

10th April 2024

E-Zine



**Supporting
Communities**
Empowering Society

Welcome to Supporting Communities 229th 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

Minister outlines vision for housing ahead of opening new £100m development

Communities Minister Gordon Lyons has set out his priorities for housing, including building more social homes and providing more affordable housing options.

The Minister was delivering the keynote address at the Northern Ireland Housing Conference in the Europa Hotel, Belfast, before attending the opening of the Black Ridge housing development in west Belfast.

Addressing the conference, which brings together a range of organisations from across the housing spectrum, the Minister said:

“Rents and mortgage rates are rising and there is massive demand for private rentals and social housing, yet over the last few years housebuilding has declined. If we want to avoid sliding into a housing crisis, we must deliver the housing we need.”

The Minister outlined his intention to make progress in a number of areas.

“We need to build more social homes to address growing housing stress,” he said. “We need to deliver more affordable housing options. We need to support people to live independently in their own homes and feel part of their community. We need to provide better quality homes so people can live comfortably and safely. Of course, this work needs to be done at a time when budgets are under pressure across the public sector. However, we have to do it, as otherwise thousands more households and families will struggle to buy a home or pay their rent.”

Acknowledging the size of the task ahead, the Minister added: “These issues won’t be fixed quickly, or indeed easily. But now, more than ever, we need to work collectively – at all levels of government, with stakeholders, delivery partners and communities – to address the situation we face.”

The Minister then spoke before the official opening of the Black Ridge development in west Belfast.



Currently the largest housing development under construction in Northern Ireland, the development will provide 653 new homes, including 549 social homes to rent and 104 affordable homes for sale through shared ownership.

The Minister said: “As Minister, I am pleased to be opening this transformational project. Landmark developments such as Black Ridge are a significant step in addressing the housing need which exists in this community. Everyone has a right to a decent standard of housing. And yet, a home is much more than bricks and mortar. It begins with a roof over someone’s head. But it extends far beyond that, into a collaborative effort which supports individuals and families.”

The £102m scheme has been supported by £52.4million Housing Association Grant funding from the Department for Communities and £49.4million private finance investment by Apex Housing Association.

The Minister added: “We recognise that houses can be designed and built, but communities are developed and nurtured. And I thank all those here today for giving me the opportunity to share in this event. Schemes of this size and nature are the result of a tremendous amount of work, involving individuals, organisations, communities and government at various levels. I commend Apex Housing Association, and indeed all those involved, and wish the residents every happiness in their new homes.”

Insights from Shaping the Future of Voluntary Youth Work in Northern Ireland

In recent weeks, a series of workshops has ignited vital conversations across Northern Ireland, aimed at reshaping the landscape of youth work.

Organised by a committee from across the youth work and play sector and facilitated by NICVA, the workshops have brought over 120 people from across the youth sector together for collaborative discussions envisioning a shared future for the sector.

Supported by funding from the Dormant Account Fund, these in person and online workshops have reflected on current challenges and explored ways to repair, reconnect and transform the sector. Participants emphasized the need for a unified voice, genuine inclusion of youth perspectives, and transparent communication. They recognized the importance of proactive approaches and advocating for the value of youth work.

“I think the value is bringing the whole voluntary sector together to explore what our future looks like and as a voluntary sector do we have a future- is it currently separate or can we be one voice united for the betterment of our children and young people”. (participant at Belfast event).

“Young people are the future and if you don’t plan it you leave things down to happenstance. I think Northern Ireland is developing in a really unique and exciting way in the next couple of years... it’s great to have an opportunity to come together and talk about things”. (participant at the Derry event)



Across Belfast, Derry, Lurgan, Ballymena and the online workshops, participants have reflected on the value of collaborating at these gatherings and their desire for collective action.

The energy and optimism evident at the workshops has reaffirmed the appetite for working towards transforming the voluntary youth work sector.

You can follow the progress of this work on [Twitter](#) or Instagram: @volyouthworksec
By: Rachel Hasson, PR and Comms | Voluntary Youth Sector, Rachel@youthaction.org



INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS CONGRATULATIONS!

Investing in Volunteers (IiV) is the UK Quality Standard that helps you assess and improve the quality of your volunteer management and involvement, prove and improve the effectiveness of your work with volunteers and enhance your organisation’s reputation.

Achieving the standard shows your current, and potential, volunteers how much they are valued and gives them confidence in your ability to provide an outstanding volunteer experience. It also reassures funders of the quality of your practices.

Congratulations to all the Investing in Volunteer April achievers. Welcome to the new achiever and well done to those who have renewed, some of which celebrate their third award.

[Gas Networks Ireland](#)
[Southern Health and Social Care Trust](#)
[Ulster Wildlife](#)
[Ulster GAA](#)



If you would like to find out more about Investing in Volunteers and get your quote today [click here](#).

Could you help restore good governance to a charity?



The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland is adding to its list of prospective trustees who may be called on to provide assistance in a charity either on a short or long term basis – and is looking for interested parties to apply.

Under the *Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008*, the Commission has the power to appoint trustees to a charity where it is satisfied there is, or has been:

- misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of a charity
- or it is necessary or desirable to act for the purpose of protecting the property of a charity or for its proper administration.

The Commission may appoint a person to be a charity trustee where, for example:

- there are no charity trustees
- there is a single charity trustee and a need to appoint others for the proper administration of the charity.

Commission staff may also facilitate the introduction of prospective trustees with charities facing particular challenges.

To support the Commission in updating its list of prospective trustees, the Commission is calling for applicants to contact them via email to admin@charitycommissionni.org.uk (or by post to Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, Marlborough House, Central Way, Craigavon, BT64 1AD) to express their interest and make an appointment to discuss what may be involved.

Applicants are encouraged from all areas of experience; however, previous experience at Board level would be advantageous. For a briefing sheet on the legal requirements and guidance on conflicts of interest, please contact the Commission via the details above. The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland is committed to equality. The Commission encourages diversity and inclusion throughout the charity sector and is keen to improve this in our role as a public body. Expressions of interest are welcome from all eligible persons regardless of religious belief, gender, disability, race, political opinion, age, marital status, sexual orientation or whether or not they have dependants.

An order to appoint a trustee does not constitute a contract between the Commission (or the charity) and the trustee, nor does it create a legal right to remuneration.



Please see the list of following jobs currently available at the Housing Executive:

- 2024-81 - Tower Blocks Deputy Delivery Manager
- 2024-75 - Lettings Manager
- 2024-98 - Assistant Finance Analyst
- 2023-215 - Housing Advisor
- 2024-86 - Electrician

Further information on these jobs can be found at the GetGot website which can be accessed by clicking this [link](#) and typing 'Housing Executive' into the search bar.

Consultations



Our Community Policing Survey 2024 has launched!

Click on the link below to find out more, or scan the QR code to complete:

[Have you worked with PSNI to tackle local issues? We want your views! | Northern Ireland Policing Board \(nippingboard.org.uk\)](https://nippingboard.org.uk)

We'd appreciate if you would circulate this information to relevant networks.

You can stay up to date on the latest news by following us on social media:

[NIPB on Twitter](#) / [NIPB on Facebook](#) / [NIPB on Youtube](#)



Can we bank on the banks? Voluntary sector banking challenges survey 2024

Over the last few years banking has been cited as one of the most frustrating challenges that voluntary and community organisations experience.

These obstacles range from difficulties in opening new accounts, particularly on the High Street, to frustrations encountered while updating essential business profile information.

NICVA is part of a UK wide working group that been working to improve banking services for charities and voluntary organisations by communicating the issues to the banks.

As part of this work we are conducting research to ascertain if organisations are still encountering problems with their banks so we can continue to advocate for better banking services for voluntary organisations.

We would be very grateful if you would complete the survey below by Wednesday, 15 May at 12pm to let us know about your banking experience.



This survey is for anyone with responsibility for managing a voluntary organisation's banking activities. To complete it, you will need to be very familiar with the day-to-day management of your organisation's bank account(s).

[Take the survey here](#)

Draft Water Resource & Supply Resilience Plan

NI Water

[Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan 2024 Consultation - NI Direct - Citizen Space](#)

Closing Date; 24th May 2024

Rethinking Our Resources: Measures for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in NI

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

[Rethinking Our Resources: Measures for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in NI Consultation | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing Date; 30th May 2024



**PARENTS/
GUARDIANS**

Do you have a child or children aged between 4 - 16 years old?

Do you live in Northern Ireland?

Researchers at Ulster University want to hear about your experience of the **cost-of-living crisis & physical activity** for children & young people!

Please complete this online survey:
<https://tinyurl.com/PAandCOLCrisis>

If you have any questions, please contact
Dr Maria O'Kane (Chief Investigator):
m.okane@ulster.ac.uk
028 7167 5519

or scan

Ethical approval granted by Ulster University




Assembly Update

Assembly Round up shares news, photos, and resources with you about what's happening at the Northern Ireland Assembly and how you can get involved.

You can go directly to the Assembly Round-up page at: <https://blog.niassembly.gov.uk/>



Assembly Business

The most recent plenary sessions of the Assembly considered a number of issues including [Executive Committee Business](#) comprising the [Budget Bill: Consideration Stage](#) and [Private Members Business](#) including [Waiting Lists: Action Plan](#) and [Speech and Language Therapy: Criminal Justice System](#).

Members heard a number of statements from individual members on a range of topics including Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal, Young Carers Action Day, Racist and Intimidating Signs, Child Poverty: NIAO Report and Together Campaign: Ban Hunting with Dogs, A5 Road Upgrade and School Absences and most recently at the Plenary Session on Monday 8th April 2024, [Shared Future: Strategic Framework](#).

[Oral Answers to Questions](#) were provided by the [Communities](#) Minister, the Justice Minister and the Minister for Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs.

The report of the plenary sessions of the Assembly are available at: <http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/officialreport.aspx>

Committee for Communities

The minutes of meetings of the Communities Committee are available at: [Committee for Communities: 2022 - 2027 Mandate \(niassembly.gov.uk\)](#)

Policy and Practice Focus

Passivhaus Trust sets out recommendations for ‘Scottish equivalent’ policy implementation



Scottish Housing News

Ahead of the Scottish Government’s proposal to introduce design standards for all new build housing to meet a Scottish equivalent to the Passivhaus standard going out to consultation, the Passivhaus Trust has set out its key recommendations for how the policy could be delivered.

In December 2022, the Scottish Government [agreed to progress legislation](#) proposed by Scottish Labour MSP Alex Rowley to “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”.

A consultation on the policy is expected in the summer and is due to be adopted as legislation in December 2024.

To support this process, the Passivhaus Trust has recommended that the Scottish Equivalent to Passivhaus should be:

- Introduced into Scotland with a transition period to allow for training and industry preparations.
- Based on the full Passivhaus standard, adapted into a Scottish-owned version that will include localised weather data.
- Designed and built by the existing, local supply chain, with training and support for key sectors (such as ventilation systems) where needed.
- Verified/ certified through Local Authority Verifiers and Section 6 Assessors, who will receive appropriate training to add this to their skills.
- Supported with funding for social housing providers, through a modification of additional supported measures within affordable housing investment benchmarks.

Certified Passivhaus buildings should be accepted as “Deemed to Satisfy” the new regulations from January 2025, to create a positive incentive for the industry to start the transition immediately.

Central to its recommendations is the need for a transition period for the construction industry to prepare for the policy. This is to allow for upskilling and training during a realistic timeframe once the industry has clarity on the exact policy requirements. The Passivhaus Trust is clear that the Scottish Passivhaus equivalent policy should be based on the full Passivhaus standard and its metrics, so that Scotland can benefit from the tried and tested international methodology. As a positive incentive to encourage speedy adoption, the Trust is also suggesting that buildings built to the Passivhaus standard are considered ‘deemed to satisfy’ Scottish

building regulations from January 2025.

Training in Passivhaus design and construction is readily available in Scotland, but the Trust has also identified a specific additional training need for ventilation system engineers, and training for those involved in certification. To maintain the rigorous quality assurance standards of Passivhaus and embed them into a Scottish context, the Passivhaus Trust is proposing that Local Authority Verifiers and Section 6 Assessors are trained to undertake the quality assurance for the Passivhaus equivalent standard.

To support the transition, the Passivhaus Trust proposes that social housing providers receive additional funding, through a modification of additional supported measures within affordable housing investment benchmarks. In addition, the Trust will encourage and support knowledge-sharing of cost-effective approaches, to help speed up the learning curve process.

Sarah Lewis, research & policy director at the Passivhaus Trust, said: “Scotland is leading the way in developing building standards that will radically cut heating bills, improve indoor air quality and comfort, and deliver quality homes that perform as designed. The Passivhaus Trust is here to support the Scottish Government and construction industry’s move towards a Scottish Passivhaus equivalent standard. We have identified numerous ways that we can help the Scottish construction industry through that transition.

“We have been impressed with the can-do attitude of the construction industry involved in delivering Passivhaus schools in Scotland. However, we need time to ensure that the Scottish construction industry is fully prepared and ready to deliver Passivhaus equivalent homes at scale, so have identified that a transition period is essential.”

Caitriona Jordan, head of retrofit programmes at Built Environment - Smarter Transformation (BE-ST), said: “Since March 2021, BE-ST has upskilled over 3000 people in Passivhaus standards and the fabric first approach. It is really useful to identify the key training needs for the uptake of a Scottish Passivhaus equivalent policy. It is possible to close the skills gap, train the workforce in Passivhaus, and meet the needs for implementation of the new building regulations at scale. BE-ST is ready to help make that happen.”

Publications



Catch up on what's been happening with the Chief Constable's Report to the Board at [chief-constables-report-northern-ireland-policing-board.pdf \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](https://nipolicingboard.org.uk) and the Human Rights Review of Privacy and Policing at [Human Rights Review of Privacy and Policing \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](https://nipolicingboard.org.uk)

In addition the November edition of Policing Matters is available at; [Policing Matters March 2024 | Northern Ireland Policing Board \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](https://nipolicingboard.org.uk)



Please click the link below to access the latest newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives; [PCSP Projects coming to Life | Policing and Community Safety Partnerships \(pcsp.org\)](https://nipolicingboard.org.uk)



[The NIEL Environmental Priorities for the NI Assembly 2024 is available at NIEL-briefing-for-MLAs-8th-Feb-24.pdf \(nienvironmentlink.org\)](https://nienvironmentlink.org). For the latest environmental news, go to [Environmental News, Research & Analysis - February 2024 \(nienvironmentlink.org\)](https://nienvironmentlink.org) For other NIEL publications and events, go to; www.nienvironmentlink.org



Following a consultation process in 2023, The Executive Office is pleased inform you that "The Executive Office Equality Scheme 2024-2029" has now been published on our website at the following address <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/equality-scheme-executive-office>

Good Relations Indicators 2022 Report

The Good Relations Indicator report published by The Executive Office today presents a range of statistics relating to community relations, including numbers of hate crimes, attitudinal data on Protestant/Catholic relations and attitudes towards mixing in schools, neighbourhoods and the workplace. The publication monitors indicators for the four key priorities of the T:BUC Strategy: our children and young people; our shared community; our safe community; and, our cultural expression.



The report is available on the Executive Office Statistics and Research Branch website at: www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/good-relations

The Northern Ireland Poverty and Income Inequality Report (2022-23) is released

A publication entitled "The Northern Ireland Poverty and Income Inequality report (2022/23)" has been published by the Department for Communities.

This publication provides estimates of the proportion and number of individuals, children, working age adults and pensioners living in relative and absolute poverty (both before and after housing costs), and other statistics relating to household income and income inequality.

Key facts include:

With the exception of pensioners, poverty estimates have increased in NI in 2022/23 from some historic lows in the previous year. While most of the changes are not statistically significant, the increases in children in relative poverty (before housing costs) and working age



adults in absolute poverty (after housing costs) are. In general, poverty rates in NI seem to be returning to pre-pandemic levels.

In 2022/23 median household income in NI fell by 5%, compared to a 1% fall in the UK as a whole. As poverty rates are based on household incomes below 60% of the UK median income, this disparity is one of the main drivers behind the increase in poverty levels experienced in NI.

For more information and the full Report, go to; [The Northern Ireland Poverty and Income Inequality Report \(2022-23\) is released | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](https://communities-ni.gov.uk)

MARCH 2024 - COMMUNITY ARTS

The Monthly

Community Arts Partnership's online Arts Sector Magazine



The Monthly Community Arts edition - March 2024 cover shows artists, Joy Gerrard, then (L-R) BOXOPERA installation, Campbell Archer landscape and Mark Revels' 'Biofilm Under Construction'.

[Click on image to open.](#)

Events

Join the effort to keep Northern Ireland beautiful with The BIG Spring Clean!



Looking for a fantastic opportunity to give back to your community? Look no further than Live Here Love Here's flagship volunteering programme, the BIG Spring Clean. The BIG Spring Clean, Northern Ireland's largest volunteer clean-up campaign, is designed to support local community action through clean-up support.

The campaign takes place annually from 1st March to 30th April and is open to everyone, including individuals, schools, community groups, and businesses from all backgrounds. Together, let's work towards a cleaner environment by eliminating litter this spring!

Get involved...

The Live Here Love Here team are hosting lots of events across the country in our partner council areas. Why not get involved in an event happening in your local area? Everyone is welcome! Simply register using the link below and turn up on the day:

[List of Events](#)

Track the amazing difference your litter picking efforts make!

The Litter Log form was created to keep track of all the litter collected by communities and individuals nationwide during the BIG Spring Clean campaign. The more data we accumulate, the more effectively we can sway government and public opinion.

If you participate in a litter pick during March and April, please complete the form below:

[Litter Log Form](#)

Linking Generations Global Intergenerational Week 2024 Campaign in NI

This annual campaign takes place from the 24th to the 30th April and LGNI will be joining 15 country leads from across the globe to celebrate everything intergenerational!

LGNI will be leading on varying initiatives to promote the week and intergenerational activity in NI including – Council Building Light ups, All Ages April activities, online events, photo competition, producing ideas & resources and having policy conversations. Check out our LGNI GIW page here for more information Global Intergenerational Week – Linking Generations NI

Ideally we would love your help with getting our campaign message out by promoting the week and LGNI's activities but most importantly your own intergenerational activities and key messaging. To support this I have created and attached a Comms/PR guidance document which can be shared with the relevant comms person in your team and the GIW24 resource folder including all the campaigns graphics and the supporters pack.

As a small team your help with our campaign will make a big difference and also offers an opportunity to showcase the amazing intergenerational activity and support that takes place and exists across NI.

Click on pic or contact Vicki Titterington, LGNI Director Vicki.titterington@bjf.org.uk

Get involved!
Sign up to your local
LGNI
Network Now!

www.linkinggenerationsni.com/sign-up/



Engaging Young People in Your Tenant Participation Structure

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Join us for a special open meeting of the [Tenant Participation Practitioners Network](#) to share good practice in engaging younger tenants in your housing association's/AHB's activities.

Special guest speaker Kirsty Peake from [Bolton at Home](#) will share her experience working with Reclaim Youth to involve young people and to form a Young Person's Scrutiny Panel made up of 16 to 25-year-olds. Find out how she did it!

Open to members and non-members from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, let's talk about what works and what doesn't and share ideas to get more young people talking about housing.

Register

If you are not a TPPN member, please register for this free event.

Email Siobhán O'Neill at

siobhan@supportingcommunities.org.



ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE

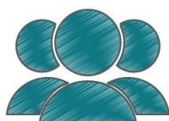
IN YOUR TENANT PARTICIPATION STRUCTURE

Online Discussion 15 May, 10:30 am

Join us for a special open meeting of the **Tenant Participation Practitioners Network** to share good practice in engaging younger tenants in your housing association's/AHB's activities.

Special guest speaker Kirsty Peake from Bolton at Home will share her experience working with Reclaim Youth to involve young people and to form a Young Person's Scrutiny Panel made up of 16 to 25-year-olds. Find out how she did it!

Open to members and non-members from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, let's talk about what works and what doesn't and share ideas to get more young people talking about housing.



Register Your Place

If you are not a TPPN member, please register for this free event. Email Siobhán O'Neill at siobhan@supportingcommunities.org.



www.tpsupport.org
www.supportingcommunities.org



**Supporting
Communities**
Empowering Society

Training

Volunteer Now Training Sessions in April 2024

VOLT Session: Big Help Out

DATE: Thursday 25th April 2024, 10:30 am - 12 noon

VENUE: Online Free Course



The Big Help Out is a UK-wide campaign designed to raise awareness of volunteering, provide opportunities for people to volunteer and make a difference in their communities. In 2024 it will take place across the weekend of 7-9 June, at the end of Volunteers' Week.

Millions volunteered during the pandemic but we've seen a significant decline in numbers since. The Big Help Out combines a high-profile national media campaign with a simple, digital route for people to find great opportunities to get involved. In 2023, over 7m people were inspired to take part.

Join us for this free webinar which will focus on:

- sharing the latest campaign information, it's key objectives and how you can use it to support your own volunteer recruitment efforts;
- the focus on targeting communities currently under-represented in volunteering – and how this could support to your own objectives around increasing diversity in your volunteering programme;
- how to use the digital platform, piggyback on the national media campaign and make the most of the alignment between The Big Help Out and Volunteers' Week.

[Click here for instructions on how to create a Training Account.](#)

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

Keeping Adults Safe: Adult Safeguarding Champion and Appointed Person Training

DATE: Thursday 25th April 2024, 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

VENUE: Online Standard Course From £80 +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 is a full day's training for Adult Safeguarding Champions and Appointed Persons. It 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.

All participants must have completed an adult safeguarding awareness raising course prior to attending. Keeping Adults Safe: Training for Staff and Volunteers is a suitable foundation course.

Housing Rights Training

Financial support to address housing poverty

Help your clients address housing poverty to help keep their homes.

Voluntary and Community from £64 / £77; Public and Statutory from £115 / £138

Book now

Location; Online, Via Zoom

Date; 17th April 2024

Time; 10 am to 1 pm

We developed this course in response to problems people are facing with growing poverty and the cost of living crisis.

It will cover the various forms of financial support available to help people alleviate poverty and keep their homes.

What we will cover:

- forms of discretionary support financial assistance & eligibility
- changes to Discretionary Housing Payments

- changes to Support for Mortgage Interest charitable help and other cost savings available

Who should attend?

- private landlords and agents
- social housing sector staff
- advice agencies

information on Housing Rights training courses and events, go to; [Training and events | Housing Rights](#)



STRYVE - Youth Leader Development Programme

STRYVE is an inclusive innovation programme for young people aged 16-25 in Belfast and Derry-Londonderry. Through STRYVE, young people gain skills, qualifications, and experience in creative and digital media, innovation, and entrepreneurship, and have the opportunity to participate in a paid work placement. Funded by the International Fund for Ireland and delivered in partnership with the Rio Ferdinand Foundation, this project aims to support young people who are furthest from opportunity to develop their skills, innovative thinking, and creative solutions, and remove barriers to employment and entrepreneurial pathways.

STRYVE programme are also offering a free training for youth leaders in inclusive innovation. This is a chance to learn new methods for solving complex problems and apply them to challenges you see facing young people today. We know that young people are facing challenges that are more complex than ever. This programme will give you time and space to think differently about these challenges, and the tools to collaborate for creative solutions.

STRYVE are hosting an information session for this free training on Tuesday 23rd April at Catalyst Belfast (Queens Road) from 10am-11.30am. Here is more info and the link to [register](#).

Catalyst | Generation Innovation

Our Generation Innovation 2024 Headline Partners:

EY Building a better working world

Bank of Ireland

AVEVA

With thanks to our principal funder

Department for the Economy
www.doeconomy-ni.gov.uk

The Future City

Funding

Climate Action Fund – Our Shared Future Opens for UK Applications

The National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) has launched its new £20 million 'Climate Action Fund – Our Shared Values' as part of its wider Climate Action programme.

The funding is for **formal partnership** working across sectors, led by community and voluntary organisations or public sector organisations for projects that reach more people by either:

- Linking climate action to the everyday lives and interests of local communities and inspiring them to take action.
- Influencing communities at a regional or national level, for example by linking up groups across locations, or a campaign that inspires change across one country, or the whole UK.

The funding is intended to reach people who are new to climate action by funding other types of organisations and by using other people's everyday activities and interests as a starting point for climate action.

For example, a project might:

- Involve people who have not had a say. This could be because they are new to climate action, or because they come from communities that experience poverty, disadvantage and discrimination.
- Introduce a climate perspective to a group who came together around another interest or activity.
- Test the best ways to engage different audiences in climate action.
- Spread an exciting local approach to climate action by sharing it nationally.

There is particular interest in projects that involve people, places and communities

experiencing poverty, discrimination and disadvantage.



A total of up to 25 projects is expected to be funded. The minimum grant is £500,000. It is expected that most grants will be between £1 million and £1.5 million over three to five years. Some exceptional projects of up to £3 million, for up to seven years, may be funded.

NLCF is holding the following information sessions:

- 16 May 2024 (11:00 to 12 noon) (Welsh and English).
- 21 May 2024 (14:00 to 15:00)

Advanced registration is required and can be done on the NLCF website.

There are currently no deadlines for funding applications.

Applications will be accepted until at least 31 December 2024. NLCF plan to close to applications in early 2025.

For more information, please visit [Climate Action Fund - Our Shared Future | The National Lottery Community Fund \(nlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://www.nlc.org.uk/our-shared-future)

ASDA Foundation launch their second Grassroots Grant round for 2024

Asda Foundation's goal is to build resilient communities by empowering local groups to make a positive difference, addressing local challenges and social needs. We aim to achieve this by providing funding to local grassroots community groups to enable them to meet the diverse needs of their community and to help them thrive and grow.

The Empowering Local Communities (ELC) grant is one of three grants within our 'Grassroots Grants' programme, our broadest grant programme which aims to empower our Community Champions and grassroots groups to apply for what's important in local communities. It is designed to support a broad range of activities helping to transform communities and improve lives.



To apply, you must Contact your local Community Champion in your local ASDA store.

For more information, please visit [PowerPoint Presentation \(asdafoundation.org\)](https://www.asdafoundation.org)

Applications open: 25th March to 24th May 2024*
Funding for activities & events up to the end of November 2024
Minimum Grant Value £400 Maximum Grant value £2,000



Road Safety Trust Accepting UK Applications to Spring 2024 Small Grants Round

The Road Safety Trust, an independent grant-giving trust, supports projects and research that make UK roads safer for all road users.

Public and non-profit organisations across the UK can now apply for the 2024 funding round of Road Safety Small Grants.

This year, grants of £10,000 to £50,000 for up to 24 months is available.

The main aim of the Small Grants Programme is to improve road safety at a local level. The funding is for smaller, local projects with a practical focus. The funder is looking for measurable interventions that link to local priorities and show a proposed link to reducing casualties either directly or through clear interim measures.

Eligible projects are pilots/trials, expanding successful trials across a new area, and/or the evaluation of interventions. Projects should have the potential for being brought to scale, with the ultimate goal of reducing deaths and injuries both locally and across the UK.

Requests for 100% project costs will not be eligible. All projects should have other sources of funding, either cash or in-kind. This contribution can come from the applicant or other partners.

Applications are accepted from local authorities, police forces, fire and rescue services or UK based registered charities, legally constituted not-for-profit social enterprises or community interest companies.

Groups can now book a 1:1 slot with the Grants Team for 9 April or 16 April 2024.

Commenting on the 2024 funding round, The Road Safety Trust's Chief Executive, Ruth Purdie OBE, said:

"The purpose of The Road Safety Trust is to make UK roads safer, achieving impact through the funding of practical measures, research, dissemination and education initiatives.

"In making decisions, we will take a strategic approach so that a range of different types of projects are funded that have the potential to improve road safety outcomes. All projects are expected to produce a report and describe how it will be shared and promoted."

The deadline to apply is 24 April 2024.

For more information, please visit [Road Safety Trust](#)



Education Authority release funding opportunities available for 2024/25

The Education Authority have released a number of funding opportunities available for 2024/25:

- Regional Project Funding - Provides support services to youth work organisations on key themes identified as needed for children and young people to include; supporting the educational attainment of children and young people, support for Section 75 groups and young people who live in rural areas.
- Regional Development Funding - Is available for the delivery of additional or enhanced key services identified as needed for example; development of research on key issues affecting young people and Small Grants Scheme.
- Area Based Funding - Is for EA registered local youth work organisations who directly deliver in communities across Northern Ireland including;
 - Centre-Based Youth Work
 - Area Based Youth Work
 - Outreach or Detached Youth Work

- Local Project Funding - Is for EA registered local youth work organisations who directly deliver youth work on key themes identified as needed for children and young people including; supporting educational attainment, support for Section 75 groups and young people who live in rural areas.
- Planned Intervention Programme - Is designed specifically to enable organisations to work with young people in interface areas and areas where there is the potential of heightened social unrest during the period of the 1st June 2024 to the 7th of November 2024, particularly on weekends, evenings and during the traditional times of community events. It seeks to provide positive alternatives for young people at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, sectarianism and recruitment from paramilitary gangs, and to address heightened inter and intra community tension around interfaces.

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



Women's Health Community Fund

The Fund can be used to start or improve conversations around the menopause in your community.

Well-being of women and Holland & Barrett will be providing small grants to groups and individuals working at community level to raise awareness and improve the education about the menopause. They will give successful applicants the support and resources needed to turn their ideas into positive action.

They will be releasing full details on the eligibility criteria, timeline and application process in the coming weeks. More information can be found on www.wellbeingofwomen.org.uk and you can register your interest.

PEACEPLUS Investment Area 1.3- Building Positive Relations, is now open

Applications are invited for projects which will promote good relations characterised by respect, where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance. Supported projects will enable individuals and communities to collaborate across a broad range of areas of mutual interest, such as parenting, arts and culture, sport, education, and social innovation/enterprise.

The programme area aims to increase in the percentage of the programme area population which has relationships with and as such a greater understanding of those from different cultural backgrounds.



Special EU Programmes Body
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projects

The call will be open for 12 weeks, with a closing date of **13th June 2024**. Pre application support for potential applicants is available on the SEUPB website, along with the call document. More information and details on how to apply can be found below:

<https://www.seupb.eu/peaceplus/overview/themes-and-investment-areas/theme-1/13-building-positive-relations/investment>

Call 2 Revenue Grant and Civic Representative Grant 2024/25

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council is offering financial assistance to eligible groups in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector for the period 1 July 2024 - 31 March 2025 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 are open from 9.00am on Monday 25 March until 12 noon on Friday 26 April 2024.

Civic Representative Grant will be opening for eligible organisations/ individuals for funding from date of Letter of Offer until 31 March 2025.



Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon
Borough Council

Applications are open from Monday 8 April 2024 until 12 noon Friday 7 February 2025.

Further information including details of how to apply can be found at Funding Hub | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (armaghibanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk)

Groups also wishing to be notified of future funding opportunities and other relevant information should request their details be added to the Council database by emailing fap@armaghibanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

Initial queries should be directed to Valerie Armstrong on 07515 607480



2024 Partnership Grants Scheme is now open

Biffa Awards are currently accepting Expressions of Interest for up to £1,000,000 to the 2024 Partnership Grants Scheme. Applications can now be submitted for both the Built Environment and Natural Environment themes.



Building communities. Transforming lives.

Partnership Grants Scheme Overview

Built Environment projects should restore, modernise and/or improve facilities such as cultural, heritage or visitor centres. The facility should be inclusive and promote learning, curiosity, and participation to large numbers of visitors on a national scale.

Natural Environment projects should restore and/or improve the environment and the natural systems or habitats that support it. Projects should be working to Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services, its predecessor, or a Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Your application should also consider environmental sustainability to mitigate the impact your project will have both during project delivery and after funded works are completed. You may consider employing local trades people, using sustainable materials, recycling existing components, reducing energy consumption or reducing carbon footprint.

If you are interested in submitting an application, please read our [Guidance Notes](#).

*Expression of Interest submission deadline date: **Noon 31 May 2024***

Outcome of Expression of Interest submission: July 2024.

Outcome of Full Application submission (if invited forward): November 2024

Preference will be given to projects:

- Where Biffa Award is recognised as the majority funder
- That work in partnership with other organisations
- Which engage with the public

General Criteria

- The project must be eligible for registration with the scheme regulator, [Entrust](#)
- The organisation must be a fully constituted, charitable or not for profit organisation with no share capital. Unfortunately, local authorities, hospices, hospitals, day-care centres, rehabilitation units, residential care facilities, and schools are not eligible to make an application. Village halls and community centres are not eligible to make an application for funding through the Partnership Grant scheme.
- Applications must be for between £250,000 –

£1,000,000

- The project site must be located within 15 miles of a significant Biffa operation or active Biffa landfill site (check your project's postcode using the Postcode Checker below)
- Each project site must also be within 10 miles of any licensed landfill site. To find your nearest landfill site, telephone the regulator Entrust on: 01926 488300
- If the organisation does not own the project site, a fully signed lease with at least **25 years** remaining must be in place for **Built Environment** applications
- There must be a **minimum of 104 days of full public access** to the project per year
- Any Biffa Award grant must be used for site-based improvement work, not for movable equipment, staff core costs or storage facilities
- Biffa Award is unable to fund requests to help an existing facility meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act
- Biffa Award is unable to fund retrospectively, so you should only apply for funding for work that will take place in the future
- All shortfall funding must be secured
- Planning permission must be in place, if it is required
- The project must not cross the two themes

Specifically for Natural Environment projects:

- Projects must be working to [Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services](#), its successor, or a Local Biodiversity Action Plan target. See [25 year environment plan](#)
- If you are not the landowner you must have a signed landowner agreement in place agreeing to access for maintenance, surveying and monitoring for a period of not less than 25 years
- Research is not eligible
- There must be a comprehensive management plan in place for the key species/habitat(s) involved for each site
- Biffa Award will not fund habitat improvement work on any land which the applicant intends to sell for biodiversity units.

If you are interested in applying for Partnership Grants Scheme funding, please read our [Guidance Notes](#)

For more information and to check eligibility, please visit [Partnership Grants Scheme - Biffa Award \(biffa-award.org\)](https://biffa-award.org)



Evishagaran and Craiggore Community Benefit 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.

- [Evishagaran Map](#)
- [Craiggore Map](#)

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

- 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

- 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:

- Education programmes for the next generation on the topics of Sustainability and Renewable Energy
- 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

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 - 23rd April 2024 1pm.

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

Tesco and The Sun Offer 150 One-off Grants Through the Footie for All Fund

Tesco and the newspaper, The Sun, have joined together for a second year to provide a total of £150,000 to encourage more children and young people to take up football or improve access to the game.

The grants are part of The Sun's Footie for All campaign to highlight how financial struggles are forcing young people to give up football.

The funding is designed to provide support to grassroots football organisations working with children under the age of 18 to enable them to continue to deliver activities that allow local young people to take part.

Constituted not-for-profit grassroots football clubs from across the UK can apply for grants of up to £1,000 which will support 100% of project costs.

The funding can be used to assist clubs in improving facilities, purchasing equipment and new kits, and meeting any other needs that can enhance the experience of children and young people, enabling them to access and participate in football within the local community.

Applications will not be accepted from schools, projects that work with people over 18 years of age, school breakfast clubs, health bodies or parish and town councils.

Only one application per organisation will be accepted.

The Footie for All Fund is being managed by Groundwork UK which manages Tesco's grant-giving programme.

The deadline for applications is 30 April 2024 (midnight).

For more information, please visit [Footie for All \(tescostrongerstarts.org.uk\)](https://tescostrongerstarts.org.uk)



Community Services Project Development Grants

Grants are available to voluntary and community organisations in Fermanagh and Omagh to help identify local need and/or further develop community project ideas.

Background

The Community Services Project Development grants programme is provided and administered by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

Objectives of Fund

The funding is intended to build community capacity and create positive change, promoting social inclusion and fostering collaboration with other local, county or regional groups or agencies.

Value Notes

Grants of up to £2,000 are available, to fund up to 75% of total project costs.

Match Funding Restrictions

Applicants are required to provide at least 25% of their total project costs from other sources.



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Who Can Apply

Applications are accepted from voluntary and community organisations located in the Fermanagh and Omagh district.

Where an application relates to a capital project, the group must own or have a long-term lease on the property.

Eligible Expenditure

The funding can support costs including the creation of:

- Action plans.
- Feasibility studies.
- Economic appraisals.
- Technical drawings.

Projects must align with the Fermanagh Omagh 2030 Community Plan and other relevant policies or strategies.

For more information please visit [FODC \(submit.com\)](https://www.fodc.com)

The Big Lunch 2024

To encourage neighbourhoods and groups to take part in The Big Lunch 2024, you may already know about the initiative but you can sign up for a free Big Lunch pack and read more here [The Big Lunch 2024 | Eden Project Communities](#)

The Big Lunch is delighted to be able to offer 100 vouchers to support people to hold their own lunches. With the ever-rising cost of living, we feel it is crucial to encourage anyone who might not have the resources to take part. Events can be of any size, it could be a group of neighbours coming together for a cup of tea and a bun.

Groups don't need to be constituted to enter, they just need to register their event on our interactive map [Big Lunch Map | Eden Project Communities](#) by **Friday 10 May 2024**

Find out more about #TheBigLunch



April Funding Clinic Sessions

Tuesday, 14th May 2024 at 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

Finding the right funding can be difficult and time-consuming. Get some help to streamline the process and improve your chances of success!

HCN members can book a one-to-one funding support session with Anita Doonan, Funding and Social Value Officer, for advice and help to access the resources your group needs.

Start thinking about your next projects by asking questions like:

- What funding to apply for
- How to structure your application and plan accurate budgets
- How to carry out a community survey
- How to prepare for action planning
- How to do pre and post-monitoring and evaluation of your project

Book Your Place

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

The funding clinic will run from 10 am - 3 pm with 30-minute slots available for individuals or groups to discuss their funding needs one-on-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!

