

S.C.N.I. BECOMES APPROVED TRAINING CENTRE



Above: L-r Stephanie Kenny (S.C.N.I. Training Officer), Ann Smyth (O.C.N.N.I.) and Laura O'Dowd (S.C.N.I. Training Officer)

S.C.N.I. is delighted to announce that it has been awarded O.C.N.N.I. Training Centre approval. This continues the success of the excellent and affordable training provision available to Community Groups and follows on from achieving the Regional and National Training Awards in 2006.

Being its own Training Centre means that S.C.N.I. can now provide participants with a more tailored path of learning specific to their own needs. It will also ensure a faster accreditation process as the registration and enrolment of participants can now be carried out in-house. This is a great achievement for the organisation as it shows how accredited training has impacted on the work of S.C.N.I. and the Groups it supports.

S.C.N.I. currently offers a total of 3 accredited training courses, Community Capacity Building Levels I & II and Community Cohesion Level I, in addition to the 15 half day courses on a wide range of topics. All courses are designed to increase the awareness, skills and knowledge of community representatives.



Above: Participants and S.C.N.I. staff at the launch of the C.C.B. Level III pilot in North Down Community Resource Centre

Community Capacity Building Level III Piloted

In February this year a Community Capacity Building Level III course was launched as a pilot in North Down. The Level III course has been developed by S.C.N.I. and is being delivered in conjunction with North Down Community Network, Bangor with a total of 13 participants signed up.

Level III is the third step to the award winning Community Capacity Building programme which has been run successfully

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Carrowshee Park & Sylvan Hill Community Association in Lisnaskea with their winning cheque from The Peoples Millions



Drumellan, Craigavon Playboard Awards



Community Mural in Roe Valley, Limavady

S.C.N.I. Staff

Headquarters Staff (028) 2564 5676

Director: Brian Holmes

Head of Administration: Theresa Patton
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Patricia Bibby
Elizabeth Steede

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Patricia Connolly
Training: Stephanie Kenny
Laura O'Dowd

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(028) 3834 2792

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WHAT DOES THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS (N.I.) ORDER (2003) MEAN FOR YOU?

The Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (N.I.) Order (2003) (P.O.C.V.A.) places greater legal responsibilities for organisations and groups employing staff or involving volunteers to work with children or vulnerable adults.

The legislation aims to increase safeguards for children and vulnerable adults by preventing unsuitable people working with them (paid or unpaid). Two lists have been established - the Disqualification from Working with Children List (D.W.C.(N.I.) List) and the Disqualification from Working with Vulnerable Adults List (D.W.V.A.(N.I.) List). People who are listed are legally disqualified from working with children or vulnerable adults.

IF YOU ARE INVOLVED WITH CHILDREN

Organisations and groups involved with children e.g. playgroups and after school clubs have workers / volunteers who will meet the criteria of what P.O.C.V.A. calls a “**regulated position**”. This means that in their “normal duties” they care for, train, supervise, are in sole charge of children (under 18) or manage those who do. P.O.C. (N.I.) checks should be carried out for all new staff and volunteers in regulated positions.

It is a **criminal offence** to work or volunteer in a regulated position if you are listed in the D.W.C.(N.I.) List. It is also an offence to employ or involve someone as a volunteer if they are disqualified from working with children. The only way to be sure the staff / volunteer you are taking on is not disqualified from working with children is to carry out the P.O.C. check. It is also an offence not to dismiss a disqualified person if they are in a regulated position.

If someone in your organisation harms a child or places a child at risk of harm through misconduct and is dismissed or transferred, resigns or retires as a result, you have the facility, as well as reporting it to statutory services such as P.S.N.I. or Social Services) to **refer** them to the P.O.C.V.A. team who will consider the issue and possibly place them on the D.W.C.(N.I.) List.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

It is free to use the P.O.C.V.A. service. You can register to use the service by contacting the P.O.C.V.A. Team (address below) and providing them with a description of what your organisation does, your structure, contact details, your child protection policy and a written statement that you will conform to the principles of Our Duty to Care.

Useful resources

www.volunteering-ni.org

You can download comprehensive guidance such as

- Choosing to Protect - children

- P.O.C. N.I. Simple Guide

- Information Sheet on P.O.C.V.A.

You can also book on to a half day training course in using the P.O.C. N.I. service.

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IF YOU ARE INVOLVED WITH VULNERABLE ADULTS

A **vulnerable adult** is defined as an individual over the age of 18 to whom:

- (1) Accommodation and nursing or personal care are provided in a residential care home or nursing home; **or**
- (2) Prescribed service is provided in own home under arrangements made by a domiciliary care agency or prescribed person.

An individual who is in regular contact with vulnerable adults in the course of their duties, in a residential care home or nursing home or in an individual's own home is termed a “**care position**”.

All new staff and volunteers who will be in a “care position” must legally be P.O.V.A. checked prior to them commencing their post.

It is a **criminal offence** to work or volunteer in a care position if you are listed in the D.W.V.A. (N.I.) List. It is also an offence to employ someone (paid or unpaid) if they are disqualified from working with vulnerable adults. The only way to be sure the staff / volunteer you are taking on is not on the D.W.V.A. (N.I.) List is to carry out a P.O.V.A. check. It is also an offence not to dismiss a disqualified person if they are a care provider.

If an individual in a care position harms a vulnerable adult, or places them at risk of harm through misconduct and is dismissed or transferred, resigns or retires as a result the organisation must refer them to the P.O.C.V.A. team who will consider the issue and possibly place them on the D.W.V.A.(N.I.) List.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

It is free to use the P.O.C.V.A. service. You can register to use the service by contacting the P.O.C.V.A. Team address below.

Useful resources

www.volunteering-ni.org

you can download comprehensive guidance such as

- Choosing to Protect - vulnerable adults

- Information Sheet on P.O.V.A.

You can also book on to a half day information session on P.O.V.A.

The P.O.C.V.A. legislation is one of a number of pieces of legislation that are concerned with safeguarding the vulnerable in our society.

Useful Contacts

The P.O.C.V.A. Team
Child Care Policy Directorate, D.H.S.S.P.S
Room D1.4 Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

Tel 028 9052 2559
www.dhsspsni.gov.uk



Our Duty to Care
Volunteer Development Agency
129 Ormeau Rd
Belfast
BT1 1S

Tel 028 9023 6100
www.volunteering-ni.org

Routes



Residents from the Carrowshee Park & Sylvan Hill areas in the County Fermanagh town of Lisnaskea were jubilant at the end of 2007 when they came out victorious in the annual Peoples Millions Competition.

Winning £80,000 in the competition which is a joint Big Lottery and UTV phone vote event, the local Community Association will be installing a much needed play facility for local residents and their children.

Karen Brewster (S.C.N.I.) Liaison Officer who has worked with this group since its inception is delighted to be part of the excitement generated by its success in the competition. "Much of the groups success is due to the amount of time its members spent publicising the event and gathering support from neighbouring towns and villages. Posters, flyers and a slot on a local radio station all helped to ensure the project came out a winner".

The £80,000 funding awarded will be used to provide a Multi Sports Arena, primarily for the use of the residents of the two estates and will also be available for use by the wider community.

Secretary of the Community Association, Kathleen Breen explained "at present play facilities in this area are limited and the provision of such a facility will be a great asset to the community. It will provide the youth of the area the opportunity to rechannel their energies, become more active, learn new sports and participate in training, a welcome alternative to presently playing in car parks and open spaces within the two estates".



Above: Local children excited about getting a new play facility, with Community Association Committee members Jackie Mullan and Jenny Moffat and the cheque for £80,000



Left: An example of the Sports Arena planned for Carrowshee Park and Sylvan Hill

NEW SPORTS ARENA FOR LISNASKEA COMMUNITY GROUP (Thanks to the Peoples Millions Competition)



Above: L-r Patricia Lewsley (Childrens Commissioner), Carrie McCartan, Michelle Furphy (Drumellan Children and Young Peoples Centre) and Jacqueline O'Loughlin (Playboard Chief Executive)

Drumellan Play Board Awards

October 2007 is a month that is firmly etched in the memory of Drumellan Community Association, Craigavon. Not only did the committee receive a Community Achievement Award but the Childcare facility, a successful project run by the committee, received three awards at the Play Board Annual Conference.

Over the last twelve months the staff of Drumellan Children and Young Peoples Centre embarked on a process of review and improvement. This was in conjunction with Play Board striving for Excellence in the delivery of service. From humble beginnings the Children and Young Peoples Centre has evolved into a well established After School provision providing full day care during school holidays including summer time.

The high quality service provided is recognised locally by users and Social Services who promote the facility as a "model of good practice".

Michelle Furphy Childcare Team Leader says "this has been an extremely busy year for us working towards the high standard set by Play Board, whilst it has been hard work and a challenge the benefits by far outweigh the demands".

Michelle continues "it is the ethos of the Centre to fully involve the children in any decisions made that impact on their time with us, this has been a major learning curve and our Children's Panel play a very important role in our continual development".

Drumellan Children and Young Peoples Centre were presented with the following Awards at this year's ceremony held on 25th October 2007 in the Omagh College.

- Presented to Drumellan Children and Young Peoples Centre in recognition of Quality Practice in the category of Model of Excellence 2007
- Certificate awarded for successfully achieving Quality Assurance accreditation at Level 2- Pathways to Excellence
- Certificate presented to Michelle Furphy, Highly Commended in the category of Play Worker of the year 2007

If you are interested in finding out more information on the services provided by Drumellan Community Association please phone 028 3832 1415.

BALLYMONEY ESTATE GETS HEALTH CHECKS

Castle Community Association in Ballymoney enjoyed a very successful evening when they hosted a "health fair" in the local Community Centre in December. The event was funded through the Small Pockets of Deprivation (SPOD) Fund.

Entry was free to all and there was a selection of healthy food available. Despite the awful weather conditions on the night in question, a large crowd of people attended and judging by their comment cards all had a fabulous time.

The list of health practitioners in attendance included:-

Dentist, Reflexologist, Smoking Cessation, Chiropractor, Community Nurse, Stress Advice, Age Concern, Dietician, Indian Head Massage, Herbal Remedies, Nail Technician, Aromatherapy, Smoothie Demonstration, Fire Brigade, Fuel Poverty, Heart Start, Beautician, plus many more.



Above: L-r Dessie Hanna (Castle Community Association Chairman), Seamus Kearney (S.C.N.I. Liaison Officer), Denise Penrick (Ballymoney Community Resource Centre) and Hilary McNeill (Castle Community Association Secretary)

BEAUTY ON THE WALL IN LIMAVADY



Roe Valley Residents Association has taken giant strides over the past year to bring about positive changes to the local environment. One of the highlights of the year was the unveiling of a mural depicting a collection of scenes from the Benevenagh Mountains in Limavady.

The mural was painted on a vulnerable gable wall on the side of the newly revamped Community House and was designed and installed by Paddy Nellis from the revered "Bogside Artists" who became well known for their success in replacing the political murals in L'Derry's Bogside.

The Roe Valley Estate consists of around 400 properties and is a Neighbourhood Renewal area. Through this funding the Association has been able to appoint a Project Co-ordinator, Ursula McCreesh, who is based in the Community House. With Ursula's help the Association has devised a programme of activities on a wide range of issues and will no doubt continue to flourish in the years ahead.

Of the impressive new mural, Henry McElwee (R.V.R.A. Chairman) remarked "This wall was always an eyesore in the community with the local children always drawing on it. We now have something we can be really proud of and which improves the image of the local area".

Online Housing Advice Youth Project

Housing Rights Service has recently launched a unique and exciting project aimed at young people aged 16-25. The aim of the housing advice youth project, funded by Vodafone UK Foundation, is to prevent youth homelessness and inform young people of their housing rights by improving access to online housing advice services in Northern Ireland.

www.housingadviceNI.org, the advice website produced by Housing Rights Service in partnership with Shelter and N.I. Housing Executive, has pages specifically for young people between the ages of 16 and 25 about a range of housing problems. The website contains easy to understand information on common housing issues affecting young people such as housing benefits, landlord responsibilities and getting deposits back.

The project has been launched as a result of a growing need for housing advice amongst the 16-25 year old age group. In 2006-2007, 20% out of the 21,013 households who presented as homeless were aged between 16 and 25 years old*.



Young people in Northern Ireland can be unaware of housing issues they may face and don't know they have housing rights that are protected by law. www.housingadviceNI.org provides free housing advice, via the web, to those who need it and is the first stop for all housing queries.

Specialist email advisers are also available to provide tailored solutions to housing queries. They ensure that every email query is fully researched in order to provide all possible solutions. Every enquiry received is guaranteed to be answered within 3 working days.

The project has been promoted through a combination of advertising, poster and media campaigns. External advertising has already taken place in the areas of Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt. These areas were decided upon due to the fact that young people living in rural areas are likely to find accessing advice more difficult.

A tour of educational institutions has also been initiated, with Further Education colleges and universities being visited. Posters, postcards and key rings will also be distributed to youth clubs, libraries, hostels and youth agencies in order to build awareness of the website amongst the relevant age group.

* Calculated from NI Housing Statistics 2006-2007



www.housingadviceNI.org



Produced by Housing Rights Service in partnership with Shelter, supported by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Debt Counselling Saves Homes

Housing Rights Service regularly receives enquiries from clients who are in rent arrears. We have represented many clients at different stages of the debt process; from an early stage when a repayment plan is possible to a later stage when clients are facing imminent repossession. A recent and very interesting case has proven that it is never too late for an adviser's input and homes can be saved.

A client came to Housing Rights Service last year having failed to deal with correspondence from her landlord and later on, the courts in respect of repossession action. The client had received a notice from the Enforcement of Judgments Office explaining that they intended to carry out the courts order to evict her from her home.

At the interview with the adviser, an examination of the client's income and expenditure was carried out. All of her debts were organised in order of priority with her rent arrears taking precedence over e.g. credit card debts. All of her available finances and resources were identified and benefit entitlement was checked so that her income could be maximised. This exercise also provided a realistic and detailed overview of the client's financial position.

As a result of being able to propose a realistic and sustainable repayment plan the possession proceedings were put on hold. With her newly maximised income, simplified finances and a small amount of disposable income left over the client was also able to tackle her lower priority debts. As a result of proactive debt counselling the family home was saved from the brink of repossession.

In such cases it would be preferable to deal with such serious matters earlier in the repossession process. But this case is a good example of how effective Debt Counselling can prevent homelessness.

Anyone who is having problems with paying their rent or are in the process of having their home repossessed should seek debt counselling. The Housing Rights Service advice line is open Monday - Friday from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm on **028 9024 5640**.

For promotional materials or further information on the Youth Project contact alison@housingrights.org.uk telephone **028 9024 5640**.

The following information is now available from S.C.N.I.
For your free copies tick appropriate boxes, cut off slip and forward to S.C.N.I.

Group Development

- Building a Successful Community Group *
- Introduction to New Members
- Understanding Your Constitution*
- Community Development*
- Conducting a Survey
- Annual General Meeting*
- Charitable Status
- Records and Book-keeping for Community Groups
- Producing Community Newsheets*
- Planning & Promoting Your Events

Community Buildings

- Developing a Community Building
- Community Bases

Projects

- Improving Your Environment
- Developing Play Areas*
- Playground Survey

General

- Insurance Information
- Producing a Business Development Plan
- Redevelopment
- Functions of the Council*
- V.A.T.
- Understanding Your Neighbours
- Banks and Building Societies
- Health and Social Care Trusts
- Anti-Social Behaviour

Funding

- Preparation for Fundraising
- Local Fundraising Ideas
- A Fundraising Strategy
- Council Funding*
- Trust Funding*
- Lottery Grants
- Statutory Funding
- A Guide to Business Funding
- Business Support Funding

N.I.H.E. Schemes

- Please give name and type of Scheme

Contact Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Tele. No. _____

S.C.N.I. FUNDING SERVICE - Help Us Help You

S.C.N.I.'s Funding Service aims to provide specialist information and advice to community groups regarding potential sources of funding and guidance on the overall fundraising process. A range of Funding Factsheets have been developed including "Preparation for Fundraising" and "Local Fundraising Ideas". There are also Factsheets providing more specific information on accessing Company/Business, Council and Trust support. You can obtain copies of these Factsheets by completing the form above and returning to S.C.N.I. Head Office.

S.C.N.I.'s Funding Enquiry Service enables groups to access information on funding sources for specific costs or projects. A form can be downloaded from the Funding Service section of S.C.N.I.'s website, or simply telephone Head Office. Once submitted, your request will be researched using computerised funding packages which will produce a list of potential funders.

Housing Community Network members are able to obtain a monthly **Community Funding Bulletin** which provides details of Charitable Trusts, Foundations and Statutory Organisations which offer grant support. During 2006-2007 S.C.N.I.'s Funding Service helped groups secure grants totalling over £1.1million. **To date £678,264 has been obtained by groups in this financial year.**



If your group has already obtained funding through the information provided by the Funding Service please let us know. In order to evaluate the service we provide and keep a record of funding successes, we would be grateful if you would send details of your successful grant application as follows: the name and address of your organisation, the name of the funding organisation the money was obtained from, the type of project funded, the date of the grant application and the grant amount obtained. This will help us ensure that the information we provide is benefiting the community and that our service is fulfilling its aims. General funding information is available on the Funding Service section of S.C.N.I.'s website. If you require further assistance please contact the Funding Officer, Caroline Speers using the contact details listed in this magazine.

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Supporting Communities NI

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BT42 3AH

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throughout the province. Speaking at the event in North Down Community Resource Centre, Jack Harper, (Clandeboye Village Community Association) Community Capacity Building participant stated:

“I am so glad that this training programme has come to North Down for the pilot, I thoroughly enjoyed the level I and II courses and can't believe I will be completing a course which is equivalent to A-Level standard, however I relish the challenge”.

The Level III programme is a 6 month course which is a direct progression from the Level I and Level II courses offered by S.C.N.I. The course, which is accredited through O.C.N.N.I. will allow participants to develop their existing skills and knowledge in community development.

S.C.N.I. also delivers a very popular accredited Community Cohesion course. This can be run over 6 weeks or as a 2 day Residential in a venue suitable to participants. In addition to the accredited courses S.C.N.I. provides training on a wide range of community issues.



Right: Longstone Community Association, Armagh who participated in S.C.N.I.'s "Communicate Your Message" course



Left: Milltown Community Association, Dungannon completing S.C.N.I.'s "Team Building" course

If you would like any further information regarding the Community Capacity Building Programme or for details on other courses please contact **Laura O'Dowd** or **Stephanie Kenny**, Training Officers, S.C.N.I. on **028 2564 5676** or your local S.C.N.I. Liaison Officer.