



Welcome to Supporting Communities 213th 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

Inaugural All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference Ignites a Passion for Tenant Empowerment

The All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference, held on 13th June 2023 in the Carrickdale Hotel, brought together tenant participation experts, social housing providers and involved tenants and community members from all over Ireland and further afield to discuss ways to empower tenants and build stronger communities. The conference, which was the first of its kind, was a resounding success, with attendees leaving inspired and motivated to make a difference.



Supporting Communities Staff getting set up at the Carrickdale Hotel the morning of the conference

In a packed schedule of events, it was the tenants who told their personal stories that stood out. The day began with Grainia Long, Chief Executive of the Housing Executive, discussing the NIHE's approach to community involvement and service development. Then, Linda Watson, a NIHE tenant of over 30 years, took the stage to talk about her journey from getting involved in a local community group to chairing the Central Housing Forum and sitting on the board of several organisations.

The speakers from Circle VHA, the headline sponsor of the conference, were also praised for showcasing

tenants from their newly established Tenant Advisory Group, David Kortukohun and Lorraine Gorman. They each explained how life had brought them to Circle and what drove them to



Liz Clarke, Lorraine Gorman and David Kortukohun spoke about Circle VHA's Tenant Advisory Group

get involved and volunteer. Liz Clarke, Director of Services at Circle VHA, discussed the journey Circle has been on in developing their Tenant Communication and Engagement Strategy and working towards the ultimate goal of tenant membership on the Board.

Good practice examples from Grainne Mullin and Judith Gray of Radius and Caroline Casserly-Farrar from Oaklee Housing had us 'putting ourselves in our customers' shoes' and thinking about how every aspect of the social housing business can be improved with tenant oversight and input.

After a plentiful luncheon sponsored by Newington Housing and the Housing Executive, there was a choice of 3 breakout sessions.

In the main room, we heard from Alison O'Gorman from Tuath Housing about how they had grown both their housing stock and tenant engagement programme exponentially in just four years. James O'Neill, Tuath tenant and the chairman of An Garrán Residents' Association in Tramore, provided some plainspoken wit and wisdom about what makes a community and how his little corner of the world had welcomed newcomers from all over and built a happy, cohesive community for all.

Next door, the 'Meet the Regulators' session gave delegates a chance to hear from Trudy Creane from the NI Department for Communities, and Steven Sheridan from the Approved Housing Bodies Regulatory Authority, who discussed their respective country's approaches to housing regulation and what they are doing to ensure tenant engagement is on the agenda.

And in the third room, Sheenagh McNally from Supporting Communities and Laura O'Dowd from Ark Housing went through the process of getting a [Tenant Participation Accreditation](#). This vital benchmark will help social housing providers improve their tenant engagement work and strive to take it to the next level.

The keynote address brought everyone back together for the last session of the day. Lesley Baird, the former CEO of TPAS Scotland, gave a frank and funny presentation about what she has learned about the importance of tenant participation over the years, offering some advice to those starting out.

The final panel looked ahead to the next steps from the perspective of the policymakers. Patricia Leathely from the Department for Communities in Northern Ireland and Bob Jordan from the Housing Agency in the Republic gave an overview of what they are

working on and the importance of learning from others.

Patricia McQuillan, the new chair of the [Housing Policy Panel](#), shared the last presentation of the day, wherein she explained how tenants are currently influencing policy in the north and her new role as Tenant Advocate. She left us wondering if tenants, north and south, can band together to speak with an even louder voice to improve social housing right across Ireland.

In his closing remarks, Colm McDaid, CEO of Supporting Communities, was adamant that we cannot rest on our laurels. There is always a 'next level' for tenant participation. Until we can honestly say that tenants are genuinely empowered to have control over all aspects of their housing and live in empowered communities, our work is not done.

The All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference was a significant milestone for Supporting Communities and the tenant empowerment movement. Attendees left inspired and motivated to make a difference in their communities with a better understanding of the work needed on the ground and at a governmental level. We all have our work cut out for us as we continue to strive to raise the standard of tenant participation for all.

Part-Time BSc Hons Community Development - Recruiting Now!

Your experience counts! If you work or volunteer in communities, you can apply directly to Ulster University and gain a professionally recognised degree in Community Development? Apply now to transform your life and your community!

Do you want to make a difference in your community? Do you want to help improve people's lives and challenge inequalities that exist in society? By studying this course, you will develop your knowledge and understanding of core community development concepts such as equality and diversity; power and social justice; community and informal education. You will also gain skills in managing community projects, writing funding applications, delivering informal education, conflict resolution and peace-building.

Students actively participate in the learning on this programme and you will have many opportunities to share your experience and learn from your peers. There are three placements over the four year programme, one in Years 2, 3 and 4, which will help you to put the theory into practice and develop your skills in community work. (Placements also operate one day per week and replace the normal teaching day). This also gives you the opportunity to broaden your experience and make some very useful contacts for your organisation.

This unique programme is professionally endorsed by the UK Endorsement and Quality Standards Board and the All-Ireland Endorsement Body.

The degree runs over one day per week (Wednesday) over four years. There are exit points after Year One (Certificate), Year Two (Certificate in Higher Education) and Year Three (Associate Bachelor Degree).

Entry Requirements: Applicants should normally have a Grade C English Language GCSE or Pass in Essential Skills Literacy Level 2*. No A levels required if you have experience working or volunteering with marginalised or disadvantaged groups.

Those with A levels or higher qualifications and substantial experience of working in or with the community/voluntary sector, may be eligible for direct entry into Year 2 (contact us for further information).

Apply directly via the online application: <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/courses/202324/community-development-30145>



House Condition Survey 2023 Begins

Field work for the latest Northern Ireland House Conditions Survey has begun.

Since 1974, the Housing Executive has conducted this major research project, examining the condition and energy efficiency of homes in both private and social housing sectors.

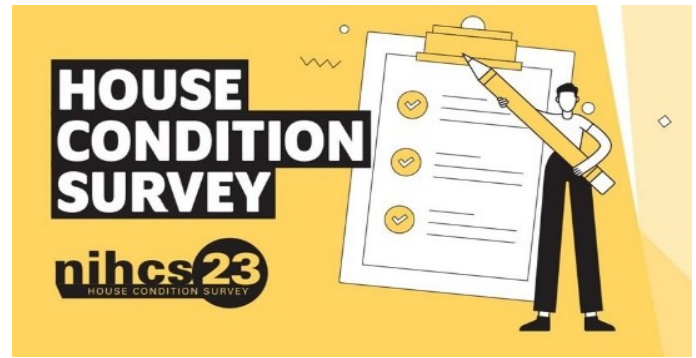
Although the survey is voluntary, householders are encouraged to allow entry to surveyors to complete their work, if requested. In turn, the information gathered as part of this field work is used as a guide for priorities for housing expenditure in the years ahead.

Ursula McNulty, Head of Research at the Housing Executive, explained; "Our House Conditions Survey is an incredibly important piece of work. It gives us an in-depth look at the current state of housing across NI.

"A representative sample of all types of housing is included in this research project and professionally trained housing surveyors are hitting the streets to conduct their inspections. We have a statutory duty to conduct this research and since the first House Conditions Survey, our local housing scene has been transformed.

"In 1974, one in every five homes here was classified as unfit for habitation. In Belfast, that figure rose to 25%.

"When results were released in 2016, levels of unfitness had dropped to around 2% - the lowest figure we have ever recorded.



"We would encourage householders to take the opportunity to engage with our surveyors as part of the process – feel free to ask any questions you may have regarding the condition of your home or its energy efficiency standards.

"If your home has been selected, you will receive a letter in advance informing you of a visit from a surveyor who will have identification for you to check.

"It will only take an hour or so to complete the survey so disruption will be at a minimum.

"If you have not received a letter or the surveyor is unable to provide identification then you should refuse entry to anyone who may attempt to enter your property.

"All information is completely confidential – no individuals or households will be identified in the final report and a helpline has also been established to answer any questions you may have."

For more information, call the House Condition Survey Helpline on:
tel.: [028 95 982548](tel:02895982548) or email: nihcs@nihe.gov.uk

Change in delivery of the Affordable Warmth Scheme

The Department for Communities has announced changes to the Affordable Warmth Scheme

From September, the Affordable Warmth Scheme will be based on an applications-based process and will be delivered solely by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE).



The scheme up to this point has been administered on a partnership basis between NIHE and local Councils using a mix of self and targeted referrals.

The Affordable Warmth Scheme is aimed at homeowners and private renters most likely to be in severe to extreme fuel poverty and offers a grant of up to £7,500 (£10,000 for solid wall measures) to improve the thermal efficiency of their homes through a range of insulation and heating measures.

Further details on how to access the scheme from 1 September will be published later this summer.

Free comprehensive advice and support on how to save energy in the home and eligibility for help to improve energy efficiency on assistance is available from the NI Energy Advice Line Service on 0800 111 44 55.

Camping Safety

Camping is a fantastic way to enjoy the great outdoors. Following some simple safety advice will ensure your camping holiday goes smoothly and make it a memorable experience.

- Allow at least 6m spacing between tents.
- Know the fire safety arrangements for the campsite; know the location of the portable firefighting equipment and nearest telephone.
- Cook outside and away from the tent; keep flammable material away from the cooking area; make sure cooking appliances are stable and cannot be knocked over easily.
- Never use candles inside or near a tent; torches are much safer.
- Don't smoke inside a tent.
- All flammable liquids and gas cylinders should be kept outside the tent.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is known as the silent killer because you can't see it, smell it or taste it. CO gas can build up quickly and can kill with no warning. Therefore, you should be CO aware when camping.

- > Never use fuel-burning devices such as disposable barbecues, camping stoves, camping heaters, lanterns, etc, inside a tent.
- > Disposable barbecues and smouldering charcoals can produce CO for hours after you have used them.



Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service

- > Keep any fuel cooking appliances down wind and well clear of tents to ensure fumes don't build up in nearby tents.
- > Remember a vehicle engine or generator exhaust gases also contain high levels of CO.

Dry ground and vegetation in the summer means there is an added risk of a fire starting.

Follow these tips to reduce the chance of a wildfire in the countryside.

- > Only use barbecues in a suitable area and never leave them unattended.
- > Dispose of cigarette butts safely; ensure they are completely extinguished before placing in a waste bin.
- > Open fires can be dangerous; keep a bucket of water or sand and a shovel close by.
- > Don't leave glass bottles in woodland – sunlight shining through the glass can start a fire.
- > If you see a fire in the countryside, call the Fire & Rescue Service immediately.

Remember, if a fire starts, dial 999 and ask for the Fire & Rescue Service.

For further information phone NIFRS HQ 028 9266 4221 or visit www.nifrs.org

Register with Social Value NI

Social Value is about maximising the social, economic and environmental benefits through the public procurement process. Ultimately, this allows Government Departments and their stakeholders to find new and far reaching methods to deliver on the outcomes of the Programme for Government.

<https://biteable.com/watch/3839349/057567cda04300a577b20688fe969067>

The Social Value NI website offers the public, private and third sectors a suite of bespoke resources, training modules and model procurement documentation to ensure consistency of approach

while allowing public bodies, and their suppliers, to retain flexibility in the delivery of the 4 social value themes:

- Increasing secure employment and skills
- Building ethical and resilient supply chains
- Delivering zero carbon
- Promoting Well-being

Your organisation may be able to benefit from contractors working in your area – all you have to do is register as a broker here: <https://socialvalueni.org/brokers/>



Could you act as a critical friend to the Charity Commission?

Following the disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic the Commission is planning to update its critical friend list. A critical friend is supportive of the aims of the Commission but is also willing to provide honest and often candid feedback. Critical friends engage with the Commission during projects to bring their perspective to what is being planned and developed. They provide feedback on work such as draft guidance or new processes.

Critical friends will have a range of perspectives and expertise on charities and the charity sector or have specialist skills such as accountancy or law. Acting as a critical friend does not influence any application for

registration nor does it represent an endorsement from the Commission.



We would be grateful if you could bring this call for critical friends to the attention of your members, so that the Commission can draw on the combined insights of a broad range of people in the development of its processes and guidance.

Anyone who is interested and would like to find out more about what is involved, please contact erin.gordon@charitycommissionni.org.uk

27 Awards for Northern Ireland's Best-Kept Beaches and Marinas

The local winners of the international Blue Flag Award and the UK-wide Seaside Award have been revealed for 2023.

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful announced that 18 beaches and marinas at home earned the prestigious Blue Flag Award distinction after reaching world-class standards in criteria that includes water quality, safety, accessibility, cleanliness and environmental education.

A further nine beaches received Seaside Awards, the UK's mark of quality that ensures visitors are guaranteed to find a clean, safe, attractive and well-managed coastal stretch. Seven Seaside Award sites returned excellent water-quality results, while two more rated as good, the second highest classification in this area.

The benchmarks for blue spaces were shared across councils, with Causeway Coast and Glens claiming 12 awards and Mid and East Antrim landing three Blue Flags and three Seaside Awards.

There were also five flags for aquatic spots in Ards and North Down, and three wins for beaches in Newry, Mourne and Down. Ballyronan Marina in Mid Ulster retained its Blue Flag status for the 14th consecutive year.

Dr Ian Humphreys, CEO of Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful said:

"We are extremely pleased that 27 beaches and marinas have achieved either a Blue Flag Award or Seaside Award. Each flag is a symbol that these special places are managed to an excellent standard and an important trust signal to the public that they can expect a high-quality experience when they visit one of these award-winning sites.

"At a time when budgets are tight and difficult decisions are never far away, we want to thank councils and other organisations for continuing to invest in our beaches and marinas that are much loved and valued by tourists and people at home alike."



Image via Keep NI Beautiful

Owen Lyttle, DAERA's Director of Marine and Fisheries said "We are delighted to see so many beaches and marinas awarded for their excellent environmental management. The assessment of water quality is a core component of these Awards and highlights that Northern Ireland continues to have some of the cleanest beaches and marinas in the world. We will keep working with all those who help to manage these valuable blue spaces to ensure that Northern Ireland continues to have beaches and marinas we can be proud of."

Beach and marina operators and Mayors from across councils were invited to collect the awards at a presentation ceremony in The Arcadia, Portrush on 25 May. The occasion was organised by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, who manage the accreditations locally.

The award-winning locations will now have their respective flags in place for the duration of the Northern Ireland bathing season, which runs from 1st June to 15th September.

To see the full list of Blue Flag Award and Seaside Award winners, visit www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

Consultations

Review of Regional Strategic Planning Policy in Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Department for Infrastructure

[Review of Regional Strategic Planning Policy on Renewable and Low Carbon Energy - Public Consultation | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date; 30th June 2023

Housing Community Network Survey 2023

Housing Executive

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/nihe/housing-community-network-survey-2023>

Closing date; 30th June 2023

Place10X - a sub regional economic approach - call for evidence

Department for the Economy

[Place10X - a sub regional economic approach - call for evidence | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date; 9th July 2023

Private Tenancies Act payment options

Department for Communities

[Consultation on Private Tenancies Act payment options | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date; 17th July 2023

Draft Equality Scheme

The Executive Office

[Consultation on The Executive Office Draft Equality Scheme | The Executive Office \(executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date; 11th August 2023



YOUR VIEWS WANTED

The Northern Ireland Policing Board is seeking views from across the community on the delivery of the policing service and how the police work in partnership with the community in local areas as part of the Community Policing Survey 2023.

With our responsibility to oversee the work of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, we want to find out about your experience of PSNI in your local area, whether that be as an individual or through your work with a community group or an organisation.

This information will be used to inform the Policing Plan and assist the Board in assessing and evaluating the impact of police partnership working within local communities. We appreciate you taking the time to complete this survey. The Board will publish the results in Autumn 2023.



SCAN TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY



The online survey will be open from **Monday 3 April 2023 to Friday 30 June 2023** and can be accessed by scanning the QR Code or by visiting consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doj/community-policing-survey-2023

Anyone unable to access the survey online, can request hard copies of the survey by contacting the Policing Board:

Northern Ireland Policing Board
James House, Block D, 2 - 4 Cromac Avenue,
The Gasworks, Belfast, BT7 2JA

Statistics@nipolicingboard.org.uk
028 9040 8500

You can find out more about the role and work of the Policing Board by visiting our website at www.nipolicingboard.org.uk

Stay up to date by following us on social media:

Policy and Practice Focus

Increased housing delivery and the net zero challenge

This article appeared in Agenda NI magazine



agendaNi

Digital | Events | Print

Deputy Secretary of Housing, Urban Regeneration and Local Government at the Department for Communities, Mark O'Donnell, discusses progress on the draft Housing Supply Strategy, expansion of the Social Housing Development Programme, and the challenge of net zero.

The draft Housing Supply Strategy was formed in the context of recognisable challenges in the form of increased housing stress, homelessness, and affordability challenges for both renters and potential owners. Two-and-a-half years after publication, the Strategy has still not received Executive approval and O'Donnell believes that those original challenges have become even more pronounced.

"Demand has not reduced. It seems fewer households are able to access homeownership, perhaps due to higher mortgage rates, higher property prices, economic uncertainty, or the cost-of-living crisis," he says. "At the same time, social housing allocations are not where we would want them to be. There is competition for homes."

The publication of the final Housing Supply Strategy has been delayed due to the lack of a functioning Executive, and while O'Donnell says he cannot pretend there are no consequences to not having a government in place, the extensive engagement process and broad consensus on the core aspects of the strategy has provided confidence to move forward with the development of a first action plan, ensuring work towards implementation is already underway. Early identified draft actions include providing more social and intermediate homes, including the

development of a new intermediate rent product; implementation of the Social Housing Allocations review, and progression of regulations to improve the private rented sector.

O'Donnell stresses that while most of the initial actions fall under the remit of the Department, the "whole system approach" to developing the draft Strategy has helped to forge relationships with stakeholders. "For example, we have been actively working with other departments and stakeholders to identify and progress actions that will help us deliver on major cross-cutting issues such as skills and infrastructure," he explains.

"This includes work underway to ensure wastewater data is being effectively shared and used between relevant bodies. Also, developing actions to up-skill and re-skill our existing workforce and making the construction sector an attractive proposition for young people."

Social housing

O'Donnell emphasises that the provision of new social homes remains a priority for his department, pointing out that despite other financial pressures, the majority of the Department's capital budget is spent on the delivery of new social homes. The Deputy Secretary explains that aspirations to increase new social housing targets are not only driven by the current waiting lists, but also the growing number of people seeking asylum and evacuees arriving in Northern Ireland in the past year.

"The good will of the public and the voluntary sector have mobilised impressively to meet this challenge, but it all represents strain on our capacity to provide temporary accommodation. This in turn reflects strain on our capacity to provide permanent and appropriate solutions through social housing. The strategic solution is always more social housing."

Housing Supply as 'Whole System' approach



Currently, there are two main limiting factors to delivery. The first is budget. The Department estimates the need for at least 33,000 new social homes over the next 15 years, however, recent analysis shows that if the Department was to increase starts by 50 units per year for the next five years, the cost would be well over £1 billion.

“The budget outlook at the moment is therefore pretty worrying,” states O’Donnell.

The second factor is the capacity to deliver. The Deputy Secretary stresses that the challenges of budget and capacity are interlinked, highlighting that extra funds will only be made available if decision-makers have confidence in the Department’s capacity to spend its allocation.

On plans to increase the Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP), O’Donnell says, “We have been working closely with the Housing Executive, housing associations, and a range of public bodies to identify what actions we need to take and how we might better structure delivery. Real change can only be achieved through genuine cross-departmental and appropriate government commitment to tackle housing need.”

The Deputy Secretary indicates that work is ongoing to identify public land held by government departments which could be released for social housing, while at the same time identifying the potential acquisition of existing properties, to increase social housing stock. Discussing additional challenges in relation to wastewater infrastructure and subsequent planning restrictions, O’Donnell says the Department is working with its counterparts in the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to find solutions and prioritise planning for housing in key areas of social housing need.

Climate change

Turning to the other significant challenge shaping the work of the Department and delivery of the Housing Supply Strategy, O’Donnell says that some of the most significant challenges for his department in relation to climate change are directly related to the residential sector. The Department for Communities is leading the residential element of the buildings sector emission reduction targets. Currently, residential dwellings account for 14 per cent of Northern Ireland’s greenhouse gas emissions, but a step change is required if a targeted 33 per cent reduction in the residential sector is to be achieved by 2030. Highlighting that his department has recently

established a new Climate Change Division to develop policies and actions needed to reduce residential emissions, O’Donnell says that beyond the challenge of a switch away from fossil fuel-based heat systems, there is a need to massively increase the energy efficiency of homes across all residential tenures.

He adds: “We will have to do it carefully to avoid cold bridging, condensation, damp, and mould. And importantly, capacity and skills in our construction sector will need to be enhanced to deliver this.” The Deputy Secretary believes that, although challenging, the transition to carbon neutrality presents major opportunity for the residential sector, not least the chance to make fundamental change in its ambitions, processes, and social contribution. “The key role that both the construction of new housing and the retrofitting of existing homes will play in helping to achieve this transition cannot be understated,” he explains.

“Our social housing programme offers the opportunity to lead the way in showing how housing can meet our climate challenges. The Department intends to be proactive in driving the changes necessary to meet our commitments.”

Cost

The Housing Executive’s report on the cost of carbon savings in Northern Ireland’s housing stock indicates a mean cost of £15,600 per dwelling to improve energy efficiency to at least EER band B. With approximately 586,000 eligible dwellings, the total cost would be £9.2 billion.

O’Donnell says that a major part of the policy work will, therefore, be to consider how this transition is funded. The Deputy Secretary concludes by saying: “We also need to consider climate adaptation for houses which means designing homes to be resilient to future changes in climate – like higher temperatures and more extreme weather causing more flooding. Our work on housing continues to move forward, despite the challenges and impediments that we are all facing. We will continue to look for ways to advance our housing programme in every way possible.”

Publications

Racism is a daily fact of life in Northern Ireland



Geraldine McGahey, Chief Commissioner, Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

“It is disturbing that the most striking findings of this recent research are that people from minority ethnic and migrant groups said that racism was a normal part of their daily life in Northern Ireland and that women are particularly exposed to racism. It also found that there was a widespread perception that Brexit had led to an increase in the expression of racism. We know racism is not new to Northern Ireland, and its impact is devastating.

“We’ve also been meeting with people from ethnic minorities and their support organisations across Northern Ireland to hear first-hand about their experiences of living here and the issues they face because of their race. These have been tough sessions with some

very difficult stories being shared. Let me be clear, racism is never acceptable, not now, not ever,” said Geraldine McGahey, Chief Commissioner, Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

The Chief Commissioner’s comments come ahead of the publication of research which the Equality Commission had commissioned from the independent think tank Pivotal. It looks at the actual, perceived, and potential socioeconomic impacts of Brexit on minority ethnic and migrant people in Northern Ireland.

The research entitled [Impact of Brexit on Minority Ethnic and Migrant People in Northern Ireland \(pdf\)](#) has found that life in Northern Ireland is much more difficult for many minority ethnic and migrant people following Brexit. However, in some areas, it remains difficult to identify the impact of Brexit specifically.

Speaking about the findings, Geraldine McGahey continued: “Unfortunately, it’s not surprising that the research reports that participants feel that they are not a priority for the government in Northern Ireland. They also feel that their rights and entitlements have become more complicated since Brexit.

“They reported that changes to immigration status for those from EU countries have created uncertainty and difficulty. They raised problems with the EU Settlement Scheme process and their struggles to prove entitlement to access public services such as healthcare. They also raised concerns about insufficient government funding to address community need, limited government preparation for the impacts of Brexit, as well as what they see as institutional racism and racial profiling.

“The findings of this research report and our ongoing work with the sector make for uncomfortable truths. Our society appears to have developed an acceptable level of prejudice towards some ethnic minority and migrant people living here. This is unacceptable.

“It is positive that people are actively choosing to come to work and live in Northern Ireland. It is important that we make them feel that they belong here and that they are welcome, valued and respected.” concluded Ms McGahey.

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](#)

Scope^{NI}

Available online, includes a series of important articles on a range of matters including the financial costs of division, [Seventh Annual Report of the Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts](#), the way forward for the third sector, self-harm, the cost of living, the Budget, segregation, inflation and public finances; Scope can be accessed at; <http://scopeni.nicva.org/>

Catch up on what's been happening at the Board in [Policing Matters June 2023.pdf](#) and the Chief Constable's Report to the Policing Board June 2023 is available at; [chief-constables-report-northern-ireland-policing-board 0.pdf](#) (nipolicingboard.org.uk)

The Environmental news bulletin is available at [ENRA-March-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](#)

Getting Weather Ready – the Regional Community Resilience Group Newsletter

The Regional Community Resilience Group (RCRG) was formed in 2013 to help local communities prepare for and respond to weather related emergencies.



The group brings together Multi-Agency Partner Organisations from government, utilities and the voluntary sector to work for and with Communities at Risk of Severe Weather.

These newsletters will be used to highlight important developments to enhance community resilience, provide an opportunity for communities to share experiences to the benefit of others and highlight key responder contacts to help readers to Get Weather Ready! Click on image below for the full publication.



Regional Community Resilience Group

GETTING WEATHER READY

The Regional Community Resilience Group (RCRG) Newsletter – Keeping members weather ready

WELCOME

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2023 edition of RCRG ezine

We hope you find this edition of the ezine informative and useful when preparing for the season ahead.

Community Resilience Pilot: Prepare, Adapt, Strengthen

In today's world with ever-increasing threats including the impacts of climate change, the need for communities to draw on local inherent community resilience is becoming more critical.

Over the past few months, in partnership with Local Government Civil Contingences, Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council (MEABC) have been delivering a Community Resilience pilot titled 'Prepare, Adapt, Strengthen' to progress community resilience in an integrated manner across both Council areas.

Through a series of interactive workshops and in-depth interviews with community groups and Local Government officers, the pilot explores what resilience means; how communities view and identify risks; and how to understand capacities and vulnerabilities to build resilience in their local area. The work will inform a regional toolkit enabling communities and agencies to identify local strengths, assets and capabilities and develop local community resilience plans. It will provide innovative and holistic methods to identify, nurture and harness resilience for the future.

If you require any further information on the Community Resilience Pilot, please contact: Anne Hardy, Corporate & Community Resilience Officer, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Anne.Hardy@midandeastantrim.gov.uk or Anne Gallagher, Resilience Officer, Derry City and Strabane District Council, anne.gallagher@derrystrabane.com

Community Groups and Local Government officers taking part in Resilience workshops

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Events

Department for Communities Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Feedback Session

Community and Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Support

The Department is carrying out a programme of work aimed at refreshing the policy frameworks for our voluntary and community sector support. This includes agreeing with our partners on the outcomes that we should prioritise in future years. This review of sectoral needs will inform how we can better support the sector to deliver outcomes set out in any future Programme for Government.

We have engaged with a wide range of organisations in the sector, including those supported through our existing funding programmes as well as those that are not. We have also involved other departments, local government and independent funders. We are also working with a Reference Group comprising a range of sectoral interests, through which we are drawing on lived experience, expertise and knowledge, and together explore a range of insights and ideas in the design of new approaches.

Our Engagement

As part of this review, we have carried out extensive engagement at different locations throughout NI over the past few months. We launched a survey to explore headline needs and priorities and hosted 4 roundtable events and 6 engagement workshops.



Each workshop involved up to 20 participants, working with the Department to develop our understanding of needs and priorities within the sector, as well as exploring the vision and desired outcomes for a thriving voluntary and community sector.

Engagement workshops events were open to all voluntary, Community and social enterprise organisations and included a roundtable discussion of key questions of interest. We have also run some targeted sessions with different parts of the sector, and engaged with other departments, local government, and independent funders.

Next Steps

We are now keen to share what we have learned from our engagement sessions and to advise on our next steps and are inviting you to sign up for a virtual feedback event on Thursday 29th June from 2pm – 3.30pm. You can register for this virtual session [here](#).

If you require any further information, please contact us on cssp@communities-ni.gov.uk

Belfast City Council Shared Prosperity Fund project information sessions



Belfast
City Council

Date: 27th to 28th June 2023
Venue: Online

Time: 11am to 4pm

From 11am on Tuesday 27th June 2023 to 4pm on Wednesday 28th June 2023, Belfast City Council is running a series of short online information sessions on a range of Shared Prosperity Fund projects being delivered in Belfast.

At each session, you'll find out:

- aims and objectives of the project
- key elements of programme and support available
- target groups or audience
- Eligibility
- contact details

[Click here for full schedule and to book](#) (Link opens in new window)

Each information session will last 20 minutes - and



you can book to attend as many sessions as you like. We recommend that you register so that you can receive updates.

Please note: there will be one Teams link for the whole two days' schedule, so please mark out time in your calendar and paste in this hyperlink [Click here to join the meeting](#) for the sessions you wish to attend.

Training

HCN Online Forums Digital Drop-In Sessions

Are you a member of the [Housing Community Network](#)?

If you attend Central, Area, Regional, District Level meetings or Inter-Agencies, you will soon have access to all of your forum resources online!

Carla Mullholand, our new digital inclusion officer, will be holding regular drop-in sessions on Thursday afternoons from 1.30pm - 2.30pm to help members get signed up and use the online forums.

Not to be confused with the tenant portal, where you can manage aspects of your tenancy by signing in on the Housing Executive website, the collaboration portal or 'HCN Online Forums' are designed to create a simple online environment for sharing files, online chat, discussions, managing meetings and associated papers and assigning tasks or 'to-do' lists.

The online forums will improve the network's ability to collaborate by removing the need to email papers, minutes, and meeting invitations which individuals can quickly lose. Instead, all the forum's documents and discussions will be stored in an organised way online where members can access them whenever needed. Read more [about Carla and her new role](#) in assisting the HCN to gain the digital skills needed to participate online.

Register for these session

These session will be held on Zoom. To register for any of these sessions, please [fill in this form](#).

If you have any questions, contact Carla Mullholand at carla@supportingcommunities.org.



Volunteer Now Training Sessions in July 2023

Keeping Children Safe: An Introduction

Wednesday 5th July 2023 from 10.00am - 1.00pm
Online standard course from £20



This is a half day basic awareness course for those working with children and young people.

Keeping Children Safe Training is delivered by accredited trainers with experience of safeguarding issues.

Participants receive a certificate on completion of the full course.

This course covers:

- legal and policy context of safeguarding children;
- what abuse is and what we know about abuse;
- procedures for reporting concerns; and
- relevance of code of behaviour for staff/volunteers e.g. e-safety issues.

Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis and are limited to a maximum of 3 per organisation.

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

Volunteer Now courses are booking up fast, especially the safeguarding courses so be quick! If you don't see what you are looking for, please drop us an email (training@volunteernow.co.uk) and let us know, we might add it to the calendar! And don't forget, we also offer tailored training.

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

Housing Rights Training

Housing Adaptations

Location: Online

Date: 1st August 2023

Time: 10.00am to 1.00pm



Fees: *Voluntary / Community from 56.00 / £70.00*
Public / Statutory from £100.00 / £125.00

This course will increase your understanding of the processes required to get an adaptation within a client's home. It will cover all tenures of housing as well as how to challenge decisions.

You will be better equipped to support your clients through each stage of the adaptations process and what steps to take next.

What we will cover:

- different stages in the housing adaptations process
- the steps to follow depending on the adaptation needed
- different areas of housing (social, private rented, owner occupier)
- grants available to private renters and owner occupiers
- how to challenge decisions

Sustaining Tenancies in the Private Rented Sector

Location: Online

Date: 9th August 2023

Time: 10.00am to 1.00pm

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

This course will ensure attendees have the knowledge and skills to help sustain tenancies in the private rented sector.

This course will help you support clients who are having problems in keeping their private rented home. It will inform private renters on their rights and responsibilities. You will learn about possible resolutions to help clients sustain their tenancy.

What we will cover:

- support and protections available to private renters
- renters rights and responsibilities
- rent arrears and affordability
- changes in legislation affecting tenants
- disrepair

Financial Support to Address Housing Poverty

Location: Online, Zoom

Date: Tuesday 15th August 2023

Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

We developed this course in response to problems people are facing with growing poverty and the cost of living crisis.

It will cover the various forms of financial support available to help people alleviate poverty and keep their homes.

What we'll cover :

- forms of discretionary support

- financial assistance & eligibility
- changes to Discretionary Housing Payments
- changes to Support for Mortgage Interest
- charitable help and other cost savings available

Who should attend:

- social housing sector staff
- private landlords and agents
- advice agencies

For more information on Housing Rights Training, courses and seminars, go to: [Housing Rights Training](#)

Supporting Communities Training



Understanding 'Social Value'? (Online Session)

Thursday 6th July 2023 from 10.00 am to 11.00 am /
Wednesday 2nd August 2023 from 10.00 am to 11.00 am
Wednesday 30th September 2023 from 10.00 am to 11.00 am

Join us online to get a better understanding of what we mean when we talk about 'Social Value' and 'Impact Measurement'.

This session will help you to:

- Recognise the importance of measuring your social value
- Understand the jargon associated with impact measurement
- Learn about the tools available to use to measure your impact

Register your place

This session will be held on Zoom. To register, [please fill in this form](#).

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

Writing Successful Funding Applications (Online Session)

Wednesday 26th July 2023 from 10.00 am to 11.00 am /
Wednesday 16th August 2023 from 10.00 am to 11.00 am /
Wednesday 20th September 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.

Funding

Fibrus Play it Forward Fund

The Fibrus Play It Forward Fund was established in Spring 2023 and is designed to give back to local communities.

The Fund exists to support non-profit voluntary and community groups, organisations, and charities in Northern Ireland and Cumbria to provide financial support for their children's sports projects or initiatives. The Fund strives to encourage children to switch off from their devices more often, get active, and get outdoors – improving the health and wellbeing of the children.

Fibrus is pledging £30,000 in 2023 to the Fibrus Play it Forward Fund to support on-the-ground children's sports projects in those local communities served by Fibrus. Organisations can apply for up to £1000 of funding.

Our focus is on grassroots sports that support

children. You can apply for funding for children's sports projects or initiatives, for example to purchase new kits, playing or training equipment or improving club facilities. When purchasing new material including shirts and equipment, we ask that you add the Fibrus Logo.



The 2023 Play it Forward Fund will go live for Round 1 of funding on 30 May, closing on 27 June. Round 2 will open in October (these dates are subject to change).

For more information, please get in touch with us on sponsorships@fibrus.com. For the full eligibility criteria please read the Fund [T&Cs](#) or visit [Play it Forward Fund - fibrus](#)

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) is delighted to announce that PEACEPLUS funding calls are now open!

The SEUPB are currently accepting applications to the following PEACEPLUS Investment Areas. Please click on the Investment Area you are interested in to find further information.

Investment Area 1.1 - Co-Designed Local Authority PEACEPLUS Action Plans

<https://www.seupb.eu/node/2619>

Investment Area 1.4 - Re-Imaging Communities

<https://www.seupb.eu/node/2623>

Investment Area 3.1 - Shared Learning Together Education Programme (Formal Education)

<https://www.seupb.eu/node/2621>

Investment Area 3.1 - Shared Learning Together Education Programme (Non-Formal Education)

<https://www.seupb.eu/node/2622>

Investment Area 3.2 - PEACEPLUS Youth Programme

<https://www.seupb.eu/node/2617>

Investment Area 3.2 - Quality and Impact Body for the PEACEPLUS Youth Programme

<https://www.seupb.eu/node/2618>



Investment Area 4.3 - Victims and Survivors

<https://www.seupb.eu/node/2620>

Application Support

Online support and guidance for completing your application is available on the new [PEACEPLUS Support Portal](#). This includes how-to guides and videos to help you throughout the application process.

If no call has been opened yet for the Investment Area you are interested in, please visit the Pre-Application support page. Before each PEACEPLUS funding call opens the SEUPB will hold a pre-application support workshop for each Investment Area. Recordings of these workshops and information on future workshops will be published in the Pre-Application section.

[Find our more about pre-application support](#)



Micro Community Investment Fund

Fund Aims

The fund will provide valuable investment for community initiatives making a difference in towns and villages across Northern Ireland.

The fund will enable those organisations who are making the lives of others in their communities better, by improving their financial, physical, and mental wellbeing.

Criteria

You do not have to have a constitution to apply to this fund. We will discuss your project with you in advance of application if you do not have certain governance requirements for funding in place.

We want to support smaller, grassroots organisations delivering great work. For this reason, whilst groups with an income of up to £30,000 per annum are eligible to apply preference will be given to groups with an income of up to £10,000.

Community Investments available: Up to £2,000

Applications are sought to support both new and existing activities and projects that enhance the financial, physical and/or mental well being of people in communities. We will support new or existing community initiatives that have a particular focus on addressing the challenges people are facing around the rising cost of living.

Community projects should focus on improving at least one of the following:

- Financial wellbeing
- Physical wellbeing
- Mental wellbeing

Applications for funding within one or other of these themes could be to support:

- Projects promoting inclusion and belonging, particularly to enhance the physical and mental well being of the local community
- Projects that strengthen the capacity of individuals

to engage with a range of available digital services in order to help manage their money in a digital age

- Projects that enhance people's financial knowledge through financial education programmes
- Projects promoting physical activity which uses the assets located within the area
- Projects that improve the ability of individuals to access mental health and wellbeing services either i) directly, through the provision of support or ii) indirectly, through education/awareness raising programmes
- Projects that encourage the active participation of individuals in their own mental wellbeing. Projects should aim to promote increased independence/resilience in relation to an individual's mental health

We want to prioritise projects that:

- Focus on the positive contribution of people within the community and support the challenges that people face in light of the rising cost of living
- Enable active participation of a community in decision-making and involvement in making their community a better place to live in
- Focus on the assets within the community which the project will use to make the community a better place to live in
- Help get people engaged in taking community action where it hasn't happened before to make the community a better place to live in.
- Projects that address more than one particular strand of wellbeing

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



Inclusive Communities: The Phoenix Green Community Fund

Environmental Responsibility is one of the core pillars of our Responsible Business Strategy. Just as we aim to act as an environmentally responsible business by supporting biodiversity projects and initiatives within the communities that we serve, we also continue to provide a low carbon solution to homes and businesses, supporting zero carbon targets.



In 2023, we're utilising the Green Community Fund to support community groups and organisations across our licence area with funding to help them deliver activity that helps to improve our environment and tackling the climate crisis in some way, no matter how big or small.

The Green Community Fund is currently open, with applications reviewed and funding awarded on a monthly basis. Full information on the Green Community Fund, including Terms and Conditions is available at the [Green Community Fund](#) page.



Resilience Grants

The National Archives' Resilience Grants programme has been designed to support archives to be adaptable, resilient and sustainable, creating lasting solutions that enable them to respond to change, and contribute to communities and the economy.

Archives Resilience projects could include (but are not limited to):

- proposals that would lead to increased organisational stability, including long-term organisational, financial and strategic planning
- increased staffing capacity and enhanced skills
- reduced costs
- increased income
- improving capacity to develop, care for and enrich collections, physically and digitally
- ensuring that collections are safely preserved, including digitally
- work on diversity, equity and inclusion
- responses to climate change, such as developing energy-efficiency within an archives service.

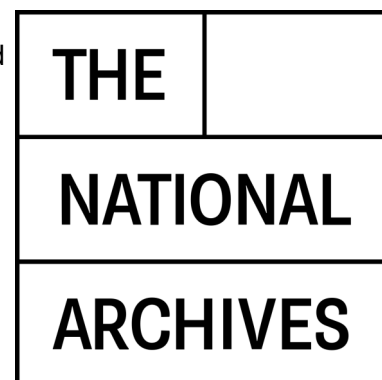
Each applicant is likely to have different needs and approaches to building organisational resilience. To help organisations tailor their proposals to their own challenges and opportunities, we ask that applicants make use of the Archives and Record Association's [Archives Service Resilience Indicator](#)

[Tool](#), which is designed to provide archive services with a quick methodology for assessing resilience, and identifying gaps or areas for development.

You may also wish to investigate [Archive Service Accreditation](#), the UK standard for good practice across archives services. A Resilience Grant and/or the Resilience Indicator Tool could be used as preparatory actions for an Accreditation application, and have been designed using the same standards and frameworks. You can download the [Archives Sector Resilience Indicator](#) and [guidance notes](#) from the Archives and Records Association.

To apply for a Resilience Grant, please [complete an online application form](#).

If you have any questions about Resilience Grants, please contact us via email: archivegrants@nationalarchives.gov.uk.



The Henry Smith Charity - Holiday Grants for Children

The purpose of the Holiday Grants programme is to provide access to recreational trips or holidays for groups of children who experience disadvantage or who have disabilities. In particular we are interested in contributing to trips that would not take place without our funding.

Please note we have changed our approach to assessing safeguarding, please read the funding guidelines carefully and check our [Safeguarding](#) webpage to make sure your trip is eligible.

Key grant details

Grant size: £500 – £2,750

Length: One-off short grants

Decision timescale: 6 weeks

Deadlines: Submission dates vary depending when trips or holidays take place

Qualifying criteria

Please only apply for this grant if you meet the following criteria:

Location of work: UK only, with priority to the 20% most deprived areas

Funding covers: Short holidays and recreational trips

Organisation type: Schools, youth groups, not for profit organisations and charities

For more information and to apply, please visit [Holiday Grants for Children - The Henry Smith Charity](#)



Kingspan Kickstart Sports Fund

Amateur athletes and sports clubs across the island of Ireland are invited to apply for the Kingspan Kickstart Sports Fund, a fund created to help budding athletes get a financial boost to achieve their goals. Already committed to elevating and developing sports across Ireland through various sponsorships, including Ulster Rugby and Cavan GAA, we are also keen to provide a launch pad for grassroots level athletes, sports clubs and community sports facilities. The fund, which has Shane Lowry as ambassador, will run on a quarterly basis, and offer up to 1,000 euro / 850 sterling, per applicant, per year to help provide financial support for equipment, training, and other necessary resources.



For more information and to apply, please visit [Kickstart Sports Fund | Kingspan Group](#)

The Community Ownership Fund Round 3

The Community Ownership Fund launched an updated prospectus on 12 May 2023. They have made positive changes to the Fund for future bidding windows. Changes to the design of the programme and the eligibility requirements are informed by applicant feedback, stakeholder engagement, and lessons learned from previous rounds. These changes are explained in the updated Community Ownership Fund prospectus.

Round 3 Window 1 will open on 31 May 2023 and will close at 11:59am on 12 July 2023.

Development support is now available to applicants via the [My Community website](#).

The Community Ownership Fund expression of interest (EOI) is open for applications.

For more information, please visit [New levelling up and community investments - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Community Relations / Cultural Diversity Scheme

If you are planning events for the forthcoming year, please feel free to [contact a member of our team](#) to discuss your proposals prior to submitting your application. We can give you advice on how to plan your work and to source additional funding, if required.

The scheme will continue to support a wide range of work and offer support and assistance whether you are a first-time applicant or have been supported in the past.

While we will be supporting projects through to 31 March 2024, **the closing date for all applications is 15 December 2023 at 4 PM.**

CR/CD Funding Details

- All projects in receipt of CR/CD funding must be completed within this financial year.
- Grants are up to £10K maximum and for project costs only.
- Average grant is £2K – £5K.

Aims of the CR/CD Scheme

The Community Relations Council, with the support of Government, has established a fund to spend each year on community relations projects. This funding is intended to help community/voluntary groups throughout Northern Ireland develop their capacity to engage in community relations work and to enhance the community relations potential of projects they undertake.



If you have any questions or would like to discuss a proposal prior to submitting an application please [contact a member of the Funding and Development Programme](#) or phone 028 9022 7500.

T:BUC Requirement

Applicants are required to outline the outcome in Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) to which the proposed project will contribute. [Read more about the T:BUC strategy.](#)

Eligibility Requirements

There are certain specific criteria you must adhere to when applying for funding:

[Read about the CD/CR scheme criteria.](#)

Apply for the Scheme

Use the link below to apply:
[Apply now for CR/CD Scheme](#)



Rural Engagement Arts Programme

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland is welcoming applications to the second round of the Rural Engagement Arts Programme (REAP), a funding scheme, funded through The National Lottery, which aims to increase access and participation in the arts in rural areas of Northern Ireland. Grants from £500 - £10,000 are available and applications must be made online on the Arts Council's website.

Applications are open from Friday 5 May 2023 and will close at 12noon on 3 July 2023.

The purpose of the Rural Engagement Arts Programme (REAP) is to provide an integrated, cohesive approach to the needs of local rural communities while recognising some specific issues they face.

The primary theme of REAP is combatting isolation and loneliness and promoting social inclusion. The recent pandemic adversely affected many lives as families and friends were separated for sustained periods of time, resulting in a negative impact on mental health and well-being. This was felt deeply in rural communities, characterised by smaller and more dispersed populations, where isolation can be more acute than in towns and urban areas.

There are a number of ways to differentiate between loneliness and social isolation:

- Loneliness can affect any age group; it is the subjective, unpleasant and distressing phenomenon stemming from a difference between an individual's desired and achieved level of social relationships.
- Social isolation is a forced isolation from normal social networks caused by loss of mobility or deteriorating health.

The impact that loneliness and social isolation can have on the physical, mental and social health of isolated older people is well documented. [The Campaign to End Loneliness \(opens in a new tab\)](#) points to research which shows that lacking social connections is as damaging to health as smoking. Lonely individuals are more likely to visit their GP, use more medication and have a higher incidence of falls. They are also more likely to enter residential or nursing care earlier.

Participating in the arts, and coming together as communities, can make a vital contribution to improving health and wellbeing, building confidence and integrating communities. The Arts Council has worked with local authority community development and arts officers to ensure that information on REAP is available and that this public funding is as widely distributed as possible.

Groups can apply for one-off projects or for a programme of events. Projects do not have to be

new - existing, successful programmes which meet the strategic themes of REAP, are also eligible for support.

While engagement must be targeted at rural communities as defined here, Local Authorities and other groups based in urban areas may apply to fund programmes delivered in rural communities.

The definition of rural is outlined in Appendix 1 at the end of these guidance notes, page 12, and is taken from the [NISRA review of statistical classification and delineation of settlements in March 2015 \(opens in a new tab\)](#)

Who can apply?

We welcome applications from the widest possible range of organisations. You will be required to provide proof that you have a legal constitution.

- Registered charities and other organisations which cannot distribute profits
- Groups of organisations working together to deliver specific projects
- Formally constituted parent-teacher associations
- Local Authorities
- Arts Organisations
- Organisations based in Republic of Ireland or based outside the UK and Northern Ireland, may be eligible to apply however, any proposed project must benefit people living in rural communities within Northern Ireland.
- Organisations currently in receipt of Arts Council grant funding (Annual Funding or National Lottery Project Funding) can apply providing they demonstrate that project costs are additional to any programme and administrative costs already funded under other grants.
- In exceptional circumstances, organisations based in Belfast who are partnering with other organisations to deliver REAP projects in rural areas may be eligible to apply.

Applications from single organisations are permissible but should demonstrate partnership working. Consortium applications demonstrating partnership working will be prioritised. Partnerships might include sector providers such as rural development organisations, older people's providers and agencies, arts organisations or Local Authorities. See the Arts Council's REAP [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) for examples of good partnership working.

How much can you apply for?

You can apply for an award between £500 and £10,000 for a project.



Community Relations / Cultural Diversity Scheme continued

What you can apply for?

You can apply for the following eligible costs, which are indicative and not limited to:

- Costs of artists and tutors (including fees , accommodation, travel and subsistence) However please note that subsistence costs are capped at £20 per day. Also, if you are applying for artists and/or tutor costs, you must supply the relevant CVs, biography, or history of artistic practice information
- Transport costs, including vehicle hire (for example this could be to transport participants to courses/ activities)
- Existing programmes which meet the criteria of the scheme are eligible – but only for activity which will not begin prior to issue of funding decision letters
- Materials
- Travel expenses within Northern Ireland – please note the Arts Council has a maximum allowance of 25.7p per mile. If applicants are partnering with organisations in border communities and the project would necessitate travel across the border,

this additional travel is eligible within reason

- Equipment hire
- Volunteer expenses
- Venue hire for workshops, training, rehearsals and performance
- Publicity and marketing costs
- Evaluation costs
- Participation, education and outreach work in film and media
- Equipment costs to a maximum value of 50% of your requested amount
- Equipment items will only be considered if identified as essential within your project and where it is vital for its successful delivery. Arts Council will not fund equipment only projects. Contributions towards laptops or PCs will be up to a maximum of £1,200; and, towards tablets, up to £500

For more information and to apply, please visit [Rural Engagement Arts Programme | Arts Council NI \(artscouncil-ni.org\)](https://www.artscouncil-ni.org)

Funding Clinic Sessions

Tuesday 27th June 2023 from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

This is a one-to-one funding support session for HCN members 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 min slots available for individuals or groups to discuss their funding needs one-to-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!

