

5th April 2023

E-Zine



**Supporting
Communities**
Empowering Society

Welcome to Supporting Communities 208th 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

Discovery phase for 'Move to UC' to begin in April

The next phase of Universal Credit (UC) implementation will begin in Northern Ireland next month with the launch of a discovery exercise based in both a rural and an urban location.

Universal Credit has been in place since September 2017 for all new claims. It replaces Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment & Support Allowance, Housing Benefit (rental) and Tax Credits. Around 147,000 people are currently on Universal Credit in Northern Ireland.



Department for
Communities

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The discovery exercise will start on 17 April and involve around 500 people in the Andersonstown and Enniskillen Jobs & Benefits office areas who are in receipt of tax credits only and no other benefit. Learning from this exercise will be used to inform planning for the full implementation of the 'Move to UC' programme in Northern Ireland.

Deputy Secretary of Work and Health at the Department for Communities, Paddy Rooney said:

"We are beginning to move those on legacy benefits onto Universal Credit and are approaching this with care to ensure that the proper supports are in place for customers.

"The three month discovery exercise will involve a small number of people, from rural and urban areas who will be provided with a range of supports to ease the transition.

"As part of this we are engaging widely with the advice sector and other stakeholders. We will use the experience gained from this process to inform the next stages of the move to Universal Credit to ensure the right supports are in place for people, at the right time and in the right way."

Migration Notice letters will be issued explaining what people need to do and will include signposting to help and support. People will be able to contact the Move to Universal Credit Team on Freephone 0800 012 1331, Textphone 0800 012 1441 (for deaf users, those with hearing loss and users with speech and communication needs) and a UC Video Relay Service is available for sign language users. Information will also be available on the [nidirect website\(external link opens in a new window / tab\)](#) and through the Department's 35 local Jobs & Benefits offices.

Anyone making a claim to Universal Credit following receipt of a Migration Notice letter will have their benefit entitlement protected through Transitional Protection. This means that people with no change in their circumstances will not have a reduced entitlement at the point they move to Universal Credit.

Legacy benefit customers should not do anything until they receive a Migration Notice letter.



Getting the HCN Online with New Staff Member, Carla Mulholland

You may recognise Carla Mulholland from the very successful ONSIDE Project, where she delivered digital skills training both online and in person. We're delighted to welcome her back to Supporting Communities in a new post as Digital Inclusion Officer to the Housing Community Network!

"I'm so happy to be back at Supporting Communities. I'm really looking forward to this exciting new project," said Carla.

"I've supported individuals to overcome their fears and explore a whole new online world through the Onside Project, and now I'll be helping the HCN to use digital skills to streamline and organise their work."

A working group of members from the Central Housing Forum have been testing an online 'collaboration portal', also known as the Housing Executive Online Forums, which will eventually be rolled out to other levels of the Housing Community Network.

Not to be confused with the tenant portal, where you can manage aspects of your tenancy by signing in on the Housing Executive website, the collaboration portal or 'Online Forums' are designed to create a simple online environment for sharing files, online chat, discussions, managing meetings and associated papers and assigning tasks or 'to-do' lists.

"One of the first things we'll need to do is give it a good name," said Carla. "This is a tool that will greatly benefit the HCN, but we need to be clear about what it is."



The online forums will improve the network's ability to collaborate by removing the need to email papers, minutes, and meeting invitations which individuals can quickly lose. Instead, all the forum's documents and discussions will be stored in an organised way online where members can access them whenever needed. "It may help to think of it as an online filing cabinet where everything is kept neatly for you," explained Carla.

Carla will liaise closely with our Community Development Officers and the rest of the Central Housing Forum to start the process. She will then offer training and support to the rest of the Housing Community Network as more areas take advantage of the online forums.

Outside of her time spent in the digital world, Carla says she loves nature and travel, especially anywhere near the sea. Her days off are often spent with family finding new places to explore, so tell her your top spots when you meet her!

New housing policy to deliver more affordable rented homes

The Department for Communities has published a new affordable housing policy which aims to create an additional supply of 'Intermediate Rent' homes, providing a new affordable housing option.

The Intermediate Rent policy, which sets the framework for the development of more high quality, long-term, affordable housing with support services comes following a public consultation on the new Intermediate Rent policy, which gathered views on how this new housing product should work.

Intermediate Rent seeks to offer a more secure, affordable and supportive rental option for eligible households who are struggling with the costs of market rentals.

A spokesperson for the Department for Communities said: "The publication of the Intermediate Rent policy sets in place another lever to deliver an additional supply of affordable rental homes for low to moderate income households.

"The policy aims to reduce the barriers which some households face in accessing or maintaining a rented home, such as tenancy insecurity, limited support services and, critically, unaffordably high rents."

Homes offered as Intermediate Rent will be delivered to a high quality standard and should offer effective and responsive maintenance to ensure tenants are able to

avail of a good quality well-maintained home throughout their tenancy. The publication of a 'Homes for Intermediate Rent: Design Standards' guide alongside the policy



sets out the expected design and finish standards associated with Intermediate Rent homes.

Intermediate Rent is one of a range of measures aimed at increasing the supply of, and access to, affordable housing. The delivery of more affordable housing is a central tenet of the draft Housing Supply Strategy, forms part of a strategic objective within the Department's 2022/23 Business Plan and was a priority for the former Minister. This new type of affordable housing can also contribute to supporting the delivery of affordable housing through Local Development Plans, which are being taken forward by councils.

Work continues to deliver a funding package which can support the practical delivery of a supply of new Intermediate Rent homes in the near future. For more information, go to; [Intermediate Rent | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk)

ELECTRICAL FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME

Fires in the home can be caused by faulty electrical appliances, plugs and cables but many occur due to mistakes from homeowners. It is important to be aware of the common causes of fires which involve electricity and the particular danger signs you should look out for around your home.



**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**

Plugs and Sockets

- Hot plugs or sockets, scorch marks, fuses that often blow, or flickering lights are often a sign of loose wiring or other electrical problems.
- Any coloured wires sticking out are a sign of badly wired plugs.
- Plugging too many electrical items into one socket can lead to overheating; try and keep one plug per socket.
- Use trailing leads or bar adaptors rather than block type connectors.

Cables and Leads

- Make sure the outer covering of all power leads are not frayed or damaged; replace if necessary.
- Badly positioned electrical appliances can make cables trip hazards.
- Never place cables under rugs or carpets where damaged or worn parts will not be noticed.

Appliances and Rechargeable Devices

- Look for the CE mark when buying electrical equipment.
- Never use electrical appliances in a bathroom due to the risk of electrocution.
- Never allow water to touch electrics - this can cause electrocution or fire.
- Switch off appliances at night unless they are designed to be left on eg, fridge/freezers.
- Hair straighteners can get extremely hot. Switch off after use and leave to cool on a heatproof surface.
- Only buy approved chargers for rechargeable devices; cheaper options may be unsafe.
- Do not over-charge devices and always unplug before going to bed at night.
- Do not charge devices on a flammable surface; this increases the risk of fire spread.
- Servicing of electrical appliances, especially ones that run at high speeds, should be carried out annually by a qualified electrician/engineer.

E-Cigarettes

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Take notice of warning signs supplied with the product.
- Do not charge e-cig batteries for long periods of time or leave to charge overnight.
- Look for the CE mark to ensure chargers comply with European Safety Standards.

Electric Blankets

- Look for the British or European safety mark on electric blankets and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Unplug before you get into bed, unless it has a thermostat control for safe all-night use.
- Store flat or rolled up to prevent damaging the internal wiring.
- Never use an electric blanket if you have an air flow pressure relief bed.
- Check regularly for wear and tear and replace after 10 years.

The colder months of the year see an increase in the use of portable heating appliances. Therefore it is vitally important to be extra careful around the home.

- Never place heaters too close to combustible surfaces or materials such as curtains or bedding.
- Position heaters safely so they can't be knocked over easily.
- Never dry clothes in front of portable heaters.
- Never cover air vents on fan heaters.
- Never leave heaters on if you have to leave the house.

If an electrical fire starts, you should, if safe to do so, turn off the power immediately. Do not try and tackle an electrical fire with water. Get everyone out of the property, close all doors behind you. Dial 999 and ask for the Fire & Rescue Service.

New laws mean changes for private tenants and landlords



New laws governing private tenancies in Northern Ireland will come into effect from 1st April 2023.

The laws will affect both landlords and tenants within the private rented sector. While tenants are not required to take any action, they are advised to be aware of how the new law will affect them and their tenancies. When the law comes into effect from 1st April, private landlords will be required to take certain actions.

From 1st April 2023;

- Landlords must provide tenants with a notice containing tenancy information. This includes for current tenants who have not already received this type of tenancy information;
- Landlords must also provide tenants with a notice of variation when any changes are made to their tenancies;
- Landlords must provide receipts for any cash payment in relation to a tenancy;
- Landlords are only permitted to take or hold on to a tenancy deposit of no more than one month's rent;
- There will be increased time periods for protecting and providing information on tenancy deposits; and
- Failure to protect a tenancy deposit will become a continuing offence, as the previous six month time barrier to prosecution of tenancy deposit offence has been removed.

In the lead up to the changes, the Department for Communities is making tenants and landlords aware of how it may impact them.

More detailed information on the [Private Tenancies Act is available on the dfc website:](#)

All private landlords who let a property under a private tenancy should be registered under the [Landlord Registration Scheme:\(external link opens in a new window / tab\)](#)

If you are a tenant and struggling with finances, a range of information is available on income support, housing and other areas, through the [NI Direct website here:\(external link opens in a new window / tab\)](#)

Consultations

Launch of the consultation on the review of the Race Relations Order

A 12-week public consultation on a review of the Race Relations (NI) Order 1997 has been launched.

Pictured (L-R) at the launch of the public consultation for the review of the Race Relations Order at the Stormont Hotel, are: Takura Donald Makoni, Nisha Tandon, Denis McMahon and Ivy Goddard.



The review is a key action within the Executive's Racial Equality Strategy, intended to strengthen Northern Ireland's race legislation so that it offers at least the same level of protection, if not better, than other jurisdictions across these islands.

Launching the consultation, Denis McMahon, Permanent Secretary of The Executive Office said: "We are committed to making Northern Ireland a welcoming and fair society. However, we understand there is still a need for redress if people are not treated how they deserve to be.

"This review of the current race relations legislation will ensure that anyone who has been discriminated against, because of their ethnicity, will have the best protection possible. It should never make a difference who we are, what we look like, or where we are from.

"The new Bill will have an effect across all walks of life. We also want to make sure it is fair, so I would encourage everyone to look at the changes we are proposing and take the opportunity to have your say."

The Executive Office has been working and engaging across key stakeholders across the range of sectors and

has developed proposals for amendments to the current order to create a brand-new draft Racial Equality Bill.

Dr Livingstone Thompson, long-term champion of Racial Equality and Good Relations and Chair of the Racial Equality Subgroup said: "As Chair of the Racial Equality Subgroup, I welcome the initiation of the public consultation on the Race Relations Order. This is an important opportunity for us to ensure that, at the very least, legislation offers similar protection against racial discrimination as it does in other jurisdictions."

"However, alignment with GB and Ireland must not be seen as the ultimate goal of this undertaking. The objective must be that Northern Ireland takes the lead to ensure that this jurisdiction is characterised by its strong opposition to racial and all other forms of discrimination, not only as a matter of law, but also as a matter of everyday societal practice."

The consultation document and details of how to respond can be accessed [here](#).

Services for those who have been bereaved by suicide (postvention services)

Public Health Agency

[Public Consultation for services for those who have been bereaved by suicide - NI Direct - Citizen Space](#)

Closing date; 9th April 2023

Design considerations for a Renewable Electricity Support Scheme for NI

Department for the Economy

[Design considerations for a Renewable Electricity Support Scheme for Northern Ireland | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date; 27th April 2023

Prospective Scheme of Delegation for the Charity Commission for NI

Department for Communities

[Consultation on a prospective Scheme of Delegation for the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date; 15th May 2023

Section 75 Equality Action Plan 2022-2025

Department for Communities

[Consultation on Section 75 Equality Action Plan 2022-2025 | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date; 31st May 2023

Policy and Practice Focus

An Interview with Sheenagh McNally about the Upcoming All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference



As we prepare for our first big All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference this June, we asked our Head of Corporate Services, Sheenagh McNally, to give us some background and context for the event she says she has wanted to do for a long time!

Read what Sheenagh had to say about what is happening!

Why is now the right time for a conference like this?

“I’ve dedicated my career to improving tenant participation in social housing, and an event like this has been in the back of my mind for years,” explained Sheenagh.

“After Supporting Communities was appointed the Independent Tenant Organisation for Northern Ireland, and we subsequently created our trading subsidiary, Empowering Communities, the idea really started to take shape for me. Covid forced us to put it on the back burner for a while, but now the time is right, and it is all coming together!”

What is the conference about?

“We tend to look across the water for good practice, but there is so much here! In many ways, we have been leading the way in tenant participation for a

long time,” explained Sheenagh. “This conference is about showcasing the best we have to offer here at home and demonstrating our commitment to tenants to ensuring their voices are heard and showing them that they can make an impact.”

Why is it an “All-Ireland” event?

“Supporting Communities is widely recognised as the participation expert in Northern Ireland, and we have now successfully expanded our reach to the south prompting an all-island approach.

The programme for this groundbreaking conference is taking shape. We have secured a brilliant lineup of speakers from all over the island, including tenant participation experts, newcomers to the practice trying new things, and, most importantly, tenants who have gotten involved and volunteered their time and energy to improve housing provision for everyone.”

What is your long-term goal for tenant engagement?

“They say a rising tide lifts all boats, and that’s how I think about our tenant participation work. By advocating for a clear set of standards and implementing a method of benchmarking against those standards, we are raising the quality of tenant engagement for everyone, which ultimately improves housing and improves people’s lives,” said Sheenagh.

Why should people come to this conference?

“If tenant participation interests you, you won’t want to miss this event!” she declared. “You’ll get to learn from the best Ireland has to offer on both sides of the border and meet like-minded people. We’re bringing the sector together to share experiences and best practices and to facilitate us all to work more collaboratively to improve the tenant experience everywhere.”

Join us for the conference on 13 June! [Book your tickets here.](#)

2023 UK Housing Review launched at House of Lords

A launch event for the publication of the annual UK housing 'bible' – the 2023 UK Housing Review - was hosted at the House of Lords with key stakeholders from across the sector in attendance.

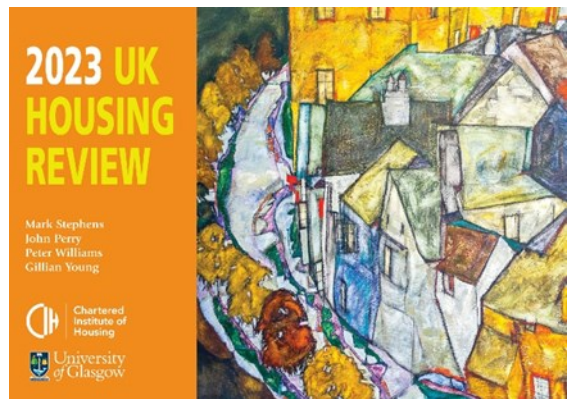
The host of the event, Lord Richard Best described the publication as: "The essential encyclopaedia of housing data and the stimulus for informed discussion on the key housing issues."

The Review, in its 31st year, brings together the most important housing statistics from across the UK. Seen as a key resource for housing professionals, leaders, and policy makers from across the public and private sectors, the Review's commentary and contemporary issues chapters feature a wealth of in-depth analysis, helping to paint a clear picture of housing across the UK supported by over 200 charts and tables of statistical analysis.

Contemporary issues covered in the 2023 edition include an overview of housing's role in the UK economy, a UK-wide review of developments in the private rented sector, an analysis of the changing role of private finance in affordable housing provision, and a review of quality issues in social housing and changes in the regulatory regimes.

At the launch event, guests were provided with overviews of some of the issues covered in the Review, including the role of housing in the economy and the government's levelling up agenda, the state of the housing market and continuing high levels of homelessness and use of temporary accommodation.

The 2023 UK Housing Review's complete team of authors include Mark Stephens, John Perry, Peter Williams, and Gillian Young, with contributions from Kenneth Gibb of Glasgow University, Steve Partridge of Savills, freelance journalist Jules Birch, Annie Owens of the National Housing Federation (formerly CIH), Lynne McMordie of Heriot-Watt University and Sam Lister of



CIH.

Mark Stephens, Mactaggart Professor of Land, Property & Urban Studies at the University of Glasgow and the Review's editor, said: "The re-emergence of inflation and the end of low interest rates have fundamentally changed the context of housing policy. There are big challenges ahead, not least to end the self-defeating addiction to ever rising house prices."

CIH chief executive Gavin Smart added: "This year's UK Housing Review is published at a crucial time: never has the need for more housing investment been as great, yet in England at least the government's Affordable Homes Programme is failing to meet its targets, and providers are under increasing pressure to spend money on the homes they already own as well as the new ones we need. These issues are – as ever – fully covered in the analytical chapters of the Review. In addition, given continued restrictions on the support that government provides, we look at how investment might be boosted by private investors in social housing."

The UK Housing Review series is published by CIH and is a free member benefit to all CIH members. It is not an exclusive CIH member resource and is available to buy via the [CIH website](#).

Podcast: Taking the politics out of Passivhaus with Andrew Kubski, Jeff Colley and Dan Hyde

It was back in December that the Scottish Government agreed to progress legislation proposed by Scottish Labour MSP Alex Rowley that will, they said, "introduce new minimum environmental design standards for all new-build housing to meet the Passivhaus standard, or a Scottish equivalent, in order to improve energy efficiency and thermal performance".

Net zero minister Patrick Harvie said at the time the government would fast-track the process of adopting the standard in law by using secondary legislation and bypassing the need to take a member's bill through Holyrood.

Since then, while presumably consulting on what this agreed definition will look like, we've witnessed the beginning of changes at the very top of government which could yet have an impact on this Bill's introduction. So we thought it would be helpful to step back from the politics of Passivhaus to discuss the realities of meeting the standard in Scotland.

We've reached out to Dan Hyde and Jeff Colley of Zero Ambitions Podcast for advice, a podcast about sustainability, the built environment, and zero carbon goals. In 2003 Dan and Jeff co-founded an Irish sustainable building magazine, Construct Ireland, which was rebranded as Passive House Plus in 2012, and expanded into separate UK and Irish editions, with Jeff remaining at the helm as editor ever since.

We are also joined by someone who was faced with the reality of planning a Passivhaus programme and finding the money to do so. Andrew Kubski is the director of development and asset management at West of Scotland Housing Association, which has recently completed Scotland's largest development of flats to meet the energy efficiency standard.

Jimmy Black has written a blog to accompany the episode, [here](#).



Andrew Kubski

Publications

The Northern Ireland Poverty and Income Inequality Report 2021-22 is released

A publication entitled “The Northern Ireland Poverty and Income Inequality report (2021/22)” has been published by the Department for Communities.



The Poverty and Income Inequality report will be produced annually by the Department for Communities and contains statistics on income, income inequality and poverty. The full report is available at; [Northern Ireland Poverty and Income Inequality report 2021-22 | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/northern-ireland-poverty-and-income-inequality-report-2021-22)

This publication combines information that was previously published in the NI Poverty Bulletin and NI Households Below Average Income report. It provides estimates of the proportion and number of individuals, children, working age adults and pensioners living in poverty, and other statistics relating to household income and income inequality.

The publication uses data from the Family Resources Survey, which is based on an annual sample of approximately 2,000 households. Due to the disruption caused by Covid-19, only 700 households were interviewed in 2020/21, recovering to 1,700 households in 2021/22. As such, only figures relating to the whole population were published for 2020/21, with full reporting restored for 2021/22.

Key findings of the report are summarised below. None of the annual changes presented in the report are statistically significant. Caution should be exercised when interpreting year-on-year fluctuations, with longer term trends often giving a clearer picture.

Whole population – Poverty (Before Housing Costs):

- In 2021/22, 16% of individuals (approx. 300,000 people) were estimated to be living in relative poverty; compared to 17% in 2020/21. The percentage of individuals in absolute poverty in 2021/22 stood at 13% (approx. 249,000 people); compared to 12% in 2020/21.
- Over the last decade, relative poverty has shown a general downward trend, falling from a high of 22% in 2014/15. Over the same period, absolute poverty has fallen by 10 percentage points, from a high of 23% in 2011/12.

Children – Poverty (Before Housing Costs):

- The long-term trend shows that children have a higher risk of living in poverty than the other population groups (all individuals, working-age adults and pensioners).
- The percentage of children living in relative poverty in 2021/22 was 18%; compared to 22% in 2019/20.

Children living in absolute poverty fell from 17% to 15% over the same period.

Working-age adults – Poverty (Before Housing Costs):

- In 2021/22 the proportion of working age adults in relative poverty was 14%; the same as in 2019/20. The absolute poverty rate for working age adults changed from 11% in 2019/20 to 12% in 2021/22.
- The risk of being in relative poverty is much higher for households where no one is in work (53%); compared to households where at least one adult is in work (8%). However, because there are a greater number of working households in general, it is estimated that of all working age adults living in poverty, over half (53%) live in a working household.

Pensioners – Poverty (After Housing Costs):

- In 2021/22 the proportion of pensioners in relative poverty was 16%; compared to 13% in 2019/20. Over the same period, absolute poverty for pensioners increased from 10% to 12%.
- Over the last decade, the proportion of pensioners in relative poverty has fluctuated from a high of 16% (in 2013/14 and 2021/22) to a low of 10% in 2018/19. Over the same period, absolute poverty has shown a downward trend, from a high of 17% in 2013/14.

Food Poverty

- In 2021/22 most individuals lived in households that are food secure (96%), with 4% (approximately 74,000 individuals) in households said to be food insecure.

Income (Before Housing Costs):

- In 2021/22 the median household income in NI was £555 per week or £28,939 per year, representing a 1% increase from the previous year.
- In 2021/22 households in the top 20% of the income distribution had a weekly income 3.4 times higher than households in the bottom 20%.
- The majority of household income in NI is made up of Earnings (72%) and State Support (16%). This varies significantly depending on level of income, with households in the bottom income quintile deriving 35% of their income from earnings and 54% from state support.

Live Here Love Here is Northern Ireland's largest civic pride programme



It's about loving where you live... and feeling empowered to take positive environmental action. Examples include: creating a community vegetable patch, organising a beach clean, or starting up a tool swap scheme.

Create your profile [here](#) and join us in doing something positive for your community today.

Sign up for the e-bulletin here; [Live Here Love Here - Show your support](#)



Catch up on what's been happening at the Board in [Policing Matters Issue 31: March 2023 \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](#) and the Chief Constable's Report to the Policing Board March 2023 is available at; [chief-constables-report-to-the-northern-ireland-policing-board.pdf \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](#)



Please click the link below to access the latest edition of Inpartnership – the newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives; [Inpartnership Issue 12 \(pcsp.org\)](#)

Scope^{NI}

Available online, includes a series of important articles on a range of matters including poverty and health, the scourge of badger-baiting, post-bereavement services, services for vulnerable children and the Windsor Framework Scope can be accessed at; <http://scopeni.nicva.org/>



The Environmental news bulletin is available at [ENRA-February-2023.pdf \(nienvironmentlink.org\)](#). For other NIEL publications and events, go to; www.nienvironmentlink.org



RCN produces a range of publications including Rural Brief, a regular update of news and views affecting rural communities as well as Consultation Responses and Policy updates. A range of RCN publications is available at [Publications Archive - Rural Community Network](#)

Events

All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference

If you've been following us on [LinkedIn](#), you'll have seen a raft of speaker announcements rolling out over the past few weeks. We have a terrific lineup of experts, practitioners, and involved tenants from all over Ireland, ready to share their stories and best practice in tenant participation.

You can have a look at all [our speakers](#) for our upcoming All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference online.

We're especially excited to have Lesley Baird present our Keynote Address. Lesley is well known in the housing sector as the leader of TPAS Scotland for many years. She now runs her own consultancy business, helping to develop partnerships between landlords and tenants. She also works with Supporting Communities helping to assess housing providers who go for [TP Accreditation](#). You don't want to miss her talk!

Join us on 13 June at the [Carrickdale Hotel](#) for this exciting opportunity to learn, network, and be part of shaping the future of tenant engagement in Ireland.

Read all about it on the Supporting Communities [website](#) and book your tickets today!



FREE Seminar: Volunteering & Net Zero Impact the world without impacting the planet



As the world commits to achieving Net Zero status, what does this mean for volunteering?

Join Martin J Cowling and Volunteer Now for a thought provoking and engaging free seminar that will consider the four cases (see below) for Net Zero volunteering, potential risks and a step-by-step guide to taking action as individuals, organisations and communities.

The four cases for Net Zero volunteering:

1. Business case
2. Moral case
3. Ethical case
4. 'Marketing case'...people are actively looking for organisations to support

Also on the agenda:

- The risks of Greenwashing
- What does Net Zero look like?
With a range of options for organisations from having a net zero volunteer opportunity annually through to a complete net zero program, there are a combination of strategies we can employ between the two.
- Into action as individuals, organisations, communities.

Date: **Thursday 19 April 2023**

Time: **9.30am-1.00pm**

Venue: **NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB**

Book your place here – bit.ly/VolunteeringNetZero

Volunteer Now info@volunteernow.co.uk
Tel: 028 9023 2020



Training

Volunteer Now Training Sessions in April 2023 Champion and Appointed Person Refresher Training Tuesday 18th April 2023 from 10.00 AM - 1.00 PM Online Standard Course From £30 +VAT



The Adult Safeguarding Champion role combines responsibility for strategy, operations and oversight for an organisation in relation to adults at risk of harm under “Adult Safeguarding: Prevention and Protection in Partnership” (2015) and the “Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures” (2016). Some organisations will also have Appointed Persons, with delegated responsibility for day to day adult safeguarding operations.

This refresher training covers:

- The role and responsibilities of the Adult Safeguarding Champion/Appointed Person
- The safeguarding adults structure for Northern Ireland

- Determining the correct course of action in relation to safeguarding concerns
- Consent, capacity and coercion
- Organisational and Trust responsibilities
- Monitoring and reporting duties of the Adult Safeguarding Champion.

Places are allocated in a first come, first served basis and are limited to a maximum of 3 per organisation. Joining information will be sent out the day before the session.

To find out what’s available and to book onto any of our courses, please click here – www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/

Volunteer Now - Email: info@volunteernow.co.uk
Tel: 028 9023 2020



Housing Rights Training

The Essentials: Accessing Social Housing



TRAINING COURSES

Online via Zoom

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 - 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

This training course will assist participants in ‘walking through’ the current Housing Selection Scheme points system and the assessment process completed by NIHE to support applicants in gaining social housing.

The training course will focus on:

- accessing social rented housing
- assessment and ranking of applicants
- complex needs assessments
- allocations
- challenging decisions
- legislation in place to support the assessment process and applicants being assessed for social housing

Outcome of the Course

By the end of this course you will:

- have gained more knowledge on how to advise clients on increasing their housing points
- have a better knowledge of the points system

For more information on Housing Rights Training, courses and seminars, go to; [Housing Rights Training](#)

REGISTER NOW

**B°LSTER
COMMUNITY**

EMPOWERING AUTISTIC VOICES

THURSDAY 4TH MAY

Canal Court, Newry
10.30am - 3pm



JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE THE CHALLENGES FACED BY AUTISTIC ADULTS

Our keynote speakers will give an insight into understanding autism, breaking into employment and overcoming social barriers with autism. Hear personal stories from young adults as they dispel the myths of Autism.

www.bolstercommunity.org



Reporting to the Charity Commission NI - Lunchtime Special Training (Online Session) Wednesday 26th April 2023 from 12 noon to 12.30 pm

How would you rate your understanding of the reporting requirements for the Charity Commission NI?

Get a better understanding of the reporting guidelines and learn what you need to prepare for your annual report.

Whether you need a quick refresher or just want a peek at the topic before committing to a longer course, our lunchtime taster sessions are perfect for you! In just 30 minutes over your break, you can catch up on this important topic and be confident that your group's governance is getting a look in!

Grab a bite and meet us online at 12 noon.

Register your place

This session will be held on Zoom. To register, [please fill in this form](#).

If you have any questions, contact Aidan Kearney by email at aidan@supportingcommunities.org.

Please note, this session is designed for community groups in Northern Ireland.



Introduction to Managing Charity Finances - Lunchtime Session Tuesday 16th May 2023 from 12 noon to 12.30 pm

Keep yourself and your books right!

Make sure your committee understands their role and responsibilities when it comes to financial matters.

This short course will look at the following:

- The roles and responsibilities of the Management Committee
- How to follow Charity Commission Regulations
- Skills and knowledge needed to plan and prepare key financial documents

Grab a bite and meet us online at 12 noon.

Register your place

Please note, that this session is designed for community groups in Northern Ireland.

This session will be held on Zoom. To register, [please fill in this form](#).

If you have any questions, contact Aidan Kearney by email at aidan@supportingcommunities.org.



An Intro to Research to Support Your Funding Applications (Online Session)

Monday 5th June 2023 from 12 noon to 12.30 pm

Support your funding applications with solid research! Join us for this short lunchtime session to understand the process of developing beneficiary-led programs.

We will help you to:

- Understand what research is and why it is important when delivering a program in the community and voluntary sector.
- Be aware of the differences between primary and secondary research.
- Be aware of the differences between Qualitative and Quantitative data.
- Identify online resources when gathering relevant data for NI.

Grab a bite and meet us online at 12 noon!

Register your place

This session will be held on Zoom. To register, [please fill in this form](#).

If you have any questions, contact Aidan Kearney by email at aidan@supportingcommunities.org.

Please note, this session is designed for community groups in Northern Ireland.



Reporting to the Charity Commission NI - Lunchtime Special Training (Online Session)

Friday 16th June 2023 from 12 noon to 12.30 pm

How would you rate your understanding of the reporting requirements for the Charity Commission NI?

Get a better understanding of the reporting guidelines and learn what you need to prepare for your annual report.

Whether you need a quick refresher or just want a peek at the topic before committing to a longer course, our lunchtime taster sessions are perfect for you! In just 30 minutes over your break, you can catch up on this important topic and be confident that your group's governance is getting a look in!

Grab a bite and meet us online at 12 noon.

Register your place

This session will be held on Zoom. To register, [please fill in this form](#).

If you have any questions, contact Aidan Kearney by email at aidan@supportingcommunities.org.

Please note, this session is designed for community groups in Northern Ireland.



Funding

Social Enterprise Plus Programme

The Social Enterprise Plus Strategy aims to stimulate economic activity among people living or working in Housing Executive communities.

An important part of the strategy includes an investment programme. A new round of Social Enterprise Plus Funding will open on 1 March 2023.

Two Types of Award:

1. Building Capacity Award – awards up to £10,000
2. Get Going Award – Award up to £1,000

Applications, where possible, should demonstrate outcomes in these priority areas, but if you are unsure please make contact with the Social Enterprise team:

- Reduction of negative effects of the cost of living crisis
- Energy and net carbon / environmental impact
- Preparing social enterprises for social clauses within Government contracts including Housing Executive maintenance contracts
- COVID-19 recovery

Applications will be assessed against relevance to the Social Enterprise Plus Strategy 2020-2024, meeting the listed priority areas and suitability for public sector finance support. Funding is limited so not all applications that meet the criteria will be successful.

1. Building Capacity Award (up to £10,000)

The Building Capacity Award is aimed at social enterprises and community organisations who want to grow a viable business either by creating employment or training opportunities or a product/service to benefit the community, or an innovative partnership which brings new benefits to a Housing Executive community. The focus is on trading for sustainability and growth.

Who can apply?

- We will consider applications from community-based social enterprises and community focused organisations. Applicants must demonstrate how Housing Executive communities will benefit as a result of the award.
- Applicants must provide a business plan. This must demonstrate trading capability/potential and their ability to be a viable, sustainable business. For this reason running costs are generally not eligible for funding.
- Applicants must also provide relevant quotes for equipment and/or services.

Making an application

Applications will go live on our website (link below) on 1st March and must be submitted by no later than:

Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 4.00pm.

Applications submitted after this date will be deemed as invalid.

[The Housing Executive - Housing Community Network \(nihe.gov.uk\)](https://www.nihe.gov.uk)

2. Get Going Award (Max £1,000)

The Get Going Award is aimed at helping individuals with a good business idea get their idea off the ground. Applicants must demonstrate the difference the award will make to them or to others.

Who can apply?

- Individual applicants must be a resident in a defined Housing Executive estate or involved in a social economy initiative in a Housing Executive estate or neighbourhood.
- Applicants must also provide relevant quotes for equipment and/or services.
- Please note we cannot fund the following:
 - i) Travel to interview/work fares
 - ii) Clothing for interviews
 - iii) Driving license costs

*the above are general statement of principle, if in doubt make contact with the Social Enterprise team

If you have any queries please make contact with the social enterprise team either via email or the contact number on the website.

Making an application

Applications will go live on our website (link below) on 1st March and must be submitted by no later than: Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 4.00pm.

Applications submitted after this date will be deemed as invalid.

[The Housing Executive - Housing Community Network \(nihe.gov.uk\)](https://www.nihe.gov.uk)

If you need assistance with creating a business plan you should visit Home - [Go For It \(goforitni.com\)](https://www.goforitni.com) Or contact a member of the Housing Executive Social Enterprise Plus Team at socialinvestment@nihe.gov.uk

Applications will be assessed by a panel of managers after the window for submission is closed. Funding is limited so not all applications that meet the criteria will be successful.



Housing
Executive

Homeless Prevention Fund 2023/24

The Homeless Prevention Fund was first introduced in 2019/20, and in the past three years the Housing Executive has recognised the significant positive impact by the projects achieved through the grant funding. The new Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 sets out the need to continue to prioritise prevention, and the Homeless Prevention Fund is an effective approach to contribute to this.

NIHE are seeking applications from constituted groups in receipt of homelessness funding, supporting people funding, social enterprise funding, or constituted groups working with key homeless client groups with endorsement from the local NIHE Area Manager.

In line with the 2022-2027 Homelessness Strategy, Ending Homelessness Together, the following key priority areas and delivery approaches have been identified for this year's Prevention fund:-

2022 – 2027 Homelessness Strategy prevention activities:

- *Primary Prevention Activity* – Universal policies and interventions for the population as a whole which will not only be related to housing. This will also include raising awareness to assist in the public's understanding of the complex nature of homelessness to ensure households approaching crisis can access support.
- *Secondary Prevention Activity* - Identifying and targeting particular groups which are at the highest risk of homelessness to undertake pre-crisis intervention. This can take the form of advice and mediation services; proactive interventions and targeted services at known risk points.
- *Tertiary Prevention Activity* - Tackling recurring homelessness, including ensuring tenancy sustainment is central to preventing repeat homelessness.

Priority Vulnerable Groups

- Youth homeless including former care leavers;
- Older people;
- Victims of domestic abuse;
- Those experiencing or impacted by addictions;
- Those with mental ill-health;
- Those at risk of losing private rented sector accommodation;
- Those with lived experience in the criminal justice system

Please note that projects providing secondary intervention activities to the key vulnerable groups identified above are particularly sought, with similarly targeted primary and tertiary based projects also being considered. Those projects found not to be sufficiently aligned with the defined prevention activities listed will not be progressed for further assessment.

There are many social, economic and family factors that can result in a household becoming homeless. These factors are outlined throughout the Strategy.

The 2023/24 Homeless Prevention fund will focus on the following models;

- a) *Intervention models* - (either by mediation and/or

- counselling or through direct financial support);
- b) *Training models* - (to empower and equip sector workers who have been identified as working with those at risk of homelessness);
- c) *Personal development models* – (to provide a structured training programme to empower and equip participants who have been identified as at risk of homelessness) and;
- d) *Awareness Models* - (which seek to raise awareness of the complex nature of homelessness and available support services among the general public, sector workers or individuals who have been identified as at risk of homelessness).
- e) *Social Enterprise model* – (to improve communities, tackle social issues and provide access to employment and skills training for individuals identified as at risk of homelessness). These projects are separate from those funded through the Social Enterprise fund and can be viewed as complementary to these where the focus is on preventing vulnerable individuals becoming homeless.

The focus of the Fund will be on models that directly benefit the customer. Applications for the following models will therefore be of particular interest:-

- a) *Intervention model* – (by providing direct financial support);
- b) *Intervention model* – (through mediation and/or counselling support) and;
- c) *Personal development models* – (to provide a structured training programme to empower and equip participants who have been identified as at risk of homelessness).

Our objective is to provide 2023/24 Homeless Prevention funding for up to a maximum of 10 months from 1st June, and costings are sought on this basis. In the event that the project duration is shortened (due to a potential delay in budget clarification) we will seek to recalibrate the 10 month project costs to reflect the shorter timeframe and agree this with you. (In the best case scenario we aim to be able to notify you in mid-May to enable project commencement from 1st June 2023). Please provide as much detail as possible on the costings as this will hopefully minimise any unnecessary future correspondence if your project is shortlisted by our panel.

A maximum grant of **£50,000** will be awarded to applicants for up to 10 months.

Please be advised that **funding awarded will be non-recurrent and will have to be spent by the 31st March 2024.**

Deadline extended for the submission of applications to the Homeless Prevention Fund 2023/24. Taking into consideration the upcoming holidays, we wish to extend the submission date to 5PM on Friday 21st April 2023.

If you have any queries, please contact the staff below:

Michael Davidson
E: michael1.davidson@nihe.gov.uk
T: 028 959 83306

Andrew Kenny
E: andrew.kenny@nihe.gov.uk
T: 028 959 82924



Inclusive Communities: The Phoenix Community Fund

Thriving, connected communities is at the core of our business and community purpose, and the Phoenix Community Fund has been established to help local charity and community groups across our licenced area.

In 2023, we're utilising the Phoenix Community Fund to support community groups and organisations across our licence area with funding to help them deliver activity that reduces social isolation, removes barriers to inclusion and promotes equality in their community. The Phoenix Community Fund is currently open for applications, with applications reviewed and funding awarded on a monthly basis. Full information on the Phoenix Community Fund, including Terms and Conditions is available at: <https://www.phoenixnaturalgas.com/phoenixcommunityfund>

Application Requirements

Your application for funding towards an event or activity must:

- Consent to The Phoenix Community Fund Terms & Conditions
- Be based within the [Phoenix Natural Gas licence area](#)
- Use the funding towards an event or activity within the local community
- Clearly demonstrate how your event / activity will help reduce social isolation, reduce barriers to inclusion or promote equality in the community
- Be an inclusive event / activity open to a cross section of the community
- Be scheduled to take place between 1st June 2023 – 1st April 2024



Inclusive Communities: The Phoenix Green Community Fund

Environmental Responsibility is one of the core pillars of our Responsible Business Strategy. Just as we aim to act as an environmentally responsible business by supporting biodiversity projects and initiatives within the communities that we serve, we also continue to provide a low carbon solution to homes and businesses, supporting zero carbon targets.

In 2023, we're utilising the Green Community Fund to support community groups and organisations across our licence area with funding to help them deliver activity that helps to improve our environment and tackling the climate crisis in some way, no matter how big or small.

The Green Community Fund is currently open, with applications reviewed and funding awarded on a monthly basis. Full information on the Green Community Fund, including Terms and Conditions is available at: [Phoenix Green Community Fund | Phoenix Natural Gas](#)

Application Requirements

Your application for funding towards an event or activity must:

- Consent to The Phoenix Green Communities Fund Terms & Conditions
- Be based within the [Phoenix Natural Gas licence area](#)
- Use the funding towards an event or activity within the local community
- Clearly demonstrate how your event / activity will help reduce social isolation, reduce barriers to inclusion or promote equality in the community
- Be an inclusive event / activity open to a cross section of the community
- Be scheduled to take place between 1st June 2023 – 1st April 2024



Planned Interventions Funding Support Workshops

The Education Authority Youth Service, in partnership with the Dept. of Education, are delighted to launch the Planned Interventions Programme for 2023, on behalf of The Executive Office. All awards are dependent on the availability of funding from approved budgets.



EA T:BUC Team have organised a number of application support workshops which all applicants are strongly encouraged to attend. They provide advice on programme planning, completing the application form, resources for support and the Programme outcomes.

DATES & VENUES

Monday 17th April 2023 17.00-19.00

Online

For more information and to apply, please visit [Planned Interventions Funding – EANI Funding](#)

2 workshops will happen in person, and 2 online. Links to the online workshops, in MS Teams, will be sent after registration is completed. You need only register for one event.

Save Our Wild Isles Community Fund

Aviva has partnered with the WWF (World Wildlife Fund for Nature) and RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) on the Save Our Wild Isles Community Fund. Up to £1million additional match funding is available for Projects that are accepted to the Save Our Wild Isles Community Fund. They have made changes to the Aviva Community Fund to Support this important initiative. Grants are available for not-for-profit organisations in the UK who can raise their initial funding through a crowdfunding campaign for projects that protect and restore nature in their local communities. Pledges will be matched at a rate of £2 to every £1 donated.



Maximum value: £ 5,000.

Groups should contact their local network leader by email for further information: For Northern Ireland contact Michaela.Howell@groundwork.org.uk

Call 2 Revenue Grants 2023/24

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council is offering financial assistance to eligible groups in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector for the period 1st July 2023 - 31st March 2024 for:

- Running costs (for eligible organisations)
- Programmes
- Events

Funding is available through the following grant programmes:

- Community Grants
- Arts, Culture and Events Grants

- Good Relations Grants



Applications open on Monday 3rd April 9am until **noon Friday 28th April 2023.**

To further assist groups a number of Virtual Information Sessions have been arranged as follows:-

- Tuesday 4th April at 7pm
- Wednesday 5th April at 2pm

To register for these sessions please email fap@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

Initial queries should be directed to Valerie Leatham on 07515607480



Community Technical Assistance Grants

Grants are available for community groups in Antrim and Newtownabbey to support consultancy and administration costs.

The funding is intended to cover various expenses related to project development, such as consultancy fees, statutory approval fees, public and employer's liability insurance, and volunteer expenses.

Grants of up to £10,000 are available and projects must take place between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024.

Grants may be used to meet the following costs:

- Consultancy fees (business plans / plans / feasibility studies / audits / options appraisals/



- economic appraisals/ environmental assessments, etc).
- Statutory approval fees - up to a maximum of £300.
- Public and employer's liability insurance.
- Volunteer expenses (up to a maximum of £10 per day: ie hospitality or travel to a meeting/ conference/event). Proof of expenses will be required.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Grant Manager \(eformz.info\)](http://Grant Manager (eformz.info))

Climate Action Fund - Energy and Climate

This funding aims to inspire and support communities across the UK to address the energy and climate crisis. We're looking for projects that show how communities can address climate change while tackling the energy challenges through community-led climate action.

We want to fund projects that:

- encourage communities to use energy in an environmentally friendly way
- bring communities together so that they can explore ways to promote energy efficiency
- enable communities to understand and engage with opportunities for clean energy generation, which do not use fossil fuels.

All projects should consider how everyone in the community can get involved with climate action. They must also address any reasons why some people might be left out.

We're looking for projects that will bring a range of benefits to communities, including:

- improving health and well-being
- creating local 'green' jobs, such as jobs providing low-carbon heat for homes, community energy champions and energy advisors
- reducing carbon emissions
- supporting communities to be more resilient.

We want to fund projects that aim for long term change. And projects that have the potential to have a positive impact beyond the communities they're directly working with.

Area UK-wide

Suitable for Community and voluntary organisations

Funding size - Projects can apply for up to £1.5 million over 2 to 5 years, with most projects over £500,000. Minimum grant £500,000. We aim to fund around 8-12 projects.

Total available £10m including £1.5m for a Learning Network.

Application deadline

You can apply when you're ready. We expect the programme to remain open until at least December 2023 but it will depend on when and how many others apply for our funding.

There will be virtual information sessions on the following days:

- 18 April, 12 noon to 12:45 pm
- 16 May, 12 noon to 12:45 pm
- 20 June, 12 noon – 12:45 pm

For more information and to apply, please visit [Climate Action Fund - Energy and Climate | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](http://Climate Action Fund - Energy and Climate | The National Lottery Community Fund (tnlcommunityfund.org.uk))



Prince's Countryside Fund Accepting Applications for Spring 2023 Round

The Prince's Countryside Fund is currently accepting applications from constituted, not-for-profit organisations with an income of less than £500,000 for projects that will create a long-term difference in rural communities across the UK.



THE PRINCE'S
COUNTRYSIDE
FUND

Grants of up to £25,000 over two years are available for projects that can be completed by December 2025.

The funding is designed to support community-led projects that are pursuing innovative and strategic solutions to the challenges facing their rural area and which will improve the viability and resilience of their community.

Successful projects will achieve one or more of the following:

- Support people to resolve existing and emerging community issues, circumstances, and priorities in their locality.
- Build rural community resilience.
- Develop innovative and replicable projects.
- Enable leadership and community planning.
- Improve the economic or social resilience of a rural community.
- Reduce isolation for people living in rural areas through improving service provision.
- Create a self-sufficient rural community fit for the future.

There is particular interest in applications from Wales & Northern Ireland.

There are usually two funding rounds per year with applications accepted in the Spring and again in the Autumn.

The deadline for applications to the Spring 2023 grant is **midday** on 11 April 2023.

Notification of decisions is expected the week commencing 5 June 2023 with the first grant payment made at the end of June 2023.

Eligibility criteria, eligibility quiz, FAQs and online application portal can be found on the Prince's Countryside Fund website.

Please visit [Home - The Prince's Countryside Fund \(princescountrysidefund.org.uk\)](https://princescountrysidefund.org.uk)

Impact Programme

Supporting social entrepreneurs to take their organisation to the next stage.

Overview

The Impact Programme is a nine-month accelerator programme that will provide you with specialised support to help you to bring your project or organisation to the next level, with a view to becoming a highly impactful, effective, scalable, and sustainable organisation.

Five social entrepreneurs led organisations will be selected to participate in the Impact Programme. As an Impact Programme Awardee your organisation will receive support in key business areas and direct funding worth over €20,000. You will join Ireland's largest network of social entrepreneurs working across the country to solve Ireland's social problems quickly and effectively.

Training & Support

Throughout the nine months, you will work with the Programme Manager to support you in key areas of need. We provide one-to-one support, coaching and consultancy as well as group training, in areas such as leadership development, communications, governance, strategic planning, fundraising, and resilience.

Community

Impact Programme Awardees receive support and mentorship from a large number of extremely experienced social entrepreneurs currently driving social change across the country, along with Ireland's leading business experts. Awardees also become members of the SEI Community where you can continue to avail of support after the Impact Programme ends.

Funding Available

Impact Awardees receive unrestricted funding of €20,000 to support them to build strong foundations for their organisations and grow their impact, in addition to all non-financial supports mentioned above.

Important Information & Announcements

- Applications to the Impact Programme open once per year
- We will open for applications for our 2023 programme on the 18th April.

For more information, please visit [Impact Programme - Social Entrepreneurs Ireland](https://socialentrepreneursireland.org.uk)



Evishagaran and Craiggore Community Benefit Fund

Purpose of the fund:

The Evishagaran and Craiggore Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund was established in 2022 by the ERG Group.

The fund's aim is to provide financial support towards the development of locally-beneficial community-based projects and initiatives within a 7km radius of Evishagaran and Craiggore wind farms, Dungiven.

Applications are invited from charities and community organisations based within a 7km radius of the Evishagaran and Craiggore wind farm sites.

[Evishgaran Map](#)

[Craiggore Map](#)

Applicants can apply for financial support for any one or more of the following purposes:

- Projects that are promoting ERG's culture and sustainability of renewable energies, energy efficiencies and energy poverty The advancement of education; and/or
- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement; and/or
- Projects for environmental and/or biodiversity benefit; and/or
- Improving the health of residents; and/or
- Promoting care & support of vulnerable people; and/or
- Promoting recreational or sporting activities; and/or
- The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science; and/or
- Improving or maintaining community buildings or facilities; and/or
- Social and local community development; and/or
- The promotion of culture and knowledge; and/or
- Support for young people and sports; and/or
- Promoting ERG's culture and sustainability of renewable energies; and/or

- Any purpose that is adverse to the wind farms, to ERG or to the wind energy industry as a whole
- Supporting social development leveraging on ERG's business activities; and/or
- Supporting the "call of ideas" for the innovation in the nearby areas; and/or
- Education in relation to sustainability, the development of renewables, and the fight against climate change



Priority will be given to:

- Collaborative projects
- Projects that aim to improve the health of residents, particularly mental health
- Projects that promote care & support of vulnerable people, particularly relating to the cost of living/fuel poverty

In the event of oversubscription, organisations who are being directly funded by ERG, will not be given priority.

Funding available:

Amount of funding available:

There will be two elements to this fund;

- Micro grants of up to £4,000 for small projects
- Strategic grants of up to £10,000 for larger scale strategic partnership projects, with one lead applicant (We anticipate supporting up to 2 of these grants)

Closing date for applications is 24th April 2023.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Evishagaran and Craiggore Community Benefit Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](https://www.communityfoundationni.org)