



Welcome to Supporting Communities 222nd 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



Christmas is a special time of the year. However, cooking, overloaded electrics and candles all increase the risk of fire within the home at this time of year.

Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service would like to ensure everyone has a safe and happy festive season. Please consider the following fire safety advice for keeping you safe this Christmas and New Year.

- Have a working smoke alarm fitted on all levels of your property.
- Never leave cooking unattended and avoid cooking whilst under the influence of alcohol. Make sure cooking appliances are turned off after use.
- Check your Christmas lights are in good working order and conform to the British Standard.
- Never overload sockets and always turn Christmas lights off before going to bed or if you are leaving the house.
- Don't buy fake electrical goods.
- If you are using extra heaters during the winter months, make sure they are kept away from soft furnishings and Christmas decorations.
- Keep candles away from soft furnishings, decorations, Christmas trees and wrapping paper.

Ensure they are out of reach from pets and children. Never leave candles unattended.



**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**

- Make sure cigarettes are extinguished correctly and never smoke in bed, particularly if you have been drinking alcohol. Empty ashtrays safely.
- Make a fire escape plan. Ensure any visiting family and friends are aware of the escape plan too; tell them where you keep door keys.
- Keep your escape routes clear; it's easy for exits to get blocked with Christmas trees and presents.
- Check on older relatives and neighbours this Christmas to ensure their safety at this time of year.

Remember, if a fire starts, get everyone out and close all doors behind you. Dial 999 and ask for the Fire & Rescue Service.

For further information www.nifrs.org

PCSP Recruitment has Reopened
in the following areas...

CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS
MID & EAST ANTRIM
DERRY & STRABANE
ANTRIM & NEWTOWNABBEY
FERMANAGH & OMAGH
NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN

PCSP Policing & Community Safety Partnerships
making our community safer

Help make your community safer by applying to become a PCSP Independent Member

www.pcsp.org

TO APPLY SCAN HERE

Applications to become a PCSP Independent Member have reopened!

The Northern Ireland Policing Board is seeking to appoint PCSP Independent Members across these Council areas:

- Antrim & Newtownabbey
- Causeway, Coast & Glens
- Derry & Strabane
- Fermanagh & Omagh
- Mid & East Antrim
- Newry, Mourne & Down

Who can become an Independent Member?

You must be at least 18 years old and live in or be able to demonstrate a close connection and active interest to the council area for which you are making an application.

You can find out more about the role of PCSP and DPCSP members in the [Members' Handbook](#). You can access the [applicant information booklet here](#), and the [appointment timeline here](#).

You can find out more about the role of PCSP and DPCSP members in the [Members' Handbook](#).

How do I apply?

Following a competition which ran earlier this year, applications re-opened for these Council areas on 15 November 2023 and will close at 12 noon on Friday 15 December 2023. You can visit the online application portal by [clicking here\(external link opens in a new window / tab\)](#), or by scanning the QR code above.

PLEASE NOTE, IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION FOR THESE AREAS, YOU DO NOT NEED TO RESUBMIT.

If you need additional information on the application process, or an alternative format of application form, email us on pcsp@nipolicingboard.org.uk

Consultations

Launch of a consultation on proposals to amend legislation to help tackle Anti-Social Behaviour

DfC, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, is publishing proposals for future legislation on Anti-Social Behaviour. A consultation has been launched and will run for 14 weeks until Monday 4th March 2024. The full consultation documentation is available online [here](#) and there will also be social media activity to increase awareness of the consultation.



Social Housing Policy have contributed to the consultation and have developed housing-related proposals concerning:

- Injunctions against anti-social behaviour; and
- Absolute Grounds for Possession.

We want to ensure that we receive as many responses as possible to enable the proposals to be strengthened and developed in order to bring forward legislation. We would encourage all relevant housing colleagues to read the consultation and provide feedback.

The consultation document and supporting documents are available at; [Anti-Social Behaviour | Department of Justice \(justice-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Community and Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Support - future plans

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. A review of sectoral needs will inform how we can better support the sector to deliver outcomes set out in any future Programme for Government.

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We welcome views and responses on the proposed framework through our consultation events being hosted both in person and online through November and December 2023, and are inviting you to sign up for one of our events at; [Community and Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Support - future plans | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

The events will take the form of roundtable discussions and are an opportunity to share thoughts, ideas or comments.

Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan

Department for the Economy

[Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date; 12th January 2024

Financial Context for Revenue Raising

Department of Finance

[Financial context for revenue raising consultations | Department of Finance \(finance-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date; 17th January 2024

Policy and Practice Focus

Charities ‘need to know’ about the new campaigning code, Commission chair states



Harriet Whitehead writes in Civil Society Media

Charities need to be aware of the new [Non-Party Campaigner Code](#) which comes into effect from 1 December, the chair of the Charity Commission has advised.

Orlando Fraser, chair of the charity regulator, and John Pullinger chair of the Electoral Commission, [wrote in a blog](#) that charities “need to know” what this will mean for the charity sector.

“By way of summary, in addition to a charity’s continuing obligations under normal charity law, electoral law requires charities to register as non-party campaigners if they spend over a certain amount on regulated campaign activities in the 12 months leading up to the next election,” the blog states.

It adds that spending on certain activities is regulated if the activity can reasonably be regarded as intended to influence people’s voting choice. Thus, such activity, which is lawful under charity law if it isn’t supporting a specified party or candidate, is regulated under electoral law, counting towards your spending limit,” the blog reads.

“You will be required to register with the Electoral Commission as non-party campaigners if your charity spends over £10,000 (previously this was over £20,000 in England), on regulated campaign activities, across the UK. After the election, you may then need to provide financial returns to support public transparency,” it adds.

The third thing the blog highlights is that the law now requires an imprint to be included on digital material that falls within the definition of regulated campaign activities.

The blog states: “An imprint tells voters who is responsible for publishing and promoting campaign material. This means that many types of digital material such as social media adverts and posts will require an imprint.”

‘Charities can take part in political activity’

The blog adds that the organisations understand many charity leaders and trustees will see this as a critical moment to speak up for beneficiaries and highlight causes.

“Charities have a proud record of engaging in public debate and campaigning on behalf of their purposes which is entirely legitimate” and doing so consistently with the legal framework is crucial.

“Charities can take part in political activity provided it supports their purpose and is in their best interests. However, political activity mustn’t become the reason for a charity’s existence. Charities must also remain independent and must not give their support to a political party,” it states.

The chairs point to [guidance for charities on campaigning and political activity](#), as well as the [social media guidance](#).

The blog adds: “We understand that these changes can appear daunting. That’s why we want to make sure you feel equipped to enter the next election period, undertaking any campaigning to advance your charity’s purposes, with confidence.

“We want to stress that electoral law exists not to limit campaigning, but to ensure that there is transparency around key campaigning activity.”

Small charity to close after 100 unsuccessful applications to core funding



Sam Wait writes in Civil Society Media

TAROE Trust will be closing down following a review that identified “unfavourable operating conditions”.

The charity's trustees said it had applied to more than 100 potential sources of core funding without success over recent months. Darren Hartley, chief executive of the TAROE Trust, told Civil Society that a number of issues contributed to the decision. These included a lack of available core funding, reduced capital grants, inflationary pressures and increased workforce and material costs for the charity.

The charity's operations will cease at the end of December, and its remaining funds will be redistributed to related charitable causes, [a statement from the trustees reads.](#)

Income

Set up in 2013, the TAROE Trust provides free advice and assistance on housing issues to disadvantaged people and is a representative organisation for tenants in England. The charity only employed one member of staff on a part-time basis, chief executive Hartley, who says he has secured another role for when the charity closes. According to the charity's accounts for the financial year ending March 2023, it had a total income of over £63,000. This fell from £72,000 the previous year.

In 2020, the charity received a reported [£210,000 cash injection from Fusion 21](#). The charity's chair Michael Gelling described it as a “lifeline”.

Indeed, before the donation the charity had a total income of just over £10,000 for the financial year ending 2020. This July, Gelling told Fusion 21 that its recent achievements had only been possible due to the funding and that TAROE Trust's [“standing in the sector and our potential for future impact is now very strong.”](#)

‘Disappointed and saddened’

Chair of the TAROE Trust, Gelling, said: “I am truly disappointed and saddened that we have had to call it a day on the activities of TAROE Trust. It brings to an end a long tradition of tenant primacy.”

He continued: “We hope that our closure will highlight the gap that exists at a national level for a body that represents the interests of tenants from a tenants’ perspective.

“The failure of successive governments to fund an independent national tenant body lets tenants down at a time when the need has never been greater. We hope that one day steps can be taken to rectify this failure.”



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

- 2023-216 - Asset Management Business Lead Manager (Asset Management IT system)
- 2023-203 - Stock Condition Survey Project Manager
- 2023-220 - Energy Advisor
- 2023-219 - Case Officer - Grants
- 2023-208 - Front End Housing Advisor
- 2023-184 - Electrician
- 2023-188 - Senior Officer - Housing Services (Governance Unit)
- 2023-217 - Executive Assistant - Regional Services

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.

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 \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](#)

In addition the November edition of Policing Matters is available at; [Policing Matters Issue 34 | November 2023 \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](#)



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](#)

Committee Proposes Raft of Measures to Stabilise Stormont



- Call for NI Assembly Speaker to be elected by two-thirds majority of MLAs.
- First and Deputy First Minister should be rebranded 'Joint First Ministers'.
- Joint First Minister elections should be open to any party and also be elected by two-thirds majority of MLAs.

A new report by the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee into the effectiveness of the institutions of the Belfast/ Good Friday Agreement has issued a raft of proposals aimed at restoring and stabilising Stormont.

- [Read the report \(HTML\)](#)
- [Read the report \(PDF 1164KB\)](#)

- [Find all publications related to this inquiry, including oral and written evidence](#)

Among the measures are calls for the UK Government to urgently reform the Assembly Speaker election rules so that a candidate can be elected by a two-thirds supermajority of MLAs.

The same threshold should be used to elect First and Deputy First Ministers, the report recommends. It adds that in recognition of their equal status, the positions should be rebranded as 'Joint First Ministers' with the position open to any two MLAs of any two parties rather than just the largest parties as is the case today.

Each of these changes would require consultation with the Irish Government as co-guarantors to the Belfast/ Good Friday Agreement as well as the parties of Northern Ireland and would require tweaking the 1998 Northern Ireland Act that came from the Agreement. The Act enshrines power-sharing government and devolution in NI.

Events

Set Up Your Social Media Content Strategy & Plan For 2024 With Tina Calder

Next date: Tuesday 02 January 2024 from 3:00pm

Excalibur Press

Cost: From £16.95

Everything you need to know to prepare you and your social media for 2024.

This slide/video-based webinar is presented by publicist, journalist and commentator Tina Calder.

[For more information and booking, go to; Set Up Your Social Media Content Strategy & Plan For 2024 with Tina Calder Tickets, Tue 2 Jan 2024 at 15:00 | Eventbrite](#)



As founder of Excalibur Press publicity management, content creation and copywriting agency Tina has been in the business working in Northern Ireland for the last 28 years and has worked with a number of thought leaders over the years.

NOTE: Purchase of this webinar INCLUDES the recording being sent out following the session
In this session you will learn quick and easy tactics to create a social media content strategy and plan to get you taking action quickly this year.

Trainer Tina Calder will unveil the tools and secrets used by her company Excalibur Press to create social media content.

What you will learn:

- How to create a basic social media strategy
- How to turn that strategy into a plan of action
- How to plan, schedule and distribute that content
- What platforms you should consider and why
- What functions should you think about on each platform (eg, Hashtags, Stories etc...)
- Ways to brainstorm content
- Where to get ideas
- Types of content you can create
- A sample schedule plan you can follow
- Tools we use at Excalibur Press
- Why your social media should be part of your wider marketing campaign
- How to create content for every step on the customer journey

We've set aside an hour and a half for this overview webinar which will help you start thinking about what you need to do to set up your social media content strategy and plan for 2022. There will be an opportunity to ask questions throughout.

For more information and booking, go to; [Set Up Your Social Media Content Strategy & Plan For 2024 with Tina Calder Tickets, Tue 2 Jan 2024 at 15:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Training

Volunteer Now Training Sessions

Keeping Adults Safe: Training for Staff and Volunteers (Western Trust)



DATE: Tuesday 11th January 2024, 10.00 AM - 3.30 PM

ONLINE Free Course

This course is for organisations in the Western Trust area only. For other areas, please view our training calendar by clicking [here](#).

This is a FREE 1 day certificated course for those working/volunteering with adults at risk. It covers:

- awareness of vulnerability;
- legal context of adult safeguarding;
- awareness of abuse issues;
- procedures for reporting concerns;
- procedures for planning activities and assessing and managing risk;
- confidentiality issues; and
- code of behaviour for staff/volunteers.

The training will raise awareness of risk of harm in adulthood and assist voluntary, community and independent organisations working with adults at risk to achieve the minimum standards of best practice as outlined in the publication 'Keeping Adults Safe – A Shared Responsibility'.

PLEASE NOTE:

this training will be provided for Voluntary, Community and Independent sectors and a maximum of 5 participants from any one organisation will be accepted on to each training course.

Keeping Adults Safe: Recruitment, Selection and Management (Belfast Trust area)

DATE: Tuesday 18th January 2024, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

ONLINE Free Course

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

www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/tailored-training/

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

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

Housing Rights Training

Housing Benefit and Universal Credit: The differences



Gain a basic understanding of the differences between Universal Credit and Housing Benefit.

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

Book now

Location; Online, Via Zoom

Date; 31 January 2024

Time; 10:00am to 1:00pm

This course is an entry level introduction to the housing element of Universal Credit and Housing Benefit. It will highlight the differences between the two.

- how housing costs will be dealt with under Universal Credit
- What types of accommodation are currently ineligible for UC applications

What we will cover

- Updates on the progress of 'Move to Universal Credit' in Northern Ireland
- how Universal Credit differs from Housing Benefit
- how to assist people with applying for Universal Credit

Who should attend?

- housing advisers (new or looking refresher)
- support workers (new or looking refresher)
- welfare officers (new or looking refresher)
- Constituency office staff

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**
- **VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**
- **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES & MORE!**

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



On [Facebook](#)

Bryson
Energy

Bryson
Training and
Employability

Tenant Participation & Community Development OCN Level 2

Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 10.00 AM

Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 12.30 PM

This new, improved 8-week course looks at the intersection of Tenant Participation and Community Development.

It is targeted at those working in social housing as well as community workers that engage with social housing providers in Northern Ireland.

(We will be looking at a course aimed at the Republic of Ireland in the future!)

This newly revamped course now includes a good practice visit, more case studies, and practical examples to help you develop in your work!



Learning Objectives:

This course will ensure participants are able to:

- Understand what tenant participation is
- Understand the policy context within the UK
- Have knowledge of the tenant participation requirements in NI
- Be aware of the range of approaches to tenant participation
- Understand the components of a good tenant participation strategy
- Understand what community development is
- Have knowledge of the different approaches to community development
- Understand the community development process
- Be aware of the governance requirements

Course Benefits:

In addition to increasing your knowledge and understanding of tenant participation and community development, this course will:

- Help you carry out your role as staff/tenant representative/volunteer
- Examine your organisation's strategy and see how your role fits in with it
- Share good practices with other housing professionals and tenant representatives
- Provide networking opportunities with like-minded professionals and volunteers
- Develop your career prospects and professional development with an accredited qualification

Time Commitment:

This is an 8-week course that will be held on Thursdays from 1 February until 21 March from 10 until 12.30pm

Weekly sessions will be held on Zoom. One week will be an in-person day trip for a good practice visit - date to be announced.

Cost: £425 per person

Registration & More Information:

Contact Siobhan O'Neill at siobhan@supportingcommunities.org with any questions and to register your place.

Funding

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council will open its 2024/25 Grant Funding Programme for applications this December

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council will open its 2024/25 Grant Funding Programme for applications this December.

Funding roadshows will be held in December for any eligible organisations or groups who wish to apply to any of the programmes and would like to find out further information or require assistance.

These virtual roadshows will take place via Zoom and there will be a live presentation on the 10 grants available on the following dates:

- Monday 4th December 2023 @ 7pm
- Tuesday 5th December 2023 @ 2pm

To take part in any of the above roadshows, please



email the Funding Unit on grants@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk detailing what session you would like to take part in or call 028 70347198.

Details on each of the Grant Funding Programmes can be found via the online funding hub which are available on Council's website:- www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/grantsandfunding

Ageism Action Day

Centre for Ageing Better has announced this new Ageism Action Day which is a chance for everyone to do something to change the narrative about ageing. It's an annual day for individuals and communities, workplaces, friends and families to learn, take action and improve lives. The Action Day is on 20th March 2024, and will happen every year around the same time.

How much is available?

Grants of up to £500 are available, with an additional up to £150 to cover anything needed to make the event or activity more accessible. The lower limit for applications is £75.

What can the micro-grant cover?

Groups can choose to mark the day as they would like, using the theme "see and be seen" as inspiration, which is all about improving the way ageing is represented in society and challenging negative portrayals and associations. It could be supporting art exhibitions, poetry competitions, fashion shows, film viewings, events which bring generations together, sharing stories of ageing or creating opportunities to discuss ageism at a coffee morning or pub quiz. The options are endless!



What is the deadline?

The deadline for applications is 10th January 2024 but we may have to close early if we receive a high level of demand so we encourage you to submit as early as possible.

Drop in sessions and questions

We encourage everyone interested in making an application to join an online information session on Friday 8th December between 10am and 11am or Thursday 14 December between 1pm and 2pm. Alternatively, you can email grants@ageing-better.org.uk with your specific questions and we will aim to respond.

For more information or to apply click: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/ageism-action-day-micro-grants-age-friendly-communities>



MSE Charity Announces Funding Theme for January 2024 Round

A small number of grants for not-for-profit organisations in the UK for projects that relate to the delivery of financial skills to different defined groups.

Money Saving Expert (MSE) Charity has announced the theme for its January 2024 grant round is 'Living with Long Term Challenges'.

This grant round will offer grants of up to £8,000 to support projects focused on improving and delivering personal financial life skills to people living with Long Term Challenges, such as:

- Dementia
- Autism
- Learning Difficulties
- Disabilities
- Caring Responsibilities
- Mental illness
- Brain injury / stroke

Small to medium-sized non-profit organisations with a constitution can apply, including UK registered charities, community interest companies, social



enterprises and credit unions. To be eligible, applicants must be based in the UK, looking for funding for UK based activities, have an annual income of less than £750,000 and unrestricted reserves that are less than six months of their running costs.

Applications are usually invited twice a year: in winter and autumn.

Please note that each grant round is limited to the first 40 accepted applications. Previous rounds have closed within a couple of weeks of opening.

Applications are expected to open on 15 January 2024 and close on 16 February 2024.

For more information, please visit [Home \(msecharity.com\)](https://msecharity.com)

Funding opportunities available to assist local communities and artists

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council is offering over £268k of funding to assist local community groups and artists in 2024/25.

Several grants are now open for applications:

- Community Support Grant
- Community Festivals Fund
- Community Development Bursary Award
- Arts Organisations Grants
- Individual Artists Grants
- Making Art in Communities
- Young Artist of the Year
- John Hewitt International Summer School Residency Award
- Tyrone Guthrie Centre Bursary

These can be applied for online before 12 noon on Friday 15th December 2023.

Councillor Thomas Beckett, Communities and Wellbeing Chairman, said: "We welcome opportunities to invest in and support our communities and arts. It is hoped the early opening of these grants will help local groups, organisations and individuals plan their projects next year.

"We welcome applications that help to enhance our communities, improve community relations, reduce social isolation, promote integration or strengthen the sense of community at a grassroots level.

"Through arts grants and bursaries we can ensure arts and culture remain at the core the Lisburn and Castlereagh area. We want to offer chances for lasting, memorable and unique community-based projects to be created."

Applications are online using the following links:

[Community Support Grant](#)
[Community Festivals Fund](#)
[Community Development Bursary Award](#)
[Arts grants and bursaries](#)



The Good Relations Awards 2024 are open for nominations

The Awards spotlight the vital role that Good Relations plays in delivering peacebuilding and community cohesion throughout Northern Ireland.

The Good Relations Awards are run annually by the Community Relations Council in partnership with The Executive Office (TEO).

You can help us recognise this exceptional commitment to good relations by the people who strive to make our communities better for all.

This year there are five Award categories:

- The Community Relations Council Exceptional Achievement Award;
- Good Relations Volunteer of the Year Award;
- Good Relations Community Champion Award;
- Good Relations Youth Award (Under 25)
- Good Relations Connecting Communities Project of the Year Award.



The Awards are delivered with support from these organisations: Volunteer Now; NICVA; NI Youth Forum, and Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

If you know someone in Northern Ireland deserving of recognition – nominate them now for the Good Relations Awards 2024.

Closing date: Tuesday 19 December 2023 at 12 noon.

To nominate, please visit this link: [Home - Good Relations Awards 2024](#)

Funding to Support Youth-Led Social Action Across the UK

Co-op Foundation, in partnership with Co-op and the #iwill Fund, is offering grants of up to £20,000 for groups to support young activists, campaigners, disrupters, co-operates, and social entrepreneurs to lead social action to improve their communities and build upon Co-op's vision of 'Co-operating for a Fairer World'.

Through the Young Gamechangers Fund, a total of £600,000 is available for groups with an income of less than £250,000 that are:

- Committed to engaging in long-term projects as part of a network of young gamechangers.
- Focused on creating sustainable positive social change that aims to have a lasting impact on individuals and the wider community.
- Proposing or leading social action work that has a clear purpose.
- Rooted in the Young Gamechangers Fund priorities.

Preference will be given to groups that have previously not had access or experienced barriers to funding,

groups that are led by and for marginalised communities, and groups that prioritise youth activism and shared power.



Foundation

Funding can be used for specific project costs, or core and ongoing costs such as salaries, overheads, or other activities that support the group's work.

There is a two-stage application process. Groups must submit an online eligibility test before being invited to complete a full application.

The deadline for applications is 19 December 2023 (noon).

For more information please visit [£4.5m Young Gamechangers Fund - Co-op Foundation \(coopfoundation.org.uk\)](#)



The Fore's Unique Funding Programme Opens for Spring 2024 Registration on 6 December

The Fore is the only open-access funder in the UK offering development funding and strategic support to early-stage charities and social enterprises who have exceptional leadership, innovative idea and cost-effective solutions.

The Fore offers a 'wraparound' package of unrestricted, multi-year grant-funding (up to £30,000) training, skilled volunteers, peer-to-peer networks and impact measurement to UK registered charities, CIOs, CICs, and social enterprises with an annual revenue of less than £500,000 in the previous completed financial year.

The funding is intended to have a transformational impact on the organisations being supported by unlocking exponential growth, sustainability, efficiency or some other major step forward.

The unrestricted funding can be used for any purpose, including core costs and capital funding. The grant could help, for example, an organisation grow, increase internal capacity, serve new beneficiary groups, become more sustainable or more efficient, etc. Applications for core costs must show how the funding will move the organisation forward rather than enabling 'business as usual'.

There are three funding rounds each year (Spring, Summer, Autumn).

The next funding round will open for registration at noon on 6 December 2023 and close at noon on 13 December 2023.

Please visit [Home - The Fore](#)

Apply for a free defibrillator for your community

Applications for a free, BHF-funded defibrillator are now open. Applications will close on 15 March 2024.

All eligible UK-based community groups can apply. Each organisation can only apply for one award package.

A limited number of funded defibrillators are available. Applications will be reviewed monthly against a set of criteria so defibrillators can be awarded to communities that need them most.

For more information please visit [Defibrillator funding for your local community - BHF](#)



Funding for places

Our main grants programme provides support for places. These grants are for capital initiatives, i.e. buildings (new build or refurbishment) and equipment.

We fund a broad range of organisations working across the fields of education, science & medicine, health & disability, heritage, humanities & the arts.

Who can apply?

Before you apply for funding, please check the types of places we fund and their specific funding criteria. You can also take our [eligibility quiz](#) to see if we could support your project.

For more information please visit [Funding for places - The Wolfson Foundation](#)



Help the Homeless

Help the Homeless are a small charity with limited funds available. Please check carefully that both your organisation and your project meet the criteria before making an application.

CRITERIA

- Your organisation must be registered with the Charity Commission in England, Wales or Northern Ireland or a registered Scottish Charity.
- We are able to help only small charities with an annual turnover of less than £500,000.
- We can only accept applications towards the funding of capital projects. We are unable to accept applications towards running/core costs. Note: we are also unable to consider requests for computers and IT equipment.
- We provide small grants of up to £5,000. We do not consider multi-year requests.

There should be a minimum period of two years between the receipt of a decision or grant from us and making a further application.

APPLICATION FORM

All applicants must complete our [online application form](#).

Please note we no longer accept applications by post or email.

DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS

The quarterly deadlines for applications for funding each year are: 5pm on 15th March/15th June/15th September/15th December.

You will be informed of the Trustees' decision within eight weeks of each deadline.

EXAMPLE GRANTS

Examples of recent grants made can be found [here](#).

For more information please visit [Applying for Funding — Help the Homeless \(help-the-homeless.org.uk\)](#)



The Live-Smart Community Environment Grant

The Causeway Coast and Glens Borough is known worldwide for its beautiful scenery and amazing visitor experience. Council wants to preserve that for years and generations to come – this requires everyone making a conscious effort to live a more environmentally-friendly lifestyle.

The purpose of the LiveSmart Community Environmental Grant Programme is to provide small grants up to a maximum of £500 to local community and voluntary organisations. The grants are to give financial assistance to allow groups and organisations to:-

1. improve the general cleanliness in their local area, particularly in respect of litter
2. promote recycling, reuse and waste reduction
3. look at ways of reducing carbon footprint by taking simple, practical actions such as planting

Community groups and organisations are being encouraged and supported to keep their local area clean and tidy, promote recycling, reuse and waste reduction and have a positive impact on their carbon footprint. There are a number of specific objectives which applicants must address. Your application can address more than one objective but only one is necessary.



- RecycleSmart: aims to reduce waste by educating, engaging and inspiring us all to buy less, reuse more, recycle and compost.
- LitterSmart: aims to reduce litter through education, encouraging responsible disposal and supporting local people to carry out litter lifts.
- ClimateSmart: aims to reduce our carbon footprint by increasing our knowledge of sustainability and empowering change with simple, practical actions such as planting vegetables, fruit, native shrubs and pollinator plants

Applicants can request a grant up to a maximum of £500. You can only apply for one grant per year. Applications for the LiveSmart Community Environmental Grant Programme should be submitted online at <http://grants.ccgbcapps.com/>

This is a rolling programme and will remain open until all funds are expended.