



Date: 28th September 2011

Welcome to the 2nd Edition of Supporting Communities NI E-Biz

NEWS

N.I.C.V.A. Members Session - Managing Information

This session will begin with an overview of N.I.C.V.A.'s priorities for the next three years, outlining our strategic plan. This will include some of our commitments to our members for the coming years. Information sessions will include:

Complying with data protection, covering elements of the data protection act relevant for this working in the voluntary and community sector;

Calculating, monitoring and evaluating information, covering practical Social Return on Investment methods of measuring the impact of the work you do;

Communication - Information as a promotional tool, which will cover both traditional forms of communication in the written word, for example press releases, as well as using modern technologies like social networking.

When: Thursday 27 October 2011 The session will be held at The Navan Centre, 31 Killylea Road, Armagh. BT60 4LD.

Cost: Free for full N.I.C.V.A. Members (Two free places per organisation).
Extra member delegate rate is £30 per person. Non-member rate is £70 per person.

To book a place please visit www.nicva.org/events and fill out a booking request or contact Georgie Finlay: georgie.finlay@nicva.org or call 028 9087 7777.

Public Accounts Committee at N.I.C.V.A.

On Wednesday 13th October 2011 at 2.00 p.m. the Public Accounts Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly will hold its meeting in N.I.C.V.A.'s Duncairn Gardens offices. The meeting will consider the 2010 NI Audit Office report 'Creating Effective Partnerships between Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector' and will hear evidence from D.S.D. Permanent Secretary Will Haire and N.I.C.V.A. Chief Executive Seamus McAleavey.



Seats in the public gallery will be allocated on a first come first serve basis and so anyone interested in attending is advised to arrive in N.I.C.V.A. around 1.30 p.m. Tea and coffee will be available from then which should also offer the opportunity to meet with committee members before their meeting begins.

More information can be found on N.I.C.V.A.'s website www.nicva.org/news/public-accounts-committee-hold-meeting-nicva?from=enews19_09

Family Support Website Launched

On 22nd June 2011 Health Minister, Edwin Poots launched a new regional website www.familysupportni.gov.uk



The website enables the public, practitioners and service planners to access information on a wide range of organisations providing services to support families at local levels in Northern Ireland.

The site provides information on Family Support Services including child minding, daycare, disability, domestic abuse, drug/alcohol misuse, mental health, social care for children, leisure, support for young offenders and others.

The Family Support NI website aims to ensure that all parents who need help or support can find the service they need and how to access it, no matter whether this service is provided by a statutory, private, community or voluntary organisation.

The Family Support Website Team is now contacting services not currently on the website with a view to including them on it. *There is no charge for including details of any organisation or service on this website.*

If you wish to have your organisation details included on the site; wish to publicise events or services your organisation is holding or have any queries about the website please contact us at: Email : info@familysupportni.gov.uk Tel : 0845 600 6483

Parenting Manifesto for NI

Parenting NI, formerly Parents Advice Centre, called for a more co-ordinated approach within and across government departments regarding parenting policy, at an event to launch the Parenting NI manifesto.

The Parenting NI manifesto calls for a series of policy changes in four areas that the organisation feels parents require the most assistance; namely, support, education, giving parents a voice and valuing parents.

For further information on Parenting NI please visit <http://www.parentingni.org/>. Parenting NI also needs helpline volunteers.

If you have substantial parenting experience and/or significant experience of working with families and are ready for a new challenge why not train to be a Parenting NI helpline volunteer! Preparation course commences Tuesday 4th October 2011.

For further information please contact Andrea on 028 9031 0969, e-mail volunteer@parentingni.org or visit www.parentingni.org/volunteering

Draft Framework for Community Development in NI

The Rural Community Network (R.C.N.) is hosting an event on Wednesday 5th October 2011 to hear the views of interested groups on the Draft Framework. The event will be held at Oxford Island and is free of charge.

To register an interest or book a place, contact Sarah Christie at R.C.N., 028 8676 6670 or email sarah@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

Benefit Checks for Older People

The Social Security Agency is offering Benefit entitlement checks for older people living in the following Council areas: Ards, Belfast, Carrickfergus, Cookstown, Derry, Limavady, Moyle, Newtownabbey and Strabane.

The checks can be accessed until February 2012.
Call FREEPHONE 08002321271.



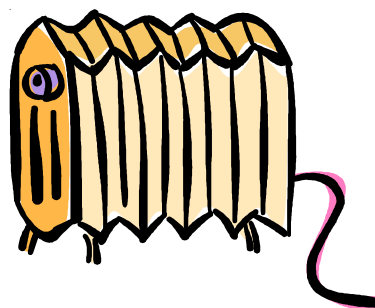
21 Degrees - New Heating System for Home Owners/Private Tenants in Receipt of Child Tax Credit Below Income £15,860

Just to keep you all informed H&A Mechanical are now taking referrals for a new scheme called 21 degrees. 21 degrees is a fully funded scheme funded by N.I.S.E.P. which offers low income householders a new or upgraded gas or oil central heating system to those who have Solid Fuel, E7, LPG or old/inefficient oil/gas boilers.

To qualify for the scheme, the person must own or rent their home, be in receipt of Child Tax Credit, on an income of no more than £15,860 and have Solid Fuel, E7, LPG or have and old inefficient oil or gas boiler. (Boilers must be over 15 year old)

Please be advised that there are only limited spaces available and this will come on a first come first serve basis. If you have clients that you would like to refer onto this scheme please email myself or Mark Williamson with the following details:

Client Name
Address including Postcode
Own or Rent
(Landlords details if applicable)
Telephone Number
Date of Birth
Type of Heating
Age of Boiler (if applicable)



If you have any queries please contact Sinead O'Boyle on 028 79627220 or Mark Williamson mark@hamechanicalservices.com

Winter Fuel Allowance Cut



FACT

This year, the UK Government has decided to:

- ♦ Cut the Winter fuel payment for people aged between 60 and 80 by £50
- ♦ Cut the Winter fuel payment for people aged over 80 by £100

Age Sector Platform believes that this is a shocking decision and that the Government needs to do more to help tackle the scandal of fuel poverty, not less.

We have to send a clear message that the decision to reduce the help to older people in heating their homes is wrong and dangerous.

We need older people in Northern Ireland to make their voice heard on this critical matter and we ask you to support the campaign by signing our petition.

To request a postcard or to find out more

<http://www.agesectorplatform.org/index.php/fight-the-fuel-cut/> or phone [028 9031 2089](tel:02890312089).

CONSULTATION

Current consultations with closing date:

Draft Disability Action Plan 2012-2014

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Closing date; 28th October 2011

www.dhssps.gov.uk/showconsultations?txtid=50908

Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Action Plan
2011-2014

Health and Social Care Board

Closing date: 9th November 2011

www.hscboard.hscni.net

Minimum Standards for Childminding and Daycare for Children Under Age 12

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Closing date: 24th October 2011

www.dhssps.gov.uk/showconsultations?txtid=50908

Waste Management Strategy

Department of Environment

Closing Date; 20th October 2011

www.doeni.gov.uk/index.htm

REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM IN NI

The Justice Minister David Ford has today published the Report on the Review of the Youth Justice System in Northern Ireland. The Report and other companion documents, along with the formal consultation document can be downloaded from the Youth Justice Review section of the Department of Justice website:

<http://www.dojni.gov.uk/youth-justice-review>

Closing Date: 30th December 2011

If you require any further information please contact:

Youth Justice Unit

Room A4.15, Block A, Castle Buildings

Stormont, Belfast.

BT4 3SG

E-mail: youthjusticereviewteam@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk

PROPOSALS FOR A CHARGE ON SINGLE USE CARRIER BAGS

Department of the Environment

Closing date: 12th October 2011

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/waste.htm

By email to: ian.troy@doeni.gov.uk

By post to: Ian Troy, Department of the Environment,
Environmental Policy Division
6th Floor, Goodwood House,
44-58 May Street, Belfast BT1 4NN

By fax to: 028 9025 4732



TRAINING

The following training courses are currently offered:

Volunteer Now has published its Autumn training schedule.

The full schedule can be accessed at www.volunteernow.co.uk

In addition, **Volunteer Now** is offering a certified course

'Adult Safeguarding: A Shared Responsibility' for those working with Vulnerable Adults;

The course costs £20 per person and is available from the following locations:

Armagh Theatre and Arts Centre	-13th & 20th October 2011
Belfast, Volunteer Now	-15th & 22nd November 2011
Antrim Enterprise Agency	-14th & 21st January 2012
Lisburn Enterprise Organisation	-16th & 23rd February 2012
Enniskillen	-19th & 26th April 2012

To book a place, go to www.volunteernow.co.uk/training-and-standards.

A copy of the report 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, A Shared Responsibility' is available from www.volunteernow.co.uk/publications



EVENTS

Our Past, Our Present, Your Future...

R.C.N. are celebrating 20 years of working with Rural Communities in the Torrent Complex, Donnaghmore, Dungannon, on Thursday 20th October 2011 from 10.00 a.m.- 4.15 p.m.



Housing Conference; Changes, Challenges and Conquests

Organised by the Housing Team at the School of the Built Environment at U.U.J., the conference will aim to consider the challenges facing housing in NI in the next 10 years. The conference will be held on **Wednesday 9th November 2011 from 9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.** in the Board Room at U.U.J., Jordanstown Campus, cost £95.



Contact Peter Shanks on 028 9036 8225 or by Email pshanks1@ulster.ac.uk

Northern Ireland Credit Unions Roadshows

Important changes to the regulation of Credit Unions are due to commence for the next financial year. From 31st March 2012 the Financial Services Authority (F.S.A.) will assume regulatory responsibility for Credit Unions. The impact of these changes will be discussed at a series of roadshows being run by the F.S.A. from 5.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. in the following locations:

Tuesday 27 th September 2011	-Stormont Hotel, Belfast
Wednesday 28 th September 2011	-Westville Hotel, Enniskillen
Tuesday 4 th October 2011	-Waterfront Hotel, Derry
Wednesday 5 th October 2011	-Canal Court Hotel, Newry
Thursday 6 th October 2011	-Stormont Hotel, Belfast

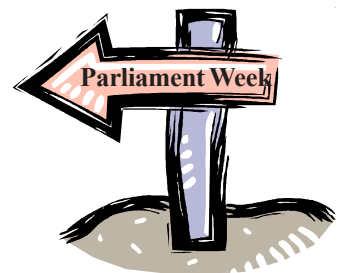
For more information and to book a place, contact eventsbooking@fsa.gov.uk

Parliament Week to Visit Derry/Londonderry

Parliament Week 31st October 2011 to 6th November 2011

An all day event will be held in the Waterside Theatre in Derry/Londonderry looking at the work of the Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee and Parliaments Scrutiny of Bills.

The events are free of charge; contact parliamentaryoutreach@parliament.uk



FUNDING



Public Health Agency and CLEAR Funding Opportunity

The P.H.A. have identified non –recurring funding to address the themes of suicide prevention, self harm and drugs and alcohol misuse and have asked the CLEAR project to facilitate this on their behalf and in conjunction with the W.H. & S.C.T. The CLEAR project are inviting community and voluntary sector organisations to apply for non-recurring awards to address the outlined themes.

There are two types of grants available:

- Grants up to £1000
- Grants from £1,000-£10,000

For further details please contact Shauna Houston, CLEAR Project Manager on 028 7138 3386 or Email shauna@derryhc.com.

Big Lottery Fund – Village SOS

The Village SOS competition is giving around 250 villages across the UK a share of £5.3 million to kick start a community business



The Village SOS Competition will give around 250 awards of between £10,000 and £30,000 to kick start community businesses.

We want to support inspiring business ideas that will bring people together in villages across the UK and support activities and enterprises that will tackle the challenges they face.

Entering the competition is easy - we can even accept entries from informal community groups.

We've extended the deadline to **Thursday 20th October 2011** to give groups more time to work on their enterprising ideas.

You must be a Village SOS member to enter the competition.

Find out more about the competition



If you're not in a village but would like to know how to set up a community enterprise that would benefit your area, or connect with like minded people in your community please go to www.villagesos.org.uk



I.E.F. Grant Programme to Encourage Discussion on Education

The Community Engagement in Education (C.E.E.) grant programme has been opened by the Integrated Education Fund. This is a new grant programme (with an initial overall total of £20,000) which offers grants of up to £5,000.

C.E.E. is open to constituted voluntary and community sector groups in a particular geographic locality to develop discussions both about how their children and young people currently learn with and about each other in school, and possibilities for the future.

The purpose of these community led discussions would be:

- ❑ **T**o value and explore what is currently happening within and between local schools with regards to sharing;
- ❑ **T**o explore local interest and demand for greater sharing both within and between local schools that enhances the sustainability of quality local education provision;
- ❑ **T**o explore possibilities for the future;
- ❑ **T**o engage in dialogue with key decision makers on local possibilities.

The total amount of funding available for the programme is limited and therefore the number of grants that the I.E.F. can award is also restricted.

Closing date for applications is **7th October 2011**. For further information contact Sara Shields, Grants Officer on 028 9033 0031 or email sara@ief.org.uk. Information can also be accessed on <http://www.ief.org.uk/grants/cee/>

Coca-Cola 125 Years Thank You Fund

To celebrate 125 years of Coca-Cola, we have established the **Coca-Cola 125 Years Thank You Fund** in partnership with The Wheel and the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (N.I.C.V.A.). Coca-Cola is donating €125,000 to the fund which will be granted to non-profit community, voluntary and charitable organisations across the island of Ireland.



From the 600 applications received, a shortlist of 45 projects has been selected. We want to thank all of the organisations who took the time to submit an application form. We were really impressed by the truly inspirational work that is happening throughout the island and found it really challenging to create this shortlist.

Now it is time for the public to have their say! In addition to an expert judging panel who will help to select the final 15 – all of whom will be awarded a financial grant - members of the public have the opportunity to award 50% of the votes available.

Voting is open to the public from now until 30th September 2011. The 15 winners will be announced in October 2011, when 10 organisations will receive €10,000 each and 5 will receive €5,000 each.

All organisations who submitted an application provided details of how they proposed to spend the available grants. A summary of that project, as submitted in the words of each organisation, on the website.

In order to vote, you will need to be logged into Facebook. Make sure you scroll down and view the full list before choosing – **you can only vote once!**

Click the link <http://www.coca-cola.ie/125-thank-you-fund/thank-you-fund-voting-form.html>

UPCOMING CLOSING DATES

BBC Children In Need – Next deadline for application – 15th October 2011

Two grant programmes available, small grants £10,000 or less and a main grants programme more than £10,000.

The focus of the grants is for young people up to the age of 18yrs.

For more information check the website www.bbc.co.uk.pudsey/grants or Tel: 028 9033 8221.

Lloyds TSB Foundation NI

The next closing date for applications is 14th October 2011, please check the website www.lloydstsbfoundationni.org