



Welcome to Supporting Communities 99th 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.

Tower Block Residents To Have Their Say in Housing Executive Decisions

Residents of all 33 Housing Executive owned tower blocks across Northern Ireland are being encouraged to find a collective voice on major issues that affect them and their homes.

The Housing Executive commissioned Supporting Communities to undertake a twelve-month project to support engagement on the proposals and the key issues affecting the people living in high-rise accommodations.

The project aims to establish effective processes of communication, feedback and meaningful discussion and has commenced with a series of information sessions for residents and leaseholders and a survey seeking feedback, which has been hand-delivered to every door in every tower block.

There are already well-established and effective structures for Housing Executive tenants to get involved in decision-making through the [Housing Community Network](#), the key forum for tenant engagement in Northern Ireland. For example, the Central Housing Forum, made up of representatives from each of the 13 Housing Executive Areas, as well as representation from specific groups including; young people, people with disabilities and people from rural areas, has a recognised and meaningful role in monitoring the decision making process of the Housing Executive and influencing decisions affecting tenants and communities.

However, both Supporting Communities and the Housing Executive acknowledge that Tower Block residents' specific living circumstances make them a distinct group that need their own dedicated representation. Just as the Rural Forum and Disability Forum represent groups with unique interests within the Housing Community Network, tower block residents also need a dedicated means to engage effectively and be a part of the successful HCN framework. This new project aims to support residents in developing the mechanisms that enable them to engage with the NIHE in ways that work for them.

Clark Bailie, Chief Executive of the Housing Executive, said, "The Board of the Housing Executive recently discussed the Tower Block Action Plan and highlighted the need for our tenants and leaseholders to be a part of the decision making process. We want to ensure that we have the appropriate mechanism for their voice to be heard in the implementation of the Action Plan.

At present, there are limited ways for high-rise residents to engage which makes it difficult to facilitate effective engagement on major operational issues, or strategic policy matters. The recent Independent Reference Group report into tower block safety recommended that new ways are found to improve communications between the Housing Executive and residents and we are acting on this recommendation. This extends much further than the remit of fire safety, uppermost in everyone's minds in the wake of the Grenfell Tower disaster – it will also look at all relevant issues to those living in towers here."



Sarah Harkness-Robinson, Tower Block Project Co-ordinator from Supporting Communities pictured right with colleague Lisa McKim observed; "Initial feedback from residents who have come along to our information drop in sessions has been very positive. There is definitely an appetite to get involved and the people we have met are eager to have a voice in the decisions that will have to be made now that it's been announced that the tower blocks should be decommissioned."



Colm McDaid, Chief Executive of Supporting Communities commented, "Supporting Communities was pleased to be commissioned by the Housing Executive to carry out this important work around Tower Block engagement. As the Independent Tenant Organisation (ITO) for Northern Ireland, we have the necessary experience, expertise and most critically, the independence to deliver this project."

Colm also noted, "In the aftermath of the Grenfell tower fire tragedy, the housing sector as a whole realises more than ever the importance of listening to the people who really matter. I look forward to the survey findings so that we can provide a comprehensive report to the Housing Executive that will ensure the voice of tower block tenants and residents will be heard and listened to in the future."

A Dementia Friendly Programme

The Housing Executive is launching a dementia friendly programme among its South Down staff to ensure they can support tenants living with the condition. To mark the start of Alzheimer Society's Dementia Action Week, (21-27 May 2018) the social housing landlord revealed that bespoke training will be delivered to over 60 staff based in its Downpatrick and Newry offices to become recognised dementia friends. The organisation has already identified two dementia champions who will be to the forefront in delivering dementia services in their area. The training is being delivered by Alzheimer's Society and relates specifically to housing issues, in recognition of the frontline role that housing plays in improving society's response to the condition.

Carla Mulholland, from Alzheimer's Society, said; *"Over 20,000 people currently live with Dementia in NI. It is expected that these numbers will more than treble in the next 20-30 years. Dementia Friendly Communities were launched to help tackle the stigma and lack of understanding about people with dementia. We are really excited to be working with the Housing Executive and hopefully together we can improve the lives of people with dementia."*

Paula Keenan, a graduate trainee with the Housing Executive, was instrumental in organising the training. She said; *"Dementia is one of the greatest challenges we face in society today and it's one that we must all work together to unite against. Housing providers can make a huge difference to a person living with dementia and therefore that will improve their quality of life. The main message we want to get across is that life does not end when dementia begins and that we are here to support our tenants to remain safe and live well in the comfort of their own homes."*

The Housing Executive's Head of Communications, Jonny Blease, is currently getting ready to participate in a cycle from London to Amsterdam in September to fundraise for Alzheimer's Society.

More details can be found at jonnyfrombelfast.wordpress.com

For more information on Dementia Action Week or to find out what action you can visit alzheimers.org.uk/DAW or follow #DAW on Twitter



Pictured l-r: Paula Keenan (Graduate Trainee); Colm McQuillan, Director of Hsg Services; Jonny Blease, Head of Corporate Communications & Secretariat; Cara Mulholland, Alzheimer's Society and Loma Wilson, South Down Area Manager

Rural Community Awards 2018

Is your village best in show?

The Housing Executive launched the annual Rural Community Awards, with prizes worth £1,000 up for grabs!

With a total prize fund of £6,000 available, community and residential groups in rural areas can apply for three awards; Cleaner and Greener, Rural Community Spirit and Sustainable Village of the Year.

Each of these awards will have two categories, one for villages with a population of less than a 1,000 and one for villages with between 1,000 and 5,000 residents with a prize of £1,000 up for grabs for each category.

The awards, which are now in their fifth year, recognise rural communities that have went the extra mile to make their neighbourhoods a better place to live. This could be by organising a community clean-up, introducing health and well-being initiatives or developing projects that improve community relations.

Sinead Collins, Rural and Regeneration Manager, explains how the application process works: *"We have made applying for the awards as simple as possible this year. All residential and community groups have to do is complete a short form which can be downloaded from our website. To be considered for the Sustainable Village of the Year award, groups must apply for both the Rural Community Spirit and Cleaner and Greener awards."*

They should also write a 500 word statement that outlines steps that they have taken to shape the future of their village. For example, this could be projects that encourage biodiversity, protect local wildlife, create new jobs in the community or help residents lower their carbon footprint."

Download the [Application form](#) ( 434 KB)

Completed forms should be emailed to rural.housing@nihe.gov.uk or sent to Rural and Regeneration, Housing Executive, the Housing Centre, 2 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8PB.

The deadline for submission of applications is Friday 20th July 4pm.



Pictured l-r: Sinead Collins, Rural & Regeneration Manager; Patricia McQuillan, Rural Residents Forum and Robert Clements, Sustainable Development Manager

Special Focus

The curious demise of the street party Nick Garbutt of NICVA writes

New legislation designed to encourage more street parties in Northern Ireland appears to have had the opposite effect, Scope investigates.

When Prince Harry married Meghan Markle on a day of glorious sunshine there were street parties all over England. Yet the media struggled to find any in Northern Ireland. It was puzzling because there was no other evidence to suggest that the Royalist portion of the population lacked enthusiasm for the event.

Northern Ireland's largest council Belfast City Council says it has yet to receive a single application to hold a street party this year – given that the government guidelines state that applications should be lodged three months in advance that suggests that there may not be any street parties on July 11 in the city this year or indeed over the summer.

Something strange is happening.

Everyone in government supports the idea of street parties, they bring neighbours together and have been shown to promote social cohesion, to combat loneliness and isolation and to make communities and neighbourhoods stronger.

They are a good thing, and it has been heartening to see the growth of them right across the UK in recent years, with the Eden Project's The Big Lunch, which takes place this Sunday 3 June, at the forefront in encouraging and developing them.

On the 25 January 2017 – the day that the Stormont Assembly collapsed - an Order was issued to enact The Roads (Miscellaneous Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010. It came into force in September last. Up until that point people wanting to hold special events that required the closure of a road had to apply to the PSNI who would decide whether or not to give permission.

The new legislation transferred responsibility to local councils, bringing the law in line with that which applies in England and Wales. It was brought in after requests from local authorities and the burgeoning film industry and was subject to public consultation. It has not been in any way controversial, just an example of government responding to perceived need. It is also in line with the general policy of extending powers to local authorities. It does not apply to parades which still come under the auspices of the Parades Commission.

This seems sensible enough. After all street parties have come to be a valued neighbourhood tradition in many areas and it is hard to see neighbourly get-togethers as a policing matter.

They almost invariably take place in cul de sacs and other quiet streets and so long as they are well managed by the people that live there and that bus routes are not disrupted or car parks blocked it is hard to imagine any reasonable objections to them.



The previous regime was straightforward enough. It could vary between police districts, but generally speaking it was a matter of contacting the police, providing reassurance that the neighbours on the street in question were in favour of the party taking place and acted on advice as to how and for how long the street would be closed. There was no fee involved and no requirement for insurance.

Sadly the new legislation which also applies to street closures for filming and sports events such as fun runs is inevitably more bureaucratic.

Guidelines have been provided for promoters of events which contain a special section for street parties. It specifically acknowledges them as an important community tradition and is clearly attempting to make it a simple process. However, they do provide councils with the authority to charge organisers for their administrative costs, insist that street closures need to be advertised in local papers in advance, dictate the appropriate road closure signage that should be used and strongly advise the need for public liability insurance.

Whilst all of this is sound and sensible on one level, for local people just wanting to share a meal together on their streets it is a lot of work, a lot of bureaucracy and potentially a significant cost. For all too many it appears to be proving to be too much hassle.

There is a form to be put in, a lot of notice needs to be given and an informal gathering becomes an exercise in event management requiring many skills ordinary people lack.

Councils do appear to be aware of this. Belfast City Council is waiving all its costs, including stumping up for any advertising required and is even prepared to offer grants from its small grants scheme to community street events that fit the appropriate criteria. But that has still not led to any applications.

What seems particularly ironic in the context is that if, instead of wanting to close a street for a party the group concerned wanted to organise a parade the matter would be much more straightforward.

A simple application would be made to the Parades Commission and if the route in question was not contentious then a swift decision would be made at no cost. Where parades are held annually permission can be renewed.

These are very early days for the new legislation, councils will only just have developed their processes for dealing with applications and all new laws take time to bed down.

No party is to blame here but it seems clear at this early stage that councils need to review the process to ensure it is made as simple and cost effective as possible.

Cont'd overleaf

There is a clear need for councils to consult with residents on how best to ensure that in the future people feel confident about making applications at no or minimal cost. The process needs to be streamlined and provision made for renewing applications previously made year-on-year. Some local authorities in England are especially good at this and already have simple templates up and running which clearly work well.

It would not be unreasonable for the starting point to be for councils to make it as simple and cost effective for

neighbours to share sandwiches and ice cream on their own street as for groups wanting to run non contentious parades on the public highway.

The alternatives are not attractive – people will either ignore the law and organise street parties in any event or else take the view that it looks too much like hard work – and we will see the demise of a growing and enjoyable tradition which brings people together and makes neighbourhoods come alive.

Consultations



DoF draft Section 75 Action Plan and Disability Action Plan

Department of Finance

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-dof-draft-section-75-action-plan-and-disability-action-plan>

Closing date; 15th June 2018

Proposed Marine Plan for Northern Ireland.

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations>

Closing date; 15th June 2018

Draft Corporate Plan 2018-2023

Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland

<https://www.hseni.gov.uk/consultations/draft-hseni-corporate-plan-2018-2023>

Closing date; 29th June 2018

Draft Local Government (Consequential Amendments) Regulations (NI) 2018

Department for Communities

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/draft-local-government-consequential-amendments-regulations-northern-ireland-2018>

Closing date; 30th June 2018

Draft Equality and Disability Action Plans (2018-2022)

Education Authority

<http://www.eani.org.uk/about-us/consultations/public-consultation-draft-equality-and-disability-action-plans-2018-2022/>

Closing date; 2nd July 2018

Does our current Education System protect and promote the Right to Education?

A survey for pupils, parents and teaching staff.

“Put an end to the two-tier culture in Northern Ireland by abolishing the 11+ transfer test and ensure that all children are included in admission arrangements in post-primary schools”

United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2008

Despite international human rights obligations and long standing local commitments to abolish academic selection, there are widespread concerns that the rights of children are overlooked in our current Education System. The Irish National Teachers Organisation, in partnership with pupils, parents, teaching staff and the Participation and the Practice of Rights organisation have developed the following survey.

Please complete and return the survey if you are impacted in any way. Please feel free to share.

Your information will be treated in complete confidence and produced anonymously to inform future campaigns to improve the Education System.

Survey for Pupils

Survey for teaching and support staff

Survey for parents and guardians

If you would like more information or to get involved please contact cmaccolaim@into.ie

Publications

Provision of housing advice services one of four JRF policy proposals to tackle housing related poverty

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has recommended that independent housing advice services are provided in England, Scotland and Wales in order to improve housing affordability for low-income households. The recommendation is one of four proposals identified in a [recently published policy report examining housing and life experiences](#).

Signpost

News for the Age Sector and Network Partners June 2018

An e-bulletin to keep you updated on specific and relevant issues to age sector network partners working with older people's programmes including new legislation and developments, news, training, events and activities, advice, campaigns, support and signposting for further information.

To get on the mailing list, contact Elaine at Age NI; elaine.curry@ageni.org



Please click the link below to access the May 2018 edition of inpartnership – the newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives.

<https://www.pcsp.org/sites/pcsp/files/media-files/inpartnership-issue-may-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/>



NI Environment Link

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

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>



House Condition Survey published

The Housing Executive has released the latest House Condition Survey which points to a reduction in the number of households in fuel poverty from 42% to 22% and continued progress in achieving higher levels of energy efficiency in Northern Ireland homes



The survey which was carried out May to November 2016 is the 12th of its type to be carried since 1974 and the first since 2011.

The key objective of the House Condition Survey is to provide a comprehensive picture of the conditions of all tenures and types across Northern Ireland which can be compared nationally with the rest of the UK.

The House Condition Survey provides a wealth of information, which is readily available to government departments, government agencies, the voluntary sector, charities, universities and many private sector interests, and helps determine future housing policy and initiatives.

You can now download:

The full report at www.nihe.gov.uk/house_condition_survey

The full press release at https://www.nihe.gov.uk/housing_conditions_survey_pr.pdf (257 KB)



Rural Community Network

The latest edition of the Rural Policy Link is now available from the RCN.

To access the publication, go to; <http://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org/publications/default.aspx>

NERI report on Housing Provision in NI – living standards and poverty



The Nevin Economic Research Institute (NERI) recently published a [working paper assessing the sufficiency and affordability of housing in Northern Ireland and the implications which housing costs have for living standards](#).

Overall findings suggest that there does not seem to be a misallocation in supply and demand in terms of housing provision across Northern Ireland. However, there is a considerable shortage of social housing in regions of high demand such as Belfast and Derry and Strabane districts.

Findings from the private rented sector

While the report finds housing in Northern Ireland appears to be affordable, there are particular groups who are significantly impacted by housing costs, specifically low income households in the private rented sector. Findings in relation to the private rented sector show:

- The proportion of people who privately rent homes has almost doubled between 2005/06 (just over 10%) and 2015/16 (just over 19%).
- Approximately 50% of 18-34-year-olds rent privately.
- Housing costs for low-income households in the private rented sector are statistically significantly higher than for those in other tenures.
- 25% of households in the private rented sector are at risk of poverty after housing costs, this equates to approximately 34,000 households.
- Higher proportions of those at risk of poverty after housing costs come from working households, single or couple households, and are aged 18-34.
- Poverty amongst low income households in the private rented sector is not impacted by other factors and it is specifically housing costs that are key in terms of the negative impact on living standards.

The paper concludes that low income households face housing cost burdens and are at risk of poverty.

It is suggested that the social rented sector should be expanded to low-income privately renting households.

Statistics on engagement of adults in culture, arts and sport in 2017/18 published

Topics:

[Statistics and research](#)
[Culture and Heritage statistics](#)
[PRONI statistics](#)



[Sport, museums and libraries statistics](#)

The Department for Communities (DfC) has released headline figures on engagement of adults in culture, arts and sport in 2017/18.

Main findings:

In 2017/18, almost nine out of every ten adults (89%) had engaged in some way with culture, arts and sport. This engagement rate was similar to that in 2016/17 (88%) and similar to comparable engagement rates since 2011/12. In 2017/18, 87% of adults had engaged in culture and arts, an increase on the engagement rate for 2016/17 (85%).

For the first time this bulletin includes the proportion of adults who had visited a place of historic interest (54%) and the proportion of adults who had volunteered (27%).

The report is available at; <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/engagement-culture-arts-and-sport-by-adults-northern-ireland-201718>



Events

Housing Festival

Date: 21 June 2018
Location: The Treehouse, 38-42 Upper Arthur Street, Belfast BT1 4GH
Member rate: £55 +VAT Non-member rate: £80 +VAT



Housing Festival 2018 is a new type of housing event specifically for younger people working in housing and those who are new to the housing sector. It is organised by CIH NI Futures.

What is it:

- A new event (as in: new type, new format, new style of venue). We mean it when we say this, you have not been to a CIH event like this one.
- An event where you'll get more out of it if you take part. You get out what you put in. If you come to Housing Festival 2018 you'll learn something. If you come to Housing Festival 2017 and get in the middle of it, you'll learn A LOT.
- You don't have to wear the conference costume, come as you are - it genuinely helps you get in the right mind set to learn.
- **For pretty much everyone**
CIH wants to attract as many younger and new to housing folk as possible - but CEOs and Senior Managers are welcome too.

For conference programme and to book a place, go to; http://www.cih.org/events/display/vpathDCR/templatedata/cih/events/data/northernireland/Housing_Festival?utm_source=Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Housing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=9418056_Ni%20events%2027.04.2018&utm_content=HF&dm_i=YRX,5LV00,EI48U7,LSCOH,1

Invitation to Writers' Groups to apply for Poetry Writing Workshops 2018

Community Arts Partnership is pleased to invite applications from writers' groups to participate in a series of workshops to develop their knowledge of poetry and their poetry-writing skills, and to produce work for a new anthology.

Each participating group will enjoy free, interactive writing workshops during the Summer and Autumn 2018, facilitated by one of our team of poets.



Participants will then be invited to submit work developed in the workshop process for inclusion in the anthology, due to be launched in March.

All poems selected for the anthology will be considered for The Seamus Heaney Award for New Writing 2019.

This project will continue to build on the successful work undertaken in our Poetry in Motion programme, which has showcased new writing talent alongside more established names in the world of poetry and spoken word.

Previous contributors to the programmes do indeed include the late Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney, along with Sinead Morrissey, Meadh McGuckian, Ben Maier, Ann Zell, Ruth Carr, Moyra Donaldson, Paul Maddern, Stephanie Conn and Glenn Wilson, to name a few.

Housing Rights when everyone has a *home*

Summer Shindig

The Barge, River Lagan
Friday 22 June 7pm - 12am
Live music, supper & BYOB



Kindly supported by



The Community Development and Health Network (CDHN), in partnership with the Public Health Agency (PHA), is hosting 5 regional Networking Events themed around...What Works?

'What Works' Workshop

CDHN wants to hear about your local community...

- What works in your community?
- What works in improving community health?
- What works to get people involved?
- What could be done to make things better?
- What support do you need?



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND HEALTH NETWORK

Making Connections and Networking

Meet other community and voluntary contacts from YOUR area.

Funding Workshop

After lunch, find out more about Building the Community-Pharmacy Partnership (BCPP) funding. We will discuss what we do/don't fund, go through the application process and give you the opportunity to discuss your project ideas with our team.

Venues

- Resurgam Trust, Lisburn
- Carlisle House, Belfast
- All Saints Parish Centre
(in association with MEAAP), Ballymena

Dates

- Mon 11th June 2018
- Tues 12th June 2018
- Tues 19th June 2018

Time: 10am – 1.30pm (light lunch will be included)

Cost: Free

To register your place, email: kerryfarrell@cdhn.org stating which event you wish to register for. Alternatively, contact CDHN on 028 3026 4606 to discuss the events.

Training



Volunteer Now Training

Marketing Volunteer Opportunities ****NEW DATE****

Date: 21st June 2018
Time: 9.45am Arrival with tea/coffee/biscuits
10.00am - 1.00pm
Location: Volunteer Now, 34 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast BT2 7DB
Cost: £45 + VAT per person

Sell it to me! Make me want to volunteer!

Effective marketing is vital to the continued success of your volunteer programme. It's so much more than simply stating 'WE NEED VOLUNTEERS'. In today's world, people want to gain from the overall volunteer experience.

So what do you have to offer? What's the hook to get people interested in your organisation and your roles? What does research tell us volunteers want from their volunteering?

This course looks at having a worthwhile product (your volunteer roles) to promote, who to promote them to (your target audience) and how to do this (message and methods). This is an interactive and upbeat session exploring what's great about your volunteer roles, but more importantly, it identifies and embraces the challenges each role can bring.

Developing a Volunteer Programme

Date: 6th September 2018 - 10.00am - 4.00pm
Location: Volunteer Now, 34 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast BT2 7DB
Cost: £80 + VAT per person

An interactive masterclass that explores the key areas to consider when developing a volunteer programme. It is for both those who want to develop a new volunteer programme/project as well as those who want to reflect upon and review an existing programme. It will give much needed reflective time to plan and consider the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for your new idea.

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

For more information or to book places, go to; <http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training-and-standards>

Belfast - Housing Rights

What is financial capability?

Wednesday, June 20, 2018 - 10:00 to 16:00

This accredited training looks behind the words to get to the crux of this hugely important issue and its implications. It will look at the very clear link between peoples budgeting skills and their ability to keep their home.

- 'Can't pay versus Won't pay'
- Vulnerable clients
- Priority and non-priority debts
- Preparing financial statements and devising sustainable repayment plans

Following this course, you will be able to help clients to be more financially aware, helping them to keep their homes and increase their budgeting skills.

Who should attend?

- Housing advisers
- Support workers
- Lenders.

This one day session will cover:

- What financial capability means
- Causes of debt in Northern Ireland and how this impacts on client's financial capability.

For more information on Housing Rights Training Courses and seminars and to book places, go to; <http://www.housingrights.org.uk/training-events>

Housing Rights

NICVA Fundraising Regulation Seminar

12 June 2018 - 10:00am to 12:30pm

A free "one-stop" seminar covering everything you need to know to keep your fundraising legal, ethical and fully respectful of those who entrust their money to your organisation.

The Fundraising Regulator is England, Wales and Northern Ireland's new independent charitable fundraising regulator, supported and funded by charities as a commitment to fundraising self-regulation.

In conjunction with NICVA, the Fundraising Regulator is now inviting all NI fundraising organisations to a free "one stop" seminar aimed at explaining their role and remit and providing a deeper, more practical understanding of what constitutes good fundraising practice.

Stephen Dunmore, Chief Executive of the Fundraising Regulator, will cover:

- The Role of the Fundraising Regulator
- Benefits for Charities in working with the Fundraising Regulator
- The Code of Fundraising Practice
- Complaints and Investigations
- Levy and registration
- The Fundraising Preference Service
- Data protection, GDPR and fundraising

As well as the opportunity to meet with Stephen Dunmore, Chief Executive of the Fundraising Regulator, there will be round table discussions and a panel of experts will also be available to answer your queries on best practice in fundraising.

Please note that places are limited to 2 people per organisation.

To book a place, go to: <http://www.nicva.org/event/fundraising-regulation-seminar>



DfC building capacity project : Am I entitled?

The Law Centre(NI) is offering free half day sessions to advisers who provide welfare rights advice to people from abroad.

They have produced a digital FAQ guide which helps advisers quickly identify what entitlement different categories of migrants have to services such as benefits, healthcare, social care, education, employment, etc.

Using the guide an adviser can immediately answer questions such as:

- Can a Polish woman receive Universal Credit while looking for a job?
- Can an American partner of an Irish woman claim benefits?
- Can international students receive free healthcare?
- How can migrant workers prepare for Brexit?

What:

The sessions are designed to build capacity within the advice sector to respond to queries where immigration status / nationality is a factor.

Who:

The sessions are available for staff/volunteer advisers of all levels.

When & Where:

Wednesday 13th June 10am at Law Centre, Belfast

Tuesday 26th June 10am at Law Centre, Belfast

Please contact Margaret Reid or Liz Griffith to confirm your attendance - Tel: 028 9024 4401

For groups of 8+ advisers, trainers are able to travel to organisations across N Ireland. Please ring the Law centre to discuss.



Funding



Greggs Foundation's Local Community Projects Fund 2018 Opens for Round 2

The Greggs Foundation's Local Community Projects Fund provides grants of up to £2,000 to not-for-profit organisations in Great Britain for projects or for equipment for people in need at the heart of local communities.

Projects can support a variety of people:

- Disabled or suffering chronic illness
- Living in poverty
- Voluntary carers
- Homeless
- Isolated older people
- Other demonstrable significant need.



Eligible projects should also be able to demonstrate that they have achieved at least one of the following Key Performance Targets for their beneficiaries:

- Decreased social isolation
- Improved health and wellbeing
- Improved resilience/coping mechanisms
- Improved life skills
- Improved opportunities

Any not for profit organisation can apply, however, larger organisations with a turnover in excess of £300,000 are unlikely to be successful. The Local Community Projects Fund is administered by seven charity committees throughout Great Britain.

Please note that the programme is over-subscribed and there is huge competition for the grants available. In 2017 only 27% of eligible applications were awarded

For more information, go to; <https://www.greggsfoundation.org.uk/>

The deadline for applications is 22 June 2018 (midnight) with decisions being announced by 17 August 2018.

Belfast City Council Small Grants Scheme

The following Small Grants are now open for applications.

- Community Festivals Fund
- Arts & Heritage Project Grant
- Policing and Community Safety Small Grant
- Good Relations Grant
- Saint Patrick's Celebration Grant
- Parks Events Grant
- Support for Sport Small Development Grant
- Support for Sport Large Development Grant
- Support for Sport Hospitality Grant
- Support for Sport Sporting Individual Grant



Belfast
City Council

The submission deadline for receipt of applications is 12 noon on Friday 6 July 2018

For guidance notes and to apply online please visit the website at; www.belfastcity-grants.com

Power NI: Brighter Communities Fund

Power NI's brand new local funding initiative, Brighter Communities, makes £1000 available each month to NI community groups and individuals to help people implement innovative and creative projects which will change and improve their local community for the better.



Scheme details

The Power NI Brighter Communities programme is seeking applications from small or large community, sporting, charity, youth and all age groups who can propose a tangible project, activity or item which can be realised or executed once the funds have been received and within an 8-week timescale. Each month the winning group or organisation will get the opportunity to showcase their efforts and hard work through social media updates and reports outlining the project journey and ultimate successful actualisation.

Apply for up to £1,000 in funding to help your group reach its maximum potential – whether that is for equipment, kits or for a special project that will make a BIG impact!

Eligibility

Your group must:

- Be based in Northern Ireland
- Not have any political links
- Use the money for a tangible cause such as equipment or activity rather than running costs
- Agree to all PR & marketing activity following the journey of spending your Brighter Community Fund

For more information and to apply, go to; <https://powerni.co.uk/brightercommunities/>

George Best Belfast City Airport: Community Fund

The Fund support projects aimed at facilitating community, social and environmental/conservation projects ideally based within Ards and North Down Borough Council or Belfast City Council or the Greater Belfast area.

- Preference will be given to organisations with a charitable status who apply for funding (this does not apply to schools/play groups). Organisations applying for community funding must have been established for a minimum of 24 months.
- Preference will be given to applications and projects that benefit all members of the community regardless of age, race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or religion.
- Projects aimed at facilitating the following areas and which are ideally based within North Down Borough Council, Belfast City Council or the Greater Belfast area will be considered;
 1. Community (including education)
 2. Social (including sport, leisure and recreation)
 3. Environmental or conservation

GBBCA chooses to support the local community, which will involve working with and or supporting schools, playgroups etc. GBBCA will at all times endeavour to provide balanced cross-community support when such engagement is

undertaken. Priority will be given to children/youth projects and those projects based within close proximity to the airport.

Key Points to Note

- GBBCA is more likely to support projects where some funds from other sources have been received and where you have also demonstrated your own fundraising.
- Detailed costs including copies of estimates and details of funding from other sources must be provided with every community fund application.
- Community Fund money will typically be made available to established groups or charities that are able to demonstrate financial records for a minimum of 12 months.
- A maintenance plan may be required for projects which involve the creation of a physical asset e.g. a garden requiring ongoing maintenance
- Community Fund money must be spent within six months of receipt.

Visit the website at;
<http://www.belfastcityairport.com/Community/Community-Fund>



Heritage Lottery Fund: Our Heritage

Our Heritage is rolling grant programme for any type of project related to national, regional or local heritage in the UK.

You can apply for a grant of more than £10,000 and up to £100,000.

Scheme details

Under this rolling programme, they fund applications from:

- Not-for-profit organisations
- Private owners of heritage, including individuals and for-profit organisations
- Partnerships of the above

If you are applying as a partnership, you will need to nominate a lead applicant. The lead applicant should provide a signed partnership agreement showing the involvement of each partner and how the project will be managed.

If private individuals or for-profit organisations are involved in a project, either as a partner or as the lead applicant, public benefit must outweigh private gain.

Here are some examples of the types of organisations they fund:

- Community or voluntary groups
- Community Interest Companies
- Charities or trusts
- Social enterprises
- Community/parish councils

- Local authorities
- Other public sector organisations, such as nationally funded museums
- Private owners of heritage, including individuals and for-profit organisations.

Heritage includes many different things from the past that they value and want to pass on to future generations, for example:

- Archaeological sites
- Collections of objects, books or documents in museums, libraries or archives
- Cultural traditions such as stories, festivals, crafts, music, dance and costumes
- Historic buildings
- Histories of people and communities
- Histories of places and events
- The heritage of languages and dialects
- Natural and designed landscapes and gardens
- People's memories and experiences (often recorded as 'oral history');
- Places and objects linked to our industrial, maritime and transport history
- Natural heritage including habitats, species and geology.

For more information, go to; <https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/our-heritage>



Enkalon Foundation

Since 1985 Enkalon Foundation awards have been open to community groups and organisations across Northern Ireland. Historically the range of applicants has ranged from youth groups, senior citizens clubs, charities, self-help groups, animal welfare, arts and mental health groups.

The Enkalon Foundation is a local grant-making trust which makes small grants primarily in the fields of cross-community, unemployment and generally helping disadvantaged people.

Scheme details

Amount Available: £200,000 (approx) - to Groups in Northern Ireland

Size of Grants: Up to £6,000 maximum.

Average grant size between £500 and £1,000.



For more information, go to; <http://www.enkalonfoundation.org/generalfundapplications.html>