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Welcome to Supporting Communities 220th 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

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## Budget cuts and inequality in Northern Ireland

Shauna O'Neill of NICVA writes

### Joint press release by the Equality Commission and NICVA.

This is a critical moment for equality in Northern Ireland. The precarious financial situation and resulting budget cuts will have a devastating impact on equality in Northern Ireland, and on equality of opportunity for some of our most vulnerable people.

We should be able to rely on our politicians to take up the reins and steer us through this difficult and stormy period. But while Stormont lies empty, the consequences of budget decisions will be all too real for many people, their families and their communities, and these cuts have the potential to create and compound generations of enduring disadvantage and inequality.

It is difficult to get a comprehensive overall picture of what cuts have been made, what is coming and when. The Commission's equality analysis of budget proposals makes it clear that older people, women, people with disabilities and children face multiple impacts. Layer on poverty and socio-economic disadvantage and it's very much worse.

That is the view of the Equality Commission and Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action.

Geraldine McGahey, Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission, in a joint statement with Celine McStravick, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action, said: "We need to heed the repeated calls from Stormont's Public Accounts Committee, which has called for a more joined-up approach to budgeting and making the case for stronger central control when setting priorities and allocating funding. This collaborative approach would go a long way towards identifying and mitigating the combined impact of cuts from different departments on vulnerable people and their families.



"Northern Ireland's voluntary and community sector helps keep Northern Ireland running on a day-to-day basis. From health and education to social enterprises and the arts, our sector is making a difference in every community, every single day. Funding cuts to our sector bleed through into everybody's life – not just the people who use the many, many services we offer.

"[The Fiscal Council](#) believes there would be value in closer monitoring of the relationship between funding and need. For the future, we believe needs-based budgeting for Northern Ireland would be a major step in preventing further inequality and improving equality of opportunity for people here. We need budgeting based on data and actual evidence, particularly of the equality impacts. There is also a responsibility on the decision makers to monitor the outworkings of their decisions and transparency is important in all of this.

"Finally, we need a functioning Executive – it is the job of ministers to make major policy decisions such as some of those emerging from the budgetary cuts proposals. We remain hopeful that a new Executive could provide the missing link and ensure that the next round of budgeting – which is being planned now - will be needs and evidence-based, and make sure that we do not leave our most vulnerable people behind."

## Housing Executive launches new mobile app and payment telephone number

The new payment app and phone line has been available from 1 October 2023.

The Housing Executive has developed a new updated mobile phone App and a new telephone payment number tenants and customers. They are a convenient way for tenants to pay their rent, service charges, damages or repairs and legal costs, and housing benefit overpayments.



for

The new App can be downloaded free of charge directly from the Apple App or Google Play stores, by searching 'Housing Executive' or 'NIHE.'

The App can also be used to make payments at any of the over 450 PayPoint machines in local stores across Northern Ireland. Caroline Connor, Assistant Director of Housing Services who oversees income collection for the Housing Executive, said: "The new mobile phone App and telephone system will give tenants and customers quick and convenient payment options, that can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to fit in with busy lifestyles. Over 1,200 customers have been using the previous App that was launched several years ago.

"This new App will enable tenants and customers to make payments using their mobile device, or, for the first time, by using an exclusive App barcode on their mobile device at locations displaying the PayPoint sign. With hundreds of our customers and tenants already using PayPoint to manage other household bills, we hope our new App will provide an easy to use and convenient way for our tenants and customers to manage their payments.

"Customers who prefer to make payments with us by telephone can use our new automated payment line on 03303 903 048.

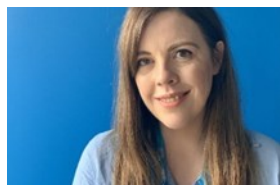
"This is a low cost number which is included in a large number of free-minute bundled talk packages with many mobile telephone service providers."

Once the App is installed, tenants and customers can store all their payment reference numbers, bank card details and payment amounts so they do not have to enter them every time they want to make a payment.

Using the new app, tenants and customers can:

- Use the PayPoint App barcode to make payments in any store displaying the PayPoint logo
- Manage payment cards – customers can use the app to manage payments for several services rent and rates, service charges, Housing Benefit overpayments, damages/repair costs, legal costs, ground rent and barcoded invoice requests
- Manage their account details
- Access the PayPoint store locator
- View their payment history

## **BLOG: Celebrating 20 years of the Community Housing Advice Partnership and looking forward...**



**Kate McCauley (Housing Rights CEO)**

### **Good quality advice transforms lives.**

Good quality housing advice helps people find and keep a home that meets their needs.

#### **Celebrating 20 years**

*On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October in Dungannon, Housing Rights celebrated the 20th birthday of a project that was and perhaps still is, ahead of its time.*

The Community Housing Advice Partnership (CHAP) is a special project. It was developed in 2003 thanks to the foresight of a consortium of advice agencies who were committed to ensuring that everyone has access to independent quality housing advice.

The project has grown from supporting agencies in 12 to 48 frontline locations across NI. As well as providing support across geographical locations, the project supports agencies that serve groups of people most at risk of homelessness.

The delivery of the project has been possible with the support of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). In funding the project, NIHE demonstrates their commitment to supporting independent housing advice alongside their statutory advice provision role.

#### **Working together to ensure everyone has a home**

As we come together with those who have journeyed with us in the project, I've been reflecting on why CHAP continues to feel like a pioneering initiative. Of the many reasons, my mind circles back to three big ticket items...

1. The work to prevent homelessness (and to ensure that when it does occur it is brief, rare and non-reoccurring), is hard. It is getting harder. It takes all of us to put our shoulder to the wheel. Our partner agencies do incredible work, and we are proud through this project, to support their provision of housing advice in their communities.
2. People everywhere deserve the promise of good quality housing advice. The quiet determined collaboration in this project expands the reach of our work from our Belfast office to communities across the province. Supporting frontline practitioners through training, peer review and casework, the project also provides a gateway for people with housing problems to access specialist support.
3. A small but mighty team of staff delivers the project. They work flexibly to respond to the needs of our partners. Over the years, the project has pivoted to respond to the need in frontline agencies which emerged from Brexit, Welfare Reform, Covid and other legislative changes.

#### **Looking forward**

I've also been looking forward.

Our commitment to partnership, to quality and to people who need our services (and those frontline advisers who assist them), is resolute.

Quality standards are a guarantee to the communities we serve. In other areas of public life or advice provision, they exist as a promise to the recipient that they can rely on the information, advice or advocacy to improve their lives.

Quality standards can also be a mechanism through which we can copper-fasten the support we provide to all those engaged in the delivery of housing advice. With multiple independent and statutory agencies engaged in advice provision, this is now more vital than ever.

It is fitting therefore that as we celebrate a project that has been ahead of its time, we dig deep once more to work together to protect and promote advice provision in the future.

## Introduction to Digital - What the sector needs and how NICVA can help



NICVA met with digital leaders from across the UK and asked - What is digital? And what can we do to make sure our sector is maximising its potential.

Digital is a term used a lot in our sector but what does it really mean?

This week, as part of our Future Thinking Series' Digital Month, we met with experts from across the UK to talk about digital, what it means, what are its possibilities and what role does NICVA have in supporting our sector to maximise the benefits.



We heard from the authors of the [Wired Up report](#) about the current state of digital awareness and readiness in Northern Ireland.

As well as this, we heard from [SCVO](#) about their long digital journey and how they're supporting the sector in Scotland to be at the forefront of digital thinking and infrastructure.

Finally, we heard from [Catalyst](#), a UK wide digital development network who help organisations in our sector explore digital and maximise their potential.

[You can view the Catalyst slides here](#)

All of our contributors had a range of resources and information to share, all of which we've compiled below in a handy list of links.

NICVA's Robbie Best, Head of Communications, and Sandra Bailie, Head of Organisational Development said: 'It was fantastic to hear the Wired Up? Report and get such a detailed run down on where the sector is sitting with digital at the moment. This kind of information is vital if NICVA is to make an impactful intervention.

'Hearing from SCVO and Catalyst, two undoubted experts at the forefront of this work, was not only a real privilege but also truly inspirational.

'At NICVA, we pride ourselves in being able to identify and bring these kind of speakers to Northern Ireland and we can't wait to bring even more.

'The job for us now is to build on this work and to make sure our sector is at the forefront of digital – now, and into the future'.

For more information and to access the presentation materials and background reports, go to; [Introduction to Digital - What the sector needs and how NICVA can help | NICVA](#)





The Commission has issued around 2,000 reminders to registered charities highlighting that they will soon be due to submit their accounts and reports.

The reminder email went out to applicable charities with a financial year end of 31 March 2023. Under the law, charities have ten months from the end of the financial year in which to submit their accounts and reports – a deadline of 31 January 2024.

With the introduction of the new traffic light system on the register of charities later this year, it is particularly important that all charities are aware of and meet their annual reporting deadlines. Under the new traffic light system, the public will be able to see on the register of

charities if a charity has submitted their accounts to the Commission on time, late or not at all. Once introduced, any charity which misses their forthcoming submission deadline will be flagged as amber or red which may cause their supporters and funders to ask why.

To assist charities in meeting their deadline, the Commission issues reminder emails to charities on a set schedule each year – ten months, three months and one month before the deadline date.

To find out more about the traffic light system please read the leaflet on the [Commission's website](#).

In addition New Guidance on Reporting has been published. New guidance published: [When does my charity have to submit its annual reports?](#) This guidance will help charities find out what annual reporting rules apply to them.

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# Consultations

## **Review of energy efficiency requirements and related areas of Building Regulations**

Department of Infrastructure

[Consultation on a review of energy efficiency requirements and related areas of Building Regulations | Department of Finance \(finance-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

**Closing date; 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

## **Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)**

Department of Education

[Relationships and Sexuality Education \(RSE\) Consultation | Department of Education \(education-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

**Closing date; 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

## **Recommendations of Independent Review of Children's Social Care Services in NI**

Department of Health

[Consultation on Recommendations of Independent Review of Children's Social Care Services in Northern Ireland | Department of Health \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

**Closing date; 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

## **Private Tenancies Act 2022 Section 10 Electrical Safety Standards**

Department for Communities

[Consultation on Private Tenancies Act 2022 Section 10 Electrical Safety Standards | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

**Closing date; 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

## **Private Tenancies Act 2022 Section 8 Smoke, Heat and Carbon Monoxide Alarms**

Department for Communities

[Consultation on Private Tenancies Act 2022 Section 8 Smoke, Heat and Carbon Monoxide Alarms | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

**Closing date; 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

# Policy and Practice Focus

## Providing safer communities

Eileen Patterson, CIH Ireland writes;

As housing professionals, we are committed not only to providing high quality affordable homes, but to building neighbourhoods and promoting safer communities. We want our customers to live in safe spaces and to thrive in their local areas. The most effective way for us to achieve this, is to work in partnership with all the stakeholders living and working there. It's very timely that at the upcoming CIH All Ireland Housing Summit, one of our sessions will focus on 'Providing Safer Communities'. One of the most visible, and often contentious, challenges for us in delivering safer communities is the occurrence of anti-social or even criminal behaviour. The responsibility for this behaviour is often laid at the door of the landlord. This has been leading to an increased focus on our performance, on how we manage our tenancies, and how we go about trying to resolve any incidents that may threaten the safety of our communities.

By providing quality housing in any area, we are making a major investment in that community. We're there for the long haul - we're committed to supporting those communities with high quality housing management services and support for our tenants to sustain their tenancies. Helping tenants to stay in their home is in the best interest of everyone – the tenant and their family, us as the landlord, and the community they live in. Our mission is to provide for those in need, and to help meet the needs of the most vulnerable. Not all customers will come with all the skills and support they need to maintain a home and make a positive contribution to the community they live in.

Having been involved in the management of many tenancies and the management of some difficult incidents and issues, my experience has led me to believe that in the main, we are not dealing with bad people. What we are dealing with is people who are struggling with bad circumstances and who may have made some bad decisions. In trying to cope with the circumstances they find themselves in, some people engage in bad behaviour. Now I'm not suggesting that the behaviour, or the incidents that may be caused by it, should be ignored or allowed to continue. I acknowledge that we have a duty to support the people in our homes and communities who are impacted by anti-social or criminal behaviour. But I also believe that we have a duty to support those who may be involved in that behaviour. If the behaviour is a symptom of the bad circumstances people find themselves in, and if they are unable to find or source the support they need, then behaving badly may be the only reaction they feel they have. As housing professionals we don't have all the answers and we cannot solve all of the issues alone.



Chartered  
Institute of  
Housing

We can't allow anti-social behaviour to negatively impact on our communities and on the levels of satisfaction, or dissatisfaction, among our customers. We need to try and support our customers who are engaging in the anti-social behaviour by helping them to source and engage with partners who may be able to assist with the complex issues they may be dealing with. These could include family breakdown, lack of parenting skills, poor educational attainment, lack of employment, poverty, incidents of abuse or neglect, poor health, addictions or maybe just complete isolation and loneliness. To promote and provide safer communities we need to engage and work alongside all of our voluntary and statutory partners to try and ensure that all of the relevant professionals are engaged in our process of resolving incidents and issues.

We also need to support our customers who are suffering from the impacts of anti-social behaviour by ensuring that we embrace good practice in our case management and by involving all of our relevant partners, including justice and policing, where necessary. We need to make every effort to ensure effective communication and keep these customers informed throughout the process. One of the biggest causes of dissatisfaction in the management of anti-social incidents or behaviours is the feeling that we are not taking them seriously and we are not keeping those impacted informed of what action we can and are taking.

Maybe increasing incidents of anti-social or criminal behaviour in our communities is telling us that it's time for us all to more focused on the health and wellbeing of our communities and of the people who live in them. Maybe it's time to look at how services are delivered and make sure they are delivered in a way that best suits the person in need, not just the organisation that delivers the service. Maybe it's time to have real partnership among all the agencies, with joint objectives, shared locations and smarter ways of working both for and within the communities we serve. Maybe that would be the first step in 'Providing Safer Communities'.

*Eileen Patterson is an independent housing professional who has over 35 years' experience in all aspects of housing. Eileen holds an MSC in housing and is a graduate of the Queen's University Business Leaders Programme. She has held senior positions in social housing in Northern Ireland including Director of housing for Fold Housing and Director of communities for Radius Housing. She is currently Deputy chair of the Probation Board NI and is a Board member of Clanmil Housing Group, Circle VHA and CIH Ireland.*

## Social Bite unveils new recovery village proposal for Dundee



*Homeless charity Social Bite has chosen Dundee as the location for its next major project - a new build recovery village tailored to provide accommodation and recovery support for vulnerable people struggling with addiction.*

With the support of The WM Sword Charitable Trust, the Social Bite Recovery Village will expand the charity's focus from exclusively homelessness to supporting a range of vulnerable people struggling with addiction. It will house a state-of-the-art recovery facility and residents of the village will also be supported by on-site staff and a local network of resources dedicated to helping people with addiction in Dundee and other Scottish local authorities.

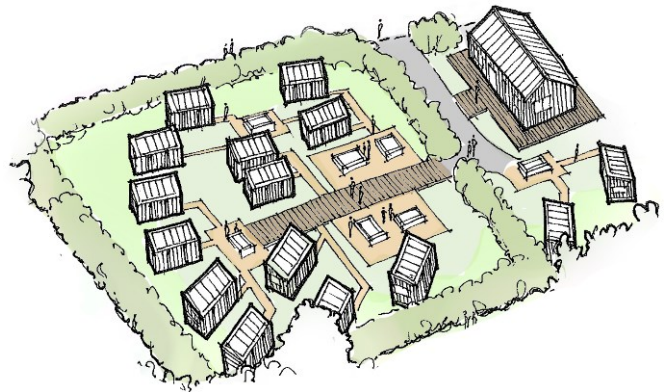
Social Bite is working in partnership with addiction specialist charity We Are With You to develop a tailored support model for the village that works for the needs of people in Dundee.



The accommodation at the Dundee project will be 15 eco-friendly prefabricated 'nest houses' with a bedroom, kitchen, lounge area and storage, alongside a community hub complete with communal dining space, gym facilities and counselling rooms. Bespoke individual residential units will be constructed to create a secure and private community environment and everyone who is given a place in the village will be supported through the process to find permanent accommodation as part of their recovery, should that be required.

Josh Littlejohn MBE, founder of Social Bite, said: "This is an incredibly exciting project for Social Bite and for Dundee. It has been amazing to collaborate with the local community on developing something that will meet a great need in the city.

"We all know the problem with drug deaths in Scotland and Dundee over the years. The human toll is profound. Behind each statistic lies individual and familial suffering with communities losing loved ones. Deprivation exacerbates the crisis, with those in the poorest areas 16 times more likely to die from drug misuse. The Recovery Village will help people on their journey towards recovery by providing a safe and rehabilitative living environment and expert support.



"Everyone we have spoken to in Dundee about the project has been hugely supportive and we are delighted to see that the city is taking the international lead on what could become a pioneering model for tackling addiction amongst vulnerable people." Social Bite is in discussion with Dundee City Council on a site for the project and expects to be able to submit a full planning application before the end of the year.

The WM Sword Charitable Trust has made a £1.5 million pledge towards the project in memory of the benefactor of the trust, the late Bill Sword, a well known entrepreneur in Dundee. The Insights Foundation is also generously backing the project with £100,000 of additional support.

Lynne Henderson, trustee of The WM Sword Charitable Trust, said: "The Trust has been looking for some time for a major project to support on top of the work we do on a smaller scale with dozens of charities in Tayside.

"The Recovery Village is a fantastic idea and the ambition and vision is something that we know the city will get behind and become proud of as it gets up and running.

"My father was incredibly proud of Dundee and he would have been delighted to know that the fruits of his many businesses were now going to help Dundonians at their time of greatest need."



Andy Lothian, group CEO of the Insights Group, which has pledged £100,000 towards the project, said: "Having supported Social Bite for over a decade, The Insights Foundation are thrilled to support this new recovery village in Dundee, addressing one of the city's most pressing needs. I would like encourage the business and philanthropic community to join ourselves and WM Sword in getting behind this vital initiative to create a world leading recovery facility for vulnerable people in our home city and I can't wait to see it come to life."

The funding pledges of £1.6m, alongside an additional £50,000 pledge from the Tay Charitable Trust will cover the majority of a £1.95m construction budget to enable the 15-unit project to be built and Social Bite is hoping that more businesses and individuals will come forward to support the project in Dundee and help to meet the full budget. The project will be launched officially today at a reception at V&A Dundee.

The residential recovery facility will incorporate Social Bite's values of community, dignity and high-quality design to meet a pressing local need.

One of the project's major advocates is Chelsea Cameron, a Community Champion of Scotland, who has spent years fighting for change in the treatment of addiction. She wrote a forgiving open letter to her addict parents thanking them for showing her how not to live her life.

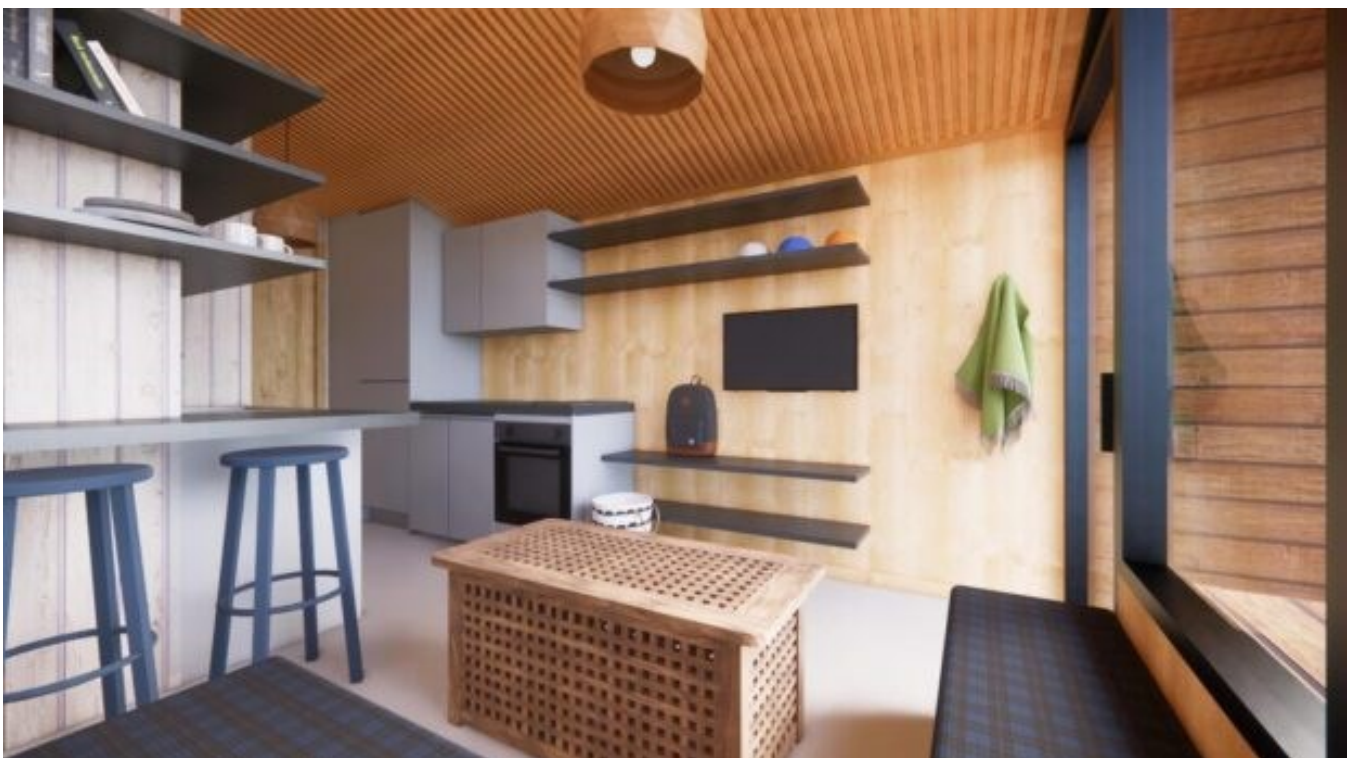
Chelsea said: "I know the devastation that addiction can cause to families and communities and I am delighted to support the Wm Sword Social Bite

Recovery Village. It is a fantastic idea and something that will make a real difference. Social Bite has a great track record in innovative and effective programmes to help people who are among the most vulnerable in society and Dundee will benefit hugely from being the site of their next project. I wish we didn't need it, but we do, and we should be proud to have it."

In 2022 in Scotland, 1,051 people passed away from drug-related deaths. This is the equivalent to almost three people dying every day and is by far the highest rate of any country in Europe, including the rest of Great Britain. Scotland's drug death rate is still more than three times higher than the next worst-affected European country. For the period 2018-2022, Glasgow City and Dundee City had the highest rate of drug misuse deaths with 44.4 deaths per 100,000 people in Glasgow, closely followed by 43.1 deaths per 100,000 people in Dundee City.

Social Bite has made eradicating homelessness in Scotland a goal and has worked with international celebrities including George Clooney, Leonardo DiCaprio and the Prince and Princess of Wales to highlight the work of their cafes and the Edinburgh homeless village.

The charity also organised nationwide sleepouts to raise money and to highlight the impact of sleeping rough in Scotland in the winter. Funds raised helped build the first Social Bite Village in Edinburgh and develop the Housing First Programme which provides secure tenancies for those with enduring homelessness and complex needs.





# 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](#)



Catch up on what's been happening with the Chief Constable's Report to the Board at [chief-constables-report-northern-ireland-policing-board.pdf \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](#) and the Human Rights Review of Privacy and Policing at [Human Rights Review of Privacy and Policing \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](#)



The Report "Linking the Irish Environment" is available at [Linking-the-Irish-Environment-Executive-Summary-June-2023.pdf \(nienvironmentlink.org\)](#). For other NIEL publications and events, go to; [www.nienvironmentlink.org](#)



Please click the link below to access the latest newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives; [PCSP Projects coming to Life | Policing and Community Safety Partnerships \(pcsp.org\)](#)



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. A range of RCN publications is available at [Publications Archive - Rural Community Network](#)



Welcome to the latest issue of Signpost full of updated news for September 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-september-2023.pdf \(ageuk.org.uk\)](#)

Please see the list of following jobs currently available at the Housing Executive:

- 2023-191 - Housing Benefit Manager
- 2023-192 - Head of Development Services
- 2023-183 - Senior Project Manager (Construction Procurement)
- 2023-197 - Handyperson
- 2023-198 - Administrative Scheduler
- 2023-182 - Dispute Resolution Manager (Project Delivery)

Further information on these jobs can be found at the GetGot website which can be accessed by clicking this [link](#) and typing 'Housing Executive' into the search bar.



# Events

## Invitation to Join NICVA Focus Groups on VCS Workforce Issues

NICVA wants to hear about the issues sector organisations are currently facing in relation to staffing and workforce.



Throughout November NICVA is holding a series of focus groups dedicated to engaging with voluntary and community sector organisations on workforce related issues. These regional events will be an opportunity to share concerns and challenges and have a say on the support your organisations need.

We want to hear your organisations perspectives on key issues around staff and volunteer recruitment, staff retention and training. We will discuss how workforce challenges impact your organisation both now, and in the future, and explore what potential solutions are needed to address these challenges.

By sharing your stories and information with us, you will help shape the support that we provide to the sector and to influence our asks of Government and other key decision makers.

Focus groups will last around 2 hours and will be led by Dr Donna Kernaghan, Stats & Stories.  
*All voluntary and community organisations are welcome.*

We want to ensure we hear from as many and wide-ranging organisations as possible, so please join us and register for one of the following events:

### Details of Focus Group Events

- [Monday 20th November 2023, NICVA, Belfast , 10 am – 12 pm approx.](#)
- [Wednesday 22nd November 2023, Ballybot House, Newry 2-4pm approx.](#)
- [Thursday 23rd November 2023, Holywell Trust, L/Derry 2-4pm approx.](#)



**West Area  
FUNDING  
FAIR**

**Wednesday,  
22 November**  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Meet the  
Funders!**

**Waterside Shared  
Village**

 **Supporting  
Communities**  
Empowering Society

**Housing  
Executive**

### West Area Funding Fair

**Date: Wednesday, 22nd November 2023**  
**Time: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**Waterside Shared Village**  
61 Irish Street, Londonderry/Derry,  
Northern Ireland, BT47 2DB

Come to our West Area 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 Waterside Shared Village. If your organisation would like to take a stand at this event, get in touch with Anita!

#### More Information

Contact Anita Doonan, Supporting Communities Funding and Social Value Officer  
[anita@supportingcommunities.org](mailto:anita@supportingcommunities.org)  
07840849453



Chartered  
Institute of  
Housing  
Northern Ireland  
Futures

# CIH FUTURES NI SOCIAL NETWORKING EVENT

Thursday 30 November 2023  
The Bobbin Cafe, Belfast City Hall  
2pm - 4pm

- Join us for our Speed Networking Event, giving you a chance meet other young professionals working in the sector.
- Meet & greet CIH Futures team and hear their plans for 2024.
- Hear more on professionalism from CIH NI Director
- Join us afterwards for some festive fun at Belfast Christmas market.



**Don't miss out because  
space is limited**



# Training

## Volunteer Now Training Sessions in November 2023



### Keeping Children Safe: Training for Staff and Volunteers Part One and Part Two (NB two evenings, 21/11 and 22/11)

Course information; Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM  
online Standard Course from £30 +VAT

This certificated training course is suitable for staff and volunteers who have regular and/or direct contact with children and young people (e.g. supervisor, leader, officer in charge). It will assist staff and volunteers with meeting good practice standards in safeguarding children and young people.

It will cover:

- the legal and policy context of safeguarding children;
- what abuse is and what we know about abuse;
- procedures for reporting concerns;
- creating a safe, child centred environment; and
- code of behaviour for staff/volunteers and children/young people.

This training will be delivered in 2 parts:

- Part 1 21 November 6.30pm – 9pm
- Part 2 22 November 6.30pm – 9pm

*Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis and are limited to a maximum of 3 per organisation.* This training programme is a suitable foundation for completing the Keeping Children Safe: Designated Officer Training.

Joining information will be sent out 24 hours before the session.

Alternatively, we can provide tailored training for your team (across Northern Ireland): <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/tailored-training/>

Find out more and book your places here – <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/>

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## Housing Rights Training

### Housing and young people

Build your knowledge so you can advise young people on their housing options and housing rights.

*Voluntary and Community from £56.00 / £70.00;  
Public and Statutory from £100.00 / £125.00*

### Book now

**Location;** Housing Rights, The Skainos Centre

**Date;** 15 November 2023

**Time;** 10:00am to 1:00pm

If you are advising young people on their housing rights, this course will ensure you are aware of all the options available to them. Whether they need to access emergency accommodation, a rental property, share with friends or buy, its also vital to help them find an option to suit their needs.



What we will cover:

- homelessness & accessing emergency accommodation for 16-21 year olds
- role of NIHE/Social Services
- accessing and maintaining tenancy in the private rented sector for young people
- accessing and maintaining tenancy in social housing for young people

### **Who should attend?**

anyone working in housing and with young people

## Maximising Potential with Bryson Energy – Training and Employability

**LOOK AT WHAT YOU CAN GET!**

- **£40 WEEKLY EMA (NON MEANS TESTED)**
- **TRAVEL ALLOWANCE**
- **BONUSES**
- **WEEKLY AND MONTHLY DRAWS**
- **EMERGENCY HELP WITH UTILITY BILLS AND FOOD**
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For more information contact the Recruitment Team on **07730 527528**

@Bryson Training and Employability  

Bryson Energy – Training and Employability is a leading provider of a range of employment and training initiatives, designed for young adults and those living with long term unemployment. We are contracted by the Department of the Economy for the delivery of Programmes such as ApprenticeshipsNI 2021, Skills for Life and Work, Up Skilling and Employability Programmes.

### Enhancing Opportunities

Bryson deliver vocational training and employment opportunities through the Skills for Life and Work Programme to 16 & 17 year olds, individuals under 22 years of age who have a disability and individuals under the age of 24 who qualify under the Children (Leaving Care) Act (NI) (2002).

Skills for Life and Work includes:

- No exam requirements to join
- Vocational qualifications & work experience
- £40 per week Educational Maintenance Allowance
- Travel allowance & bonuses
- Pastoral care programme and employment opportunities

Vocational Qualifications include:

- Business Administration
- Childcare
- Health and Social Care
- IT
- Retail

At Bryson we offer a comfortable learning environment with small groups of 10-12 learners. Learners also experience all round specialist support from our Learning Support Team, the team includes a full time qualified councillor, Mentors & Employability Officers.

Skills for Life and Work is designed for individual abilities and includes real work experience with an employer.

For more information on vocational qualifications available - contact Nuala on: 07730 527528



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**Bryson**  
Energy

**Bryson**  
Training and  
Employability

# Funding



**BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK**  
8-17  
MARCH  
2024

*If your community group works with people who may not usually engage with science you may be eligible for a grant*



**APPLY FOR COMMUNITY GROUP FUNDING NOW!**

**Grants of £500 or £1000 to help community groups run activities during British Science Week for people who are underrepresented in science. These people include those who are:**

- from ethnic minority backgrounds
- living in communities which face deprivation, including people disadvantaged in terms of education and income
- with a disability or long-term health condition
- living in a remote and rural location (i.e. a settlement of less than 10,000 people)
- girls and women\*.

\*For community groups working with girls and women, we prioritise those who work with at least one other underrepresented group.

Read our case studies to discover how other groups have put their grants to best use!  
[www.britishsienceweek.org/bsw-community-grant-case-studies](http://www.britishsienceweek.org/bsw-community-grant-case-studies)

Find out more and apply online by 11.59 pm on Monday 6 November 2023



Apply here: [bsa.sc/bswCG](https://bsa.sc/bswCG)

**Contact us:**  
[bsw@britishscienceassociation.org](mailto:bsw@britishscienceassociation.org)  
[@ScienceWeekUK](https://twitter.com/ScienceWeekUK)  
[/ScienceWeekUK](https://www.facebook.com/ScienceWeekUK)

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British Science Association is a registered charity, 212479 & SC039236, 165 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HD.

## Sea-Changers' Marine Conservation Social Fund Reopens for 2023

Sea Changers is offering up to seven grants of between £3,000 and £5,000 for UK-based charities and other not-for-profit groups to deliver marine conservation projects that also deliver health and wellbeing outcomes for participants and disadvantaged communities.

Through the Marine Conservation Social Fund, a total of £23,000 is available in 2023 for:

- Marine conservation education and engagement projects - such as campaigns or activities reaching out to and including those who do not access/engage with the sea and educating them about marine conservation issues and what they can do to help.
- Citizen science and/or practical/direct action projects – particularly where they engage disadvantaged communities and where they can show increased community cohesion/engagement and personal/health benefits of volunteering.



Sea-Changers is particularly interested in grassroots projects that galvanise community action, projects that increase the number of people acting for marine conservation, projects that may be formed through partnerships between marine conservation organisations and social welfare organisations, and pilot programmes that might be continued, expanded, or replicated with additional funding in future years.

**The deadline for applications is 22 December 2023.**

**For more information and to apply, please visit [Marine Conservation Social Fund 2023 | Sea-Changers](#)**





## Digital Evolution Programme for NI Arts Organisations

Funding is available to provide arts organisations in Northern Ireland with skills in the use of digital technology to create digital art.

The Organisations Digital Evolution Awards programme aims to support those arts organisations who are making digital art for the first time or are working with digital or immersive technology which they have not used previously.

Applications will be accepted from arts organisations, registered charities and other non-profit organisations. Collaborative applications from organisations working together in cross-discipline projects and activities are encouraged.

Examples of the types of projects that the programme will support include:

- Creation of a virtual environment or augmented reality environment, such as augmented reality visual arts or sound overlay on venues or geographical spaces.
- Using technology, such as 3D rendering and printing, to create artwork digitally which can either exist digitally or be manufactured into 3D physical

objects.

- Using technology to translate data into artistic content, for example algorithms that create music or visual content from data input.
- App development for the delivery of artistic content - this could include gamification or making an artistic experience for consumption on digital devices.
- Piloting new forms of support to individual artists or organisations that results in the creation of digital art.

Projects must take place between 1 February 2024 and 31 January 2025.

Grants of up to £10,000 are available.

**The deadline for applications is 1 December 2023 (12 noon).**

**For more information and to apply, please visit [National Lottery Organisations Digital Evolution... | Arts Council NI \(artscouncil-ni.org\)](#)**



## Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust Announce Themes for 2024/25 Funding

The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust has announced the themes for 2024 and 2025 for which it will offer funding.

The Trust operates a three-year rotation system, with different fields of interests being funded each year.

In 2024, support will be available for the following priorities:

- Rounds 1 and 2 – Disability, specifically employment and training for people living with disabilities to ensure better access.
- Rounds 3 and 4 – Food Poverty (due to the increasing levels across the UK).

In 2025, support will be available for the following priorities (full details published toward the end of 2024):

- Rounds 1 and 2 - Access to the Arts.
- Rounds 3 and 4 - Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

The project must fall within the relevant category for the year the application is submitted, and organisations may only make one application during any one year.

The Trust awards grants of either £1,000 or £5,000 depending on the grant round.

### The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust

Organisations registered with the Charity Commission (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or OSCR, or exempt from registration, can apply.

The level of grant awarded is determined by the income of the charity:

- Grants of £1,000 are available for charities with an operating income of between £100,000 and £1 million.
- Grants of £5,000 are available for charities with a minimum operating income of £1 million. There is no maximum level.

There are four grant rounds each year. Charities may only apply for one grant per calendar year.

**The first round is expected to open on 1 February 2024 and close on 29 February 2024.**

**For more information please visit [Home - The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust \(austin-hope-pilkington.org.uk\)](#)**



## Windrush Day Grant Scheme Opens for 2024 Funding Applications

Funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and managed by Near Neighbours, the Windrush Day Grant Scheme 2024 will focus on bringing communities together across different ages and ethnic backgrounds to commemorate, celebrate and educate their local area about the contribution of the Windrush Generation and their descendants across the United Kingdom.

22 June each year marks National Windrush Day and projects must include a lead event or activity on this date. All further events and activities must take place within the 10-week period of 8 June 2024 to 31 August 2024.

Projects need to focus primarily on at least one of the following overarching aims of the scheme:

- To educate people about the Windrush story.
- To foster a greater sense of national pride and recognition of the historic and ongoing contributions made by the Windrush generation and their descendants to UK society.
- To develop the skills and entrepreneurial ambitions of young people.
- To celebrate and commemorate the continued contributions of the Windrush generation to the UK.

There is a total funding pot of £500,000 to fund activities across England and Northern Ireland with grants of between £5,000 and £50,000:



- Tier 1: smaller projects between £5,000 and £25,000.
- Tier 2: larger projects between £25,000 and £50,000.

Funding for all approved projects will be released in April 2024.

Near Neighbours will be holding four bidder workshops in November 2023, which will give an overview of the scheme and an opportunity for bidders to ask questions.

Three virtual sessions will take place on:

- 7 November (18:00)
- 14 November (15:00)
- 16 November (10:00)

One in-person session in London will take place on 6 November (14:00). Registration is required.

**The deadline for funding applications is 17 December 2023.**

**For more information and to apply please visit [Windrush Day Grant Scheme Applications — Near Neighbours \(near-neighbours.org.uk\)](https://near-neighbours.org.uk)**

## Belfast City Council's Small Grants 2024-25 Tranche 1

Belfast City Council's Small Grants 2024-25 Tranche 1 are now open for applications for the grants listed below. The submission deadline for receipt of applications is **12 noon on Friday 12th January 2024.**

1. Community Festivals Fund
2. Arts & Heritage
3. Good Relations
4. Parks Events
5. Sports Events
6. S4S Large Development Grant
7. S4S Small Development Grant
8. S4S Hospitality Grant
9. S4S Sporting Individual Grant
10. Community Summer Scheme

For further details, guidance notes and to apply online please visit our website [www.belfastcity-grants.com](http://www.belfastcity-grants.com) or contact the Central Grants Unit Belfast City Council at [cgugrants@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:cgugrants@belfastcity.gov.uk)



**Belfast**  
City Council

BCC will be holding the following information sessions on how to apply for the Small Grants:

- Friday 17 November, 2pm-3:30pm, Banqueting Hall, City Hall
- Monday 20 November, 10:30am, Microsoft Teams
- Monday 20 November, 2pm, Microsoft Teams
- Monday 20 November, 7pm, Microsoft Teams

If you wish to attend any of the sessions, please contact the Central Grants Unit Belfast City Council at [cgugrants@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:cgugrants@belfastcity.gov.uk)



## Police Property Fund Small Grants Scheme

The Police Property Fund Small Grants Scheme has opened a third call for funding applications from **1st November 2023**.



The Fund, which comprises assets recovered by the PSNI as the result of criminal investigations, is administered by the Board in line with the Police (Property) Regulations NI 1997.

The Board has agreed a Grant Funding Policy which will ensure available monies are used to benefit projects which deliver tangible benefits. This is in line with our Corporate and Policing Plan commitments to achieving the following 3 key outcomes:

- We have a safe community;
- We have confidence in policing; and
- We have engaged and supportive communities

The Small Grants Scheme offers project funding in the range £1000-£10,000. Applications must demonstrate the following criteria to be eligible for consideration:

- Engagement with the Police Service of Northern Ireland;
- Contribute to community safety/ and or building confidence in policing; and
- Closely aligned towards a charitable purpose.

If you would like more information or to register your interest, just email [policepropertyfund@nipolicingboard.org.uk](mailto:policepropertyfund@nipolicingboard.org.uk)

## The Pink Ribbon Foundation

Any charity working in the field of breast cancer can apply for a grant.

To be considered for a grant in 2024, please submit your grant application to the Foundation by Friday 31st May 2024. Grants are awarded annually in late July. Please note the following:

- All applicants must be prepared to inform the Foundation of their projects progress at least twice in the year of the grant, unless it is to be used for a specific event then only one report is required.
- A set of your most current accounts must accompany any grant application.



- All organisations awarded a grant must send an email of grant award recognition to the Foundation as soon as they are in receipt of the grant.

For more information and to apply, please visit [The Pink Ribbon Foundation](https://www.pinkribbonfoundation.org.uk)

## Kellogg's School Breakfast Club Grants Accepting Applications for Autumn 2023 Funding Round



Kellogg's, in partnership with Forever Manchester, is offering grants of up to £1,000 to schools across the UK to help fund breakfast clubs and ensure that children who need it most receive a morning meal.

Priority will be given to schools that either:

- Have 35% and above of children eligible for pupil premium funding (for England) and eligible for free school meals (Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales); or
- Are based in an area which is classified as falling in the 10% of most deprived areas according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Only one grant per school in each academic year is available. A limited number of grants are available, and the fund may close at short notice if oversubscribed.

**Applications can be submitted at any time.**

For more information and to apply, please visit [Grants For Schools | Kellogg's \(kelloggs.co.uk\)](https://www.kelloggs.co.uk/grants-for-schools)





## Building the Community-Pharmacy Partnership Programme

The Building the Community-Pharmacy Partnership (BCPP) Programme is led by CDHN and funded by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB), with strategic direction provided by a multi-agency Steering Group. BCPP supports communities and community pharmacists to work in partnership to address locally defined needs so that people make connections, listen to and understand each other better and work together to address the social determinants of health and health inequalities.

We recognise that health is impacted by much more than the everyday lifestyle decisions that we make, important as they are. Research shows that social isolation can be as damaging for your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. With this in mind, our projects aim to address these wider issues and tackle the root causes of poor health. These vary greatly for different groups of people and may include mental health issues, housing issues, low educational attainment, poverty or debt. Group work and relationship building is at the core of all our projects. By sharing our assets, our lived experiences and supporting each other we can achieve great things.



Community Development  
& Health Network

For information on the Programme or for some support with your application, please contact a member of the BCPP team on 028 3026 4606.

### BCPP Closing Dates 2023/24

R46 - Level 1 Thursday 29th February 2024

R46 - Level 2 Thursday 21st March 2024

Level 1 Application Pack - [Click here](#)

Level 2 Application Pack - [Click here](#)

Please visit [Building the Community-Pharmacy Partnership Programme | Community Development and Health Network \(cdhn.org\)](#) for more information.

## Funding Clinic Sessions

### Thursday, 16th November 2023

#### 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

Let's talk about your group's 2024/25 programme of events and get ahead of the game by securing funding early! Planning ahead is key to the success of your group and its activities.

HCN members can sign up for a one-to-one funding support session with Anita Doonan, Funding and Social Value Officer. You can meet by phone or video call, whatever you prefer.

Start thinking about your next projects by asking questions like:

- What funding to apply for
- How to structure your application and plan accurate budgets
- How to carry out a community survey
- How to prepare for action planning
- How to do pre and post-monitoring and evaluation of your project

## Book Your Place

Please [fill in this form](#) to request an appointment.

The funding clinic will run from 10 am - 3 pm with 30-minute slots available for individuals or groups to discuss their funding needs one-on-one with our funding officer.

This service is free for HCN members. If you are interested in becoming a member of the [Housing Community Network](#), please get in touch!

