

8th February 2023

E-Zine



**Supporting
Communities**
Empowering Society

Welcome to Supporting Communities 204th 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

Annual reporting deadline

Charities with an annual reporting deadline of 31st January 2023 have just under two weeks to submit their annual return to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

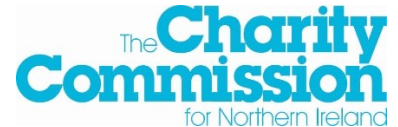
Registered charities, which have financial years ending 31 March 2022 and were registered after May 2019, must submit their annual reporting information to the regulator by the end of January - no later than 10 months after the end of their financial year.

While this deadline only affects 140 Northern Ireland charities, there are a further 2,013 charities which were registered by the Commission prior to May 2019 which also have a financial year ending 31st March 2022. Although these annual returns are not legally required, the regulator is encouraging these charities to file their annual reporting information voluntarily.

“Annual reporting is a vital part of the work of each and every charity in Northern Ireland, supporting them in sharing information on their activities and finances with the public, including their own supporters, services users and funders,” advised Orla Waterson, Commission Monitoring and Compliance Manager. Charities which wait until the last minute to file their annual return run the risk of not having the right documents or information ready and could end up missing their deadline,” she continued.

“In issuing this reminder, I encourage charities to take some time to ensure they have all they need to hand – not only will this help the process go smoothly, but there have also been some recent changes to the annual reporting form they should be aware of before beginning. The recent changes include the addition of six new question areas related to risk areas such as safeguarding, the processing of personal data and fundraising. The return is streamlined by income, with smaller charities required to complete fewer questions than larger charities.

All charities must also now provide contact details for the trustees including their individual email address and mobile telephone number. This is a key step in the Commission’s commitment to communicate and engage better with individual charity trustees in matters relating to their charity.



The Commission has produced new guidance on the annual monitoring return. This is a practical guide that sets out what you need to have to hand before commencing the return, and only takes about 10 minutes to read. ‘ARR05 How to complete the Annual Monitoring Return – 10 minute guide’ can be found on the Commission’s website [here](#).

“Charity trustees often delegate the task of filing the annual return to a single trustee, another person within the charity or to someone external to the charity,” Orla added.

“This is understandable but please remember that charity trustees are the ones with the ultimate, overall responsibility. They should be aware of the information requirements within the return, satisfied with the information provided on their behalf and have good oversight that the return is completed and submitted on time,” she concluded.

For more information on annual reporting or to view the Northern Ireland *register of charities* visit www.charitycommissionni.org.uk

For more information, please contact Shirley Kernan, Commission Communications Officer, on telephone: **028 3832 0169** or email: shirley.kernan@charitycommissionni.org.uk

Changes to the Housing Selection Scheme



Changes to the Housing Selection Scheme in Northern Ireland come into effect today.

The Housing Selection Scheme and Common Waiting List governs the allocation of all permanent social housing in Northern Ireland.

It has been in place for more than 20 years and changes are now being introduced to ensure that those in greatest housing need receive priority, with recognition of their time in need.

Jennifer Hawthorne, Director of Housing Services, explained:

“Twenty proposals for change to improve the housing allocation system were identified through the Fundamental Review of Allocations (FRA). Eighteen of these proposals were approved by the Minister for Communities and will be implemented by the Housing Executive in four key delivery stages over three years.

“We are pleased to launch stage one and have written to all households on the waiting list to explain the changes and what this means for them.”

Stage one of the FRA change proposals will see the implementation of four proposals:

- An independent, tenure neutral housing advice service for Northern Ireland
- A greater choice of areas for all applicants
- An applicant may receive two reasonable offers of accommodation

- Social landlords may withdraw an offer of accommodation in specified circumstances

Jennifer Hawthorne continued:

“What this means in real terms for those on the waiting list is that they will be able to choose as many or as few areas of choice for a home as they wish. There will also be a reduction from three reasonable offers of accommodation to two.

“Applicants will also benefit from our Housing Solutions Support Service which provides independent tenure-neutral housing advice throughout their housing journey. Customers will be allocated a dedicated housing advisor who will be able to discuss housing options and provide tailored advice and assistance.”

“We believe these changes will help to create a better, more efficient service for people in housing need. Customers on the waiting list will receive a letter and information leaflet from us over the coming days however should they wish to speak to someone they can contact their Housing Officer (this may be your Housing Advisor or Patch Manager if you are a Housing Executive tenant or a Housing officer if you are a Housing Association tenant) who will be happy to help.”

Further information about the Fundamental Review of Allocations and change proposals can be found in our section on the: [Fundamental Review of Allocations](#)

Join Good Things Foundation's National Digital Inclusion Network

Good Things Foundation's [National Digital Inclusion Network](#) is made up of thousands of grassroots organisations across the UK that are all working to deliver digital inclusion support in their local communities.

If you're a community organisation that is or wants to support your community members to get online and access the benefits of digital - then joining the network will help you do exactly that. It is free to join and offers a range of free services, such as:

- Access to the [National Databank](#) and [National Device Bank](#)
- Free training and resources
- Networking opportunities



Good Things Foundation

- Access to our online learning platform, [Learn My Way](#).

The National Databank is giving free mobile data to people who can't afford their internet connection. By signing up to the network, you will be eligible to join and start giving out data vouchers.

Find out more and sign up [here](#) or contact hello@goodthingsfoundation.org for more information.

Educational Opportunities Lead to Community Renewal in the Markets area of Belfast

The Market Development Association in inner-south Belfast has seen remarkable results from their community education programme.

Starting in January 2022, when classes were still being conducted online, the group took on the first of our OCN-accredited courses with our trainer, Karla Turner. They were keen to keep the learning going, and in a matter of months, 11 people completed all three levels of our community development series, earning three OCN qualifications each. Five of our graduates then used this as a springboard to Ulster University's Community Development degree course, where they are currently working on their 3rd module of year one!



Read more about their journey here: <https://supportingcommunities.org/latest-news/2023/1/31/educational-opportunities-lead-to-community-renewal-in-the-markets-area-of-belfast>

**Tenant Participation...
What's in it for me?**

Supporting Communities
Empowering Society

- 1 Increased Understanding of Social Housing
- 2 Social Benefits of Being Part of a Team
- 3 New Transferable Skills
- 4 Recognition and Appreciation
- 5 Improved Communities

What's in it for Us? The Benefits of Tenant Participation for the Tenants

Taking the time to contribute your thoughts and ideas to your housing provider helps them to improve their services. Research shows that it benefits their business, but what's in it for the tenants? Quite a bit, it seems! Our senior training officer, Aidan Kearney, has written about five key benefits he sees for involved tenants.

Read Aidan's article here: <https://supportingcommunities.org/blog/2023/1/18/whats-in-it-for-us-the-benefits-of-tenant-participation>.

Consultations

Charity Commission Strategic Plan and Engagement Strategy Consultation deadline extended



The Commission has extended the deadline for responses to its consultation on a new [strategic plan and engagement strategy](#). Both are designed to reflect the recommendations of the Independent Review of Charity Regulation commissioned by the Minister for Communities in January 2021. The consultation will now close at 5:00pm on Monday 6 March 2023.

An online consultation event will take place on Wednesday 1 March, 10:00am-Noon. To book your place email: events@charitycommissionni.org.uk.

Other ways to provide feedback are available on the [Current consultations](#) page of the Commission's website.

Redesign of Commission website:

The Commission is undertaking a priority project to redesign our website to make it more user friendly following the Independent Review of Charity Regulation.

Critical friends and helper groups are invited to get involved and provide feedback on using the current website and suggestions/ideas for the new site.

An online workshop is being held on Thursday 9 February 2023, from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. If you would like to participate, please email communications@charitycommissionni.org.uk.



NICVA draft response to Charity Commission's draft strategic plan consultation

[Denise Copeland](#) of NICVA writes.

The Charity Commission's consultation on its draft strategic plan for 2023-2026 and its engagement strategy will close for responses on 6 March at 5.00 pm (extended from the 6 February 2023).

The Charity Commission would like to hear your views on the priorities it has set out over the next 3 years in its draft strategic plan. It is also consulting on its engagement strategy which sets out how the Commission will try to become more outward facing and actively engage with stakeholders.

NICVA has prepared a draft response to these two consultations in the attached. We would also encourage all charities to submit their own response.

Further details of the consultation and the response form can be found at this link [Joint consultation on draft Strategic Plan 2023-2026 and Engagement Strategy | The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland](#)

Disability Action Plan 2022 – 2026

Translink

<https://www.translink.co.uk/corporate/publicationsanddocuments/nithcreports>

Closing Date; 20th February 2023

Autism Strategy 2023-2028

Department of Health

[Autism Strategy 2023 - 2028 Consultation | Department of Health \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing Date; 8th March 2023

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD EQUALITY SCHEME

The Northern Ireland Policing Board's current Equality Scheme and related Equality and Disability Action Plans are due to expire on 31 March 2023 and consequently it is currently revising the Equality Scheme and developing Equality and Disability Action Plans for 2023 – 2025.

The Board's new Equality & Disability Action Plans have been designed for a 2 year period to align with the remainder of the current Policing Plan cycle and the new

2023-2025 Corporate Plan; the Board is seeking the views of the wider public and stakeholders to inform the development process.



For more information and to participate in the consultation, go to; [Equality Consultation 2023-25 | Northern Ireland Policing Board \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](#)

Publications

Live Here Love Here is Northern Ireland's largest civic pride programme



It's about loving where you live... and feeling empowered to take positive environmental action. Examples include: creating a community vegetable patch, organising a beach clean, or starting up a tool swap scheme.

Create your profile [here](#) and join us in doing something positive for your community today.

Sign up for the e-bulletin here; [Live Here Love Here - Show your support](#)



Please click the link below to access the latest edition of Inpartnership – the newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives; [Inpartnership Issue 12 \(pcsp.org\)](#)



The Environmental news bulletin is available at [ENRA-January-2023.pdf \(nienvironmentlink.org\)](#).

For other NIEL publications and events, go to; [www.nienvironmentlink.org](#)

Signpost Express



Welcome to the latest issue of Signpost full of updated news for February 2023 with all the latest updates on information and activities relevant to older people and organisations supporting older people this month. [Age NI Signpost Express - February 2023 \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Chartered Institute of Housing Briefings



The cost of living crisis is having a huge effect across society, with social housing tenants some of the hardest hit. Our aim in creating this cost of living briefing series is to provide a succinct, insightful summary of the latest research and statistics alongside resident voice and sector response.

We hope you find these briefings useful to inform your understanding and help inspire innovation across the sector in dealing with the crisis.

[Cost of living crisis briefings - Chartered Institute of Housing \(cih.org\)](#)



Catch up on what's been happening at the Board in [Policing Matters December 2022 | Northern Ireland Policing Board \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](#) and the Human Rights Report of the Policing Board is available at; [Human Rights Annual Report 2021/22 \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](#)



RCN produces a range of publications including Rural Brief, a regular update of news and views affecting rural communities as well as Consultation Responses and Policy updates. Rural Brief for July is available at [RB-July.pdf \(ruralcommunitynetwork.org\)](#).

Scope^{NI}

Available online, includes a series of important articles on a range of matters including the costs and impacts of second home ownership, the scale of eating disorders in NI, academic selection, immigration, the treatment of people suffering sight loss and climate change. Scope can be accessed at; <http://scopeni.nicva.org/>

Policy and Practice Focus

Have you ever wanted to do more to help the planet but don't know where to start? The Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful Climate Action team are here to help with a unique opportunity to get involved. Your community can make a real difference.

The team have developed bitesize programmes offering in depth interviews with world renowned experts in partnership with DAERA & KNIB. The Your Climate Future sessions offer invaluable insights & advice on how making small changes in your everyday lives can ultimately have a big impact globally.

We are delighted to announce that the community episode features a fascinating interview with Dr. Tara Shine, environmental scientist, policy advisor & science communicator. Tara is a former expert advisor to the United Nations, director of Change by Degrees; sustainable solutions for organisations & author of How to save the planet one object at a time.

This session has been developed specifically for Communities and is an amazing resource to increase your awareness of the climate emergency. Be a leader, start the conversations. When we all do one



team have also developed the Your Climate Future session for schools featuring the amazing Lizzie Daly, scientist & TV presenter.

Among other things Lizzie has worked on countless productions for broadcasting and online. Including BBC Earth, CBBC, Cbeebies, National Geographic, Animal Planet 'Solved, Nature's Greatest Mysteries', BBC One Wales Weatherman Walking series 2020 + 2021, BBC Two series Curious Creatures. She is an Animal Movements PhD Scientist using tag technology to better understand African Elephant behaviour and also an Academic Teaching & Outreach Fellow at Swansea University.



Environmental scientist, policy advisor and science communicator.
Former member of the UN Climate Change Convention
Director of Changes by Degree; Sustainable solutions for organisations
Author of How to Save the Planet one Object at a time
Launches; 30/01/23

With a wealth of knowledge Lizzie chats about how teachers and pupils can the action against the climate emergency.

We are all connected and we can all do something. Watch here [\(18\) Your Climate Future - A Guide for Schools - YouTube](#)

Keep Carbon literate

For all information about carbon literacy and to keep up to date on opportunities available check

small thing, BIG things happen.

Your Climate Future; watch here [\(18\) Your Climate Future - A guide for communities - YouTube](#)

Following on from the fascinating interviews with the experts, we want to hear from you. Your Climate Future live Q&A sessions are now available to book for your opportunity to chat with the Climate Action team. Pick their brains and find out what you can do to be part of the solution. There are no silly questions! We are all in this together.

Everyone welcome. You can register here; [Your Climate Future | Eventbrite](#)

The Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful Climate Action

out our webpage. Lets keep Northern Ireland beautiful

Get in touch by emailing; scott.howes@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org



Events

President's Spring Talks Series

Next date: Thursday 9th February 2023 at 7.00pm

Cost: £6 per lecture or £20 for four lectures



The Presidents Talk series returns each Thursday evening at 7pm (GMT) in February by Zoom, with some limited room ticket availability and is supported by the Department for Foreign Affairs Reconciliation Fund.

The lectures will be via Room and Zoom, taking place every Thursday evening at 7pm throughout February. Each lecture will last approximately 60 minutes followed by a Q&A session.

- Thursday 9th February 2023 – ‘Doing the Needful’: Belfast Charitable Society and its Outdoor Relief Scheme – with Aaron McIntyre
- Thursday 16th February – From New Orleans to Clifton Street: slavery and freedom in nineteenth century Belfast – with Dr Jonathan Wright.
- Thursday 3rd February – The New Burying Ground, Père Lachaise and Belfast’s forgotten cemeteries – with John Ó Neill

Many of the speakers have contributed to the Belfast Charitable Society’s recent publication “The First Great Charity of this Town”, edited by Professor Olwen Purdue and produced to mark the Society’s 270th anniversary.

To find out more and to book your tickets, visit: <https://cliftonbelfast.com/whats-on/talks/>

Creating Safer Spaces: Raising Awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) In Our Communities

‘Raising Awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) In Our Communities’. These events are aimed at all those working within the night time economy, be it hospitality transport or security, council staff and volunteers.



Event 1 – Monday 13th March 2023, 9.30 – 11am at Holiday Inn Express, Antrim. Breakfast will be provided

Event 2 – Wednesday 15th March 2023, 9.30 – 11am at The Lodge Hotel, Coleraine. Breakfast will be provided

Please confirm place to Julie.Pollock2@hscni.net by 28th February 2023 as places are limited.

East Belfast Funding Fair

Wednesday, 8th March, 2023

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

East Belfast Network Centre,
55 Templemore Avenue
Belfast,
Northern Ireland,
BT5 4HP

Come to our East Belfast Funding Fair to meet funders face to face, find out what they have to offer, and discuss your ideas!

Supporting Communities and the Housing Executive are hosting this event at the East Belfast Network Centre, 55 Templemore Avenue.

The funders in attendance will be:

- National Lottery Community Fund
- Halifax Foundation
- Children in Need
- Keep NI Beautiful
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award
- and more to be confirmed!

More Information

Contact Anita Doonan, Supporting Communities Funding and Social Value Officer
email: anita@supportingcommunities.org
Tel. 07840849453



East Belfast FUNDING FAIR Wednesday, 8 March
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Come to our Funding Fair to meet funders face to face, find out what they have to offer & discuss your ideas!

Meet the Funders

- National Lottery Community Fund
- Halifax Foundation
- Children in Need
- Keep NI Beautiful
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award

and more to be confirmed!

East Belfast Network Centre
55 Templemore Avenue
Belfast
BT5 4HP

For more information, contact:
Anita Doonan, Supporting Communities
anita@supportingcommunities.org
07840849453

Supporting Communities Empowering Society
Housing Executive



Supporting Communities
Empowering Society

Save the date!

ALL-IRELAND TENANT ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE

We're raising the standard of tenant participation. Join us!

TUESDAY 13 JUNE

Training

Volunteer Now Training Sessions in February 2023

Volunteer Now has both safeguarding and volunteer management courses with places still available taking place in February. We have places on Keeping Children Safe: Designated Officer Training on 8 February 2023, The New Environment: Volunteer Induction on 9 February, Befriending Training Workshop on 20 February and Keeping Adults Safe: Recruitment, Selection & Management to name a few.



We also have 2 free VOLT Sessions in February – Digitally Aware, Wise & Resilient on 8 February and Fundraising Volunteers: Code of Practice on 22 February 2023.

To find out what's available and to book onto any of our courses, please click here – www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/

Volunteer Now Email: info@volunteernow.co.uk
Tel: 028 9023 2020



[Search For Volunteering Opportunities](#)

[Befriending Training Workshop](#)

Course info

Monday 20th February 2023, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
ONLINE

Standard Course From £15 +VAT

Befriending Training Workshop

This 2-hour online workshop on Befriending will cover the following:

- What is Befriending?
- Benefits of Befriending
- Effective Communication Skills
 - Body language and tone
 - Face-to-face Vs Telephone
 - Use of questions
- Boundaries

Once completed, participants will receive a Certificate of Attendance and a FREE Befriending Top Tips publication.

[DIVERSITY, Equity & Equality 3: Research & Strategy](#)

Practical steps to change your organisation.

Course info

Tuesday 7th March 2023, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
ONLINE

Standard Course From £10 +VAT

The makeup of organisational culture is changing to be more reflective of the diverse range of individuals, transferable skills, and backgrounds. How prepared is your organisation and what strategies do you have in place to nurture diversity?

Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd, working in partnership with JoinHer, bring you a series of four 2-hour session on Diversity, Equity & Equality. Join us over the four sessions to explore and learn new and creative ways to nurture diversity in your volunteer project, team, or organisation:

- Diversifying your workforce
- Reaching the best available talent
- Providing the best environment for all

Join her is an open and impartial Network led by an internationally diverse group of experienced & uniquely qualified professionals who have come together to change and influence lives for the better, in a fresh and engaging manner.

Housing Rights Training

Fundamental review of allocations; impacts for clients on social housing waiting lists



TRAINING COURSES

Online via Zoom

Friday 17th February 2023 from 10 am to 12 noon

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

In 2017 the Department for Communities proposed 20 recommendations for change to the Housing Selections Scheme. These proposals were open for consultation between September & December 2017. In November 2020, on the basis of the feedback received, the Minister for Communities announced that 18 of the 20 recommendations would be implemented. The implementation of these recommendations will be phased in, with the first phase being rolled out and operational by the end of January 2023. This session will take you through the background to the changes, what proposals will be part of the first phase and how these will impact households in Northern Ireland who are currently waiting for a home in the social rented sector.

Outcome of the course

By the end of the session you will be aware of the

changes to the Housing Selection Scheme that have been operational since the end of January. You will also be made aware of further changes, and when they will be implemented by Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Who should attend this training course?

- generalist advice workers
- housing association staff
- constituency office staff
- community/residents group

[Financial support and funding available to maintain your home](#)

TRAINING COURSES

[Supporting people with housing rental debt](#)

Earn money while learning new skills!

BRING IT ON!

**Get Paid
Get Qualified
Get a Career**

Aged 16-24? Check out our range of training programmes with ApprenticeshipsNI

Which career will you choose?
IT | Business Admin | Retail | Playwork | Catering
Bricklaying | Joinery | Childcare | Hairdressing
Painting & Decorating | Health & Social Care

Bryson Training and Employability

Contact Stuart: 07976 722197 or stuart.green@brysonenergy.org for more info

**Employers...
It pays to hire an apprentice!**

Expand and upskill your workforce

Ensure your employees develop the right skills

86% of employers said apprenticeships helped them develop skills relevant to their organisation

Employer Incentive once apprentice completes training

Build a culture of learning & development

Finding the right apprentice for you:
IT | Business Admin | Retail | Playwork | Catering
Bricklaying | Joinery | Childcare | Hairdressing
Painting & Decorating | Health & Social Care

Bryson Energy

Contact Stuart: 07976 722197 or stuart.green@brysonenergy.org for more info



This project is part-funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 – 2020 and the Department for the Economy.



This project is part-funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 – 2020 and the Department for the Economy.

For more information on the Apprenticeship Programme contact Stuart on 07976 722197 or at stuart.green@brysonenergy.org

Reporting to the Charity Commission NI - Lunchtime Special Training

Monday 27th February 2023 from 12 noon to 12.30 pm

How would you rate your understanding of the reporting requirements for the Charity Commission NI? Get a better understanding of the reporting guidelines and learn what you need to prepare for your annual report.

Whether you need a quick refresher or just want a peek at the topic before committing to a longer course, our lunchtime taster sessions are perfect for you! In just 30 minutes over your break, you can catch up on this important topic and be confident that your group's governance is getting a look in!

Grab a bite and meet us online at 12 noon.

Register your place

Please note, that this session is designed for community groups in Northern Ireland.

This session will be held on Zoom. To register, [please fill in this form](#).
If you have any questions, contact Aidan Kearney by email at aidan@supportingcommunities.org.



Writing Successful Funding Applications (Online Session)

Wednesday 15th March 2023 from 10.00 am to 11.00 am



Join us for this short session looking at planning and completing a successful funding application.

Learners will gain:

- an understanding of the key processes of a successful funding application
- increased confidence when approaching funders
- enhanced fundraising skills and knowledge

Register your place

To register for this course, [please fill in this form](#).

Please note, this session is designed for community groups in Northern Ireland.

Tenant Participation Awareness (Online Session)

Wednesday 15th March 2023 from 12 noon to 1.00 pm

In this short session, we will raise your awareness of what tenant participation really means and why it is so important.

Whether you are a tenant yourself or work in housing, come along to get a better understanding of what we mean when we talk about engagement and meaningful participation.

We will touch on the following topics:

- The benefits of tenant participation
- Tenant participation approaches
- How to make it work

Register your place

Please note that this session is designed for community groups in Northern Ireland.

This session will be held on Zoom. To register, [please fill in this form](#).
If you have any questions, contact Aidan Kearney by email at aidan@supportingcommunities.org.



Funding

Carers' Support Fund

The Community Foundation NI on behalf of the Department of Health is delighted to open for application a Carers' Support Fund.

The Carers' Support Fund will provide support for organisations working for and with carers in line with the outcomes set out below.

Grant values of between £2k and £75k will be distributed to properly constituted community groups and voluntary organisations.

Funding awards will fall into 2 broad categories:

- Funding awards of up to £10k
- Funding awards between £10k and £75k

Fund Outcomes

Specific outcomes that the Fund should deliver are:

- a) Enhanced provision of and access to practical support and help for carers.
- b) Improved access to and availability of advice services for carers, including support available through new technologies.

- c) Enhanced skills of carers to advocate for the needs of both themselves and the person they care for.
- d) Support improved physical and mental health and wellbeing of carers.
- e) Enhanced ability for carers to lead their own lives and enjoy a work/life balance.
- f) Increased capacity to advocate for and advance carers' issues with government and statutory bodies.
- g) Raised awareness of the contribution of carers.
- h) Improved evidence base on carers to support and inform service provision, and government strategy.



For an application to be successful, it must contribute to one or more of the above outcomes, depending on the level of funding applied for.

Closing date for applications is 13th March 2023. For more information and to apply, please visit [Carers' Support Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](https://communityfoundationni.org)

Investing in Spaces and Places Grant 2023

Grants are available for small, local groups in the UK to improve community spaces and places where local people can be together and thrive.

Background

Set up in 1988, the ASDA Foundation is Asda's charity. It operates independently of Asda stores but works very closely with Community Champions in Asda's superstores with the goal of building resilient communities by empowering local groups to make a positive difference.

The Foundation offers a number of grants programmes at different times throughout the year, providing more than £3 million to Asda communities.

Objectives of Fund

This annual fund is aimed at local groups who are working to improve spaces in the heart of their local community.

In 2023, the funding will support bigger community projects within local communities where local people can be together and thrive.

The funding is intended for projects that address at least one of the following categories:

- Building repair
- Building development



- Outdoor development.

Projects need to align to at least one of the Foundation's aims:

- Create and/or develop safe and inclusive community spaces for groups to meet and bring people together.
- Create or improve spaces which can be used by a range of groups on a regular basis.
- Support groups to deliver long-lasting projects focused on long-term community impact.

Value Notes

The 2023 funding pot is £500,000+ with grants of between £10,000 and £25,000.

The grants can cover between 25% and 75% of the total project costs.

Grants can only be made by cheque.

Who Can Apply

Applications are accepted from grassroots, community-led organisations in the UK,



including registered charities, CICs, companies, unincorporated club or association, small community groups or government entity/public body.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be not-for-profit.
- Have an annual income of less than £250,000.
- Have community groups of people as their end beneficiaries.
- Have a presence locally with work that benefits their local community.
- Have unrestricted reserves below £100,000, unless they can provide an explanation.
- Have a bank account in the group's name and be able to provide proof.
- Have suitable governance to be able to manage the grant.
- Have the ability to report back on progress throughout the project.
- Be able to show clear positive impacts for communities.

Since the Asda Foundation does not accept nominations or applications sent directly from community groups, applications **must** be submitted to a Community Champion from an Asda superstore.

To be eligible, applicants must either:

- Own and have full responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of the building/space; **or**
- Have a lease of over five years and full responsibility for upkeep and maintenance.

The funder is looking for groups that are:

- Committed to the community mission.
- People-centred and they promote equality, inclusivity and diversity.
- Efficiently run.
- Locally focused with spaces that are focused on the local community, delivering services and support to multiple beneficiaries.

Eligible Expenditure

Eligible project costs may include materials, tradespeople and equipment costs.

The funding is for projects that fall into at least one of the following categories:

- **Building repairs:** for spaces and places which already exist but are in disrepair and therefore limit the usability, safety or level of expectations for other to use the space. Repairs may be external or internal and may be due to age, vandalism, abandonment. Example include but are not limited to repairs to roofs, doors, windows, replacing central heating, upgrading electrical wiring or repairing/replacing plumbing.
- **Building improvement or development:** to enhance a space already in use. The improvements will enhance the quality of space or give more people/new groups the opportunity to use the space. Examples include but are not limited to new kitchens, improving toilet facilities, extension on a building, developing an unused internal space, improving disabled access and facilities, or security features to keep the space and place secure.
- **Outdoor Development:** to develop outside space for the benefit of the community, particularly outdoor spaces which benefit everyone and can be accessed by large groups of people. Examples include but are not limited to improving access to a community garden, transforming wasteland into usable space, or upgrading a local play area development/upgrading safety features.

There is a five-stage application process:

- Stage 1 - **Applications are accepted from 6 February 2023 to 19 March 2023**
- Stages 2-4 – Internal Asda Foundation review. This will take place from March through May 2023.
- Stage 5 – Announcement of the funding from 5 June 2023.

Maximum grant value is £25,000.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Foundation Grants | Asda Foundation](#)

SPAR Community Cashback Scheme

Leading convenience symbol group SPAR has launched a new £100k Community Cashback scheme which will give grants to local voluntary or community organisations and charities who need it most.



Launching today, shoppers from all over the UK can apply for a grant for an organisation or charity they feel deserves funding. All applicants need to do is share the exceptional contribution a local organisation has made to their community and what the grant would be put towards.

For more information on the scheme visit: <http://www.spar.co.uk/community/community-cashback>

The Community Action Fund

The Community Action Fund exists to support grassroots campaigning and community organising in the UK.

It will provide one-off grants between £2,500 and £20,000.

These grants are available to grassroots organisations that are building the power of their community and campaigning for long-term change.

All successful applicants will be offered support beyond funding. This will include the Civic Power Fund Governance Hub and optional, bespoke cohort and capacity building opportunities.

The deadline is 26th February 2023.

The Community Action Fund is open to UK-based organisations that are:

1. Rooted in and accountable to their community.
2. Hoping to achieve long-term change on issues affecting the lives of their community.
3. Addressing injustice by building the power of their community. For example, through community organising, campaigning, or democratic engagement.
4. Lacking the resources to take their vision to the next level.
5. Seeking to build a larger us and resisting the politics of division

The Community Action Fund prioritises organisations led by people with lived experience of the injustice they are trying to overcome.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Community Action Fund \(civicpower.org.uk\)](https://civicpower.org.uk)

The Woodward Charitable Trust - Children's Summer Playschemes

The Summer Play Scheme grant round will open **Monday 6th February 2023**, the online application form will only be available after this date. The deadline is noon on **Friday 31st March 2023**. The Trustees will review summer play scheme applications in May and successful applicants will be informed by the end of June 2023.

Each year the Trustees of the Woodward Charitable Trust set aside funds for summer playschemes for children from disadvantaged backgrounds between the ages of 5-16 years.

Trustees only fund programmes that run for a minimum of 2 weeks or 10 full days or 20 half days across the summer holidays.

Grants can only be paid to registered charities, CICs, CIOs or exempt charities. If your organisation does not fall into one of these categories, please give the full name and address of a registered charity who has agreed to accept a grant on your behalf. Please note you will need to upload a copy of their most recent audited accounts at the end of the application form, if this is not available on the Charity Commission or Companies House.

Please note that Trustees will now only fund up to 50% of the total cost of a scheme. Most grants awarded are in the range of £500 to £1,000. Around 35 grants are made each year.

Preference is given to:

- small local playschemes that provide a wide-ranging programme of activities. Trustees prefer activities that are relatively inexpensive such as crafts and cooking, as well as outdoor activities and sport.
- schemes that involve a large number of children.

- schemes where past users are encouraged to come back and help as volunteers.

Exclusions

Trustees will not fund:

- trips that are only social such as to a theme park or cinema. Trustees prefer to fund trips that are educational and motivational or relate to the natural environment such as to the seaside or countryside.
- charities whose annual turnover exceeds £100,000.
- overseas projects

Application Form

The trustees receive many more applications than they are able to fund, so please make the most of the opportunity to tell us what makes your charity different and what your achievements are. When talking about your plans for this summer, please feel free to compare them to previous years and what the benefits of attending the scheme has meant to the families and the children attending. Please give details of what you plan to do, beyond just a list of activities, and note that we are looking for organisations that are making a real difference in their communities. Please let us know if any of your activities are child-led and who your volunteers are. Do you provide food and if so, what do you provide?

For more information and to apply, please visit [Children's Summer Playschemes Guidelines | The Woodward Charitable Trust](#)



The 2023 Ashden Awards

For over 20 years, the Ashden Awards have been uncovering and spotlighting the world's next climate champions. Through grant prizes of up to £25,000, as well as ongoing development support, our awards accelerate climate innovation – helping businesses, charities, governments and others power up their impact in the UK and low-income countries.

We back organisations that advance social justice while lowering emissions, with a particular focus on the power of climate action to improve jobs, skills and livelihoods. Winners and finalists enjoy grants, publicity and priceless new connections- as well as endorsement from globally-recognised climate experts. Applications close on 8th March 2023.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Apply to the 2023 Ashden Awards - Ashden](#)

Annual Funding Programme 2023/24

The aim of the Annual Funding Programme (AFP) is to support Northern Ireland's arts infrastructure through grants to organisations in all artforms and practices for their core and programming costs. AFP organisations will be key to helping us achieve the objectives set out in our 5-year strategic framework for developing the arts, Inspire / Connect / Lead, and we expect all awardees to support us in delivering these objectives.

Who can apply?

- Non-profit distributing organisations which can demonstrate they require a year-round resource to deliver arts programming.
- Commercial organisations can only apply for support if the proposed programme is primarily for the benefit of the public and where there are plans to re-invest any surplus into a similar programme.
- New applicants to the Annual Funding Programme must have been in receipt of a single award of at least £10,001 from ACNI since 1 April 2020 in order to be eligible for the scheme and must contact the appropriate ACNI arts officer to discuss their application prior to submission and by 5pm on 10 February at the latest. Failure to make prior contact with the Arts Council before submitting an application will render your application ineligible.

What You Can Apply For

You can apply for one year funding only. Eligible costs include the following:

Core costs:

- Administrative salaries
- Rent and Rates
- Light and Heat
- Maintenance, security, etc.

- Telephone and Fax
- Printing, postage, stationery
- Financial costs
- Insurance

Programming costs:

- Artists' costs
- Volunteer expenses
- Audience Development plans
- Publicity/Marketing (excluding catering/merchandising)
- Transportation
- Travel, Accommodation, Subsistence
- Equipment/Materials
- Access/Participation Plans

Premium Payments:

An amount of up to £3,000 each year is available within the grant (i.e. to be included and potentially awarded as an element of your budget and request amount) for successful applicants who can clearly demonstrate that additional costs are associated with the delivery of their project for people with particular needs as defined under Section 75 of The Northern Ireland Act 1998. Please note that premium payments are made retrospectively on submission of evidence of demonstrated use of the services.

Deadline for applications: **Friday 17th February 2023 at 12 noon**

For more information and to apply, please visit [Annual Funding Programme | Arts Council of Northern Ireland \(artscouncil-ni.org\)](#)



The Fibrus Community Fund

Purpose of the Fund:

The Fibrus Community Fund was established by Fibrus Networks Ltd in 2021. The fund is aimed at addressing digital poverty and exists to support the work of communities across Northern Ireland to provide access to digital technology for the most vulnerable.

We recognise that the most vulnerable in our community can sometimes get left behind when it comes to accessing modern technology, something most of us take for granted.

Having the ability to access the internet can open a range of opportunities for individuals and communities especially when it comes to education, employment and socialising. Formed with one vision; to connect communities across Northern Ireland, the Fibrus Community Fund will offer technology grants to enable people to stay connected, whether it is young people staying connected to online resources for school, or elderly people ordering groceries and video calling family.

Data from the Office of National Statistics in 2019 detailed that, despite how the number of people who can't or don't use the internet, has declined in general since 2012, Northern Ireland continues to have the highest proportion of non-internet users across the UK, at 14.2%. Those who perhaps are already disadvantaged and isolated, are now even more so as a result of the pandemic. The digital divide remains a problem throughout Northern Ireland.

The fund therefore, has a particular focus on supporting grassroots organisations that support older people or young people aged 18 and under.

The Fibrus Community Fund will open in two phases in 2023 in tandem with Fibrus' build programme of new full fibre broadband, with phase one opening in January 2023.

Fund Aims:

The fund is aimed at addressing digital poverty by awarding grants of up to £2,000 to enable local groups and organisations in particular areas, to provide access to digital technology for the most vulnerable in that community, with a particular focus on older people and young people aged 18 and under.

We want the fund to support community organisations who are supporting young people or older people to address the digital divide.

What is Available?

We will offer grants of up to £2,000 for projects to address any gaps that younger and older people might face in their communities, which may include provision of access to technological devices.

Who Can Apply?

Constituted community organisations based in the areas outlined below can apply:



Eligible postcodes:

BT22 , BT23, BT24, BT25, BT26, BT27, BT28, BT30, BT31, BT32, BT33, BT34, BT35, BT38, BT39, BT40, BT41, BT42, BT43, BT44, BT45, BT46, BT48, BT51, BT52, BT53, BT54, BT55, BT56, BT57, BT60, BT61, BT62, BT63, BT65, BT66, BT67, BT69, BT70, BT71, BT74, BT75, BT76, BT77, BT78, BT79, BT80, BT81, BT82, BT92, BT93, BT94

In the event of oversubscription we will prioritise:

1. Applicants who have not previously been awarded a grant from the fund.
2. Organisations that have an annual income below £50,000.
3. Those who more clearly articulate the need in relation to the beneficiaries.

Examples of Types of Projects:

- Projects that provide access to engage with a range of digital devices (laptops, tablets, iPads, smart-phones, etc.), such as a community loan facility, etc.
- Projects that strengthen the capacity of individuals to use a range of available digital services, such as training workshops or courses, which may also include catering and venue hire costs.
- Projects that provide access to enhance connections with others, such as a community-use internet hub, or internet café, etc.
- Provision of internet installation/connection in community facilities for community use.

Project Priorities:

- Focus on the positive contribution of people within the community, and support those most in need of support to use and access digital technologies.
- We want to hear how your community intends to build on the assets within that community, to support those who have faced digital challenges.
- We expect you to focus on the need of your beneficiaries in terms of digital poverty, as well as focus on what is good about your community, and how this project will build on previous successes as a community, and support the beneficiary/beneficiaries in the longer term.

The fund will close at 1:00pm on Monday 20 February 2023.

Please visit [The Fibrus Community Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](https://communityfoundationni.org)



RTÉ Toy Show Appeal Impact Grants Fund

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal was established in 2020 to raise funds for Irish children's charities through the televised Late Late Toy Show. Since then, more than €17 million has been raised to support these charities.

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal mission is: *Inspired by children, we work to bring the magic of the Late Late Toy Show to every child in Ireland. By funding essential support, health, wellbeing, play and creativity we aim to change children's lives for good.*

In the wake of the cost-of-living crisis, increased number of refugees from Ukraine and elsewhere in the world, and the climate crisis, the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal is more important than ever.

Last year over €6,600,000 was raised and distributed in 154 grants to support more than 1.1 million children and their family members all across Ireland. Thanks to the continued generosity of the Irish public, this year the Appeal raised over €3,800,000 which will be distributed through two open grant rounds:

- Impact Grants Round
- Community Grants Round

Children and family focused charities working at local,

regional and national level can apply for a grant under one of the following thematic pillars:

- Addressing Essential Needs
- Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Creativity and Play

The **Impact Grants Round** is now open and is for children and family charities with an annual income of £500,000 or more and will close at 1pm on Friday 10 February 2023. For more information and to apply, please visit [RTÉ Toy Show Appeal Impact Grants Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](https://communityfoundationni.org)

*****The Community Grants Round is due to open mid February and is for children and family charities with an annual income of less than £500,000.*****

Organisations can apply only once to the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal this year. Where multiple applications are received from the same organisation, none will be considered for assessment.



Mid Ulster District Council's 2023/24 Grant Programme

Mid Ulster District Council's 2023/24 Grant Programme will be open for applications on Monday 30th January until Thursday 16th March 2023. To make an online application visit www.midulstercouncil.org/resident/grants

Grant Categories

Category 1

- Small Development Grant
- Community/Sports Venue/Facilities Grant
- Strategic Arts & Culture Grant
- Strategic Sports Development Grant
- Strategic Community Development Grant

Category 2

- Strategic Events Grant
- Irish Language Activity Grants
- Irish Language Bursaries
- Good Relations Grant *
- Community Local Festivals Grant*
- Sports Representative Grant (Team & Individual)

Category 3

Miscellaneous Grants not online (need to speak with designated grant officers)

- Capital Discretionary Grant
- School Sports Access Grant

**Applications to rolling grant programmes are accepted throughout the year, and should be submitted 6 weeks in advance of the project/event.*

Good Relations and PCSP Strategic Plans

The Council's Good Relations and Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership are currently developing their Action Plans for 2023/24. If you would like to engage or partner with them on the delivery of their plans, please contact the PCSP or Good Relations team 03000 132 132.

To register for any of these or to receive Councils monthly grants newsletter please email communitydevelopment@midulstercouncil.org or telephone 03000 132 132 ext: 24615



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Cregganconroe Community Benefit Fund

This local community benefit fund was set up by Gaelectric in 2016 and is now managed by CGN Europe – a wind energy and energy storage company that believes in a sustainable future. GCN is committed to ensuring that their wind farms, whilst having obvious environmental benefits, also provide significant economic benefits to the local community.

The Cregganconroe Community Benefit Fund is available to local community projects within a 10km / 6 mile radius of the wind farm. Cregganconroe wind farm is based just off the Loughmallon Road, Pomeroy, Co Tyrone. The areas located within a 10km radius of the wind farm are largely rural, having a rugged mountainous terrain within the Sperrin Mountains and comprises dispersed rural settlements including the hamlets and villages of Cappagh, Galbally, Pomeroy, Carrickmore, Kileenan and the Rock.

The Cregganconroe Community Benefit Fund is administered by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

Funding will be available to local community projects within a 10km/6 mile radius of the wind farm. [Cregganconroe Map](#)

The fund aims to encourage:

- Any programmes/projects that address marginalisation and help tackle rural isolation. In particular, support will be considered for transport solutions that allow a greater sharing of local community resources and to allow for improved mobility for the most isolated.

- Projects that have a particular emphasis on maximising community space by providing minor capital works that bring premises or facilities up to modern standards and in line with current building control regulations.
- Activities/services that are specifically aimed at children and young people and older people; provision of local educational classes/training courses and health related initiatives and arts/cultural activities.
- Projects designed to improve and develop local environmental schemes.
- Priority will be given to beneficiaries within the Pomeroy area given their close proximity to the wind farm.
- Projects that encourage greater cross community interaction at a local level with a focus on improving relations between nationalist and unionist communities in the area. Consideration will be given to activities and events designed to encourage this interaction and cohesion e.g. – Open Days, Festivals and other Community Events including programmes of shared culture, music, sport, drama and dance.

Grants of up to £2000 are available and closing date for applications is 13th February 2023 at 1pm.

For more information and to apply please visit [Cregganconroe Community Benefit Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland](#)



Green Flag Community Awards

Applications for Green Flag for Community Awards 2023 are now open.

The Green Flag Community Award is the national award recognising high-quality green spaces managed by voluntary and community groups.

All community green spaces that are easily accessible and open to the public (i.e. accessible to users during the day where no key/code is needed for entry) are eligible for the award. These include:

- Community gardens

- Woodlands
- Nature reserves
- Allotments
- Churchyards

The Green Flag award is a fantastic accreditation for your green space and great recognition for local volunteer action.

Closing for applications on 17th February 2023. For more information and to apply, please visit [Green Flag Community Award, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful](#)



Inishative Community Benefit Fund

This local community benefit fund was set up by Gaelectric in 2016 and is now managed by CGN Europe – a wind energy and energy storage company that believes in a sustainable future. GCN is committed to ensuring that their wind farms, whilst having obvious environmental benefits, also provide significant economic benefits to the local community.

The Inishative Community Benefit Fund is available to local community projects within a 10km / 6 mile radius of the wind farm. Priority is given to applicant organisations based within the Carrickmore (3.5 miles), Galbally/Cappagh (4-5 miles) and Sixmilecross (6 miles) areas.

The Inishative Community Benefit Fund is administered by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

Funding will be available to local community projects within a 10km/6 mile radius of the wind farm. [Inishative CBF Map](#)

The fund aims to encourage:

- Stronger more inclusive communities by ensuring that local people have ownership and involvement in the design and delivery of the project.
- Partnership working with community, voluntary and statutory agencies to ensure a coordinated approach.
- Sustainable solutions that address local issues.
- Projects that improve the utilisation of existing community space in each of the above areas.
- Particular emphasis will be placed on funding activities/services that are specifically aimed at older people, people with disabilities, children and teenagers (including pre-school children), providing skills development of local people and promoting health related activities or services.
- Given the remoteness of some of these locations, the isolation and lack of statutory transport provision

consideration will be given to local transport initiatives.

- Projects and programmes offering invaluable advice and information and signposting on key rural issues e.g. Farm Support Services, Welfare & Benefits and Parenting/Family issues etc.
- Outdoor/Environmental projects will also be considered in terms of encouraging a healthier and active community as well as protecting and enhancing the local environment.
- Finally, wider community events and programmes that encourage greater community interaction (including cross community aspects) encompassing the local rich and varied cultural aspects of music, drama, dance and sport.
- Funding will be considered for costs associated with running/administration costs and for purchasing additional equipment to expand services/activities in each of the areas.
- Priority will be given to projects which demonstrate the ability to collaborate, network and share best practice.

Grants of up to £2000 are available. Closing date for applications is 13th February 2023 at 1pm.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Inishative Community Benefit Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](https://www.communityfoundationni.org)



King's Coronation Small Grants Programme 2023

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council has introduced a **small grants programme** to support Community/Voluntary organisations based in and/or operating within Lisburn and Castlereagh who are wishing to develop and implement events, community festivals, volunteering opportunities and/or street parties to mark the Kings Coronation. Buckingham Palace has announced that the Coronation will take place on Saturday 6 May 2023 at Westminster Abbey.

Some further details on the celebratory and community events that will take place over the Coronation Weekend between Saturday 6th and Monday 8th May 2023 have also been announced.

The Coronation Big Lunch, at which neighbours and communities are invited to share food and fun together, will take place across the country on Sunday 7 May 2023.

The Big Help Out will be held on Monday 8 May 2023 in tribute to His Majesty The King's public service, The Big Help Out will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas. The aim of The Big Help Out is to use volunteering to bring communities together and create a lasting volunteering legacy from the Coronation Weekend.

Additional information on the ceremonial, celebratory and community events that will take place over the Coronation Weekend between Saturday 6th and Monday 8th May 2023 can be found at <https://www.royal.uk/coronation-weekend-plans-announced>.

Applications for funding, up to a maximum of £500. Organisations must clearly demonstrate on their application form how they meet the following;



- The provision of a community led event/street party or programme which demonstrates community involvement in the organisation and delivery of the event. Groups are strongly encouraged to organise event which forms part of their application over the designated UK bank holiday weekend from **6-8 May 2023**. This should align with the principles of the Coronation Big Lunch as announced by Buckingham Palace.
- Having the King's Coronation as the central theme of the programme being organised.
- Delivery of an inclusive programme that brings individuals together to mark the King's Coronation, encourages relationship development and contributes to the development of a strong community infrastructure.
- Activities and programmes that clearly demonstrates value for money.
- Activities that promote and encourage volunteering to bring communities together and leave a lasting volunteering legacy from the Coronation weekend.

For more information please visit Community.services@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk or **Tel: 028 9244 7713**

The closing date for receipt of applications is 12 noon on Monday 20th February 2023.



East Belfast

FUNDING FAIR

Wednesday,
8 March

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Come to our Funding Fair to meet funders face to face, find out what they have to offer & discuss your ideas!

East Belfast Network Centre
55 Templemore Avenue
Belfast
BT5 4HP

For more information, contact:
Anita Doonan, Supporting Communities
anita@supportingcommunities.org
07840849453

Meet the Funders

- National Lottery Community Fund
- Halifax Foundation
- Children in Need
- Keep NI Beautiful
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award

and more to be confirmed!

