



**Date:** 17th October 2011

## **Welcome to the 3rd Edition of Supporting Communities NI E-Biz**

### **NEWS**

#### **Health Minister Launches Charity's Childminding Proposal**

The Health Minister, Edwin Poots, has launched a report which proposes the creation of an additional 900 childminding places annually over the next four years. The proposal, which was launched on 28th September 2011 at Parliament Buildings, is part of a package of measures which N.I.C.M.A. – the Childminding Association is urging the Northern Ireland Executive to proceed with.



Registered childminding is the most popular form of full-time childcare in Northern Ireland, accounting for 61% of full-time daycare places. Yet the number of registered childminders has fallen in recent years and many parents have difficulty finding childcare. N.I.C.M.A. is proposing the introduction of a Childminder Start-up Programme which would provide new childminders with practical start-up assistance, mentoring and resources.

Another issue of particular concern to N.I.C.M.A. is the length of time it can take to register as a childminder. N.I.C.M.A.'s own survey evidence shows it takes, on average, seven months for a would-be childminder to go through the registration process – more than double the official maximum period of three months.

For more information and to read the proposal visit [www.nicma.org/](http://www.nicma.org/)

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#### **Tax and Benefits Advice Service**

Advice NI will be delivering a new, unique Tax and Benefits Advice Service which offers advice and support to members of the public struggling with issues relating to tax and/or benefits. The service will launch on Monday 26th September 2011 and will be available through a Freephone telephone helpline and a number of outreach venues throughout Northern Ireland.

The service will focus specifically on Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (H.M.R.C.) related products and services, such as:

- Tax Credits
- Child Benefit
- Financial support for Registered Childcare
- PAYE
- Self Assessment
- National Minimum Wage
- National Insurance Contributions





The two new advisors, Sue Stevenson [sue@adviceni.net](mailto:sue@adviceni.net) and Jennie Hammond [jennie@adviceni.net](mailto:jennie@adviceni.net) have a wealth of knowledge and experience in dealing with H.M.R.C. products and services and providing welfare rights advice.

Jennie will be based at the Advice NI headquarters and will be offering a Northern Ireland wide Freephone tax advice service. The Freephone telephone helpline is available on 08009882377 (going live on the 26th September) and will operate Monday to Friday, 9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m., with a messaging service outside these hours.

Sue will be based at a number of outreach locations throughout Northern Ireland and will provide a face to face tax advice service including appointment based and drop-in sessions and home visits.

Both Sue and Jennie are available from the 26<sup>th</sup> to answer any queries you may have in relation to H.M.R.C. products and services and to receive client referrals from you for more complex H.M.R.C. related work.

For further information please feel free to contact Jennie or Sue or email [tax@adviceni.net](mailto:tax@adviceni.net)

## CONSULTATIONS

### Current consultations with closing dates:

Social Investment Fund

Office of the First and Deputy First Minister

The purpose of the consultation is to seek your views on the proposed operation of the fund, including options for applying to the fund, assessment criteria and delivery mechanism.

Closing date: 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011

[www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/social-investment-fund](http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/social-investment-fund)

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

Health and Social Care Board

Closing date: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011

[www.hscboard.hscni.net](http://www.hscboard.hscni.net)

Belfast City Centre Waiting List

NI Housing Executive

Closing date: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011

[www.nihe.gov.uk/belfast\\_consultation.pdf](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/belfast_consultation.pdf)

Minimum Standards for Childminding and Daycare for Children Under Age 12

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Closing date: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2011

[www.dhssps.gov.uk/showconsultations?txtid=50908](http://www.dhssps.gov.uk/showconsultations?txtid=50908)





**Supporting  
Communities NI**  
Building Strong Cohesive Communities

"Helping Communities Help Themselves"

**Action  
cancer**

Saving Lives Supporting People  
Northern Ireland's leading local cancer charity

### **Action Cancer Survey**

Did you know that 1 in 3 people are affected by cancer and that up to 50% of cancers are preventable through a healthy balanced lifestyle?

Executive Action is made up of the Housing Executive's 12 Graduate Trainees who are working directly with Action Cancer. They are helping to carry out research and need your help to ensure that both organisations can target their services more effectively to both staff and the wider community.

We are asking all Community groups to please take 5 minutes to fill in this short questionnaire; it will go a long way to combating cancer. Please visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Healthpromotionserviceneeds> to access the survey.

Your support is greatly appreciated and will help to improve services in Northern Ireland.

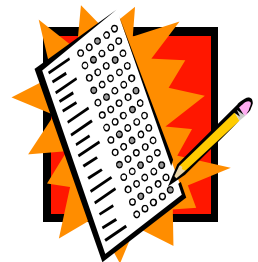
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### **Strategic Framework for Community Development for NI...**

**Rural Community Network** is leading on this initiative with support provided by **Building Change Trust**. The Framework is a co-ordinated attempt at starting to explore the purpose, value and contribution of community development practice in Northern Ireland.

Following the June workshops and using a number of submissions from key sectoral organisations a draft framework had been produced.

R.C.N. is now seeking your views on the draft Framework and an accompanying diagram that may be included in final design. These two documents can also be retrieved by following the link below.



[www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org/news/news.aspx?ID=357&type=news](http://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org/news/news.aspx?ID=357&type=news)

Please send your comments by no later than 4.00 p.m. on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011 by email: [fergal@ruralcommunitynetwork.org](mailto:fergal@ruralcommunitynetwork.org)

To find out more or to book a place please contact [training@adviceni.net](mailto:training@adviceni.net).

## **EVENTS**

### **Policy and Advocacy Forum**

The next lobbying and advocacy policy forum will take place on Friday 28 October 2011 from 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. at N.I.C.V.A., 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast BT15 2GB.

The guest speaker at this forum will be Christine Robinson, special adviser to Minister for Employment and Learning, Stephen Farry M.L.A.



To find out more about any of N.I.C.V.A.'s policy fora please contact Patricia Stewart at [patricia.stewart@nicva.org](mailto:patricia.stewart@nicva.org) or call 028 9087 7777. N.I.C.V.A.'s policy fora are part of N.I.C.V.A.'s Vital Links work, a project supported by the European Union's Peace III Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

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### **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](http://www.nicva.org/events) and fill out a booking request or contact Georgie Finlay: [georgie.finlay@nicva.org](mailto:georgie.finlay@nicva.org) or call 028 9087 7777.**

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### **Belfast Community Planning Events**

The Belfast Community Planning Consortium is hosting a series of events over the next few months to share the emerging Belfast community planning model with interested stakeholders.

The Local Insights Seminar Series throughout October will focus on individual aspects of Community Planning by showcasing examples of local projects including. Local Area Working in Belfast, Integrated Services for Children and Young People and Locality Planning in Mount Vernon. All members of the voluntary and community sector, and other interested parties are welcome to attend.

The Belfast Community Planning Consortium will also present its draft community planning model for consultation at two workshops to be held Tuesday 8th November 2011 in Farset International and Wednesday 9th November 2011 in Belfast City Hall.

For further details on any of these events and to book your place please visit: [www.belfastcity.gov.uk/communityplanning/events.asp](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/communityplanning/events.asp)



## **CollaborationNI's informal networking session 'Brief encounters'**

**11th November 2011, 9.00 a.m. - 12 noon at N.I.C.V.A.**

If you are lacking opportunities to meet others in the voluntary and community sector or simply want to widen the contacts you already have then this free networking session is for you. CollaborationNI's speed networking event provides a rare opportunity to come along and make as many contacts as you can within the voluntary and community sector - and all in three hours!



Registration and breakfast will be available from 8.30 a.m. The event will close with lunch, giving you another opportunity to follow up with any of your new connections.

[www.nicva.org/events/brief-encounters](http://www.nicva.org/events/brief-encounters) or for more details on this event contact: Leeann Kelly on 028 9087 7777 or email [leeann.kelly@nicva.org](mailto:leeann.kelly@nicva.org)

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## **BIHR Human Rights Tour**

**'Making Human Rights Happen' - 16 Rights | 16 Cities | 16 Weeks**

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission is co-hosting a free all-day workshop in Belfast on Wednesday 23rd November.

This event is part of the B.I.H.R. Human Rights Tour, which is visiting 16 cities across the UK from September to December 2011. Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about human rights and how they work
- Discuss how human rights and the Human Rights Act in particular, relate to the issues you work on or deal with
- Consider inspiring examples of how human rights can be protected and promoted in Northern Ireland

The venue for the event is N.I.C.V.A., 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB.

For further details, and to book a place\* at this event, please visit:

<http://www.bihhr.org.uk>

- \* Please note that priority will be given to those who have not previously attended N.I.H.R.C. Introduction to Human Rights Training. Further, you cannot attend the event without booking a place online.

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## **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 ten years.

The conference will be held on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 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 90368225 or by email [pshanks1@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:pshanks1@ulster.ac.uk)



## TRAINING

**The following training courses are currently offered:**

Volunteer Now has published it's Autumn training schedule. The full schedule can be accessed at [www.volunteernow.co.uk](http://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. The course is available at the following locations:

Belfast, Volunteer Now	- 15 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2011
Antrim Enterprise Agency	- 14 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2012
Lisburn Enterprise Organisation	- 16 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2012
Enniskillen	- 19 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2012

To book a place, go to [www.volunteernow.co.uk/training-and-standards](http://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](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/publications)

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### Advice NI Training Courses

There are limited places left on the training programmes below. Book now to avoid disappointment.

#### Community Care and Older People:

- 2 day course – 27 October and 9 November 2011

#### Housing and Older People:

- 2 day course – 10 and 17 November 2011

For information about these courses including content, dates, accreditation and fees and for information about other training offered by Advice NI please see the training brochure at [www.adviceni.net](http://www.adviceni.net)



To find out more or to book a place please contact [training@adviceni.net](mailto:training@adviceni.net).



## **Housing Rights Service Course Housing Options (Accreditation Pending)**

**Belfast - 1st and 2nd November 2011**

There are a variety of types of accommodation available in NI and whether a person needs to access emergency accommodation, wants to rent a property, share with friends or buy a property, it's vital that the accommodation meets the needs of the individual and their household.

This 2 day training course will examine housing options available in Northern Ireland, examine methods of accessing particular accommodation and consider the rights and responsibilities associated with it.

In particular the course will examine:

- Range of housing options in Northern Ireland
- Homelessness & accessing social housing
- Rights in the private rented sector
- Finding emergency accommodation
- Supported/sheltered accommodation



This introductory course is designed to provide an overview of housing in Northern Ireland. The course is suitable for those who wish to obtain a better understanding and knowledge surrounding housing issues in Northern Ireland including welfare rights advisers, constituency office workers, policy staff.

### **Costs**

Agency Members of Housing Rights Service £100 p.p. Non members £135 p.p.  
Associate Members of Housing Rights Service £120 p.p. Non members £255 p.p.

\*For those wishing to register with O.C.N. NI there will be an additional registration fee of £25.

To reserve your place, contact Geraldine on 028 9024 5640 or email [geraldine@housingrights.org.uk](mailto:geraldine@housingrights.org.uk)

## **FUNDING**

Community Relations Council



### **Community Relations Council - Core Funding**

Programme funding for organisations whose core work is community relations.

The Core Funding Programme application materials are now available to download.



The closing dates for submission of completed forms are as follows:

**Renewal Groups – Deadline**

- 28th October 2011 at 4.00 p.m. - Submitted to: C.R.C.'s Belfast Office

**New Applicant Groups – Deadline**

- 25th November 2011 at 4.00 p.m. - Submitted to: C.R.C.'s Belfast Office

[www.community-relations.org.uk](http://www.community-relations.org.uk)

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### **Epic Awards Announce Prize Packages**

The prizes and sponsors for the 2011 Epic Awards have been announced. The package of prizes include:

- £125 cash for each winner
- Annual membership of Arts Development UK (worth £165) for each winner
- GreatArt gift vouchers worth £250 for each winner
- GreatArt gift vouchers worth £100 for each runner-up
- National publicity for the winners and an invitation to a prestigious winners' reception
- Plus training and mentoring

The prizes reflect the unique aim of the Epic Awards to place voluntary and amateur arts firmly in the spotlight by increasing recognition of the high-quality work taking place. The Epic Awards are open to voluntary and amateur art and craft groups demonstrating excellence in some or all of the following areas: engagement, partnerships, innovation and creativity. Entries have already been coming in from a range of groups from around the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Groups can keep up with Epic Awards news and benefit from advice by subscribing to the regular Epic Tips postings on the Epic Awards blog: <http://blog.epicawards.co.uk/>

Mary Lowe, England Co-ordinator of Voluntary Arts England and architect of the Epic Awards, comments:

"The Epic Awards 2011 are a perfect opportunity to showcase the excellent and innovative work being carried out in amateur arts and crafts groups across the UK and Republic of Ireland. One of the biggest benefits of winning an Epic Award is achieving national acclaim and recognition, and being able to attend a high-profile awards ceremony. Groups will also hugely benefit from the prize package of materials, support and training to enable them to go from strength to strength."

Entries for this year are now open and they **close on 11th November 2011**, with the winners invited to a prestigious reception in early 2012.

A full list of prizes is available at [www.epicawards.co.uk](http://www.epicawards.co.uk)



## **Hilton in the Community Foundation**

Hilton in the Community Foundation wants to help as many young people as possible. Under the banner Supporting Young People Worldwide, the Foundation is dedicated to making a real difference to those most in need. Through targeted grant giving, they aim to support smaller charities that might otherwise be overlooked. Deadline 18th October, for more information contact on 020 7605 7733 or check the website on [www.hilton-foundation.org.uk](http://www.hilton-foundation.org.uk)

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## **Northern Bank Community Grants**

**Northern Bank**

Northern Bank's four regions across Northern Ireland will allocate funding locally with the support of external representatives from the world's of knowledge, culture and sport.

Funding applications can include the outlay of a special event in school, special guest lecturers during community week, theatre performances, music festivals or a youth sport coaching masterclass. Grants are available from £500 to £5,000.

### **How to Apply**

Local projects may apply for a grant by completing the short application form available for download from the website [www.northernbank.co.uk](http://www.northernbank.co.uk) and available at the counter in all Northern Bank branches.

Completed application forms should be returned to any Northern Bank branch.

Closing date 1st November 2011

Contact details: Vanessa Postle  
Dansk Bank Group  
183 Donegal Square West  
Belfast  
Northern Ireland BT1 6JS

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## **Win Free E-marketing Support Package for your Arts Group! (NI)**

Art Take Part in partnership with Audiences NI would like to help local voluntary arts groups across Northern Ireland grow their audiences and participants using e-marketing. In the month of October we are running a competition to give away 15 free support packages. If you are new to e-marketing or would like to create more engaging campaigns then this could be for you.

To be in with a chance of winning your support package (worth £300 to your group) simply upload your group details on Art Take Part before 31st October. Already uploaded? Then send an email to [info@arttakepart.org](mailto:info@arttakepart.org) putting e-marketing in the subject line. The winners will be drawn and notified on 1st November.



The support package includes:

- My Emma e-marketing service (<http://myemma.com/>) and a range of training opportunities as part of a one year membership of Audiences NI at the Develop level.
- Bespoke training for voluntary groups in setting up the e-marketing system, incl. bespoke branded stationery and training on how to use the system.
- Inclusion in an annual arts sector e-marketing benchmark report, produced by Audiences NI, enabling you to measure your activity against other arts organisations.
- Profile and promotion through the Art Take Part site joining the 100+ local arts groups already involved.
- Promotion of your events and activities through Facebook (5000+ fans) and Twitter (500+ followers).

For more details contact Tony on 028 7127 2501, [info@arttakepart.org](mailto:info@arttakepart.org) or visit <http://bit.ly/qp9dLq>

Art Take Part is an online search facility which enables people to find places to learn or do creative activities near where they live. You can upload your group at [www.arttakepart.org/upload\\_group.aspx](http://www.arttakepart.org/upload_group.aspx)

Audiences NI is the audience development agency for the arts and cultural sector in NI [www.audiencesni.com](http://www.audiencesni.com)

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## **The Arts and Disability Awards - NI**

### **Deadline - 9th November 2011**

The Arts and Disability Awards Ireland 2011 is a grant scheme for individual deaf or disabled artists, managed by the Arts & Disability Forum.

The scheme's purpose is to identify, encourage and nurture individuals who can apply for a bursary of up to £5,000 (or Euro equivalent).

Round Two of grant programme opens on Wednesday 21st September 2011.

For more information about the Arts and Disability Awards Ireland 2011 visit the Arts and Disability Forum website at [www.adf.ie](http://www.adf.ie)

The Arts and Disability Awards Ireland 2011 is for all types of disability and all art forms. If you have any queries contact the Arts and Disability Forum direct by calling 028 9023 9450 (from UK), 048 9023 9450 (from ROI) or email [gillian@adf.ie](mailto:gillian@adf.ie)

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## **Swimathon Foundation Application - NI**

Do you know a community group that is keen to make a splash in the swimming pool? Then why not suggest they apply for a Swimathon Foundation grant?

The Foundation is offering grants of between £300 and £2,500 to swimming pools, community



organisations and charities who can demonstrate how funding will allow them to help more people participate in and enjoy swimming and to make swimming more accessible.

Whether you're a scout leader that would like to take your troop for a day at an open air pool, a healthy living group wanting to try our Aquaerobics for the first time or a scuba diving club desperate for new equipment, a grant could be the helping hand you need!

For more information and to apply online please visit the website: [www.swimathon.org/foundation](http://www.swimathon.org/foundation). The first round of applications closes on 12 December 2011 so make sure you pass on the word to anyone who may be interested.

If you have any questions about the grants programme or the Swimathon Foundation please don't hesitate to contact us on [info@swimathonfoundation.org](mailto:info@swimathonfoundation.org) or 0845 459 9016.

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### **Buttercrane Community Bursary Awards 2011 - Greater Newry**

The application process is now open for the Buttercrane Community Bursary Awards 2011. This scheme aims to support local charity and not-for-profit organisations and groups working to help make a difference in the community. A small number of monetary awards will be made and these awards are designed to help recipient groups pay for materials and services which they might otherwise not be able to afford.

Nominated projects must:

- Fall within one of four themes listed in the application form.
- Be accompanied by information to demonstrate the benefits of the nominated project to the community.
- Be based in or provide services used by people in the Greater Newry Area.
- Be undertaken by a community based charity or not-for-profit organisation or group
- Groups such as sports teams, schools, nurseries and voluntary support groups are eligible (and encouraged) to apply.

**Closing date for the first phase of applications is midnight 31 October 2011.**

#### **Buttercrane Community Bursary Scheme Rules and Criteria**

- Applications for Community Bursary Awards must be made using the Buttercrane official application form.
- Only non-profit organisations or groups working for the benefit of communities within the defined geographical region of the Greater Newry Area may be nominated for an award.
- The Community Bursary Award Scheme Panel appointed by Buttercrane Traders Association Limited, will assess applications and allocate awards ranging from £100 to £1,000. Awards will be made to projects which, in the opinion of the Panel, will bring most benefit to local communities. Answers to the questions outlined in the application form will form part of the judging criteria.



**Projects nominated must be completed before 31st October 2012.**

for more information and to download an application form visit  
<http://www.buttercraneshopping.co.uk/news/viewdetails.asp?ID=65>

Forms can be completed online alternatively please return completed forms to  
Center Manager, Buttercrane Shopping Centre, Buttercrane Quay, Newry,  
County Down, BT35 8HJ



### **Community Festivals Fund for North Down**

The primary purpose of the North Down Community Festivals Fund is to improve the capacity of community festivals and make them less reliant on public funding by providing support and training in addition to funding towards the cost of events. The fund enables community organisations to celebrate their cultural identity and to strengthen community relations.

Grants can range from £500 to £6,500, to a maximum of 50% of total festival costs.

Eligible expenditure is available to provide support and training in addition to funding towards the cost of events.

Festivals eligible for support should be initiated and led by a community organisation or community led partnership and should take place in the North Down Borough Council area.

The 2011 deadline for receipt of applications is **26 October 2011**.

For further information contact: Jan Nixey, Principal Community Services Officer  
North Down Borough Council,  
Town Hall, The Castle,  
Bangor. BT20 4BT

Tel: 028 9127 0371 Ext 8008

E-mail: [jan.nixey@northdown.gov.uk](mailto:jan.nixey@northdown.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.northdown.gov.uk>



### **Changes to the ASOP Programme - NI**

The Arts Council for Northern Ireland has announced that there are to be changes to the Council's Annual Support for Organisations Programme (A.S.O.P.) which will come into force for the 2012/13 round. The Council plans to move the annual funding programme to a 3 year funding programme. It is hoped that this change will offer a greater degree of certainty to arts organisations and enhance their ability to plan ahead.



# Supporting Communities NI

Building Strong Cohesive Communities

"Helping Communities Help Themselves"

The details for these changes are currently being developed and will be announced soon. What this will mean to eligible applicants is that they will be required to supplement their application with a 3-year Corporate Plan for the period 2012-15 and a detailed annual Business Plan for the period 2012-13.

ACNI has produced a 2-page document entitled 'Guidance on Corporate and Business Plans' [http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/award/forms/asop/asop\\_corporate\\_plan\\_guide.pdf](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/award/forms/asop/asop_corporate_plan_guide.pdf)