



Welcome to Supporting Communities 210th 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

NICVA and voluntary and community sector representatives meet with Northern Ireland Secretary of State

Shauna O'Neill of NICVA reports



NICVA, and representatives of the Northern Ireland Voluntary and Community Sector, welcomed Northern Ireland Secretary of State Chris Heaton-Harris MP to their headquarters last week, following last week's publication of the 2023/24 budget.

NICVA Chief Exec Celine McStravick said: "It was excellent to talk with the Secretary of State and to tell him about the incredible impact our sector has in Northern Ireland each and every day.

"As well as this, however, we spoke about the very serious impact budget cuts will have on people in every community.

"Young people and older people, women, those seeking a way back into employment, those with disabilities and people wanting to access community transport, and those living in poverty – our sector helps everyone, and they are all being affected by budget cuts and funding uncertainty.

"Now is the time to reimagine our relationship with government, we need to switch from funding to investment, and to be recognised as equal partners in delivering on the promise of Northern Ireland".

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt Hon Chris Heaton-Harris MP said: "My thanks to Celine and NICVA's representative organisations for their time today. I will continue to listen intently to the views of voluntary and community organisations in Northern Ireland.

"The work they do to support communities through difficult times is incredible.

"That includes their work on the ground, supporting the most vulnerable communities with the challenges of the cost of living.

"My hope is to see the devolved institutions working for communities and delivering local governance to suit local needs. This remains my focus."



Members of NICVA's Executive Committee and Senior Management Team, including Chief Executive Celine McStravick and Vice-Chair Charlene Brooks, with the NI Secretary of State, Rt Hon Chris Heaton-Harris MP at NICVA's Headquarters.

Unsung heroes win Rural Community Awards

Moneydarragh Community Hub in south Down is one of six winners to scoop a coveted accolade in the Housing Executive's annual Rural Community Awards. The competition rewards individuals and groups who are making a difference in rural areas.

Unsung heroes from across Northern Ireland have scooped top prizes in the Housing Executive's annual Rural Community Awards 2022 competition.

Individuals and groups who are making a difference in rural areas received the awards which showcase the range of activities they are involved in to improve quality of life and create cleaner, safer and more vibrant places to live.

Outstanding volunteering work being carried out at grassroots level in rural neighbourhoods and villages, which helps to boost civic pride among residents, is also recognised in the awards.

Winners for 2022 are:

- Community Spirit North Region: Carnlough Community Association
- Community Spirit South Region: Moneydarragh Community Hub
- Cleaner & Greener North Region: Cullybackey Community Partnership
- Cleaner & Greener South Region: Trillick Community Group
- Community Champion North Region: Roy McDowell, Ahoghill In Bloom
- Community Champion South Region: Sammy Wilson, Donaghmore Horticultural Community

Community Champions won £500 for their groups, and the Rural Community Spirit and the Cleaner and Greener award winners each received £1,000.



Tim Gilpin, the Housing Executive's acting Rural and Regeneration Manager, said: "First launched at the Balmoral Show in 2014, the competition has been a huge success, generating hundreds of inspiring applications.

"We are delighted to celebrate the work of volunteers across Northern Ireland, who are quite often the unsung heroes in our community, by organising this competition.

"So many people routinely go above and beyond to promote health and wellbeing, individual and community development, social inclusion and help make life better for all residents, which is to be commended."

Elma Newberry, the Housing Executive's acting Director of Regional Services, said: "I am very impressed with the high standard of nominations that we received in the 2022 competition.

"A large number of volunteers do a huge amount of hard work to improve their communities and I would like to thank each and every one of them. Our winners are richly deserving and are excellent examples of what individuals and groups can achieve for the benefit of the local people around them.

"Everyone is grateful to all of those who so generously give up their time and share their expertise so that we can live in places that are attractive and welcoming. Your contribution to our community is outstanding."

Register with Social Value NI

Social Value is about maximising the social, economic and environmental benefits through the public procurement process. Ultimately, this allows Government Departments and their stakeholders to find new and far reaching methods to deliver on the outcomes of the Programme for Government.

<https://biteable.com/watch/3839349/057567cda04300a577b20688fe969067>

The Social Value NI website offers the public, private and third sectors a suite of bespoke resources, training modules and model procurement documentation to ensure consistency of approach while allowing public bodies, and their suppliers, to retain flexibility in the delivery of the 4 social value themes:

- Increasing secure employment and skills
- Building ethical and resilient supply chains
- Delivering zero carbon
- Promoting Well-being



Your organisation may be able to benefit from contractors working in your area – all you have to do is register as a broker here: <https://socialvalueni.org/brokers/>



Consultations

Consultation launches on revised regional strategic planning policy for renewable and low carbon energy

The Department for Infrastructure has issued a draft revised regional strategic planning policy on renewable and low carbon energy for 12 weeks public consultation.



The aim of the review is to ensure that planning policy remains fit for purpose and up-to-date to inform plan-making and decision-taking in relation to renewable and low carbon energy planning applications, while reflecting our commitment to the Energy Strategy and the Climate Change (Northern Ireland) Act 2022, which has established a renewable electricity consumption target of 80% by 2030.

The consultation documents are available at [Draft Renewable and Low Carbon Energy](#). The consultation is open until 5.00 pm on 30 June 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

Equality Scheme, Audit of Inequalities and Disability Action Plan 2022-2027

Department for the Economy

[Equality Scheme, Audit of Inequalities and Disability Action Plan 2022-2027 | Department for the Economy](#)

[\(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date; 4th June 2023

Climate Change Reporting by Specified Public Bodies - Developing New Regulations

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

[Consultation on Climate Change Reporting by Specified Public Bodies - Developing New Regulations |](#)

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

Closing date; 9th June 2023

Review of the Race Relations (NI) Order 1997

The Executive Office NI

[Consultation on the Review of the Race Relations \(NI\) Order 1997 | The Executive Office](#)

[\(executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date; 18th June 2023

YOUR VIEWS WANTED

The Northern Ireland Policing Board is seeking views from across the community on the delivery of the policing service and how the police work in partnership with the community in local areas as part of the Community Policing Survey 2023.

With our responsibility to oversee the work of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, we want to find out about your experience of PSNI in your local area, whether that be as an individual or through your work with a community group or an organisation.

This information will be used to inform the Policing Plan and assist the Board in assessing and evaluating the impact of police partnership working within local communities. We appreciate you taking the time to complete this survey. The Board will publish the results in Autumn 2023.

SCAN TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY

The online survey will be open from Monday 3 April 2023 to Friday 30 June 2023 and can be accessed by scanning the QR Code or by visiting [consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doj/community-policing-survey-2023](#)

Anyone unable to access the survey online, can request hard copies of the survey by contacting the Policing Board:

Northern Ireland Policing Board
James House, Block D, 2 - 4 Cromac Avenue,
The Gasworks, Belfast, BT7 2JA

Statistics@nipolicingboard.org.uk
028 9040 8500

You can find out more about the role and work of the Policing Board by visiting our website at [www.nipolicingboard.org.uk](#)
Stay up to date by following us on social media:

Policy and Practice Focus

Could the cost-of-living crisis be even bigger than we thought? See for yourself

Ryan Millar writes in Scope NI

Scope

New ONS analysis shows where inflation is really pressurising household budgets. Some basics are up by over 40%. Meanwhile a new online tool will let you check how inflation is affecting you and your family, specifically.

The cost-of-living crisis is hardly *news* at this point. It continues apace, its effects are well established and, even if inflation slows down significantly, price rises that went into outer space will linger for years.

But could the impact on households actually be worse than we thought? That depends on your circumstances.

Headline inflationary figures are broad estimates. Inflation for different things – gas, petrol, individual items of food – will all be different and [the cost-of-living increase experienced by a given household will depend on exactly what they buy.](#)

Wages have been stagnant for a decade or more so, in real-terms, the nation has been taking pay cut after pay cut for a long time. What was a slow squeeze became an immense crush over the past couple of years. Inflation was over 10% for month after month. That certainly sounds scary but if this was driven by monstrous rises in the price of luxury goods, that would be a lot less worrying than if yachts and Range Rovers were all going down in price while the costs of basic foods were headed for the stars. Individual people, households and families can only really measure how price surges are affecting them by tracking the price of the goods they buy. The Office of National Statistics (ONS) has recognised this and [today released an analysis of the different price rises of groceries.](#)

Up and up

According to the ONS, grocery prices on the whole rose by almost one fifth (19%) over the calendar year up to March. However, in that time 60 different types of item saw price rises above 20%, including five that rose by 40% or more.

Those big rises included a 49% hike in the price of olive oil, a 30% increase in the price of butter, a 44% rise for hard cheese and a 42% uplift in the price of cheddar (which is categorised separately from hard cheese). Dairy, in general, has become a lot more expensive.

“The milk, cheese and eggs products category has recorded one of the highest annual inflation rates in groceries throughout the last year. The latest official figures show a 30% increase in the 12 months to

March 2023, slightly down from 31% in February.”

The analysis is not limited to food. It also looks at basic medicines, and some clothes. Cold and flu sachets have increased in price by around 24%, private dentist check-ups by about 7%, and nursing home costs by 10%. However, the focus is largely on food, including assessments for some family meals: “A roast dinner for four people, including a whole chicken (1.5 kilograms (kg)), white potatoes (1kg), carrots (1 kg), broccoli (350 grams (g)) and butter (100g), could cost £8.68 on average in March 2023, based on a 2023 sample. This is £1.68 more than in March 2022, with broccoli recording the highest increase at 34%.”

There are also inflationary estimates for delivery meals like fish and chips, or pizza – and the price of drinks in pubs. Some people like to roll their eyes about the inclusion of non-essentials like takeaways and alcohol. However, people are allowed a life. We live in a wealthy country. No-one should be reduced to a diet of porridge and past-their-sell-by oranges. If the just-tighten-your-belts crowd are reduced to saying that struggling families simply should never order a bag of chips or go out for a glass of wine, that says more about their attitude to other people than it does about the economy. As well as this new, in-depth analysis of inflation, there is now a new method for looking at how the cost-of-living crisis is affecting your own household. It covers food and other groceries, of course, but its reach also goes much further.

Tool

The ONS has also launched a new shopping prices comparison tool, which allows people to track inflation on hundreds of different items.

The tool allows cost comparisons of groceries, clothing and footwear, health items (including medicines like paracetamol, grooming items like shampoo and mouthwash, and glasses and contact lenses), various recreational and cultural things (ranging from books to cinema popcorn, from a soft play session to booster injections for dogs), household items, different services and transport options.

If you want to see how inflation is affecting you, [go here and tick on all the things you purchase.](#) The tool is easy to use and largely self-explanatory.

It could (and should) be important for third-sector organisations. They will be able to easily keep track of price rises that are relevant to their service users – which will be useful both for keeping tabs on any

growing pressure on service users, and for lobbying and other campaigning on those service users' behalf. For instance, with just a couple of taps on a keyboard, parenting and early years organisations will be able to track price changes in baby formula, babygrows and sleepsuits (yes, the tool is that specific), books for under 5s, childminding costs, and more. Of course, none of this will actually bring inflation down at all. Not directly, at least.

The way we talk about the economy is changing. Back when wage growth (and growth, per se) were reasonably robust and the socioeconomic prospects of people were generally on the up, reducing everything to GDP was vaguely acceptable. Nowadays, with growth

questionable, [wealth inequality running rampant](#), and with inflation outstripping rises in household income seemingly as a matter of course, the economy needs to be discussed in much broader terms.

This ONS tool could democratise that. And, in doing so, could equip individual people and campaigning organisations with easily-accessible knowledge that will allow them to be a vocal part of economic discourse and, hopefully, to have a real say in the future of society.

Exactly how big is the cost-of-living crisis? Well, it's big – but at least you can now measure exactly how big it is for you personally.

Charities make permanent four-day week switch after successful trial



Lea Legraien writes in Civil Society

Two charities that took part in the world's biggest four-day week trial have now approved the setup permanently.

Scotland's International Development Alliance and Debt Justice told Civil Society that they decided to stick with a four-day working week after staff reported improved wellbeing and decreased stress levels during the pilot.

The charities also said they had not seen a drop in their productivity since reducing employees' working hours.

'Hugely beneficial for staff wellbeing'

The four-day week trial was piloted in the UK between June and December last year by 61 organisations, including about seven charities, and around 2,900 workers. Partaking organisations were not required to rigidly deploy a specific type of reduced working pattern or four-day week as long as they maintained pay at 100% and offered their staff a "meaningful" reduction in work time.

Friends of the Earth and the Royal Society of Biology both announced last year that they would make a permanent switch to reduced hours. Scotland's International Development Alliance, which has seven employees, said in February that it had extended the trial and was considering making a decision on a permanent move. Its board has since approved the move, with six full-time staff members switching to a four-day week and one part-timer reducing their hours by 20%.

Chief executive Frances Guy said: "The Alliance is continuing with the four-day week with annual reviews to check that it's still working for the organisation. It has been hugely beneficial for staff wellbeing, and has not affected our ability to meet objectives so we are happy to continue. We're happy to share our experience with anyone interested."

Moving towards 'a fairer, wellbeing-based economy'

Debt Justice's 12 employees all moved to a shorter working week after its board also approved the measure on a permanent basis.

Executive director Heidi Chow said that "adopting a shorter working week is our contribution to moving towards a fairer, wellbeing-based economy. We have seen no drop in our effectiveness as a campaigning organisation. Instead, our staff are feeling more motivated and well rested which is having a positive impact on our work and campaigning outcomes," she added.

- See more at: https://www.civilsociety.co.uk/news/charities-make-permanent-four-day-week-switch-after-successful-trial.html?utm_source=New+Main+List+From+Live+CIVIL+Site&utm_campaign=8f5cf6a5e0-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_04_28_11_41&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-8f5cf6a5e0-%5BBLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D#sthash.G4Qhpepd.dpuf

Do not 'weaponise' the Charity Commission in trustee disputes, says CEO



*Learning from the experience in England and Wales
Sam Wait writes in Civil Society*

The Charity Commission has told trustees not to “weaponise” the regulator in internal charity disputes.

Speaking at Civil Society Media’s Trustee Exchange yesterday, Helen Stephenson said she sees too many cases that revolve around “two or more warring parties with differing visions for the future of the charity”.



*Helen Stephenson,
CEO Charity Commission*

“Don’t try to weaponise the Commission as a tactic in a quarrel with fellow trustees,” she said.

“And don’t assume that by coming to the Commission as one party to a dispute, you’ll achieve the outcome you hope for.

“There’s no guarantee that we’ll ‘side’ with you – indeed intractable disputes can cause us to take other types of regulatory action in response to governance failures that arise. I’ve asked my colleagues at the Commission to undertake some work so that we better understand the scale and nature of disputes in charities, and can support trustees to stop small differences escalating into chaos.”

‘Use your passion to bring people together’

The Commission recently [ordered the Actors’ Benevolent Fund to hold a second annual general meeting](#) (AGM) after a “breach in the process” of its latest trustee election.

Ms Stephenson did not name any particular charity but said disputes often revolve around who the “rightly appointed trustees actually are” and that arguments like this should be resolved internally instead of being referred to the regulator. She said such arguments “might have been settled, had trustees shown

goodwill and commitment, and a willingness to compromise their position. These arguments should not land at our front door. We have a role in promoting public trust in charities and upholding the law. But it’s not our job to mediate between, or indeed pick sides between rival groups of trustees,”

Ms Stephenson said that the challenging climate for charities due to the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis could be what has led to “cracks in relationships. I also suspect it perhaps has something to do with the passion and energy that so many trustees bring to their work. Occasionally, that energy can lead to fixed mindsets and a determination to be right at all costs. Please don’t allow that to happen in your charity. Use your passion to bring people together in the interests of those your charity exists to serve.”

‘Too few trustees use regulator’s guidance’

Ms Stephenson also said that “too few trustees” consult the Commission’s guidance when making decisions. Our research indicates that just over 40% of trustees never come to the Commission when they are looking for advice and guidance. Just under a third come to us less than once a year. And only 10% come to us regularly in a given year. Unfortunately, this shows in some trustees’ conduct and decision making.” Ms Stephenson said the regulator was “thinking creatively” about how new funds could come into the sector.

One of these was by encouraging more philanthropy and another was through the regulator’s Revitalising Trusts Programme, she said, which has now redistributed £100m from inactive bank accounts. Stephenson thanked the trustees in the audience for the role they perform. Most of you do this work for no financial reward and on top of already busy working and home lives,” she said. “It’s an immense service, not just directly for your beneficiaries, but for your communities, and our society. Collectively, you make our country kinder, stronger, more cohesive.”

- See more at: https://www.civilsociety.co.uk/news/do-not-weaponise-the-charity-commission-in-trustee-disputes-says-ceo.html?utm_source=New+Main+List+From+Live+CIVIL+Site&utm_campaign=a4dc3aeb46-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_04_27_12_17&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-a4dc3aeb46-%5BBLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D#sthash.FEruUpFJ.dpuf

Publications

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 \(pcsp.org\)](#)

Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities Conflict of Interest Policy with the Charities Commission Northern Ireland

All charities under the law of Northern Ireland are required to register with and be regulated by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (CCNI). There are no exemptions to this requirement.

These arrangements apply to the Department for Communities (DfC) in respect of those charities for which DfC is the charity trustee.

The purpose of this document is to set out the procedures to be followed by DfC where any concern/issue is raised and does not obviate the need for any charity for which DfC is the charity trustee to adhere to the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern

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-March-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](#)



Ireland) 2008 (the 2008 Act) or any subordinate legislation emanating from it.

The aim of this arrangement is to protect DfC and CCNI from any appearance of impropriety.

[Northern Ireland Central Investment Fund for Charities Conflict of Interest Policy with the Charities Commission Northern Ireland | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Events

All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference Update

The very first All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference is just over a month away on 13th June.



Plan your day!

The All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference Programme is online now.

Tuesday 13 June
Carrickdale Hotel

With thanks to our headline sponsor, Circle VHA



If you've been waiting to see what we have planned for you, wait no longer!

The [programme](#) for the event has come together nicely, and we are so excited to showcase involved tenants, leading housing professionals, and policymakers who care about tenant involvement from across the island of Ireland. We'll learn what works, what doesn't, and how we can all help take tenant participation to the next level.

Join us 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!



Tuesday, 6 June
11:00am - 12:00pm

Join the Age Friendly Network NI, in partnership with Northern Ireland Age Sector Networks, for an online Regional Rapid Rundown!

This online event will showcase the wide range of services and support that is available for Older People in Northern Ireland. With 20 organisations taking part, each group will have two minutes to present.

Register here: <https://forms.gle/ah8jmbFvlnT652fo2>
Or contact Agewell: 028 25658604

The Age Friendly Network NI in partnership with Northern Ireland Age Sector Networks are hosting an online Regional Rapid Rundown.

This online event will showcase the wide range of services and support that is available for Older People in Northern Ireland.

With 20 organisations taking part, each organisation will be given just two minutes to present.

To Register for this event, go to: [Regional Rapid Rundown \(google.com\)](#)



Funding Clinic for NIHE Community Involvement Grants

Thursday 11th May 2023 10.00 AM - 3.00 PM

Do you need help applying for the NI Housing Executive's Community Involvement Grants?

Our Funding Officer, Anita Doonan, has appointments available on 11 May and 16 May for HCN groups to get support for completing the application.

About the Grants

The Community Involvement Grants allow community groups to apply for funding for projects that will benefit Housing Executive communities.

Projects must fit in with one or more of these themes:

- Health & Wellbeing
- Environment Improvement
- Intergenerational Practice
- Digital Inclusion

Read more about the grants here: <https://www.nihe.gov.uk/community/community-involvement/community-involvement-grants-application>

The closing date to apply is 30 May 2023.

Book Your Place

Please [fill in this form](#) to request an appointment.

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

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



This face-to-face symposium is a unique collaboration between the National Association for Pastoral Care in Education (NAPCE) and Stranmillis University College, Belfast.

It seeks to bring together educational practitioners from a range of school settings in Northern Ireland to identify the current pastoral challenges facing schools as we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic and enter a period of significant budget cuts.



The symposium features contributions from Koulla Yiasouma, the former Children's Commissioner for NI, and three local schools, each of which has won awards for their outstanding pastoral care. There will be presentations and time for group discussion, as well as informal networking and sharing of experiences and ideas.

For more information go to; [Who cares about Pastoral Care? Tickets, Wed 21 Jun 2023 at 16:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Training

HCN Online Forums Digital Drop-In Sessions

- Thursday 11th May 2023 from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm
- Thursday 18th May 2023 from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm
- Thursday 25th May 2023 from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm

Are you a member of the [Housing Community Network](#)?

If you attend Central, Area, Regional, District Level meetings or Inter-Agencies, you will soon have access to all of your forum resources online!

Carla Mullholand, our new digital inclusion officer, will be holding regular drop-in sessions on Thursday afternoons from 1.30pm - 2.30pm to help members get signed up and use the online forums.

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 'HCN 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.

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. Read more [about Carla and her new role](#) in assisting the HCN to gain the digital skills needed to participate online.

Register for these session

These session will be held on Zoom. To register for any of these sessions, please [fill in this form](#).

If you have any questions, contact Carla Mullholand at carla@supportingcommunities.org.



Housing Rights Training

Sustaining tenancies in the social rented sector

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

Online

Date; 25 May 2023 from 10:00am to 1:00pm

Fees; *Voluntary / Community from £56.00 to £70.00*
Public / Statutory from £100.00 to £125.00

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

What we will cover:

- rent arrears and affordability
- antisocial behaviour
- abandonment
- disrepair
- Suitability

Who should attend?

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

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



Volunteer Now Training Sessions in May 2023

Keeping Children and Adults Safe: Training for Staff and Volunteers
Thursday 24th May 2023 from 10.00am - 3.30pm
online standard course from £30



The integrated training programme is aimed at those who engage with children, young people and adults at risk. It covers:

- Legal context and policy context of safeguarding children and adults
- Awareness of vulnerability
- Awareness of abuse issues
- Procedures for reporting concerns
- Procedures for creating a safe environment and assessing and managing risk

- Confidentiality
- Code of behaviour for staff/volunteers.

This training will be delivered in 2 parts:

Part 1 10.00am – 12 noon

Part 2 1.00pm – 3.30pm

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

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

Volunteer Now courses are booking up fast, especially the safeguarding courses so be quick! If you don't see what you are looking for, please drop us an email (training@volunteernow.co.uk) and let us know, we might add it to the calendar! And don't forget, we also offer tailored training.

- The New Environment: Recruit, Retain, Reward Volunteers | 16 May
- Keeping Children Safe: Designated Officer Refresher Training | 31 May
- FREE Keeping Children & Adults Safe: An Introduction | 20 June
- Keeping Adults Safe: Adult Safeguarding Champion & Appointed Person Refresher Training | 22 June
- Keeping Children Safe: An Introduction | 5 July
- Keeping Children Safe: Designated Officer Training | 25 July
- Leading the Way – Governance | 26 July



- Keeping Adults Safe: Adult Safeguarding Champion & Appointed Person Training | 10 August
- Volunteer Induction, Support and Supervision | 17 August

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

Volunteer Now
training@volunteernow.co.uk
028 9023 2020

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



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.



Understanding 'Social Value'? (Online Session)

Wednesday 17th May 2023 from 10.00 am to 11.00 am &
Wednesday 21st June 2023 from 10.00 am to 11.00 am

Join us online to get a better understanding of what we mean when we talk about 'Social Value' and 'Impact Measurement'.

This session will help you to:

- Recognise the importance of measuring your social value
- Understand the jargon associated with impact measurement
- Learn about the tools available to use to measure your impact

Register your place

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

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

Writing Successful Funding Applications (Online Session)

Wednesday, 7th June 2023 from 10.00am to 11.00am

Join us for this short session looking at planning and completing a successful funding application.

Learners will gain:

- an understanding of the key processes of a successful funding application
- increased confidence when approaching funders
- enhanced fundraising skills and knowledge

Register your place

To register for this course, [please fill in this form.](#)

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



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

Small Grants Scheme 2023 - Grants opening 11th May!!

Live Here Love Here Small Grants are funded by 10 Local Councils, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. The Small Grants Scheme provides support to volunteer projects that:

- Contribute to the development of civic pride within a community with a focus on environmental improvement.
- Encourage actions and projects that enable Pollution Solutions, Biodiversity Recovery and Climate Action.
- Enhance the environmental management of a local area.
- Improve the health and wellbeing of communities whilst helping to improve and/or maintain public spaces.
- Improve the quality of their local environment by reducing littering and dog fouling through community Action.
- Support environmentally focused actions that help support people impacted through reduced contact with society.

Value of Grants

Grants are available between £500 - £3000. The average value of grants awarded is £1200. Non-constituted groups can apply for a maximum of £500.

Eligibility

The Small Grants Scheme is open to:

- Community & Voluntary groups (including non-constituted groups)
- Sports clubs, churches and youth groups
- Not for profit organisations
- School and third level education organisations



Applications are particularly welcome from grassroots groups who have not previously received support through the Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme.

Funding is only available in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area to projects located in Northern Ireland Housing Executive areas.

What type of projects will the Small Grant Scheme fund?

- Development of shared spaces such as alleys.
- Community food growing initiatives.
- Skill sharing in horticulture and community growing.
- Projects that tackle litter issues and dog fouling.

Litter picking equipment is not eligible for funding through this grant - please check out the [Adopt A Spot project](#).

Need some inspiration?

Check out the documents below, they are packed with hints and tips to help with your application.

[Biodiversity Recovery Project Advice](#)
[Pollution Solutions Project Advice](#)
[Tackling Textiles Project Advice](#)

Please visit [Small Grants Scheme delivered by Live Here Love Here](#)

Allen & Overy Foundation Increases Funding For Charities In Northern Ireland

Charities across Northern Ireland are invited to apply for up to £100k support from the Allen & Overy (A&O) Foundation, which is funded by contributions from A&O partners worldwide.

Financial support available for charities from The A&O Foundation in Northern Ireland has increased by 80% compared to 2022, and is administered by the Belfast Grants Committee. Charities that specialise in promoting access to justice or those that support and develop education or employment projects across Northern Ireland are encouraged to apply.

Charities interested in applying for funding should email belfastgrants@allenoverly.com requesting an application form and outlining how their work meets the criteria of increasing access to justice or the advancement of education or employment. Completed application forms should be returned by **5pm on Friday 19 May 2023**.



The ARN Foundation Tackling Isolation Fund

The ARN Foundation is an independent Charitable Trust set up with the intent of supporting good causes across Northern Ireland.

The ARN Foundation's Tackling Isolation Fund will support organisations to deliver projects in support of older people affected by the cost of living crisis; and will be managed by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

In June 2022 the Community Foundation met with a number of key stakeholders and called for the formation of an Executive to address the cost of living crisis.

As part of the Foundation's commitment to being flexible and responsive we have agreed to review some of our funds with a view to supporting communities at this time.

Among the hardest hit by the cost of living crisis are older people. Older people are often on fixed income, and the rising cost of food and fuel has often led to having to choose between eating or heating.

The latest cost of living research from Age UK found around 65,000 households aged 60+ in Northern Ireland will have insufficient income to cover their essential spending this year.

Around 25,000 (almost 40%) of pensioners here are currently living in poverty or just above the poverty line.

There are concerns that over the next few months and into the winter that older people will suffer further.

In recognition of the needs of older people, the ARN Foundation has developed a new Fund, the Tackling Isolation Fund, with a particular focus on food and fuel.

Groups supporting older people can access up to £10,000 of financial support.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply your project must target at least

three of the key priorities detailed below:

- Supporting older people to keep warm.
- Supporting older people to access a nutritious meal.
- Reducing isolation and vulnerability of older people through supporting participation in activities.
- Enabling older people to access technology, and to potential benefits and entitlements that they may not be aware of.
- Beneficiaries who are rurally isolated.

Examples of projects could include, but are not limited to:

- Supporting older people through delivery of services to live an independent and well-nourished way of life in their own home and as part of the community.
- Providing opportunities for older people to be involved in the design, delivery and ongoing management of community-based initiatives.
- Overcoming social isolation through social contact with other older people building on food activities, such as cooking from scratch and sharing meals, and other activities involving the wider community.
- Promoting intergenerational activities by involving older and younger people in food-based and social activities.
- Providing choice in meeting nutritional needs, including delivery of shopping by volunteers or accompanied shopping, and befriending support.
- Increasing affordability of, and access to, basic foodstuffs and/or fuel.

Closing date for applications is 26th May 2023. For more information and to apply, please visit [The ARN Foundation Tackling Isolation Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](https://www.communityfoundationni.org)



Slieve Rushen Wind Farm Fund

Is your community project located within 12 km of Slieve Rushen Wind Farm in South West Fermanagh? If Yes your group may be eligible to apply for a Slieve Rushen Wind Farm Fund Grant.

For further information see [GUIDELINES](#) and [APPLICATION FORM](#)

Closing date for applications Friday 9th June 2023 at 12 noon.

Any queries please email: gemma@fermanaghtrust.org

The Fermanagh Trust will not discuss, or fund applications submitted by professional fundraising consultants on behalf of local groups. We are committed to building the capacity of grass roots organisation's and are here to help voluntary committee members directly.



Tesco Community Grants

Tesco Community Grants helps to fund thousands of local projects across the country. Since 2016 the scheme has supported over 50,000 community groups with more than £100 million in grants. The scheme aims to make a positive difference – because where our communities thrive, our business and our colleagues thrive too.

Who is eligible to apply?

Grants will be awarded to schools, voluntary or community organisations (including registered charities/companies), health bodies (e.g. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS Hospital Trust, Foundation Trust), Parish/Town Councils, local authorities and social housing providers.

This list is not exhaustive and there will be many other types of organisations that will be funded.

Applications are **not eligible** from:

- Individuals
- Community Interest Companies with shares (CIC's)
- Community Interest Companies with guarantee that are less than two years old
- Profit-making organisations

What types of projects will Tesco Community Grants fund?

Applications are open to all local good causes, but we are currently prioritising helping projects that support



children's food security and health and local store nominated good causes.

This is not an exhaustive list and other project ideas also welcomed.

Examples include:

- School Breakfast clubs
- Holiday clubs
- Play areas
- Food banks
- Counselling and support services for children
- Equipment or non-statutory services for nurseries or schools e.g. forest schools, library books
- Equipment for Brownie, Guide or Scout Groups e.g. camping equipment, badges
- Services or equipment to support children and young people's health
- Equipment/kit for youth sports teams

For more information, please visit [Apply for a grant – Tesco Community Grants](#)

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:

- 16 May, 12:00 to 12:45
- 20 June, 12:00 – 12:45

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



Open College Network NI (OCN NI): Centre Learning Grants Programme

Open College Network NI (OCN NI) plans to award a share of £85K to education, voluntary and charitable training providers locally via their Centre Learning Grants Programme, now in its second year.

The Centre Learning Grants Programme, with a closing date for applications of Friday 12th May 2023, was created by the OCN NI Board of Trustees to help fulfil its charitable objectives. Particular emphasis will be given to help those who may be particularly disadvantaged and would not otherwise have had opportunities to engage in education.

This is the first learner funding scheme of its kind in Northern Ireland created by an awarding organisation, explained Martin Flynn, CEO, OCN NI.

“This is the second year of our Centre Learning Grants Programme and if last year is anything to go by, we are expecting another huge response from our very deserving centres. The grants programme provides a unique opportunity for education, voluntary and charitable training providers to apply for much needed additional funding that will help them to innovate and enhance their current offering to support disadvantaged learners locally.

“We will be awarding grants of up to £3,000 for specific projects or activities that advance the mission and vision of OCN NI in a way that provides robust evidence of how learning positively impacts on individuals, families and communities.”

Last year, grants were given to the North West Play Resource Centre which received £3,000, the Clanrye Group was awarded £2,945, People 1st secured a grant



worth £2,200, Sacred Heart College received £1,000, Parenting NI received £1,695, Loughan EOTAS received a £2,700 grant and Fermanagh Women's Aid was awarded a Centre Learning Grant of £3,000.

Paul Donaghy Chair of OCN NI, said: “OCN NI is once again delighted to be in a position to ‘give back’ to learners and training providers through the extension of our Centre Learning Grants Programme.

Over the last 12 months OCN NI has consolidated its position as the leading awarding body in Northern Ireland so being able to fund and deliver this programme for another year is a key element of charitable function, which aims to ensure the advancement of education for public benefit.

“We have already seen the positive impact from last year’s programme to help engage, enrich and equip learners for life, so I would encourage centres to apply as soon as possible for the 2023 programme.”

[To apply for funding from the Centre Learning Grants Programme visit https://ocnni-centre-learning-grants.grantplatform.com/](https://ocnni-centre-learning-grants.grantplatform.com/). **The closing date for applications is Friday 12th May 2023**