

8th March 2023

E-Zine



**Supporting
Communities**
Empowering Society

Welcome to Supporting Communities 206th 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

Community and Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Support - future plans

The Department for Communities is asking for your participation in a departmental [survey](#) and invites you to join some upcoming engagement events. Further details can be found below and on our [website](#).



Department for

Communities

An Roinn

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The Department is carrying out a programme of work aimed at refreshing the policy frameworks for our voluntary and community sector support. A review of sectoral needs will inform how government can better support the sector to deliver outcomes set out in any future Programme for Government.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Please take part in this short [survey](#). It should take you no more than ten minutes to complete and will give the Department valuable information on current capacity and support needs within the sector.

You can also sign up for the following events.

The Department would like to take the opportunity to outline current plans and explore priorities within the sector for boosting capacity and improving the landscape of infrastructure support. Events are open to all and will include a roundtable discussion of key questions of interest.

When	Where	How to Register
Thursday 30th March 2023 9.30 am - 12.30 pm	Clifton House Belfast	Register here
Tuesday 4th April 2023 12.30 pm - 3.30 pm	Playhouse Derry	Register here
Wednesday 5th April 2023 10 am - 12 noon	Virtual (Zoom)	Register here

Additional policy workshops will be held between April and June: further details to follow in the coming weeks.

You can find out more information on the Department's website here; [website](#).



Department of Justice publishes new draft Protocol for Restorative Justice

The Department of Justice has published a new draft protocol governing the use of restorative interventions in the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland.

A review of the 2007 protocol was launched last year by the then Justice Minister, Naomi Long, with the overall aim of improving outcomes for victims, communities and defendants.

The review was undertaken by an independent three-person panel of experts who considered the adequacy of the existing protocol and sought to establish a fresh approach to the increased use of restorative justice.

The panel members are Professor Tim Chapman, Dr Neil Jarman and Judith Gillespie all of whom have a wealth of knowledge in respect of the criminal justice system and community based restorative practice.

Richard Pengelly CB, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Justice said: "The review report published today sets out a new approach for the use of restorative interventions as part of the criminal justice system. There has been a significant growth in the use of restorative practices in Northern Ireland and it is therefore incumbent on us to build on that positive work and to introduce a revised protocol that will help and support that growth even further."

The report details how a new accreditation process will work for both organisations and individuals, in

addition to meeting specific training

standards. Those seeking accreditation must work to fundamental standards of upholding the rule of law, adhering to human rights standards and working with all criminal justice agencies, including the PSNI.

The Review Panel expressed their thanks to all those who engaged in the work. They said: "We have met with a wide range of stakeholders including victim/survivor support groups and voluntary and community organisations. We have consulted across a wide spectrum of Government bodies and academic and statutory stakeholders from across the criminal justice system. We thank everyone for having their say. We are very grateful to those who took the time to assist with this review and for the frank and thoughtful contributions we received."

Mr Pengelly concluded "We are delighted to publish this review report today and will work closely with our criminal justice partners as we move to finalise the protocol in the coming months."

A copy of the report, including the new Protocol, can be accessed here; [Review of 2007 Government Protocol for the use of Restorative Justice – final report | Department of Justice \(justice-ni.gov.uk\)](#)



Department of
Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Máinnistirie o tha Laa

New laws mean changes for private tenants and landlords

New laws governing private tenancies in Northern Ireland will come into effect from 1st April 2023. The laws will affect both landlords and tenants within the private rented sector. While tenants are not required to take any action, they are advised to be aware of how the new law will affect them and their tenancies. When the law comes into effect from 1st April, private landlords will be required to take certain actions.

From 1st April 2023;

- Landlords must provide tenants with a notice containing tenancy information. This includes for current tenants who have not already received this type of tenancy information;
- Landlords must also provide tenants with a notice of variation when any changes are made to their tenancies;
- Landlords must provide receipts for any cash payment in relation to a tenancy;
- Landlords are only permitted to take or hold on to a tenancy deposit of no more than one month's rent;
- There will be increased time periods for protecting and providing information on tenancy deposits; and
- Failure to protect a tenancy deposit will become a continuing offence, as the previous six month time barrier to prosecution of tenancy deposit offence has been removed.



In the lead up to the changes, the Department for Communities is making tenants and landlords aware of how it may impact them.

More detailed information on the [Private Tenancies Act](#) is available on the [dfc website](#):

All private landlords who let a property under a private tenancy should be registered under the [Landlord Registration Scheme](#):[\(external link opens in a new window / tab\)](#)

If you are a tenant and struggling with finances, a range of information is available on income support, housing and other areas, through the [NI Direct website here](#):[\(external link opens in a new window / tab\)](#)

Over 28,000 more NI households to benefit from £600 Energy Bill Support Scheme

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has released information on how domestic customers without a direct relationship with an energy supplier can receive support for Energy Bills.

Domestic customers across Northern Ireland who did not automatically receive the one off £600 Energy Bill Support Scheme payment can now apply via an online portal.

Over 28,000 households across Northern Ireland have no direct relationship to a domestic energy supplier, such as off grid homes. These households did not receive the support payment when it was initially rolled out in January of this year.

Following a successful trial in specific Northern Ireland postcodes, an online portal is now available as well as a customer helpline for those without internet access.

Eligible customers include:

- care home residents and others in care facilities/ sheltered accommodation (wholly or partly self-funded)
- park home residents, houseboats and caravans that can provide proof of address
- social and private tenants who pay for energy through a landlord on a non-domestic supply
- homes on a heat network/private wire
- off-grid homes
- farmhouses used for wholly domestic purposes

To access the portal and for information on eligibility, search 'energy bill support alternative funding' on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

Alternatively, customers can ring the Northern Ireland helpline on 08081753894.

Eligible customers are being urged to apply as soon as possible whilst also staying alert to potential scams. It is important to note that no links to webpages will be sent out via email and if you receive one, this could be a scam.

Northern Ireland Secretary of State Chris Heaton-Harris said: Welcome news for those Northern Ireland households without a direct relationship to a domestic energy supplier, with people able to apply for £600 support from today. I urge all those eligible to apply online or to get in touch through the telephone helpline as soon as possible."



The alternative funding route is in place to make sure the same level of support reaches households without a direct relationship to an electricity supplier.

Customers who have received support automatically via their electricity supplier through the main Energy Bill Support Scheme Northern Ireland (EBSS NI) are not eligible for support under the alternative funding aspect of the scheme, and do not need to apply.

These schemes are the latest part of a range of targeted measures to help households across the country with the cost of living. In addition to the support provided through EBSS and Alternative Fuel Payments NI, the UK government's Energy Price Guarantee (EPG) is expected to save the average UK family £900 over this winter.

Further support in direct payments is also being provided to vulnerable households this year, including cost of living payments for pensioners, people receiving disability-related allowances and those on means-tested benefits. The Household Support Fund provides additional assistance for those most in need and £26 billion worth of targeted support will help protect the most vulnerable over the next financial year.

Geoff Nuttall, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) said, "NICVA is pleased that people with no direct route to receiving help through an energy supplier will now get help through this new BEIS scheme. This intervention will provide some much-needed support at a difficult time. Our members have told us the difficulties they and the people they support are facing every day and how hard the sector is working to help people. The rising cost of living is affecting everyone, but we know it impacts the most vulnerable in our society even more. Especially if they're not connected to the networks through which others have already received support. We welcome this new scheme to ensure much needed help reaches them too."

Bawnmore Residents Association Scoops Prestigious Award



The Housing Executive's good relations officer Stephen Gamble (back, left) congratulates chairperson Seamus Kelly (front, centre) and members of Bawnmore and District Residents Association on winning runner-up in the housing estates category of the all-Ireland IPB Pride of Place Awards 2022.

Bawnmore and District Residents Association in Newtownabbey were over the moon when they scooped an impressive accolade in the prestigious all-Ireland IPB Pride of Place Awards 2022.

More than £134,000 has been invested in the estate over the last 10 years from the Department for Communities' Small Pockets of Deprivation (SPOD) fund, which is administered by the Housing Executive as part of its Neighbourhood Renewal work.

The Bawnmore group was named runner-up in the Housing Estate category for their significant contribution to improving their area at a glittering awards ceremony in Dublin recently.

Created to promote and celebrate community development, the annual awards were started by the peace building charity Co-operation Ireland and highlight the selfless efforts of people who make better places to live, work and socialise.

The Bawnmore team was presented with £500 which they plan to use for services for children.

Seamus Kelly, Association chairperson, said: "This was a brilliant achievement and SPOD has been marvelous for us.

"Thanks go to the Housing Executive, who also helped us litter pick and power-hose before the judges visited, and to the council for nominating us, as well as to the many people who have worked hard to transform the estate over the years.

"Because of SPOD money we have been able to organise different projects including an outreach service for young people, life coaching to boost mental health, a parent and toddler group, and cross-community work.

"We also put up a Christmas tree and crib each year, provide entertainment for older people and made up parcels for people in need during Covid."

Elma Newberry, the Housing Executive's Interim Director of Regional Services, said: "We are pleased to have been able to support the residents of Bawnmore over a number of years and we're delighted that they have won this important recognition.

"The various projects are run by volunteers and they deserve to be commended for all their hard work and dedication in transforming this estate, for the support they provide to their neighbours and for their valuable grassroots cross-community work."

Funding Fairs Are Back!

One of our favourite events to 'bring back' post-covid has been the Funding Fair!



Murray Watt and Amanda Ashe at a Funding Fair in South Belfast

We love bringing communities and funders together to connect and discuss project ideas. Meeting face-to-face breaks down barriers and allows for honest conversations between people, not just between funder and applicant, which can make a real difference.

Working in partnership with the Housing Executive, our Funding Officer, Anita Doonan, has held several in-person events since she was given the all-clear. Last autumn, there were three fairs in the Mid-Ulster area,

and so far this year, she has held two more in South and East Belfast.

The turnout for these events has been impressive thus far. There have been upwards of 150 people at each fair in just the short space of a few hours. In some cases, actual busloads of people came!

Funders so far have included local councils, PCSP, National Lottery Fund, Halifax Foundation NI, Community Relations Council, NIHE, John Moores Foundation, Heritage Lottery, Keep NI Beautiful, CDHN, Arts Council, BBC Children in Need, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.



Anita Doonan with an attendee

Anita reports that the funders have been impressed at the number of enthusiastic groups attending. Groups have highlighted the need for funding support as a result of the cost-of-living crisis, something that funders are keen to respond to.



Murray Watt with South Belfast Funding Fair attendees

These in-person events have also been an excellent opportunity for Supporting Communities to connect with new groups. "Many groups took on new volunteers over covid, so this has been an ideal time to reach out to newcomers", explained Anita.

"We received several new group referrals and have had new people booking onto our training courses as a result of coming to the funding fair. Groups who had never accessed funding before were amazed at what support was available to them."

Anita has added new dates to her training calendar to accommodate the increased numbers of people interested in her course on 'Completing Successful Funding Applications'

"This session helps people find and apply to various funders. The impact of this is immeasurable as groups gain the skills and confidence necessary to continue their journey and improve the services within their communities through the provision of funded activities."

More funding fairs are in the works! We know there is an appetite for them since we had people travel from as far as Limavady and Newry to our Mid Ulster and Belfast fairs, so keep your eyes peeled on our website and social media for a funding fair near you.



Find more information about our [funding support services here!](#)

Consultations

What Is The Understanding Of The Financial Reporting Requirements In The Charity Sector In Northern Ireland

Tony Clarke and a group of Students from QUB have devised a short survey to gather some key pieces of information. We are hoping you can take the time to complete on financial reporting in the charity sector in NI.

In the last number of years, a lot has changed within the community and voluntary, charity and or 3rd sector. With the establishment of The Charity Commission for NI, revised SORP, small groups being told they need to report and have their accounts examined. From originally having to complete an annual monitoring return, to not having to complete the return, to now having to complete.

Confused? We understand why this may be the case. As small groups, we understand that not everyone joining a board / committee have experience or knowledge in financial reporting.

We are asking you to take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire about your understanding of the Financial reporting requirements in the charity sector in N.I.



Tony Clarke and a group of Students from QUB have devised a short survey to gather some key pieces of information. We are hoping you can take the time to complete.

Click here to complete the short survey:
[Research Questionnaire: Financial reporting requirements in the charity sector in N.I](#)

If you have any questions or comments on the survey, you can email Tony Clarke directly on tony@cabbs.co.uk

Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Action Plan

Department for the Economy

[Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Action Plan | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date; 16th March 2023

Circular Economy Strategy for NI

Department for the Economy

[Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing Date; 20th March 2023

Services for those who have been bereaved by suicide (postvention services)

Public Health Agency

[Public Consultation for services for those who have been bereaved by suicide - NI Direct - Citizen Space](#)

Closing date; 9th April 2023

Design considerations for a Renewable Electricity Support Scheme for NI

Department for the Economy

[Design considerations for a Renewable Electricity Support Scheme for Northern Ireland | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date; 27th April 2023

Policy and Practice Focus

Equality in Housing podcast launched



Equality in Housing is a new podcast series launched by the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) and Housing Options Scotland.

The aim of the podcast is to offer insights and experiences that highlight the work taking

place around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in housing in 'real time', from those with on-the-ground experience and expertise.

It exists to showcase the excellent work taking place, a chance to share insights, best practice and challenges, as well as reflecting on the use of research and evidence in day-to-day practices, or whether research

and evidence needs to be more accessible.

The [latest episode](#) features a conversation with Janice Stevenson, development officer at LGBT Youth Scotland which is a youth work service, providing youth groups for LGBT young people across Scotland. Janice's work focuses on influencing policy in Scotland for LGBT youth populations.

Topics up for discussion include discrimination in housing for LGBT people, challenges with people not recognising their own rights to housing and issues with gatekeeping in accessing services. The speakers explore research and data in this area, and the conversation raises issues that many organisations face, which is a lack of data to help providers deliver appropriate services.

Expert-led blueprint will help Scottish councils tackle empty homes

The Scottish Empty Homes Partnership (SEHP) is launching new guidance to assist local authorities to bring some of Scotland's nearly 43,000 long-term empty homes back into use.

Developed in partnership with housing specialists Arneil Johnston, the Strategic Empty Homes Framework Guidance comes after SEHP conducted a series of workshops with empty homes officers and drew on the expertise of some of Scotland's councils that have already developed a strategic focus to empty homes work.

The guidance was officially launched at the 12th Scottish Empty Homes Conference in Stirling on Wednesday 1 March. It recognises the important role that empty homes can play in Local Housing Strategy delivery and sets out eight steps for devising an empty homes framework that can help to increase social and affordable housing stock.

Drawing on best practice examples, the step-by-step guide provides practical advice, support and examples which will enable local authorities to;

- Showcase the contribution of tackling empty homes to LHS and community planning outcomes,
- Define the main issues that need action, intervention and resource commitment,
- Consider the ideas, options and innovation that should guide action, investment & partnership, and
- Prioritise action and intervention across a network of engaged partners.

Speaking ahead of the conference, Andy Moseley, policy and projects manager for SEHP, said: "Local authorities across the country are increasingly recognising the role that empty homes can play in supporting wider housing and social policy goals, at a

time when they are facing increased demand for housing and high inflation is limiting their ability to deliver this. We hope that the guidance will be a useful tool that local authorities can use to help to mainstream empty homes work and link it more fully with delivery of all parts of their Local Housing Strategy."



Andy Moseley

Donna Milton, managing director of Arneil Johnstone, will give a presentation explaining the background to the guidance and set out the steps at the conference.

Donna said: "We are pleased to have been commissioned by the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership to assist with developing the Strategic Empty Homes Framework. The guidance aims to raise awareness of the positive impact that tackling empty homes can have in helping achieve Local Housing Strategy and community planning priorities, and support local authorities looking to achieve a more strategic focus for empty homes work."

The theme of this year's conference is sustainability with the title 'Repair, Reuse, Revitalise'. Speakers include Shona Robison MSP, cabinet secretary for housing, John Kerr, housing development & homelessness manager at West Dunbartonshire Council, and Chris Morgan director, John Gilbert Architects. The conference will also feature the story of Claire Segeren and Cal Hunter who accidentally purchased one of four flats in a tenement that sat empty for 20 years. They went on to buy the remaining flats and have been restoring the property themselves using innovative and sustainable approaches. Their story has been documented by their social media accounts called 'What Have we Dunoon' and featured in the BBC Scotland series 'Accidental Renovators'.

Publications

Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey – Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Statistics on young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) were published today by the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency.



NEET statistics published by NISRA.

The main points are:

- There were an estimated 18,000 young people aged 16 to 24 years in Northern Ireland who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in October to December 2022. This was equivalent to 9.0% of all those aged 16 to 24 years in NI. The proportion of young people who were NEET in the UK was 11.6%.
- The NEET rate among males aged 16 to 24 was 8.0% and among females was 10.0% in October to December 2022.
- The number who were NEET increased from the previous quarter and decreased over the year. Neither change was statistically significant.
- In October to December 2022 there were an estimated 13,000 young people aged 16 to 24 years who were not in education, employment or training and who were not looking for work and/or not available to start work (economically inactive). The remainder of those who were not in education, employment or training were looking for work in

the previous four weeks and available to start within the next two weeks (unemployed).

The Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) tables provide information on the labour market status of 16 to 24 year olds. The tables are published in February, May, August and November and the figures are obtained from the Labour Force Survey (a survey of households).

A person is considered to be in education or training if any of the following apply; they are enrolled on an education course and are still attending or waiting for term to (re)start; they are doing an apprenticeship; they are on a government-supported employment or training programme; they are working or studying towards a qualification or they have had job-related training or education in the last four weeks.

The full suite of reports is available at; [NISRA Economic and Labour Market Statistics \(ELMS\) | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/economic-and-labour-market-statistics/)

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](#)



Catch up on what's been happening at the Board in [Policing Matters Issue 30: February 2023 \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](#) and the Human Rights Report of the Policing Board is available at; [Human Rights Annual Report 2021/22 \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](#)

Scope^{NI}

Available online, includes a series of important articles on a range of matters including the potential costs of hospital log-jams, the role of charities in all our futures and continuing failure in responding to children with special educational needs; Scope can be accessed at; <http://scopeni.nicva.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



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 \(pcsp.org\)](https://www.inpartnership.org)

Events

Fundraising Forum

This is a free breakfast event on **Friday 24th March 9 am – 11 am** in partnership between The Housing Executive's Social Enterprise Team and Belfast Met.

During the informal session you will be able to hear about support and investments available from both organisations. There will be an opportunity to see how past participants have benefited from support. Attendees will also be a chance to speak with other social enterprise funders. A light breakfast will be served.

Please click on the link below to register your place

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/yourbusinesssthemet-tickets-535764896227>



FREE Seminar: Volunteering & Net Zero

Impact the world without impacting the planet

As the world commits to achieving Net Zero status, what does this mean for volunteering?



Join Martin J Cowling and Volunteer Now for a thought provoking and engaging free seminar that will consider the four cases (see below) for Net Zero volunteering, potential risks and a step-by-step guide to taking action as individuals, organisations and communities.

The four cases for Net Zero volunteering:

1. Business case
2. Moral case
3. Ethical case
4. 'Marketing case'...people are actively looking for organisations to support

Also on the agenda:

- The risks of Greenwashing
- What does Net Zero look like?
With a range of options for organisations from having a net zero volunteer opportunity annually through to a complete net zero program, there are a combination of strategies we can employ between the two.
- Into action as individuals, organisations, communities.

Date: **Thursday 19 April 2023**
Time: **9.30am-1.00pm**
Venue: **NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB**

Book your place here – bit.ly/VolunteeringNetZero

Volunteer Now info@volunteernow.co.uk 028 9023 2020

All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference



Tickets on sale now!

Supporting Communities
Empowering Society

**THE ALL-IRELAND
TENANT ENGAGEMENT
CONFERENCE**

Tuesday 13 June

With thanks to our headline sponsor, **Circle VHA**

circle
MORE THAN HOUSING

Attention social housing providers, participation practitioners, community members and tenants who want to make a difference! Get ready for the first-ever All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference, taking place on 13 June at the [Carrickdale Hotel & Spa](#), located between Newry and Dundalk.

Supporting Communities is excited to bring you this island-wide event featuring involved tenants, leading housing professionals, and customer engagement experts to discuss the latest trends and best practices in tenant participation.

Whether you are a landlord looking to improve your services and increase satisfaction rates, or a tenant seeking a better living experience, this conference is for you. You will have the opportunity to network with like-minded individuals, participate in interactive sessions, and hear from industry leaders on topics such as:

- Why Tenant Engagement is Important to your Business
- A Customer-Centric Experience: Putting Yourself in your Tenant's Shoes
- Tenants Speak: Why I am an Involved Tenant
- The Journey of a Small Voluntary Housing Body Embracing Tenant Engagement
- The Evolution of Tenant Participation
- What Housing Regulators say about TP in the North and South

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to learn, network, and be part of shaping the future of tenant engagement in Ireland.

[We are adding more information about the event online](#) and [tickets are on sale now.](#)

Be sure to mark your calendar!

Training

Volunteer Now Training Sessions in March 2023

Volunteer Now has both safeguarding and volunteer management courses with places still available taking place in March. We have places on Keeping Children & Adults Safe: Policy Development on 1 March, Diversity, Equity & Equality Session 3 on 7 March, Volunteer Strategy on 15 March and Keeping Adults Safe: Recruitment, Selection & Management to name a few.

We also have 2 free VOLT Sessions in March – Engaging Students as Volunteers on 16 March and Volunteer Involvement of the Over 50's on 30 March.

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



Supporting Communities Training

Writing Successful Funding Applications (Online Session)

Wednesday 15th March 2023 from 10.00 am to 11.00 am
Also Wednesday 5th April 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.

Tenant Participation & Community Development (OCN Level 2)

6 Weeks from Wednesday, April 26, 2023 to Wednesday, May 31, 2023

10.30 am to 12.30 pm

This 6-week course looks at the intersection of tenant participation and community development. It is suitable for social housing staff and community workers who engage with social housing providers in **Northern Ireland**.

(We'll be offering another course aimed at housing providers and community workers in the Republic of Ireland as well - check back soon!)

This course will ensure participants can:

- Understand what tenant participation is
- Understand the policy context within the UK
- Know the tenant participation requirements in Northern Ireland
- Be aware of the range of approaches to tenant participation
- Understand the components of a good tenant participation strategy
- Understand what community development is
- Know the different approaches to community development
- Understand the community development process
- Be aware of the governance requirements
- Understand the links between tenant participation and community development

Course Dates: 6 Wednesdays from 26th April - 31st May 2023

Time: 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Venue: Zoom

Cost: £337.50 per person

This course requires a minimum of 8 participants to run.

To Register

Please contact Siobhán O'Neill at siobhan@supportingcommunities.org



Funding

Social Enterprise Plus Programme

The Social Enterprise Plus Strategy aims to stimulate economic activity among people living or working in Housing Executive communities.

An important part of the strategy includes an investment programme. A new round of Social Enterprise Plus Funding will open on 1 March 2023.

Two Types of Award:

1. Building Capacity Award – awards up to £10,000
2. Get Going Award – Award up to £1000

Applications, where possible, should demonstrate outcomes in these priority areas, but if you are unsure please make contact with the Social Enterprise team:

- Reduction of negative effects of the cost of living crisis
- Energy and net carbon / environmental impact
- Preparing social enterprises for social clauses within Government contracts including Housing Executive maintenance contracts
- COVID-19 recovery

Applications will be assessed against relevance to the Social Enterprise Plus Strategy 2020-2024, meeting the listed priority areas and suitability for public sector finance support. Funding is limited so not all applications that meet the criteria will be successful.

1. Building Capacity Award (up to £10,000)

The Building Capacity Award is aimed at social enterprises and community organisations who want to grow a viable business either by creating employment or training opportunities or a product/service to benefit the community, or an innovative partnership which brings new benefits to a Housing Executive community. The focus is on trading for sustainability and growth.

Who can apply?

- We will consider applications from community-based social enterprises and community focused organisations. Applicants must demonstrate how Housing Executive communities will benefit as a result of the award.
- Applicants must provide a business plan. This must demonstrate trading capability/potential and their ability to be a viable, sustainable business. For this reason running costs are generally not eligible for funding.
- Applicants must also provide relevant quotes for equipment and/or services.

Making an application

Applications will go live on our website (link below) on 1st March and must be submitted by no later than:

Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 4.00pm.

Applications submitted after this date will be deemed as invalid.

[The Housing Executive - Housing Community Network \(nihe.gov.uk\)](https://www.nihe.gov.uk)

2. Get Going Award (Max £1000)

The Get Going Award is aimed at helping individuals with a good business idea get their idea off the ground. Applicants must demonstrate the difference the award will make to them or to others.

Who can apply?

- Individual applicants must be a resident in a defined Housing Executive estate or involved in a social economy initiative in a Housing Executive estate or neighbourhood.
- Applicants must also provide relevant quotes for equipment and/or services.
- Please note we cannot fund the following:
 - i) Travel to interview/work fares
 - ii) Clothing for interviews
 - iii) Driving license costs

*the above are general statement of principle, if in doubt make contact with the Social Enterprise team

If you have any queries please make contact with the social enterprise team either via email or the contact number on the website.

Making an application

Applications will go live on our website (link below) on 1st March and must be submitted by no later than: Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 4.00pm.

Applications submitted after this date will be deemed as invalid.

[The Housing Executive - Housing Community Network \(nihe.gov.uk\)](https://www.nihe.gov.uk)

If you need assistance with creating a business plan you should visit Home - [Go For It \(goforitni.com\)](https://www.goforitni.com) Or contact a member of the Housing Executive Social Enterprise Plus Team at socialinvestment@nihe.gov.uk

Applications will be assessed by a panel of managers after the window for submission is closed. Funding is limited so not all applications that meet the criteria will be successful.



Community Grants Programme

The overall aim of the Halifax Foundation is:

To support charitable organisations within Northern Ireland to enable people, who are disadvantaged or with special needs, to participate actively in their communities.



The Foundation has two main target areas to which it seeks to allocate funds:

- Social and Community Needs
- Education and Training

Types of costs funded include - materials and equipment, contribution towards salary costs, overheads, transport costs, volunteer expenses, training/tutor costs, activity costs and refurbishment costs.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Funding Opportunities 2023 | Halifax Foundation NI](#)

Community Technical Assistance Grants

Grants are available for community groups in Antrim and Newtownabbey to support consultancy and administration costs.

The funding is intended to cover various expenses related to project development, such as consultancy fees, statutory approval fees, public and employer's liability insurance, and volunteer expenses.

Grants of up to £10,000 are available and projects must take place between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024.

Grants may be used to meet the following costs:

- Consultancy fees (business plans / plans / feasibility studies / audits /options appraisals/



economic appraisals/ environmental assessments, etc).

- Statutory approval fees - up to a maximum of £300.
- Public and employer's liability insurance.
- Volunteer expenses (up to a maximum of £10 per day: ie hospitality or travel to a meeting/ conference/event). Proof of expenses will be required.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Grant Manager \(eformz.info\)](#)

Small Events Grant 2023

The Ulster-Scots Agency has opened its Ulster-Scots Small Events Grants programme for 2023.

This fund supports events from 1 April to 31 December 2023, including Ulster-Scots events to celebrate the forthcoming Coronation in May.

The maximum grant available is £1,000 (minimum of £500) and this can be used to fund one or two events.

Groups must provide match funding of at least 10%. Support is available from the Ulster-Scots Community Network if groups require assistance with their submission.

Projects must be delivered up to 31 December 2023 and groups should submit an application form at least one month before their planned event.



Please note: Funding is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until the fund is fully allocated.

For more information and to register click [here](#).

If you wish to discuss any of our funding programmes, please contact:

Derek Reaney - reaneyd@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk
Tel: +353 (7491) 73 876
Mob: 078 4327 9912



Climate Action Fund - Energy and Climate

This funding aims to inspire and support communities across the UK to address the energy and climate crisis. We're looking for projects that show how communities can address climate change while tackling the energy challenges through community-led climate action.

We want to fund projects that:

- encourage communities to use energy in an environmentally friendly way
- bring communities together so that they can explore ways to promote energy efficiency
- enable communities to understand and engage with opportunities for clean energy generation, which do not use fossil fuels.

All projects should consider how everyone in the community can get involved with climate action. They must also address any reasons why some people might be left out.

We're looking for projects that will bring a range of benefits to communities, including:

- improving health and well-being
- creating local 'green' jobs, such as jobs providing low-carbon heat for homes, community energy champions and energy advisors
- reducing carbon emissions
- supporting communities to be more resilient.

We want to fund projects that aim for long term change. And projects that have the potential to have a

positive impact beyond the communities they're directly working with.



Area UK-wide

Suitable for Community and voluntary organisations

Funding size Projects can apply for up to £1.5 million over 2 to 5 years, with most projects over £500,000. Minimum grant £500,000. We aim to fund around 8-12 projects.

Total available £10m including £1.5m for a Learning Network.

Application deadline You can apply when you're ready. We expect the programme to remain open until at least December 2023 but it will depend on when and how many others apply for our funding. There will be virtual information sessions on the following days:

- 21 March, 12 noon to 12.45 pm
- 18 April, 12 noon to 12.45 pm
- 16 May, 12 noon to 12.45 pm
- 20 June, 12 noon – 12.45 pm

For more information and to apply, please visit [Climate Action Fund - Energy and Climate | The National Lottery Community Fund](https://climateactionfund.org.uk) (tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

Cost of Living Grants

Cash for Kids has funds to support 2,800 children across Northern Ireland through the cost-of-living crisis, as part of £1 Million of Help we're distributing across the UK.

In response to the crisis hitting so many families right now we've launched this new fund, to provide emergency essentials that support the physical and mental well-being of children who are struggling.

These could include food, clothing and household energy costs, but we'll also consider anything that helps meet children's most basic needs.

Grants are £50 per child per household, and we aim to get the funds to families as soon as possible.



Please note that applications **must** come on behalf of a family from professionals within a governing body (e.g. social services, GP, teacher, charity, community group etc.) - families **cannot** apply directly.

For more information please visit [Grants | Cash for Kids | Helping the children that need it most](https://cashforkids.org.uk)



The Gill's Charity Fund

The Gill's Charity Fund offers funding to organisations for projects for the benefit of older people resident in the Borough of Carrickfergus (as per the old Local Government area).

In recognition of the needs of older people, and the great work that groups supporting older people are doing, the Community Foundation acquired the management and administration of the Gill's Charity Fund in 2021. The Fund will be accessible annually.

Who can apply?

- Fully constituted voluntary organisations and community groups based within Northern Ireland, although the project must be strictly aimed at older people resident in the Borough of Carrickfergus only.
- Applying organisations should provide, promote, maintain or manage or organise amenities and facilities for the promotion of welfare or recreational or cultural activities of a charitable nature.
- Organisations with an income level of below £100k

Examples of types of projects that may be supported:

- Reducing isolation and vulnerability of older people, through supporting participation in activities.
- Reducing the fear of crime amongst older people.
- Encouraging and supporting independence of older

people.

- Improving health and well-being, and supporting older people to remain in their homes.
- Supporting older people to keep warm.
- Supporting older people to access a nutritious meal.
- Reducing potential for age discrimination, and/or abuse.
- Enabling older people to access technology.
- Enabling older people to access potential benefits and entitlements that they may not be aware of.
- Engaging older people to take community action.
- Enabling active participation of older people in the community in decision-making, and addressing issues facing their sector.



What can be supported?

- Running costs, such as sessional costs for tutors, venue hire, transport.
- Capital costs are eligible, if essential to the project

Closing date for applications is 27th March 2023. For more information and to apply, please visit [The Gill's Charity Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](https://www.communityfoundationni.org)

Council Grant Aid Programme

Applications for Mid Ulster Council's Grant Aid Programme 2023/2024 have opened, closing date for majority of programmes is 16th March 2023 -

- Small Development Grant
- Community/Sports Venue and Facilities Grant
- Strategic Arts and Culture Development Grant
- Strategic Sports Development Grant
- Strategic Community Development Grant
- Strategic Events Grant
- Good Relations Grant (rolling programme)
- Community Festival Grant (rolling programme)
- Sports Representatives Grant Club/Teams (rolling programme)

- Sports representatives Individual Grant (rolling programme)
- Irish Language Activity Funding Grant
- Deontas do Ghníomhaíochtaí Ghaeilge
- MUDC Regional and Minority Language Bursary
- Sparánacht do Theanga Mionlaigh nó Réigiúnda CCLU



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

There is also a new online system to help improve the process for all those groups and clubs applying for funding. Give your project a boost by visiting <https://www.midulstercouncil.org/grants>



UK Youth – Cost of Living Fund

The cost-of-living crisis is having a profound and devastating effect on young people and the youth organisations they depend on as they struggle to keep up with the rising cost of inflation.

Already youth organisations are having to cut back on delivery or staff costs and in some cases, are closing their doors. This will result in a vital part of the youth ecosystem falling apart, unable to provide critical support to young people and impacting the key stages of young people's lives.

This new fund is a three-year unrestricted grant programme aimed at mitigating the devastating impact the cost of living crisis is having on the youth sector.

The UK Youth Fund in partnership with Pears Foundation will provide targeted funding to youth organisations delivering high quality youth work to ensure doors stay open, bills get paid and youth workers receive the salaries they deserve. This will help to ensure young people continue to be supported at this most difficult of times by the youth organisations and youth workers on whom they've come to depend.

UK YOUTH

The Cost of Living grant programme is open to youth organisations based and delivering high quality youthwork in the UK, with an annual turnover of £500,000 or less. The grant programme will offer 3-year unrestricted grants, of approximately 10% of current turnover of applicant organisations to reflect the current rate of inflation. However, applicants will have an opportunity to explain why they might need funding above and beyond this.

We are looking to identify and support youth organisations delivering high quality youth provision whose work is being hindered, curtailed or cut back due to rising core costs or a need to address unprecedented demand.

The application process is now open – and will stay open whilst funds remain to be distributed.

For more information and to apply please visit [The UK Youth fund in partnership with Pears Foundation - UK Youth](#)