlords. We are confident that Refresh Appliances will continue to grow and improve the livelihoods of their customers and those seeking careers in this industry."*

There are currently a number of trainee apprenticeship programmes available through Refresh Appliances Limited. To find out more information, please contact Ian Story or Ethan O'Lone on 028 9182 1112 or [info@refreshappliances.com](mailto:info@refreshappliances.com)

## Housing Rights' Housing Champions Project

In 2017, Housing Rights sought out to enhance the housing advice service provided to black and ethnic minority (BME) communities in Northern Ireland through a peer project with the support of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. The Housing Champions Project long-term goals are to equip BME communities with the information they need to make informed and appropriate housing decisions, and know how to access better quality housing.

The journey so far has seen 14 BME peer volunteers recruited from varied language backgrounds including Romanian, Arabic, Kurdish, Polish, Lithuanian, Portuguese and Hungarian. In the Autumn of 2017, peer volunteers received accredited training in housing advice and interpretation to become 'Housing Champions'. The result of the training is to strengthen the peers' employability, confidence and positivity about their future.

Diana, (pictured giving advice) originally from Lithuania, took part in the training.

*"I enjoyed each part of the training. Afterwards, I felt much more knowledgeable in terms of how benefits are distributed and how the housing system operates*

*in Northern Ireland. I also learned about my rights as a tenant."*

### Work Placements

Currently, peer volunteers are in the second stage of the process where they are undertaking up to 16 weeks of work placement in a housing advice setting. We would like to take the opportunity to thank our placement providers for giving our peers the chance to enhance their employability and apply their housing advice training to a work environment. We trust that our peers will enrich the services being provided at their placement, bringing diversity and new ideas to foster a mutually beneficial relationship.



Gintare, who is on placement with STEP is enjoying her work experience: *"I am so happy to be offered a work placement through BME Housing champions project. Everyday I feel that I am not only improving and developing a vast amount of professional skills, but it is also has been a journey of a small victories in overcoming my own personal fears and barriers. There is so much of information to learn in a housing rights sector, but learning it through work placement experience, makes it an enjoyable journey."*

### Peer-led Community Outreach Sessions

The final stage for the peers is to deliver housing advice to members of their own community through outreach sessions. The purpose of these housing sessions is to :

- Improve accessibility for BME clients
- Help remove any barriers to mainstream advice services
- Empower BME communities to seek their housing rights and responsibilities by attending a session

- BME clients will know where to seek housing advice in the future

We are currently seeking a number of places to host our community outreach sessions in the following locations throughout Northern Ireland during Spring 2018:

- Coalisland
- Craigavon
- Greater Belfast Area (Ligoniel, Crumlin Road, Antrim Road, Ormeau Embankment, East Belfast, West Belfast)
- Lurgan
- Newry
- Portadown

**Housing  
Rights**

If your organisation can offer us space to facilitate these outreach clinics, please contact Sonya Nelson, our Peer and Volunteer Co-ordinator [sonya@housingrights.org.uk](mailto:sonya@housingrights.org.uk) or call 028 9024 5640

## Welfare Reform & Housing Benefit

There have been changes to housing benefit rules because of welfare reform which may mean housing benefit was reduced for a claimant. However, a tenant may be able to get more housing benefit if one of the following describes their household:

### Extra bedroom needed

If they are a couple who cannot share a bedroom because of a disability; or  
They are providing a bedroom in the home for use by a carer, or team of carers, who do not usually live there but need the room so they can provide overnight care for either a disabled child or a disabled adult who does live there.

A THIRD, or more, child(ren) since 11 May 17?  
There is a limit on the allowances for children in housing benefit calculation.

Therefore, if a claimant did not receive housing benefit to cover the full cost of their rent and a third, or further child(ren), joined the household after 11 May 2017 it is important we know.

If the claimant's 'Child Tax Credit Assessment' includes the third (or further child) we may be able to include the child(ren) in the housing benefit calculation. If this is the case, please urge tenants to send Housing Benefit a copy of their 'Child Tax Credit Assessment' letter.

### Important note

If the customer receives Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance Income Based, Employment Support Allowance (Income Related) or Guarantee Pension Credit this 'third child' rule does not affect them.

**Housing  
Executive**

### Call to action

Customers affected by the above are asked to contact their local Housing Benefit office on 03448 920 902 | textphone 18001 03448 920 902.

### Discretionary Housing Payment

Some changes to the benefit rules under Welfare Reform may have reduced how much Housing Benefit is received. It may mean a tenant is finding it more difficult to pay their rent.

If they are they might be eligible for a Discretionary Housing Payment. These are the rule changes...

### Family Premium

If a tenant was receiving housing benefit on 5 September 2016 which did not include children and a child has joined the household since then but the tenant was not awarded full housing benefit; or  
A tenant made a *new claim* for Housing Benefit after 5 September 2016 which includes dependent child(ren) and they did not get full housing benefit...

if either of the above has happened to a tenant and they are finding it difficult to pay the rent then they may be eligible for a Discretionary Housing Payment.

### Benefit Cap

The introduction of 'Benefit Cap' means most households cannot receive more than £20,000 in benefits in any one year. For a single person without children the limit is £13,400. If the tenant is on Housing Benefit and Benefit Cap applies to them, the amount of housing benefit will be reduced.

### **How might this affect a tenant?**

A person or couples with children whose Housing Benefit decreased because of Benefit Cap may receive 'mitigation' known as a Welfare Supplementary Payment (WSP) to cover the shortfall.

However, if their circumstances change and this affects their benefits which leads to their housing benefit being reduced WSP does not increase to cover the new shortfall. If this affects a tenant they may be eligible to apply for DHP if they are now struggling to pay their rent.

A single person without children affected by Benefit Cap does not qualify for 'mitigation' (WSP) to cover the shortfall and may be eligible for DHP.

### **Call to action / How to apply**

Customers are asked to download an application form for DHP by typing in [bit.ly/HEX\\_DHP](https://www.nihe.gov.uk/discretionary_housing_payment_application_form.pdf) in a browser [https://www.nihe.gov.uk/discretionary\\_housing\\_payment\\_application\\_form.pdf](https://www.nihe.gov.uk/discretionary_housing_payment_application_form.pdf) or to contact their local Housing Benefit office on 03448 920 902 | textphone 18001 03448 920 902.

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# 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.

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.**



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## **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.



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Supporting Communities  
Headquarters  
34-36 Henry Street  
Ballymena BT42 3AH

T 028 2564 5676  
F 028 2564 9729

[info@supportingcommunities.org](mailto:info@supportingcommunities.org)  
[www.supportingcommunities.org](http://www.supportingcommunities.org)



# Special Focus



## Local people gave less money to charity in 2017 Ryan Millar, (NICVA) writes;

*Charitable giving in Northern Ireland fell last year when compared with 2016 – although this drop brings 2017 more into line with recent times. Scope takes a look at NICVA's latest research into who makes donations, and how.*

People in Northern Ireland are less likely to give to charity than a year ago and, when they do donate, they donate less.

A total of 78% of people gave to charity in 2017, which is 11 percentage points lower than the previous year. The total received in donations was around £35m – on the face of it, a large drop when compared with the £52m donated two years beforehand, however the latest figure is more in line what has been seen in other years. Although the median donation remained the same - £10 exactly – there was a large decrease in the mean amount given per donor. Last year this was £22.20, down £15.60 from the previous year.

These results come from polling commissioned by NICVA. The organisation has conducted research into local charitable giving for 15 years. [This most recent survey was carried out by Kantar Millward Brown in October 2017 and an overall representative sample of 1,026 people were questioned.](#)

What must be a major concern is the public perception of charities. Generally this is very positive, but no goodwill is utterly ironclad, and the impact of [something outrageously bad like the ongoing revelations about Oxfam](#) – which came to light months after the surveys were done for this research - must represent a risk to the standing of the sector and, accordingly, the willingness of people to give up their money.

When compared with the rest of the UK – [look at the latest Charities Aid Foundation \(CAF\) report for more details](#) – NI looks very healthy in terms of the number of people who donated last year (in the UK only 61% of people gave to charity, which is 17 percentage points lower than NI) although the wider UK's median donation was almost double our local amount, at £18.

The CAF report found some indications that, while younger people donate less money than older people, they maybe give in other ways; in general they are more likely to volunteer, sign a petition and take part in a public demonstration or protest - with students are the group most likely to have volunteered in the last year (23%).

### NICVA research

Although the number of people who gave some money to charity in 2017 (78%) dropped significantly when compared with 2016 (89%), it is important to note it was much closer to the figure for 2015 (81%).

There is a similar story for the percentage of people who had donated in the four weeks before responding.

In 2017, this was 57%, a marked fall from the 68% the year previous. This was a reversion towards the percentages in 2015 (also 57%) and 2014 (56%).

However, the four-week figure has suffered a more medium-term decline. The above rates were generally much lower than figures from selected earlier years for which stats are available: 2018 was 84%, 2010 was 83%, 2011 was 66% and 2013 was 73%.

In terms of that four-week figure, there was little difference between women and men when it came to giving (59% vs. 56%) but people aged 55-64 were significant outliers, with 78% of them donating. People who live in the West of NI were also more likely to give than the general population, with a figure of 64%.

### Methods of giving – and legacies

Some of the most interesting results from the survey stem from methods of giving.

In the past year, 12% of people have used a crowdfunding site, like JustGiving, including 14% of women and 10% of men. This included 11% of people from the cohort aged 16-23, 23% of those aged 25-34, and 19% of those aged 35-44.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, these percentages tail off further as people get older – 11% of people aged 45-54, 9% of those aged 55-64, and only 2% of people who are 65 or over.

Of those who donated, 50% gave to an individual, 27% gave to a charity, and 20% gave to both (3% were not sure or could not remember).

At the same time, legacy giving does not appear to be a priority for a large proportion of people in NI – albeit the number of people considering leaving a legacy donation has increased, up to 16%.

What is a concern, however, is the relatively small number of people who have actually made a will: only 27% of all adults.

This is less of a concern for charities and more of a worry for individuals themselves – [read our previous piece here with Will to Give](#) – because not having a will can make things tricky for loved ones at a most difficult time.

### Conclusions

2017 was not a bumper year for the community and voluntary sector in Northern Ireland.

Nor, however, is there cause for great alarm – but charities, of course, will be keen to keep donations as high as possible in the coming years, especially as NI currently faces a particularly uncertain future.

Only 2.9% of respondents said they expected the amount they give to charity to increase in 2018 (the equivalent figure 12 months ago was 14%), and 6.4% expect the amount to decrease (compared with 3% last year).

There are green shoots as well; although the number of people who have made a legacy pledge remains, on the face of it, quite low, the figure of 9% is an enormous relative increase on where it was in 2014 – only 2%.

Furthermore, local uncertainty about Brexit seems set to have little or no effect on donations, with over three quarters of all respondents believing this will have no bearing on the amount they give to charity in the upcoming year. Reputational damage seems the biggest potential threat to sectoral funding.

The number of people who are put off from donating because of various misgivings about charities are not huge but nor are they insignificant. When asked what is the main barrier stopping them from giving, 12% of respondents say they do not trust charities, 8% say they don't know enough about how money is being spent, 4% say they disagree with how charities spend money, while other concerns include fundraising methods. Disasters such as the Oxfam scandal risk driving these percentages upwards.

These findings are clearly not a cause for celebration for the third sector but neither are they remarkably disheartening. Overall the results are not hugely out of step with recent years, although people's attitudes perhaps reflect the socioeconomic uncertainty that currently clouds Northern Ireland.

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# 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](#)



Please click the link below to access the February 2018 edition of inpartnership – the newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives.  
[https://www.pcsp.org/sites/pcsp/files/Inpartnership\\_Issue\\_46.pdf](https://www.pcsp.org/sites/pcsp/files/Inpartnership_Issue_46.pdf)

## Scope<sup>NI</sup>

Available online, including articles such as the political fall-out of the failed talks, donations to local charities in 2017 and a case for remaining in the single market and Customs Union.

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

## Community Relations Council

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



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

## 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/>



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

## Community Development & Health Network Newsletter

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



# 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.

## To apply:

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

# Social Enterprise



## Social Enterprise: Starting Well - Belfast

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> 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: 27<sup>th</sup> 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:  
27<sup>th</sup> 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: 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:nualasmyth@unltd.org.uk)



## ANNUAL SOCIAL VALUE CONFERENCE

### THURSDAY 22ND MARCH

LAGAN VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTRE, LISBURN  
9AM - 1PM

**COST:**  
MEMBERS £40  
NON MEMBERS £60

**TO BOOK CONTACT:**  
[amanda@socialenterpriseni.org](mailto:amanda@socialenterpriseni.org)

**What could you do with  
£1500 of investment?**

**Apply to pitch  
to our Dragons**



**SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

**GARETH JOHNSTON**  
Director of Policy and Performance, CPD

**ANDREW VAN DOORN - CEO**  
Housing Association Charitable Trust

**CHRIS WHITE MP**  
Served as Honorary Chairman of the All Party  
Parliamentary Group on Social Enterprise.



# 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](mailto:thomas.mccaffery@consumercouncil.org.uk) or [Siobhan.rafferty@consumercouncil.org.uk](mailto:Siobhan.rafferty@consumercouncil.org.uk)



**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](mailto:registration@agendani.com)

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



**Leadership  
Conference &  
Awards 2018**

## 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](http://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](mailto:Rachel@co3.bz) or telephone 028 90245356



Are you interested in community? Do you love meeting new people and being outdoors? Do you have a gap in your diary in May? If so, it sounds like [The Big Walk](#) might be right up your street!

The Eden Project Communities team is searching for people passionate about their community to join it on The Big Walk 2018, for an experience of a lifetime. This May, four teams of walkers will embark on four routes across each of our four nations, covering more than 250 miles across the UK over 21 days.

Each day, along the route, the intrepid wanderers will stop in different communities to shine a light on the amazing groups and events that bring people together where they live. Taking their first steps in May, they will share conversations, food, stories and experiences, before walking home to [Big Lunch](#) celebrations on 3 June.

Last year walkers covered a combined distance of over 1400 miles on foot between 29 May and 18 June, meeting with passionate people who do incredible work in their communities. Get inspired by reading all about their [highlights](#) and watching their journey [here](#).

If this sounds like your cup of tea, read this [brief](#) to find out more and [apply](#) to be one of this year's walkers.

If you have any questions, get in touch at [communities@edenproject.com](mailto:communities@edenproject.com) or 0845 850 8181 (local rates apply).

**Let's get walking!**



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## 13-19 May: International North West 200 races Volunteer roles available

**The 2018 International North West 200 race week will take place on 13th – 19th May, with the main race day on Saturday 19th.**

After a week of great action at the 2017 event, the North coast races were given a major boost with the announcement that BSB star Glenn Irwin, will return to Portrush in May 2018 on the PBM/Be Wiser Ducati.

*"I've had a good season with the PBM Ducati team, winning the North West and getting my first BSB win despite getting injured at Knockhill."*  
the 27 year old said.

For all the latest news follow [@nortwest200](#) on Facebook



### **VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED**

This world famous event could not take place without the help and support of volunteers.

Have a look at some of the roles available, there's sure to be something to suit you!

- Event Coordination/Hospitality Team
- Course Set Up/ Build Team
- Branding Team
- Administration Team
- Marshals and Flag Marshals
- The Media Team



# Training

## Volunteer Now Training



### Keeping Adults Safe: Recruitment, Selection and Management

Date: 12th March 2018, 10.00am - 4.00pm

Location: Rooms 1 & 2, Central Dining Hall, Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast BT8 8BH

Cost: This course is provided free of charge through support received from the Health & Social Care Board

*This is a FREE 1 day certificated course.*

This training will raise awareness of risk of harm in adulthood, provide a background into legal responsibilities in relation to adults at risk and examine the procedures that need to be in place for the recruitment, selection and management of staff and volunteers. It will assist voluntary, community and independent sector organisations working with adults at risk to achieve the minimum standards of best practice as outlined in the publication 'Keeping Adults Safe - A Shared Responsibility'.

This is a one day certificated course for those individuals who manage or supervise staff and volunteers working with adults at risk and those with governance responsibilities.

It will cover:

- key definitions;
- awareness of abuse issues;
- procedures for reporting concerns;
- code of behaviour for staff and volunteers;
- legal implications and responsibilities in adult safeguarding;
- procedures for recruitment, selection and management of staff/volunteers;
- dealing with allegations.

If you have attended either our Keeping Adults Safe: An Introduction or Keeping Adults Safe: Training for Staff and Volunteers within the last 12 months, you may wish to attend the afternoon session only. Please discuss with our team prior to booking.

\*\*\*\*\*This is not training for the role Adult Safeguarding Champion/Appointed Person but will give information about the role\*\*\*\*\*

PLEASE NOTE: This training will be provided for Voluntary, Community and Independent sectors and a maximum of 5 participants from any one organisation will be accepted on to each training course. This course is for organisations in the Belfast Trust area only.

For other areas, please view our training calendar by clicking [here](#).

To register your interest or for further information contact us here: [kathy.corbett@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:kathy.corbett@volunteernow.co.uk).

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

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



## 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](mailto: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
Irish cultural and linguistic experience	14 March	10am - 12pm	This Gaeltacht Experience provides the opportunity for participants to experience Irish culture, music and 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.
Living Library	17 Sept	10am - 2pm	The Living Library allows you to borrow a human book for a 20 minute conversation. It is a fun event which allows you to have a one-to-one conversation with someone you might never have had the opportunity to speak to.

# 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](#).

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## Nationwide Fund - Pre Application Support Available!



The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland has partnered with UKCF and Nationwide Building Society to launch the new Nationwide Fund, opening for applications on 5 March 2018.

Nationwide Building Society was founded to help people into homes of their own. And now they are supporting local housing projects in your area, so even more people can have a place fit to call home.

To support those interested in applying to the fund, the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland will hold a pre-application workshop and webinar for all those interested in making an application.

For more information on the criteria for the fund check out our [website](#) or contact the Grants Team on 028 9024 5927.

Details on how to sign up are available below.

### Pre-application Workshop

Date: Tuesday 6 March 2018  
Time: 9.30am - 11.30am  
Location: Community House, 2nd Floor Boardroom, 6a Albert Street, Belfast

Please Register on [Eventbrite](#) ASAP as places are limited.

### Pre-application Webinar

If you are unable to make the above Workshop don't worry you can still join us for a pre-application webinar.

Date: Tuesday 20 March 2018  
Time: 11.00am - 1.00pm

Please email [Orla Black](#) to register your interest in this, details will then be emailed to you.

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## Northern Ireland's Minority Ethnic Development Fund - Deadline Reminder



The Northern Ireland Executive Office is reminding groups that the deadline for the Minority Ethnic Development Fund is 1 March 2018.

The Executive Office is providing grants of between £100 and £75,000 to support voluntary and community organisations working with minority ethnic people and groups. The aim of the Fund is to assist minority ethnic and local community organisations to promote good relations between people of different ethnic backgrounds.

The funding is for projects which are working towards one or more of the following outcomes:

- Equality of Service Provision - People from a minority ethnic background can access and benefit from all public services equally.
- Elimination of prejudice, racism and hate crime.

- Increased participation, representation and belonging - People from minority ethnic backgrounds participate in and are represented fully in all aspects of life and enjoy a sense of "belonging".
- Cultural diversity is celebrated - The rights of people from minority ethnic backgrounds to maintain their culture and traditions in line with human rights norms and to pass them on to subsequent generations are recognised and supported.

For more detail, go to; <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/minority-ethnic-development-fund-201819>

**The deadline for applications is 1 March 2018 (2pm).**

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## 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.

<https://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/nominate-your-favourite-national-lottery-funded-project>

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

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## 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>