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Welcome to Supporting Communities 231st Edition of E-Zine, bringing you Best Practice from the Community Sector; Funding and Training Updates and Policy Developments in Northern Ireland, Great Britain and Republic of Ireland

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## NICVA call for recognition of the Voluntary and Community Sector's Role in Tackling Economic Inactivity

[Robbie Best](#) of NICVA reports



NICVA briefed the Committee for Economy at Stormont today to highlight the Voluntary and Community Sector's role in tackling economic inactivity and the impending UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding cliff edge.

Both issues are critical in the short, medium, and long term to building a robust and sustainable economy.

NICVA's Chief Executive Celine McStravick, alongside voluntary and community sector colleagues currently delivering work aimed at addressing economic inactivity, talked to the committee about the crucial role the Voluntary and Sector can play in getting Northern Ireland's economy working for everyone .

### **Economic Inactivity**

Economic Inactivity is when a person aged 16-64 is neither in work, nor looking/available for work due to a unique set of circumstances. It's a distinct category, different to being unemployed. People deemed economically inactive are more likely to be people with a disability and/or long-term health condition, carers, women, people from an ethnic minority or those with multiple or complex needs. These, and other groups of people affected, are the people who the Voluntary and Community Sector works with and

supports every day, so we believe the Sector has a key role to play in reducing economic inactivity rates.

There has been a shift in the underlying reasons for economic inactivity over the past 25 years. The proportion inactive due to family and home care reasons has reduced substantially and long-term sickness is now the largest contributor to inactivity. Around 48,000 of those who are inactive (15% of the total) locally would like to work, which shows the need for understanding of the unique barriers people face and need to overcome these and to unlock their labour market potential.

The Voluntary and Community Sector can be at the heart of this development of our economy.

### **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

To date, £57 million has been invested in Northern Ireland through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in projects delivering on UK Government's commitment to support many more people to move from economic inactivity into sustainable employment. There are over 100 organisations funded to deliver programmes via UKSPF, currently supporting over 26,000+ people to access employment. There is evidence this money is having a real impact with rates of economic inactivity decreasing.

NICVA, say we need to build on these projects success and maintain progress.

However, NICVA are concerned about the future of this funding, which is currently due to come to an end in March 2025. If a longer-term solution isn't found, funding for organisations will fall off a cliff edge and the people who rely on these services will be left without access to much needed support, further marginalising them from the current labour market. What does the future hold?

The Economy brief at Stormont includes employability, skills, economic infrastructure, driving inclusive and sustainable growth as well as the operation of various EU funding programmes.

Our sector plays a key role in all of these areas. Recent data suggests interventions to address economic inactivity are working, as the figures have been steadily decreasing. However, this needs to be sustained and put on a long-term footing to ensure that this trajectory continues.

NICVA Chief Executive Celine McStravick said: “We need to see things like the implementation of the anti-poverty strategy, a new childcare strategy and much more. Our Sector plays a vital role in Northern Irish society, so we need longer term funding and a seat at the table when it comes to making the big decisions. Reducing economic inactivity is a key part of any economic strategy, but siloed department structures

and responsibilities often hold back collaboration and joined up thinking.

“The Voluntary and Community sector is at the front line of the delivery of services to reduce economic inactivity. It has a key role to play in conversations and strategies around inclusive economic growth. Generating prosperity and reducing poverty requires investment in physical and social infrastructure and is ultimately a good return on investment. We’re a vital part of the public service infrastructure, with a reach and expertise that the public sector doesn’t have into communities.

“We provide a different perspective on the economy, economic growth and wealth building that needs to be heard if our politicians truly want to create a society where everyone prospers”.

## Minister Muir seeks views on proposals aimed at protecting Marine Environment

**DAERA Minister Andrew Muir has said immediate action is needed to tackle the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change.**

The Minister was speaking as he launched two consultations seeking views on two proposals aimed at improving protection of our marine environment.

The development of an updated Marine Protected Areas Strategy (MPA) and the Blue Carbon Action Plan will contribute to the effective management of the Northern Ireland marine environment, helping to address biodiversity loss while also realising wider environmental and societal benefits. Both recognise the need to embed nature-based solutions in plans and policies to meet the net zero target, as described under the NI Climate Change Act (2022).

Launching the Blue Carbon Action Plan consultation, the Minister said: “The development of this Action Plan signifies a pivotal moment in our understanding of how marine ecosystems can help contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. It recognises that if these habitats become degraded or damaged their ability to capture and store greenhouse gases declines.”

The development of the Action Plan has taken place in tandem with a Review of the Marine Protected Areas Strategy offering a timely opportunity to consider the protection and restoration of blue carbon habitats within the existing Marine Protected Areas network.

Speaking on the consultation of the Review of the Marine Protected Areas Strategy, the Minister said:



“Since the publication of the first MPA Strategy in 2014 our understanding of how MPAs function and the role that marine ecosystems play in climate change adaption and mitigation has grown significantly.”

The Minister continued: “We need to take immediate action to tackle the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change. These consultations will help ensure that our marine environment is managed in a way that will help address biodiversity loss and harness wider environmental and societal benefits.

“I would strongly encourage anyone who feels they can contribute, in words and also in actions, to respond to these consultations so that together we can produce an updated MPA Strategy and a Blue Carbon Action Plan that will both bring wide-ranging benefits to our environment and society.”

The consultation documents and online questionnaire are available from today on the [DAERA website](#) (external link opens in a new window / tab) and also at [Consultation on the Northern Ireland Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\) Strategy Review](#). The online questionnaire will be available for twelve weeks until 5pm on 11 July 2024.

## Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Celebrates 25th Anniversary

On 1 March the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



The Commission was created in 1999 following commitments made in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and in accordance with provisions in the Northern Ireland Act 1998. It was the first National Human Rights Institution in the United Kingdom and on the island of Ireland. It was also the first to achieve A status recognition from the United Nations for operating in full compliance with the Paris Principles (UN General Assembly resolution 48/134).

Over 25 years the Commission has fulfilled its mandate providing advice to governments in Westminster and Stormont ensuring that legislation affecting Northern Ireland is compliant with human rights law; it has exercised legal powers in the courts to challenge incompatible laws and the actions of government departments and other public authorities when there have been violations; it has investigated systemic issues concerning public policy and service provision to improve compliance; and, it has promoted a greater understanding of human rights for everyone within society. In partnership with its equivalent institution in Ireland, the Commission has also had a globally unique mandate through a joint committee to consider human rights issues affecting human rights on the island across both jurisdictions.

Reflecting on the work and achievements of the Commission, Alyson Kilpatrick, Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, said:

*“Human rights were an integral component of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and were recognised as vital in the efforts to address discrimination, inequalities, and build a reformed, peaceful, and just society. The Commission has had an important job to monitor, advise and challenge government in pursuing this vision.*

*“Over 25 years, the Commission has been instrumental in bringing about changes that have protected a wide range of human rights. There is no doubt that considerable progress has been made during that time. We are grateful to the work of all the Commissioners and staff for their valued contributions. Much of the changes we have seen have only been made possible by the strong network of civil society organisations that partner and support our work. We thank them for their engagement with the Commission and recognise their vital role as human rights defenders.*

*“Many challenges remain and having a strong and independent National Human Rights Institution is just as important today as it was when first envisaged. The measure of a Commission for the next 25 years will continue to be when it shines light on issues affecting those who are most marginalised and when it acts in defence of the most vulnerable people in society. At the same time, we must continue to champion the commitment of universal human rights for all.”*

## History and Heritage combine under one roof

**A combined public archive which brings together several thousand years of Northern Ireland’s history and heritage has been officially unveiled in Belfast.**

HERoNI is now co-locating with the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), utilising a purpose-built archive centre in the heart of the Titanic Quarter. HERoNI holds information on all elements of Northern Ireland’s historic environment in the form of databases, written records, maps, photographic, drawn and digital material.

Communities Minister Gordon Lyons visited PRONI this week and viewed some of the HERoNI Archives. Minister Lyons said: “This is a welcome co-location bringing together two archives into one purpose-built centre in the Titanic Quarter. This move combines these two important archives under one roof, housing a wealth of Northern Ireland’s history and heritage. In doing so, it will facilitate ease of access for the public and provide a comprehensive resource for interested researchers. The HERoNI archives hold information on thousands of years of Northern Ireland’s historic environment. A taster of what is on offer includes records, images and drawings relating to archaeological sites, listed buildings, Industrial and defence heritage, to name but a few.



“I would encourage anyone interested in history to visit and explore the HERoNI and PRONI historic documents.”

You can visit a special exhibition which is showcasing some of the fascinating collections held in HERoNI. These include:

- artefacts excavated from Deer Park Farm;
- an early Medieval rath in County Antrim;
- designs from local stained glass firm ‘Clokey’s Belfast’, which was in operation from the mid1800s until the 1970s;
- the reconstructed Donaghmore high cross standing at over five metres tall.

Find out more about [HERoNI](#) and the resources available.

# Consultations

## Can we bank on the banks? Voluntary sector banking challenges survey 2024

Over the last few years banking has been cited as one of the most frustrating challenges that voluntary and community organisations experience.

These obstacles range from difficulties in opening new accounts, particularly on the High Street, to frustrations encountered while updating essential business profile information.

NICVA is part of a UK wide working group that been working to improve banking services for charities and voluntary organisations by communicating the issues to the banks.

As part of this work we are conducting research to ascertain if organisations are still encountering problems with their banks so we can continue to advocate for better banking services for voluntary organisations.

We would be very grateful if you would complete the



### Voluntary sector banking challenges survey 2024

A survey for anyone managing a voluntary organisation's banking activities

Take part by 15 May



survey below by Wednesday, 15 May at 12pm to let us know about your banking experience.

This survey is for anyone with responsibility for managing a voluntary organisation's banking activities. To complete it, you will need to be very familiar with the day-to-day management of your organisation's bank account(s).

[Take the survey here](#)

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## Consultation on Charity registration threshold one step closer

The Minister for Communities has given the green light to the Department for Communities to carry out a consultation on the introduction of a charity registration threshold for small charities in NI.

The Department is putting the finishing touches to the consultation document and is hoping to launch a 12-week consultation around the 20 May 2024. It is planning to hold consultation events both in person and online at the end of May and the first two weeks

in June, dates to be confirmed.

It is important that all voluntary organisations are made aware of this consultation and encouraged to participate in it, including submitting a response. While the consultation period is 12 weeks, it is acknowledged that many small organisations may not operate over the summer and may therefore need to get their consultation responses in by the end of June.

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## Draft Water Resource & Supply Resilience Plan

NI Water

[Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan 2024 Consultation - NI Direct - Citizen Space](#)

Closing Date; 24th May 2024

## Rethinking Our Resources: Measures for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in NI

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

[Rethinking Our Resources: Measures for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in NI Consultation |](#)

[Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing Date; 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## NIHE launch public consultation on draft Community Involvement and Cohesion Strategy 2024 – 2029

Northern Ireland Housing Executive has launched a public consultation on their draft Community Involvement and Cohesion Strategy 2024 – 2029.

The consultation gives our customers, members of the public, partners and stakeholders the opportunity to help shape services delivered by the Housing Executive to build strong, vibrant and inclusive communities.

Director of Housing Services, Jennifer Hawthorne explained: "A tremendous amount of work has been undertaken to create our draft Community Involvement and Cohesion Strategy. We have conducted research and carried out pre-consultation work with the Central Housing Forum and Housing Community Network, hard to reach groups and key stakeholders.

"We believe this draft strategy will enable us to build on the success of our previous Community Involvement and Cohesion strategies and will enable and engage communities to interact and work together to co-design Housing Executive services and support a more cohesive society."

The consultation will run over 12 weeks, with a number of regional engagement events planned to take place over the coming weeks.

Ms Hawthorne continued: "What is really important to us now is that we hear the voice of our tenants, residents, customers, partners and stakeholders. We want to listen to their views and develop the strategy so that we have a strong framework to support and develop our communities up to 2029.

"Community involvement and tenant participation is at the heart of our services and I would encourage everyone to read the draft strategy and complete our online consultation survey at: [www.nihe.gov.uk/working-with-us/partners/consultations](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/working-with-us/partners/consultations)."



Assembly Round up shares news, photos, and resources with you about what's happening at the Northern Ireland Assembly and how you can get involved.

You can go directly to the Assembly Round-up page at; <https://blog.niassembly.gov.uk/>



### Assembly Business

The most recent plenary sessions of the Assembly considered a number of issues including [Executive Committee Business](#) comprising Standing Orders 10(2) to 10(4): Suspension; Regulation (EU) 2023/2419: Applicability Motion; Hospital Parking Charges Bill: Further Consideration Stage; The draft Period Products (the Department for the Economy Specified Public Service Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024; Lay Magistrates (Eligibility) Order (Northern Ireland) 2024 and Hospital Parking Charges Bill: Consideration Stage

Members heard a number of statements from Ministers on a range of topics including North/South Ministerial Council: Plenary Meeting; MOT Test Waiting Times; Transforming Capital Investment: Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs.

[Oral Answers to Questions](#) were provided by the Education Minister, the [Communities](#) Minister, the Executive office and the Economy Minister.

The report of the plenary sessions of the Assembly are available at; <http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/officialreport.aspx>

### Committee for Communities

The minutes of meetings of the Communities Committee are available at; [Committee for Communities: 2022 - 2027 Mandate \(niassembly.gov.uk\)](#)

# Policy and Practice Focus

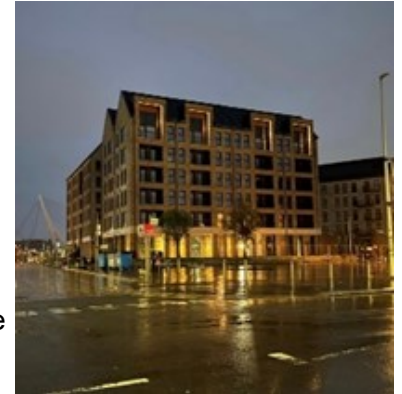
## Govan Housing Association transfers factoring and property management services to new social enterprise

***Govan Housing Group's newest subsidiary, the Water Row Company, has welcomed more than 800 new customers as responsibilities for factoring and property management services transition to its newly established social enterprise from Govan Housing Association.***

In addition, the Water Row Company will now oversee the management and delivery of all commercial and non-core services within the group, including the management of 92 mid-market rental properties, leasing of commercial and residential properties, and provision of money advice services.

The highly skilled team responsible for factoring services has seamlessly transitioned to the Water Row Company, ensuring continuity of the high-quality, responsive service its customers have come to expect.

The Water Row Company said the new customers represent the cornerstone of its expansion strategy as it embarks on creating a new property management service for homeowners. Partnering with Govan Housing Group's planned and reactive repairs subsidiary the Govan HOME Team, it aims to deliver an unmatched level of service to its factored tenants throughout Glasgow.



Jamie Mallan, director of community enterprises, said: "It has already been an exciting 2024 as we welcome families into their new homes at the historic Water Row site. While ensuring a seamless transition for our new factoring customers, we eagerly anticipate welcoming new clients who will benefit from our investment in cutting-edge software, our talented team, and our unique partnership with our in-house repairs and maintenance company, the Govan HOME Team."

The Water Row Company is actively seeking inquiries from landlords, owner-occupiers, and registered social landlords interested in transferring responsibilities for factoring and property management to its social enterprise. For more information, contact [general@waterrow.co.uk](mailto:general@waterrow.co.uk).

# Publications



Catch up on what's been happening with the Policing Plan 2020-2025 and Annual Performance Plan 2024/25 at [Policing Plan 2020-2025 and Annual Performance Plan 2024/25 | Northern Ireland Policing Board \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk). In addition the March edition of Policing Matters is available at; [Policing Matters April 2024 | Northern Ireland Policing Board \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk)



The NIEL regular reporting on Assembly considerations of environmental issues has returned; for the most recent edition of Assembly News, go to [Assembly-News-April-2024.pdf \(nienvironmentlink.org\)](https://www.nienvironmentlink.org). For the latest environmental news, go to [Environmental News, Research & Analysis - February 2024 \(nienvironmentlink.org\)](https://www.nienvironmentlink.org). For other NIEL publications and events, go to; [www.nienvironmentlink.org](https://www.nienvironmentlink.org)

## UN Committee publishes report on follow-up to 2016 Inquiry

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has [published a report](#) on its follow-up to its 2016 UK inquiry.

The report examines what action the UK Government and NI Executive have taken, to ensure that people with a disability can enjoy the rights to independent living, employment and an adequate standard of living since the 2016 inquiry was carried out.

In its report the Committee has expressed concern that 'there has been no significant progress for disabled people throughout the UK concerning their right to living independently and being included in the community'. It describes some reforms and policies that had been undertaken to provide financial support, accessible housing, and transport, as inadequate considering the cost-of-living crisis.

In relation to the Work Capability Assessment, the Committee has concluded that it is 'the evidence overwhelmingly demonstrates that this process is not trauma informed, not sufficiently linked to other services and support, and not suitable to assist people to be job ready'.

The Committee acknowledges that progress in Northern Ireland has been delayed due the suspension of the Executive and highlights the budgetary decisions made during the period of suspension of the devolved institutions which have negatively impacted disabled people have yet to be reversed or redressed.

The report refers to Northern Ireland being hit especially hard by the loss of EU funds. The European Social Fund was replaced by UK Shared Prosperity Fund which does not provide the same standard of support to disabled people accessing employment in Northern Ireland, it offers £20million less in funding and will end in March 2025.

In a joint response to the report, in their role as the Independent Mechanism for NI (IMNI), Geraldine McGahey, Chief Commissioner, Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and Alyson Kilpatrick, Chief Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission said:



"We welcome the publication of the report, but unfortunately, we are not surprised by its content, which reports 'no significant progress has been made by the State Party concerning the situation of persons with disabilities addressed in the inquiry proceedings' and 'signs of regression in the standards and principles of the Convention'. No doubt many will find this both shocking and concerning.

"We have continually raised our serious concerns about the lack of progress in addressing and implementing the UN Committee's recommendations and the very real impact this has on disabled people's lives in Northern Ireland. We need action and leadership to address the issues highlighted in this report.

"It is imperative that the Department for Communities and the NI Executive urgently take steps to finalise, in conjunction with the Disability Strategy Co-Design Group and other stakeholders, a Disability Strategy for Northern Ireland. This will ensure that disabled people and their representatives have their voices heard and we can move forward with policy and initiatives to fully realise their rights and equality entitlements as set out in the UNCRPD," concluded the Commissioners.

The UK Government and NI Executive have obligations through the UNCRPD, as well as Windsor Framework Article 2 to uphold rights and equality protections for persons with disabilities.

[view or print this article in pdf format](#)

# Events

## Closing the Gaps: Collaborating on voluntary and community sector research in Northern Ireland

25 June 2024 - 10:00am to 3:45pm

The Voluntary Sector Studies Network, Volunteer Now, NICVA, ARK, Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University are delighted to jointly host a symposium to explore pathways to collaborating on voluntary and community sector (VCS) research in Northern Ireland.

Research within and about the voluntary and community sector springs up in many different settings and across a range of disciplines. Some of the challenges faced by academic and voluntary and community sector colleagues in Northern Ireland are how to retain past expertise on voluntary and community sector research, how to collate existing knowledge and how to connect with others interested in voluntary and community sector centred research.

Key Aims of this Event will be:

- To strengthen sustainable relationships between academic researchers and practitioners in the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland.
- To recognise and map out the breadth of multi-disciplinary approaches to voluntary and community sector research in differing fields across the voluntary and community sector, such as health and social care, community development, youth, environment, arts, equality, employment, sports, social enterprise, housing, and social policy.
- To consider models of Voluntary Sector Research Partnerships.

- To identify gaps and inform a future research agenda for Voluntary and Community Sector Research in Northern Ireland.

### Format for the Event

The day conference will be a facilitated event, aiming to promote dialogue between academics and voluntary sector practitioners from a broad range of civil society organisations, recognising their dual expertise and drawing on inclusive and participative involvement methods. *"Minds shall be open, conversations shall be kind, and different knowledges shall have equal value"* (Locke and Grotz, 2022, p:191).[1]

The conference event will begin by setting the scene to understand why it is important to bring together the breadth of key players engaging in voluntary and community sector centred research in Northern Ireland. Attendees will hear about the breadth of collaborative research between the sector and academia already happening in Northern Ireland.

The afternoons session will include the opportunity to learn about how such research might be funded and resourced in the future and to attend a panel session on key lessons for strengthening such collaborative research. This will be followed by the opportunity to learn about the range of voluntary sector research partnerships in other parts of the UK, and to forge plans for future developments of collaborative working.

Programme overview:	9.30am - 10.10am	Refreshments and Networking
	10.10am - 10.45am	Introduction & 1st Keynote Speaker
	10.45am - 11.30am	Session 1: Why connect VCS collaborative researchers?
	11.30am - 11.45am	Break
	11.45am - 12.30pm	Session 2: World café - Mapping out collaborative research
	12.30pm - 1.30pm	Collegiate lunch, Networking & 2nd keynote speaker
	1.30pm - 2.30pm	Session 3: Panel session - Strengthening Collaborative Research
	2.30pm - 2.45pm	Break
	2.45pm - 3.30pm	Session 4: Building connections in collaborative research
	3.30pm - 3.45pm	Closing comments

The event is part of a series of day events organised by the [VSSN – Voluntary Sector Studies Network](#) to build and strengthen national voluntary and community sector research networks.

This is a Free Event, however online registration is required. Registration closes at 12 pm on Friday 21st June 2024.

[Download the conference programme here](#)



## Engaging Young People in Your Tenant Participation Structure Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Join us for a special open meeting of the [Tenant Participation Practitioners Network](#) to share good practice in engaging younger tenants in your housing association's/AHB's activities.

**Special guest speaker Kirsty Peake from Bolton at Home** will share her experience working with Reclaim Youth to involve young people and to form a Young Person's Scrutiny Panel made up of 16 to 25-year-olds. Find out how she did it!

Open to members and non-members from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, let's talk about what works and what doesn't and share ideas to get more young people talking about housing.

### Register

If you are not a TPPN member, please register for this free event.

Email Siobhán O'Neill at [siobhan@supportingcommunities.org](mailto:siobhan@supportingcommunities.org).

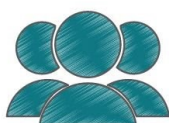


### Online Discussion 15 May, 10:30 am

Join us for a special open meeting of the **Tenant Participation Practitioners Network** to share good practice in engaging younger tenants in your housing association's/AHB's activities.

**Special guest speaker Kirsty Peake from Bolton at Home** will share her experience working with Reclaim Youth to involve young people and to form a Young Person's Scrutiny Panel made up of 16 to 25-year-olds. Find out how she did it!

Open to members and non-members from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, let's talk about what works and what doesn't and share ideas to get more young people talking about housing.



### Register Your Place

If you are not a TPPN member, please register for this free event. Email Siobhán O'Neill at [siobhan@supportingcommunities.org](mailto:siobhan@supportingcommunities.org).



[www.tpsupport.org](http://www.tpsupport.org)  
[www.supportingcommunities.org](http://www.supportingcommunities.org)



**Supporting  
Communities**  
Empowering Society

# Training

## Volunteer Now Training Sessions in May 2024

Keeping Children Safe: Training for Staff and Volunteers (NB over two evenings, 28/5 and 29/5)

**DATE:** Part 1: 28th May 2024 from 6.30pm to 9.30pm  
Part 2: 29th May 2024 from 6.30pm to 9.30pm



**\*\*PLEASE NOTE BOTH SESSIONS MUST BE ATTENDED\*\***

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

It will cover:

- the legal and policy context of safeguarding children;
- what abuse is and what we know about abuse;
- procedures for reporting concerns;
- creating a safe, child centred environment; and

- code of behaviour for staff/volunteers and children/young people.

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

This training programme is a suitable foundation for completing the Keeping Children Safe: Designated Officer Training.

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

[Click here for instructions on how to create a Training Account.](#)

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

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## Housing Rights Training

### Sustaining tenancies in the social rented sector



- Social tenants
- Social rented sector
- Tenancy

Help your clients address problems they are encountering in maintaining their social rented tenancy.

*Voluntary and Community from £64 / £77; Public and Statutory from £115 / £138*  
**Book now**

**Location;** Online, Via Zoom

**Date;** 14th May 2024

**Time;** 10 am to 1 pm

This course will help you to support clients who are facing difficulties in their current social home. You will find out about possible resolutions to help clients work with their social landlord to retain their tenancy.

What we will cover

- rent arrears and affordability
- anti-social behaviour
- abandonment
- disrepair
- Suitability

Who should attend?

- housing advisers
- community / residents group
- benefits advisers
- constituency office staff
- social and hostel accommodation providers
- solicitors

information on Housing Rights training courses and events, go to; [Training and events | Housing Rights](#)

## Entrepreneurship for All

Catalyst and Supporting Communities have partnered to bring you an exciting new opportunity – access to the Entrepreneurship for All programme.

The programme is open to ALL Women and other people who do not hold a degree (for clarification: women with a degree can register). This is an amazing opportunity for your local community, staff, volunteers and trustees.

The programme will be delivered in an area near you and commitment is limited to:

### Attend 3 x 2-3 hour sessions

Lunch will be provided and the programme will be led by Innovation Specialist Jacqueline McCann.

Jacqueline is among the best in the business and has over 25 years of experience in innovation and business development <https://uk.linkedin.com/in/jacqueline-mccann-8a052112>

Please encourage as many people as you can to join the programme as we would love to build on this and bring more, exciting programmes to our grassroots communities.

To register, click on this link and complete the online form:

<https://forms.monday.com/forms/167da4e357d9ec69689598ebdea080a1?r=use1>

If you or anyone else needs any assistance to complete the registration, we are happy to assist in any way we can.

If you have a community facility and would like to host some of the programme sessions please contact: [stephen@supportingcommunities.org](mailto:stephen@supportingcommunities.org)

Catalyst



Supporting Communities  
Empowering Society

Ever thought about starting or growing a business?

# ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR ALL



Jacqueline McCann

Limited spaces so

REGISTER NOW!

FREE SHORT COURSE



#### 100% Free

Learn from Innovation specialist Jacqueline McCann for FREE



#### Women?

Any Women aged 18+ can register.



#### Non-Degree holder?

Anyone else aged 18+ who does not have a Degree can register.



#### Commitment?

3 x 2-3 hour innovation sessions with free lunch!

#### In YOUR area

\*Dates and venues to be agreed

Register now for our free short course and take the first steps to starting or growing your business! We are specifically targeting women 18+ and anyone else who does not hold a degree aged 18+.

Copy and paste the link below into your browser and complete the online registration form or speak to your local Supporting Communities contact.

BOOK NOW

<https://shorturl.at/nrsP3>

Please note only for Northern Ireland residents

## 2024 Scholarships Launched!

**Supporting Communities is delighted to announce we are bringing back both of our scholarship programmes for 2024.**

### Supporting Communities Scholarship


Now entering its third year, The Supporting Communities Scholarship Fund is aimed at helping students from the Ballymena area who want to pursue full-time STEM or Business related degrees at a university in Northern Ireland. Again, this year, we will award this scholarship to two students. They will receive £2,000 per year for up to four years and £1,500 for IT equipment in their first year.

The fund is officially open for applications and closes on 30th June 2024.

Applicants are assessed at two stages, firstly via their application and secondly by interview if their application has been accepted.

The application form can be accessed here: <https://supportingcommunities.org/scholarship-fund>

If you have any queries regarding any of our scholarship programmes please contact Stephen Marks: [stephen@supportingcommunities.org](mailto:stephen@supportingcommunities.org)



YEAR 14 BALLYMENA STUDENTS

## Supporting Communities Scholarship Fund



**Ballymena A-level students! This one is for you!**

The Supporting Communities Scholarship Fund is for upper 6th form students in Ballymena who are applying to Queens or Ulster University this year to study STEM or Business degrees.

We are offering **£2,000 per year** for up to four years of your degree! We will also provide **£1,500** to buy IT equipment in your first year. Apply now!

Deadline for applications:  
5pm on 30 June 2024

[www.supportingcommunities.org/scholarship-fund](https://www.supportingcommunities.org/scholarship-fund)

**JK**  
The James Kane Foundation  
Supported by The James Kane Foundation

**Apply Now!**

ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE & CRAIGAVON STUDENTS


## The James Kane Foundation Scholarship Fund

The James Kane Foundation Scholarship is for Year 14 A-level students in the **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council area** who are applying to a NI University this year to study for a STEM degree.

We are offering **£2,000 per year** for up to three years of your degree! Apply now!

Deadline for applications:  
5pm on 30 June 2024

[supportingcommunities.org/james-kane-foundation-scholarship](https://supportingcommunities.org/james-kane-foundation-scholarship)



### The James Kane Foundation Scholarship

[The James Kane Foundation Scholarship](#) targets students in the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council (ABC) area who are applying to Queens or Ulster University this year to study STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) degrees.

There will be two recipients of this award, worth £2,000 per year of your course for up to three years (£6,000 in total).

We have had some genuinely excellent recipients of both awards in the past, and we are excited to meet future scholars through the programme this year.

Stephen Marks, who manages the scholarships, remarked, "I am thrilled to have been able to continue our work with both the Gallaher Trust and The James Kane Foundation to support deserving young people to achieve their goals for higher education. At Supporting Communities, we are passionate about ensuring these scholarships reach those most in need, and I look forward to facilitating a rigorous application and interview process for both funds."

Applications for both funds must be submitted by 5 pm on 30 June 2024. Get applying, and good luck!

# Funding

## Climate Action Fund – Our Shared Future Opens for UK Applications

The National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) has launched its new £20 million 'Climate Action Fund – Our Shared Values' as part of its wider Climate Action programme.



The funding is for **formal partnership** working across sectors, led by community and voluntary organisations or public sector organisations for projects that reach more people by either:

- Linking climate action to the everyday lives and interests of local communities and inspiring them to take action.
- Influencing communities at a regional or national level, for example by linking up groups across locations, or a campaign that inspires change across one country, or the whole UK.

The funding is intended to reach people who are new to climate action by funding other types of organisations and by using other using people's everyday activities and interests as a starting point for climate action.

For example, a project might:

- Involve people who have not had a say. This could be because they are new to climate action, or because they come from communities that experience poverty, disadvantage and discrimination.
- Introduce a climate perspective to a group who came together around another interest or activity.
- Test the best ways to engage different audiences in climate action.
- Spread an exciting local approach to climate

action by sharing it nationally.

There is particular interest in projects that involve people, places and communities experiencing poverty, discrimination and disadvantage.

A total of up to 25 projects is expected to be funded. The minimum grant is £500,000. It is expected that most grants will be between £1 million and £1.5 million over three to five years. Some exceptional projects of up to £3 million, for up to seven years, may be funded.

NLCF is holding the following information sessions:

- 16 May 2024 (11:00 to 12 noon) (Welsh and English).
- 21 May 2024 (14:00 to 15:00)

Advanced registration is required and can be done on the NLCF website.

There are currently no deadlines for funding applications.

**Applications will be accepted until at least 31 December 2024. NLCF plan to close to applications in early 2025.**

**For more information, please visit [Climate Action Fund - Our Shared Future | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://www.nlc.org.uk/our-shared-future)**

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## Material Focus Electricals Recycling Fund

The Electricals Recycling Fund aims to grow existing methods or test new creative and practical ones for recycling small household electricals. If you have a project that would make it easier for the public to repair, reuse or recycle their electricals, apply for funding below!

Almost 80% of people think recycling their electricals is the right thing to do – but only 45% of people think it's easy. We are looking to fund projects that make it easier for the UK to repair, donate or recycle their old electricals.

Funding applications are currently open on a rolling basis, which means there is no deadline for them.

[Submit an application](#)

**For more information please visit [Electricals Recycling Fund - Material Focus](#)**



## Access to Resilience

This programme is supported with money from Dormant Assets NI. Dormant Assets NI is an expansion of the Dormant Accounts Fund NI.

This programme aims to address the gaps in our Dormant Assets investment to date. We want to fund support organisations – sometimes known as network, umbrella, membership or community anchor organisations. We want these organisations to improve access to the help they provide to small, underrepresented community groups in Northern Ireland.

By small community groups, we mean groups with an annual income of around £10,000 up to £100,000.

By underrepresented community groups, we mean groups that focus on representing the needs of:

- older people
- disabled people
- women
- ethnically minoritised people
- faith-based communities
- LGBTQ+ people
- rural communities.

Specifically, we want to fund support organisations so that they can help community groups with things like:

- financial planning and budgeting
- project management
- good governance
- diversity and inclusion
- digital skills
- impact measurement
- strategic planning
- volunteer management
- collaboration
- leadership
- succession planning.

## Wellbeing of Women Launches Women's Health Community

Working in partnership with Holland & Barrett, the charity Wellbeing of Women is offering grants of up to £5,000 to small, grassroots organisations and community groups to deliver health information and support to women, girls and people from underrepresented groups in the UK.

The funding is for projects that address the following key points:

- Projects that aim to improve information, education and support for menstrual health, related gynaecological conditions e.g. PCOS, endometriosis, adenomyosis, fibroids, PMDD, and menopause.
- Support people and groups that are often underrepresented in mainstream healthcare, information and services, for example people from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds (BAME/global majority), LGBTQI+, people living with



Delivered by

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY  
COMMUNITY FUND

We want the projects we fund to address existing barriers and achieve meaningful and inclusive participation.

You might be a generalist support organisation that already helps a diverse range of community groups. You might want to improve access to underrepresented community groups who are not currently benefiting from that support.

Or you might be a specialist support organisation that already specialises in helping underrepresented community groups. For example, women, older people or disabled people.

Your aim might be to get more resources to meet the needs of these groups.

**Area:** Northern Ireland

**Suitable for:** Support, network, umbrella, membership or community anchor organisations.

**Funding size:** Up to £150,000, for up to 3 years.

**Total available:** £3 million. We aim to make around 25 to 30 grants.

**Application deadline:** 12pm on Thursday 4 July 2024

For more information, please visit [Access to resilience | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

disabilities, deaf people, blind and partially sighted people, people experiencing homelessness, addiction, people living in areas of economic deprivation.



Grants of up to £5,000 are available to spend across 12 months. Funds will be distributed in two tranches, 50% at the beginning of the project and 50% upon receipt of a six month report.

**The deadline for applications is 19 May 2024.**

**For more information, please visit** [Women's Health Community Fund - Wellbeing of Women](https://www.wellbeingofwomen.org.uk)



## Triangle Trust to Open for UK Applications with New Focus for 2024

Following on from its change in funding strategy last year, the Triangle Trust 1949 Fund is focusing its funding in 2024 solely on not-for-profit organisations working with vulnerable young women and girls who have been in the criminal justice system or who are at a high risk of entering it.

The Trust holds two grants rounds per year with grants of up to £80,000 over two years (up to £40,000 can be requested per year):

- The Spring round is for proposals wanting to work with young people who already have a criminal conviction.
- The Autumn round is for proposals focused on targeted work with high-risk young people on the edge of the criminal justice system.

Registered charities, not-for-profit social enterprises and community interest companies that are working within the UK and have a UK office can apply.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Have previous experience of working with vulnerable young women or girls either on the edge of the criminal justice system or who already have criminal convictions.
- Be requesting funding for a project working exclusively with young women and girls.



- Work solely with women and girls.
- Have a proven track record of running projects working with young women and girls that is both gender and trauma informed.
- Be proposing a project with targets that are specifically linked to either reducing the number of young women or girls who reoffend or reduce the number of young women and girls who receive a first conviction.
- Have an average annual income over the past three years of less than £1.5 million.
- Be a registered charity or an organisation set up with a clear social purpose and appropriate governing documents stating this.

The Trust particularly welcomes applications from organisations working in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

**The Spring 2024 application window opens on 18 April and closes on 23 May 2024.**

For more information and to apply, please visit [The Triangle Trust](#)

## Breast Cancer Charities have until 31 May to Submit a Grant Application (UK)

The Pink Ribbon Foundation is currently accepting applications from across the UK to its annual grants programme.

Grants of up to £6,000 are available to breast cancer charities in the UK that assist people affected by breast cancer and organisations that work on breast cancer research and prevention. The funding is for projects and initiatives that make a direct impact on individuals with breast cancer in the UK.

For the 2024 grant period and with requests for assistance growing, the Foundation decided to focus in the main on organisations with limited financial resources to deliver their services.

Application should relate to a specific project, not 'business as usual' or core costs. However, the Foundation has 'helped out' with core costs should the need be vital to the continuity of an organisation. Up to 15% of requests can be for unrestricted funding for the organisation to use as it deems necessary.

In most instances, the Foundation will consider funding

delivery for projects that are already up and running. These can also be pilot programmes that are being rolled out to

reach a new or much wider audience or projects that take a new approach in tackling a specific challenge.

Registered charities, community interest groups and social enterprises with a legal constitution and charitable objectives may apply.

The Foundation welcomes applications from all ethnic and minority groups.

Grant applications must be hard copy and reach the Foundation by the deadline.

**The deadline for applications is 31 May 2024.**

For more information and to apply, please visit [The Pink Ribbon Foundation](#)



## Sports Forum and Capital Grants 2024-2025

Funding is available to clubs through the annual Sports Forum Grant and Capital Grant Scheme. Both grants are managed by Sports Development.

Further information on grants and making an application is available by emailing the team at: [sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)

### Sports Forum Grants

Sports Forum Grants are now available for 2024/2025 to affiliated Sports Forum members.

The various funding streams available include the following:

- **Anniversary** - [Application/Guidelines](#) - Grant value up to £750.
- **Club Travel and Accommodation** - [Application/Guidelines](#) - Grant value up to £500.
- **Coach Education** - [Application/Guidelines](#) - Grant value up to £500.
- **Equipment** - [Application/Guidelines](#) - Grant value up to £1000.
- **Event** - [Application/Guidelines](#) - Grant value up to £1000.
- **Goldcard** - [Application/Guidelines](#) - Access to Council Leisure facilities at reduced rates.
- **Individual Travel and Accommodation** - [Application/Guidelines](#) - Grant value up to £500.
- **Schools Clubs Pathway** - [Application/Guidelines](#) - Grant value up to £500.
- **Seeding** - [Application/Guidelines](#) - Grant value up to £250.

Sports Forum Grants are only available to Sports Forum members who have been affiliated for a minimum of three months prior to application. £45,000 has been allocated for 2024/2025 financial year, application forms and guidance notes for each grant are available:

- By emailing

[sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)

- Contacting Sports Development on 07741 235231/0300 0133333 ext.40338
- Online at [www.leisureardsandnorthdown.com/sports-development/funding](http://www.leisureardsandnorthdown.com/sports-development/funding)
- Sports Development, Londonderry Park, Newtownards BT23 8SG

### Capital Grant Scheme

The Sports Development Capital Grant Programme provides financial assistance to eligible Sports Clubs for the delivery of capital projects and the purchase of capital equipment. 'Capital Expenditure' is defined as expenditure for purchase, improvement, restoration and construction of an asset directly related to the applicant organisation. It should have 'physical substance' i.e. be a tangible asset that can be listed on an asset register or a company's balance sheet (e.g. equipment, buildings) for use in the delivery of an organisation's activities; and it should have a useful life of more than one year.

The Council has set aside £45,000 for 2024/25 financial year and can award up to 50% of eligible capital costs with a maximum award of £5,000 in respect of any one project. Following grant assessment and allocations and if there is funding remaining, Council may consider awarding grants of more than £5,000 should the need be identified and in merit order.

Capital Grants are now open for 2024/2025. Deadline for submission is July 29th 2024 for assessment.

### Application Process

Download an Interactive form by clicking here - [Capital Grant Form](#) and [Guidance Notes](#)

Please submit forms to [Sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:Sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)



## Community Cashback is back!

Does your local community group need funding? Spar's grant scheme is aimed at supporting and giving back to the communities that they serve.

**This year, they've got 20 x £1000 grants to give back to local communities.**

Applications for this year's scheme open on Thursday 11th April 2024 and close at 23:59 on 22nd May 2024.



To apply for a grant please visit [SPAR NI donate £20,000 to local community organisations | SPAR \(spar-ni.co.uk\)](https://www.spar-ni.co.uk)





## Fibus Community Fund Open for 2024

Funding is available for community groups and voluntary organisations to address digital poverty in rural communities in Northern Ireland.

The Fibus Community Fund is awarding grants of a maximum of £2,000 to assist local groups and organisations in certain areas to improve digital access for the most marginalised members of the community, with a particular focus on older people, people on low income and people with disabilities.

Examples of the types of projects that could be funded include:

- Projects that provide access to engage with a range of digital devices (laptops, tablets, iPads, smart phones, etc), such as a community loan facility, etc.
- Projects that strengthen the capacity of individuals to use a range of available digital services, such as training workshops or courses.

- Projects that provide access to enhance connections with others, such as a community-use internet hub, or internet café, etc.



The Fibus Community Fund will have one round of funding in 2024. Applications will be accepted from community groups, voluntary organisations and other local, grassroots or community-led organisations with an annual income below £50,000. A detailed list of eligible postcodes can be found on the Community Foundation Northern Ireland website.

**The deadline for applications is 17 May 2024 (1pm).**

**For more information, please visit [The Fibus Community Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](https://www.communityfoundationni.org)**

## The Small Grants Programme

The PCSP Small Grants Programme has been developed to support community and voluntary organisations to deliver diversionary and detached youth engagement projects which will target areas of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the Borough. The Small Grants Programme will open on Thursday 25 April 2024 and application packs will be available below.

The purpose of the Small Grants Programme is to develop community safety awareness amongst young people to tackle ASB in local neighbourhoods and encourage positive lifestyles.

Projects must demonstrate that they can address ASB in hotspot areas where groups gather and engage in a range of negative behaviour including substance abuse, criminal damage, disruption, nuisance, street drinking, trespassing, drug trafficking and rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour.

### Funding Available:

The total amount allocated to the Small Grants Programme is £28,000, and the maximum grant available to each project is £4600.

Prospective applicants should note that all offers of funding are conditional and subject to the necessary budgets being secured by the PCSP.



### Small Grants Application Pack 2023 2024 (Including guidance notes)

[PCSP Small Grants Application Pack 2024-2025 \(Word doc\) \[745KB\]\(opens new window\)](#)

### Closing Date:

The closing date for receipt of applications is 4pm on Friday 24th May 2024.

Late applications will not be considered. Applications should be emailed in PDF format to [pcsp@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:pcsp@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)

### Support Available:

If you require guidance or support, please contact the PCSP team on 07748 148 796 or [pcsp@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:pcsp@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)



## The B&Q Foundation supports hundreds of registered charities across the UK every year.

Providing grants for a wide range of charities who are looking for funding to improve or develop spaces that benefit their local communities.

We know that charities are pushed for time and that is why we work with the team at Neighbourly to make the application process as easy as possible. Follow the three-step process below to apply for a B&Q Foundation grant.

### STEP1

#### Check our grant criteria

Check that your charity and potential project meets our grant criteria:

[Guidance & FAQs](#)

### STEP2

#### Apply for a grant

If your organisation meets the criteria for receiving a grant, please use the link below to apply through Neighbourly.

<https://www.neighbourly.com/BandQFoundation2024>



### STEP3

#### We'll be in touch

We'll assess your application and one of the team will be in touch. Please note due to the volume of applications it can take up to 2 months after the deadline to be notified with the outcome.

For more information, please visit [Apply For a Grant | B&Q Foundation \(bqfoundation.org.uk\)](#)

## Screwfix Foundation

The Screwfix Foundation is a **registered charity set up in 2013**. We are passionate about making a difference to communities across the UK. We are a grant giving charity with a clear purpose to support projects that improve, repair and maintain homes and community facilities used by those in need throughout the UK. The Screwfix Foundation currently offers local registered charities and not for profit organisations funding up to the region of £5,000. All applications are reviewed individually by our team on a quarterly basis, the review dates are in March, June, September and December. Please see our [Full eligibility criteria](#).

How do we raise money? We raise funds throughout the year to support causes that will change people's lives. Look out for raffles and fundraising weeks held within Screwfix stores and you can also round up your pennies when shopping online at [www.screwfix.com](http://www.screwfix.com) or on the Screwfix app.

As well as helping local charities and not for profit organisations, we also partner with Macmillan Cancer Support, donating funds towards their home improvement programme, which helps people suffering from cancer in financial need with minor home improvements.



You can see all of the great charities we have supported [here](#).

Before applying for funding from The Screwfix Foundation, your organisation **MUST**:

- Be a registered charity or not for profit organisation.
- Help those in need. This could be by reason of financial hardship, sickness, distress or other disadvantages in the UK.
- Be looking for funding to support projects that relate to the repair, maintenance, improvement or construction of. homes, community buildings and other buildings.

Please see our [Full eligibility criteria](#).

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



## Openreach Community Fund (previously the Telecommunity Fund)

### Who can apply:

Constituted grass roots community and voluntary groups

### Criteria:

- Priority will be given to applications from small groups, typically with an annual income of less than £200,000, as evidenced in most recent set of accounts.
- Projects must aim to directly support one of the following specific groups:
  - Young people
  - Older people
  - People with disabilities
- The Fund will not support projects targeting all ages.
- Priority will be given to projects that will benefit groups dealing with disadvantage (e.g. rural isolation, low income, social exclusion, reduced access to services), and projects that involve the beneficiaries in their development and delivery.
- In the event of oversubscription, priority will be given to lower income organisations

### Examples of types of projects that may be supported within Fund themes:

- Community education and training opportunities
- Communication and leadership skills
- Local initiatives to improve resources and community facilities
- Creativity and self-expression through drama, music or a range of arts activities
- Inclusion and involvement of disadvantaged communities
- Out of school projects for young people

The Foundation will not fund organisations or activities which promote causes that are contrary to our purposes. Causes and activities that are contrary to our purposes include, but may not be limited to, those outlined in our investment policy. We will not therefore fund organisations or activities which we determine are linked

to the promotion of armaments, alcohol, human rights abuses, tobacco or pornography.

The Fund will also not support organisations who advance religion, including those who have purposes within their governance to advance religion, or who seek financial support for any projects aimed at advancing a particular religion.

### Examples of previously funded projects:

- A 6 week programme of music therapy for children with autism.
- A creative arts and crafts programme for older people.
- The provision of an afterschool homework club in conjunction with a youth club.
- A 12 month drama therapy programme for adults with learning disabilities.
- A six week youth programme to design and produce outside art in the playground.

**Please note that this is a competitive process and that The Openreach Community Fund (previously the Telecommunity Fund) is normally significantly oversubscribed. Under the most recent funding round (January 2024) – 14% of applicants were successful.**

### Applying for The Openreach Community Fund (previously the Telecommunity Fund)

**This round of the Openreach Community Fund (previously the Telecommunity Fund) will close for applications at 1:00pm on Tuesday 28 May 2024.**

It is recommended that you read our [Grant FAQs](#) before starting your grant application. Should you have any further questions please contact the Grants Team on 028 9024 5927.

For more information, please visit [Openreach Community Fund \(previously the Telecommunity Fund\) - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](https://www.openreachcommunityfund.org)



## Lisburn & Castlereagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership – Project Support Programme – 2024/25

The aim of our PCSP is to help make our communities safer by focusing on the policing and community safety issues that matter most across the City. The Partnership is funded by the Department of Justice (DoJ), the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) through the Joint Committee and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

We have political representatives, statutory organisations and publicly appointed members of the community that play a role in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

To help make Lisburn & Castlereagh safer, the PCSP will:

- consult and engage with the local community on the issues of concern in relation to policing and community safety. The Policing Committee has a responsibility to provide views to the relevant district commander and the Policing Board on policing matters.
- identify and prioritise the particular issues of concern and prepare plans for how these can be tackled.
- monitor – a Policing Committee comprising the political and independent members will monitor the performance of the police and work to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime.
- deliver a reduction in crime and enhance community safety in the district, directly through its own actions, through the work of delivery groups or through support for the work of others.

The funding specifically aims to obtain the co-operation of the public to work with the police to prevent crime and enhance community safety. Therefore this funding may be used to either improve an existing, or start/develop a new relationship with the police.

Funding is available to local groups, organisations and partnerships wishing to undertake a Policing and Community Safety Project under one of the following objectives:

### Objective 1

To:

- work in partnership with local communities to reduce the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour by promoting local intervention initiatives

- to reduce the harm and effects of drug and alcohol as a contributing factor to crime and anti-social behaviour
- continue to work in partnership to increase reporting of Domestic Abuse incidents and to provide support for victims of Domestic Abuse
- increase the confidence in policing by developing and enhancing opportunities for engagement between local communities and police



### Objective 2

To reduce:

- the fear of crime and help people feel safer, especially vulnerable groups and/or those at risk of becoming victims of crime including addressing hate crime
- road deaths and serious injuries by working in partnership with statutory and voluntary organisations
- the number of burglaries by working in partnership with key statutory and voluntary organisations
- reduce business and retail crime

Projects should have a direct impact on the creation of safer communities with lower levels of crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and/or increased confidence in the police/reporting of crime within our council area during the period up to 28 February 2025.

The project support programme will be allocated in the range of £500 to £5,000.

Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP is not obliged to accept any or all bids and reserves the right to fund successful applications in part or in full.

Only one application will be accepted from each group/organisation/partnership.

Projects submitted should contribute to and reflect the aim of funding section as outlined in either objectives 1 or 2.

For more information please visit [Guidance Notes for Lisburn & Castlereagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership – Project Support Programme – 2024/25 - Lisburn & Castlereagh \(lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk\)](https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/guidance-notes-for-lisburn-castlereagh-policing-and-community-safety-partnership-project-support-programme-2024-25)



## Christmas Festive Fund 2024 & Live Smart Grant is now open for applications

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has developed the Christmas Festive Fund to support Community Associations from the towns, villages and hamlets to help celebrate Christmas. Due to a limited funding pot only ONE community group per settlement will be successful.



Projects / events must take place between **Saturday 30th November 2024 and 18th December 2024**. Activities must be cross community and open for all residents offering an opportunity for all within the locality to participate.

Levels of Grant Award are as follows:-

### FUND A – Up to £2,500

Applications for settlements with a population of 1,000 and above can apply for a range of costs relating to festive entertainment. Priority will be given to projects that promote wide community involvement for **outdoor events** celebrating this festive period.

### FUND B – Up to £750

Applications for settlements with a population between 100 - 999 can apply for a range of costs relating to festive entertainment. Priority will be given to projects that promote wide community involvement for **outdoor events** celebrating this festive period.

You may find it helpful to discuss your application with one of the following officers within the Tourism Events Team before submitting your application:

**Sara Adair** Tel: 07856280307  
[sara.adair@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk](mailto:sara.adair@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk)

**Tracey Freeman** Tel: 07712235746  
[tracey.freeman@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.freeman@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk)

**The Christmas Festive Fund closes for applications on Friday 31st May at 12 noon. For detailed guidance notes please select <https://grants.ccgbcapps.com/>**

**The LiveSmart Community Environment Grant** is now open for applications.

The 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 £750 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.
- FoodSmart: aims to prevent/reduce food waste and save money by encouraging and enabling us all to think, shop and eat smarter.
- PlasticSmart: aims to prevent/reduce plastic use and increase recycling with simple, practical actions. • LitterSmart: aims to prevent and reduce litter through education, encouraging responsible disposal and supporting local people to carry out litter lifts.
- ClothesSmart: aims to raise awareness of the impacts of purchasing, encourage lifelong care and reduce waste to landfill by giving unwanted clothes and textiles a new lease of life through donation, repair, reuse and recycling.

Applicants can request a grant up to a maximum of £750. 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.



## National Lottery Community Fund to Close Two Northern Ireland Programmes

The National Lottery Community Fund has announced that two Northern Ireland programmes, People and Communities and Empowering Young People, will close for new applications in May 2024.

Each year, the National Lottery Community Fund awards nearly £30 million to communities across Northern Ireland. When the Fund launched its strategy 'It starts with community' in June 2023, the organisation committed to review its funding programmes in NI. Since then, National Lottery Awards for All has been refreshed and the Fund launched a new environmentally focused programme in Northern Ireland, Sustainable Community Buildings.

Closing People and Communities and Empowering Young People is intended to allow time to prepare for the launch of a new National Lottery grants programme in autumn 2024. Organisations applying before this date should note that demand is expected to be high, and should ensure their project idea strongly fits with the criteria before completing an application.

The following levels of funding are available:



- People and Communities offers grants of between £20,001 and £500,000 for projects lasting between one and five years.
- Empowering Young People offers grants of between £20,001 and £500,000 for projects lasting between one and five years.

Applicants can expect to hear from the National Lottery Community Fund within around six weeks of submitting their application.

**The final deadline for new People and Communities or Empowering Young People applications is 13 May 2024 (5pm).**

For more information please visit [Funding in Northern Ireland | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

## King Charles III Charitable Fund's small grants programme is now open for applications

We are pleased to share that the small grants programme will open for applications from 9.30am on 1st May 2024 and close on 15th May 2024 at 12 noon.

**We will only be accepting applications from organisations for projects / activities in our environment and countryside funding themes.**

**Environment:** protecting and promoting the environment through efforts including habitat restoration, species conservation, carbon savings and sequestration and circular economies.

**Countryside:** investing in the economic and environmental future of the countryside. This includes support of sustainable and regenerative agriculture, nature friendly farming practices and a brighter future for those who live and work in rural communities.

If your organisation works across our other funding themes, you can learn more about our plans for the small grants programme in 2024/25 [here](#). We will post the precise opening dates for the August and February application windows in due course.

Our small grants programme is open for non-profit organisations with an income of less than £1m per year to apply for funding. The programme provides awards of up to £5,000 per year for up to three years. The average award is £2,000.

Prospective applicants should review our detailed [eligibility criteria](#) and [guidance notes](#), as well as all the information on our '[Guidance for Grantees](#)' page before applying.



**Applications will be accepted through our online portal from 9.30am on 1st May 2024 to 15th May 2024 at 12 noon.**

Grant decisions will be communicated to all applicants in mid-July. If your application is unsuccessful, please wait one year from the date of your application before submitting another to any of the Fund's grantmaking programmes. Regrettably, we will not be able to offer specific feedback on applications due to the volumes we receive.

Stay tuned for updates and announcements regarding grant application deadlines, review processes, and funding decisions. Follow us on Instagram and X (Twitter) @kingcharlesfund to receive the latest news and opportunities.

For more information, please visit [Small grants programme to open in May for environment and countryside - King Charles III Charitable Fund \(kccf.org.uk\)](https://www.kccf.org.uk)



## May Funding Clinic Sessions

Tuesday, 14th May 2024 at 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

Finding the right funding can be difficult and time-consuming. Get some help to streamline the process and improve your chances of success!

HCN members can book a one-to-one funding support session with Anita Doonan, Funding and Social Value Officer, for advice and help to access the resources your group needs.

Start thinking about your next projects by asking questions like:

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

**Book Your Place**  
Please [fill in this form](#)  
to request an  
appointment.

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

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

