

7th October 2020

E-Zine



**Supporting
Communities**
Empowering Society

Welcome to Supporting Communities 151st 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

Supporting Communities Celebrates Get Online Week - 19-25 October 2020



Supporting Communities is taking part in the event by offering digital skills sessions which are free and open to everyone. If you or someone you know would like to take the next steps in getting online and building digital confidence, this is the perfect opportunity!

Supporting Communities, LibrariesNI, Digi Skills, Ulster Bank NI, Ignite IT, and RNIB have all teamed up with the Department of Finance Go ON NI team and Business in the Community to provide remote training on many topics such as e-mail, social media, iPads, e-magazines, device settings, shopping online, apps, scams, and passwords to name a few.

These informational sessions can help you stay safe online, improve your skills, get connected, enjoy life remotely, and much, much more. Additional sessions on Google Classroom, employability skills, digital banking and accessibility software are also available to join.

Our Get Online Week Events

Supporting Communities is running five online events during Get Online Week. Book yourself in for any of these sessions by contacting our Digital Inclusion Officer, [Martin Quinn](#) on 077 4356 2027.

- [One-to-one individual support sessions](#) - 45 min slots all day on Monday, 19th October
- [Online Safety/Scam Awareness](#) - 11am on Tuesday, 20th October
- [Intro to Zoom](#) - 11am on Wednesday, 21st October
- [Online Safety/Scam Awareness](#) - 11am on Thursday, 22nd October
- [Downloading Apps to your smartphone or tablet](#) - 11am on Friday, 23rd October



More Events from our Partners

The full programme of free sessions from all the partners can be found at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/go-ni-events> or by contacting your local library.

Minister announces work is to commence on development of Social Inclusion Strategies

Communities Minister Carál Ní Chuilín has announced work is to commence on the development of the suite of Social Inclusion Strategies.

Anti-Poverty, Disability, Gender Equality and Sexual Orientation Strategies will aim to address barriers and inequalities in society and to fulfil the commitments in New Decade, New Approach and the Executive's Programme for Government.

It is anticipated that all of the Strategies listed above will be published by the end of 2021, subject to Executive agreement.

The term of the last Child Poverty Strategy expired in March 2019. Due to the absence of the devolved institutions, it was not possible to produce a new Strategy at that time. Departments however, continued to report annually on their respective actions contained in the Child Poverty Strategy Action Plan. The Minister will work with the Executive and key stakeholders to decide the best way forward in relation to dealing with Child Poverty.

The current Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2021 is due to conclude in January 2021.

The Minister will shortly be engaging with Executive colleagues in relation to the options for the treatment of this Strategy post 2021.

Announcing details of the timetable, Minister Ní Chuilín said, "I am delighted that work is to commence on these new Social Inclusion Strategies, which aim to tackle the inequalities and obstacles that directly affect the everyday lives of many people in our community."

"Community engagement will be a key factor in their development and I am keen to ensure that the people most affected have the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to their development and delivery."

The Minister continued, "Whilst my Department is in the lead on the development of these Strategies, it is important to note the issues to be addressed cut across all Executive Departments. I will work closely with Executive colleagues and other Departments to ensure that each Strategy is underpinned by an action plan containing targeted, measurable and resourced actions focused on the areas of greatest need identified by our stakeholders."

Concluding the Minister said, "I am committed to the development of these Strategies, which will bring focus to identifying and addressing the issues, barriers and disadvantages that undermine equality of opportunity in our community."

Development and Delivery
of Social Inclusion
Strategies Announced



NI ASSEMBLY UPDATE

Assembly Round-up

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 session of the Assembly considered COVID-19: Restrictions on the Hospitality Industry, The Northern Ireland Screen Commission (Funding) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020, Fisheries Bill: Legislative Consent Motion, Public Expenditure: 2020-21 COVID-19 Economic Recovery Assessment and Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill: Legislative Consent Motion.

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: <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committees/2017-2022/communities/minutes-of-proceedings/session-2019---2020/>



Northern Ireland
Assembly

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Home Fire Safety Checks

NIFRS is pleased to re-introduce face-to-face Home Fire Safety Checks across Northern Ireland.



What is a Home Fire Safety Check?

A Home Fire Safety Check is a visit to your home to provide advice on how to stay safe from fire. Each visit will be carried out by at least two staff from Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) who will be wearing NIFRS uniform and will carry a NIFRS photographic identification card.

During the visit they will either fit a smoke alarm or show you how to test your existing smoke alarm, explain the potential fire risks in your home, provide fire safety advice and explain the importance of having a night time fire safety routine and a fire escape plan. The visit will take up to 40 minutes. Sometimes it is useful when visiting the property and giving advice, a family member, friend, neighbour or care worker is also present so that they can assist with the advice.

Can I have a Home Fire Safety Check?

You qualify for a Home Fire Safety Check if you or someone in your home answers yes to one of the following criteria:

- Is anyone aged 50 or older?
- Does anyone have a disability or impaired mobility (includes people who have an impairment or health condition that would impact on their ability to acknowledge or respond to an emergency in the home)
- Does anyone receive assistance from a visiting agency on a regular basis to help with day-to-day tasks?

How do I apply for a free Home Fire Safety Check?
To apply, just ring 028 92 66 4221 and request a Home Fire Safety Check or complete a request online at www.nifrs.org

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have changed how we are carrying out Home Fire Safety Checks in order to minimise the risk to the people we visit, and our personnel.

If you require a Home Fire Safety Check and agree to a home visit, you can be assured that our personnel will apply strict COVID-19 measures using appropriate personal protective equipment.

What to expect if you agree to a Home Fire Safety Check visit?

NIFRS personnel will telephone on the date of the visit to confirm there are no changes to your circumstances regarding Covid-19

NIFRS personnel will be wearing appropriate Personal Protection Equipment at all times during the visit. This includes –

- Gloves
- Face masks
- Eye protection
- Aprons
- The number of NIFRS personnel entering your home will be limited to two
- NIFRS personnel will stay together while in your home
- We will maintain the maximum social distancing of two metres
- The time we spend in your home will be kept to a minimum
- NIFRS personnel will limit contact with surfaces in your home

If you do not want us to visit your home

Alternatively, if you do not want us to visit your home, we can complete a Home Fire Safety Check over the telephone with you. A follow up visit can be arranged at a later date which suits.

Housing Executive; Let's Connect – Using SignLive

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you can get contact the Housing Executive using online British (BSL) and Irish Sign Language (ISL) interpretation.

You can discuss your tenancy; access advice and support on your housing situation; report a repair; receive grants assistance and more.

SignLive is a free service that will connect your call to a qualified online BSL or ISL interpreter. The interpreter will relay the conversation between you and a member of Housing Executive staff.

Why use SignLive?

If you're deaf or hard of hearing, the SignLive interpretation service allows you to connect with the Housing Executive and talk securely through a BSL or ISL interpreter.

How it works?

British Sign Language Users

You can download the SignLive app on your mobile phone or tablet. Alternatively, you can use SignLive on your computer by visiting www.signlive.co.uk/login
The service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Irish Sign Language Users

You can use SignLive on your computer by visiting: www.signlive.co.uk/nihe

The service is available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. Calls must be pre-booked a minimum of 4 hours in advance.

Where can I find out more?

For further information you can visit the [dedicated SignLive webpage](http://www.signlive.co.uk)



Special Focus

Rural Homes NI Blog

Housing Executive Director of Regional Services, Siobhan McCauley, explains how the Rural Housing Need Tests supports rural communities across Northern Ireland.



There is no doubt all of us have been impacted by the lockdown measures due to Covid-19. Suddenly, we were all isolated within our communities and having to rely on our phones to communicate with friends and family, and on TV, radio and social media to keep up-to-date with developments and how services were continuing and how they could be accessed.

For many people, especially those who are elderly, vulnerable or just living on their own, the lockdown proved particularly challenging. Doorstep deliveries are just not the same as going to the shops and having a chat; not being able to see families and loved ones has caused loneliness and distress. Many people may not have embraced mobile technology and will have felt more isolated than ever. When asked to reflect on the particular needs of rural communities, it is not hard for any of us now to relate to the issues which come with living in a remote area. Many people have always been faced with reduced or unavailable services, and, perhaps, dealing with loneliness and social isolation.

At the Housing Executive, we have long recognised that the experience of our urban and rural communities may differ and we must adapt our approach in order to ensure that we fulfil our statutory duty of identifying, assessing and addressing housing need, regardless of location. It is for this reason that we have a dedicated rural unit who are focused on engaging with rural communities and community representatives in order to reach out to anyone who needs and cannot access an affordable housing solution in a rural area.

We understand that many people will not approach us when they see there are few housing options available in an area in which they want to reside. Perhaps, this is due to limited availability of social homes in rural areas. Our rural housing need tests are aimed at reaching out to those who need a helping hand to get a decent and affordable home in their rural area. Through engagement – whether it is community meetings, information events, interactions with primary schools, press reports, social media, email or phone calls - we encourage people to come forward to have that important first discussion regarding their housing options. If we find that enough people are added to the waiting list for a given area then we will work with our housing association partners to facilitate a new housing development.

Since 2000, over 200 housing need tests have taken place across NI, enabling almost 400 new social homes to be built for families in areas where housing options were previously limited and people often had to relocate to find the home they required. Housing must come first, before a community can grow and thrive and demand those services and facilities required to support health & well-being and address accessibility issues and social isolation. We, as the strategic housing authority, must ensure that we continue to evolve our rural approach, working together with our partners in local councils and housing associations to respond to the needs of our rural communities and deliver the homes that will help to sustain our rural communities. It all starts with a home.

Building more social homes could add billions to Scotland's post-pandemic economic recovery, says former RBS chief economist

The economic and wellbeing case for building more social homes in Scotland has been laid out in a major new report by Stephen Boyle, former chief economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland. Mr Boyle is calling on the Scottish Government to invest in building more than 35,000 new homes for social rent by 2026, to capitalise on the opportunity to create jobs and boost incomes as well as enhancing health and educational attainment as we emerge from COVID-19. The report, titled '[A new economic case for social housing](#)', is based on economic modelling from the Scottish Policy Foundation and the Fraser of Allander Institute at the University of Strathclyde, and concludes that an investment in social housing could yield billions in return to Scotland's economy, particularly as Scotland continues to get to grips with the global coronavirus pandemic and the socio-economic consequences.

According to the economic analysis in the report:

- Providing houses to people who would have been homeless boosts the supply of labour. That is estimated to add £4.0 billion of gross domestic product (GDP).

- When children live in decent houses their educational attainment and health improve making them more productive in later life. That would add £1.5bn of GDP.
- Building the houses and maintaining them would add up to £6.4bn of GDP and generate an average of 900 jobs per year.



The analysis uses projections for housing need in Scotland for the next parliamentary term. While the report calls for the building of more than 35,000 new social homes, based on updated projections and continued growth in demand for social housing, Shelter Scotland said this figure is now closer to 37,100 homes and is calling on all parties to commit without delay to building the homes that people in Scotland need.

The independent report, which was commissioned by the housing and homelessness charity, makes the economic case for social housing pointing to long-term positive outcomes.

Cont'd over

The report claims that this investment would lead to the expansion of the labour force, a boost in national productivity as well as reduced levels of child poverty and increased educational attainment.

Speaking ahead of the launch of the economic analysis report, Stephen Boyle said: "Investment in housing is investment in people in a host of ways, from improving health and education to tackling climate change and reducing poverty. It also delivers much-needed conventional economic benefits of more jobs and higher incomes. While social housing is not the silver bullet that alone will lead Scotland to improved wellbeing and prosperity, the good it promotes and the harms it prevents will go a long way to getting us all there. COVID-19 has underlined the benefits of good quality housing. People who live in sub-standard accommodation or who are homeless are more likely to develop conditions that compromise their immune systems, while overcrowding can make it easier for infections to spread. Children living in unsatisfactory housing arrangements already suffered an educational penalty. School closures are likely to have had an especially adverse effect on them, not least because poor quality, overcrowded and temporary accommodation is not a supportive environment for home schooling. What's more, investing in social housing has the added benefit of boosting jobs and incomes as the economy rebuilds from recession. And we know that a programme of housing investment can be delivered.

"A good quality and affordable home can be the springboard from which children thrive and adults from all walks of life achieve their full potential." Stephen Boyle added: "Investment in social housing can also deliver long-term economic benefits and enhance Scotland's reputation as a place to live, work and bring up a family. Scotland will be a better country in the round if it invests to provide more social housing."

Research by Shelter Scotland, CIH and the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations found that in order to meet the current housing shortfall, Scotland needs to build at least 37,100 social homes between 2021 and 2026.

Campaigners called for an overall investment of £3.4bn to build 53,000 affordable new homes over the period – 37,100 of which should be for social rent. During this parliamentary term which will end next May, the Scottish Government has committed to building 50,000 affordable homes - including 35,000 properties for social rent. Earlier this month, the Scottish Government also warned that Scotland's gross domestic product could fall by 14% in 2020 and may not return to pre-pandemic levels until the start of 2023. An estimated 19% of businesses have been temporarily closed, affecting over 750,000 jobs between those furloughed and the self-employed who are unable to work.

Commenting on the launch of Stephen Boyle's report, Alison Watson, director of Shelter Scotland, said: "We welcome the findings of Stephen Boyle's report, which come at a time of great uncertainty for tens of thousands of families and individuals across Scotland who may worry for their jobs, their wellbeing and their homes. However, poverty, homelessness and poor housing are not new, they existed long before the current crisis.

"This analysis, as well as what we're seeing on a daily basis at the sharp end of the housing crisis, shows us that the Scottish Government must do more to deliver the homes people need. While we commend them for building more social homes than ever before, they are in effect running the bath without the plug.

"Scotland needs to build the homes that people need, in places they are needed most. The report shows us that when this happens, we can all benefit through economic and social prosperity. By investing in social homes, we can safeguard the economy and our society against negative impacts such as poverty, trauma and future health crises." There are currently almost 30,000 homeless households in Scotland and 167,000 people of waiting lists for a socially rented home.

The full report is available at: <https://www.scottishhousingnews.com/uploads/A%20NEW%20ECONOMIC%20CASE%20FOR%20SOCIAL%20HOUSING%20final.pdf>

Consultations

Cross-departmental Covid-19 Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan

Department of Health

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cross-departmental-covid-19-vulnerable-children-and-young-peoples-plan>

Closing Date; 13th November 2020

Temporary Amendment of the Health and Social Care Framework document for the period June 2020 to May 2022

Department of Health

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/HSCframework>

Closing Date; 4th December 2020

Covid-19 and Human Rights – Survey

Human Rights Consortium

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XH3KPWB>

Ongoing

Transposition of 2019 Electricity (Recast) Directive

Department for the Economy

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/transposition-2019-electricity-recast-directive>

Closing Date; 16th October 2020

Publications



Welcome to the CovidWellbeingNI online hub

On this website you will find a comprehensive range of information, self-help guides and ways to access help to support your mental health and wellbeing. It was created by CovidWellBeingNI a partnership of 15 leading mental health and wellbeing charities and the Healthy Living Centre Alliance representing 28 Healthy Living Centres alongside the Public Health Agency, Department of Health and the Department for Communities.

Our focus is on promoting positive mental health and wellbeing during and after the Covid19 pandemic.

As the guidance around Covid19 changes and/or new ways of accessing support emerge we will be updating this resource weekly to reflect any changes and refresh our information. For the latest news and up to date developments [click here](#).

This resource is designed to be a wellbeing space. If you would like to find out more about Covid19 in Northern Ireland more generally you can get reliable information from the [NI Direct Website](#).

CovidWellBeingNI is an unprecedented partnership of 15 leading mental health and wellbeing charities and the Healthy Living Centre Alliance representing 28 Healthy Living Centres alongside the Public Health Agency, Department of Health and the Department for Communities.

Our focus is on promoting mental health and wellbeing during and after the Covid19 pandemic. Our aim is to work together to ensure that mental health information and support reach as many people as possible.



Volunteer Now produce a range of challenging and informative reports and publications across the

subject of volunteering; for the full list, go to the website at; <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/publication/>

Additionally, the COVID-19 Good Practice Guides are available at; <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering/helpachother/>

Volunteer Now also has a dedicated page for all its Recorded Webinars!

These webinars cover many topics in relation to volunteering and volunteer involving organisations i.e. involving volunteers in response to COVID-19, youth volunteering, fundraising, volunteer driving, guidelines for volunteers & more!

View the page at; <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/view-our-recorded-webinars/>

NI Environment Link

The Environment News, Research and Analysis newsletter is available at; <https://www.nienvironmentlink.org/cmsfiles/ENRA-August-2020-1.pdf> and the Assembly News round-up at; <https://www.nienvironmentlink.org/cmsfiles/Assembly-News-May-2020.pdf>

For other NIEL publications and events, go to; <https://www.nienvironmentlink.org/>



Scope^{NI}

Available online, includes a series of important articles on a range of matters including food banks, the first annual report by the Anti-Slavery Commissioner and the continuing impact of Covid19.

Scope can be accessed at; <http://scopeni.nicva.org/>

Rural Community Network

The latest editions of Rural Brief and the Rural Matters are now available from the RCN.

To access the publications, go to; <http://ruralcommunitynetwork.org/publications/default.aspx>



Live Here Love Here is a positive, people powered campaign focused on improving our local environment and building a sense of pride in our local communities. To sign up to receive the regular ebulletin, go to; <https://www.liveherelovehere.org/cgi-bin/lhlh>



Please click the link below to access the August/September 2020 edition of inpartnership – the newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives; <https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/sites/nipb/files/publications/pcsp-inpartnership-august-september-2020.pdf>

Catch up on what's been happening at the Board in Policing Matters at the link below. <https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/publication/policing-matters-september-2020>



Events

Private Rented Sector 2020: Future-proofing private renting Wednesday, November 25, 2020

In a year like no other, our 2020 conference programme will look at how we can future-proof the private rented sector. Our annual landmark conference will not only unpack a range of key issues around regulation, compliance and health, but also look ahead to how the sector can meet the challenges that have been highlighted and magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic. A host of expert speakers will be sharing their experiences and knowledge from across the UK and Europe, and Communities Minister Carál Ní Chuilín will provide the key note address, outlining her Departments priorities for the reform of the sector.

Chaired by Professor Paddy Gray and with a mix of presentations, panel discussions and workshops, this year's live streamed event promises to be as engaging and thought provoking as ever.

The speakers include:

- Minister Carál Ní Chuilín, Department for Communities
- Jordan Buchanan, Property Pal
- Dr. Jennifer Harris, CaCHE



Future-proofing
private renting



- Dr Amy Claire, University of Essex
- Dr Martina McAuley, Housing Rights
- Laura Coulter, Housing Rights
- Karly Greene, Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Claire Maddison, Renters' Voice

Who should attend?

- Housing professionals
- Landlords
- Letting agents
- Politicians and policy makers
- Tenants
- Environmental health officers
- Housing academics

£55 for members of Housing Rights

£65 for non members

10% Discount applied at check-out

Law Centre NI; Social Security Law and Practice Conference 21st – 23rd October 2020

The Law Centre has announced changes to the annual social security law and practice conference. Given the current rules around gatherings, organisers have thought hard about how they can ensure the conference not only continues but also provides excellent value for delegates. As a result, this year's conference will be entirely online and spreading the programme over three days of exciting events. Scheduled to take place on Wednesday 21– Friday 23 October, the three day programme of events will include a wide variety of speakers and formats, including key note webinars, 'in conversation interviews' and our ever popular practitioner workshops. This year's conference will reflect on the last ten years of reform to the social security system and the impact this has had on claimants. It will also look at where we are today and lessons to be learned from the response to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Finally, it will look at future challenges, including a post COVID-19 world and cross border challenges around Brexit. This will be the most ambitious programme of events to date and will give you the flexibility to access informed discussions and expert learning sessions remotely; more information be circulated between now and October and a draft agenda will be prepared in due course. For now, you can save the date or register your interest by emailing the Law Centre at info@lawcentreni.org.



eden project COMMUNITIES

COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST EVER VIRTUAL COMMUNITY CAMP!

It will be an immersive learning experience offering a mix of practical activities, workshops and networking opportunities for community minded people from across the UK. If you have never taken part in our camp before and want to join in apply here:

WWW.EDENPROJECTCOMMUNITIES.COM/COMMUNITY-CAMPS

STARTING 12 OCTOBER

This is a six week certified course, 3-4 hours per week

"Sounds crazy but the camp opened my mind to so much more... I'm always telling people to apply"

Training

ONLINE TRAINING CALENDAR

AWARENESS LEVEL COURSE LIST
OCTOBER 2020 TO MARCH 2021

RETURN TO COMMUNITY BASES & ACTIVITIES

- Tuesday 6th October at 10:30 am
- Wednesday 7th October at 2:00 pm
- Thursday 8th October at 2:00 pm

INTRO TO USING ZOOM

- Wednesday 14th October at 2:00 pm

WRITING SUCCESSFUL FUNDING APPLICATIONS

- Wednesday 3rd November at 10:30 am

CONDUCTING EFFECTIVE MEETINGS

- Thursday 19th November at 10:30 am

WHAT IS 'SOCIAL VALUE'?

- Tuesday 1st December at 10:30 am

ONLINE SCAMS: BE AWARE!

- Tuesday 8th December at 10:30 am

BOARD TRAINING FOR TENANTS

- Wednesday 13th January at 2:00 pm

SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS

- Tuesday 16th February at 10:30 am

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AWARENESS

- Tuesday 2nd March at 10:30 am

'ADVANCED' ZOOM

- Tuesday 9th March at 2:00 pm

Free Zoom
sessions!



**Supporting
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Empowering Society

www.supportingcommunities.org

Full details of each session available online!
To register, contact Siobhán O'Neill:
tel: 07974 263686
siobhan@supportingcommunities.org

Need help setting up Zoom before you take a course?
Contact Martin Quinn:
tel: 0774 3562027
martin@supportingcommunities.org

Due to popular demand, we have added an evening session on
Returning to Community Bases & Activities on Wednesday 28th October 2020 at 7.00pm

Tenant Participation Awareness for Staff (Online Session)

Friday 16 October 2020

10.30am - 12.30pm

Tenant Participation is Everyone's Job!

Build the capacity of your staff with this interactive session on tenant participation. This training is ideal for staff who are new to your organisation and those who are less familiar with tenant participation.

This online session is great for new staff to attend as part of their induction programme!

Delivered via Zoom, this session will cover the following topics:

- What is tenant participation?
- Policy context within the UK
- Approaches to tenant participation
- Staff responsibilities.

Cost:

£69.00 pp for Empowering Communities members

£89.00 pp for non-members

To Register:

Contact Siobhán O'Neill:

Tel: 07974 263686



Tenant Participation and Community Development Level 2 (Online Course)

Thursday 29 October 2020 - 2.00pm

Thursday 3 December 2020 - 4.00pm

This course looks at the intersection of Tenant Participation and Community Development. Suitable for those working in social housing as well as community workers that engage with social housing providers.

This course will ensure participants are able to:

- Understand what tenant participation is
- Understand the policy context within UK
- Have a knowledge of the tenant participation requirements in NI
- Be aware of the range of approaches to tenant participation
- Understand the components of a good tenant participation strategy
- Understand what community development is
- Have a knowledge of the different approaches to community development
- Understand the community development process
- Be aware of the governance requirements
- Understand the links between tenant participation and community development



This course will run weekly via Zoom on Thursdays from 29th October 2020 to 3rd December 2020 from 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm.

**This course will only run if we get at least 8 participants*

Cost:

£279.00 pp which includes accreditation and certificate costs.

To Register:

Contact Siobhán O'Neill:

tel: 07974 263686

Coronavirus Protocols for Councils Engaging with Voluntary & Community Organisations



The need to help some people in the community to pay bills or carry out shopping on their behalf is likely to continue over the winter months.

The following Protocol was developed for Councils engaging with voluntary and community organisations where volunteers' roles include carrying out activities where money is involved.

Click the title below to view the best practice guidance.

[Coronavirus Protocols for Councils Who Engage Voluntary & Community Organisations in Regulated Activity with Adults](#)

Also, why not share the following with those who are receiving the help to make sure that they do all that they can to keep themselves safe – [Offers of Help: Keeping Yourself Safe Factsheet](#).

liV Essentials – A new, free online tool for groups to help ensure that volunteers have the best possible experience



A new free tool is being made available to help ensure that your volunteers have the best possible experience and can make the biggest difference.

liV Essentials has been developed by volunteers and the staff who support them from across the UK. Volunteer Now (alongside NCVO, Volunteer Scotland and WCVA) are launching this tool to help those of you who want to get started on improving the volunteer journey at your organisation.

Volunteering is one of the most rewarding things people can do; helping people, contributing to the community and changing the world around us.

It can be truly transformative – both for the people that volunteer, and the organisations that benefit from their time and experience. It is incredibly powerful when the relationship works well for both the individual and the organisation.

Denise Hayward, CEO Volunteer Now recognises why this new tool may be particularly useful at this time, “*Volunteer involving organisations are taking a good hard look at how they deliver volunteering programmes in the current climate and reconsidering how they involve volunteers across a range of service areas.*”

liV Essentials is an introduction to the Investing in Volunteers quality standard for good practice in volunteer management– it's a simple and easy way to get started on enhancing volunteer involvement in your organisation”.

Focussing on six core areas, you will be guided through a series of questions that will help you define how you support and engage your volunteers, how they contribute to your mission and how they enhance your services for the people who use them.

It is a perfect first step for those groups who want to think about using the full Investing in Volunteers quality standard in the future.

An liV Essentials user involved in the piloting of the new tool shared that, “*The tool has been useful to not only consider the processes and background support that is in place to support volunteers in their roles, but also to consider it from the other side of how the volunteers might experience their roles and what improvements we could make to encourage more engagement and fulfilment.*”

If your organisation would like to use the tool, you can find out more about liV Essentials here <https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/tools-resources/investing-in-volunteers-iiv-essentials>



Law Centre training is tailored to suit your needs and allows you and your organisation to continue with your professional development needs online.

There is a range of courses designed for all levels of learners, or you can contact staff to discuss bespoke, in house arrangements.

Introduction to Benefits
When: 13 & 15 Oct 2020
What: Online webinar
Cost: £70

OCN NI Level 3 Certificate in Generalist Advice
When: Cohort begins 28 September 2020
What: Online blended learning
Cost: £450 (plus optional £75 for certificate)

[More info & bookings](#)

Housing Rights Training Courses

Training & Events

In light of government guidance in response to Covid-19, Housing Rights is no longer operating a face to face training schedule.

Instead the following online courses are offered as online options:

[The Essentials: The Four Homelessness Tests](#)

[Webinar \(recording\): COVID 19: Assisting People who are Homeless](#)

[Webinar \(recording\): COVID-19: Implications for the Private Rented Sector](#)

**Housing
Rights**

Housing Rights has been providing the highest quality training to the public and private sectors in Northern Ireland for over 20 years.

For more information and to keep up to date on Housing Rights activities, go to;

<https://www.housingrights.org.uk/training-events>

Advice NI Training Courses



Advice NI has brought all of their training online and will continue to devise new ways to deliver training to learners and create new online training to help you develop your skills, knowledge and abilities in changing times.

Advice NI have teamed up with the Good Things Foundation to becoming a learning centre for Make It Click. This is a free online resource for anyone to use, providing training on IT, social media and much more.

With so many in the community & voluntary sector working from home now, Make It Click have a specialised section on how to work from home.

This includes tutorials on programmes like Zoom, Loom, Google Meets, Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom and plenty more video conferencing tool.

To take part in this free training just click on the link below to complete a short learner survey and then register on Make It Click, putting Advice NI as your learning centre.

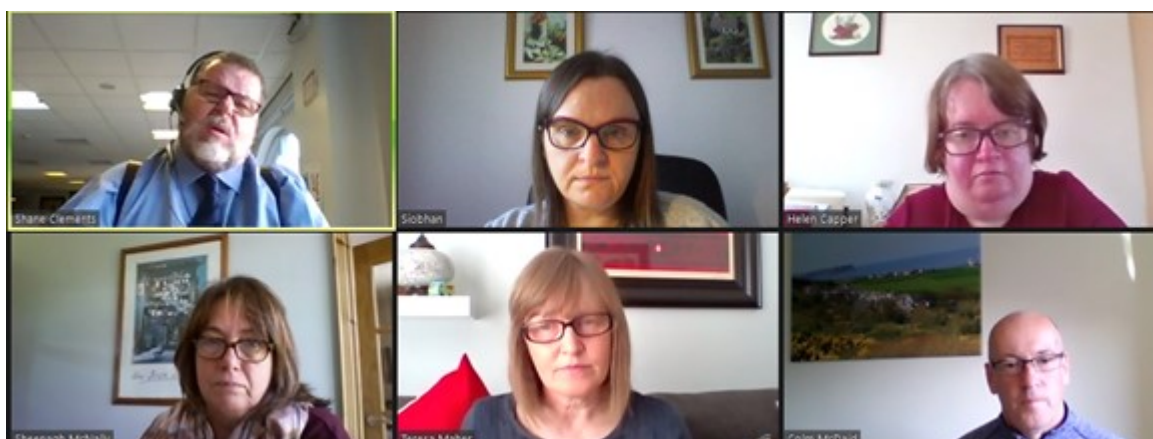
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TNZMWWC?fbclid=IwAR2o6ZLhheqdUrh59Z5hRky5HCSQFRauMGRrdLpEILdneadpGavlX0PQMoc>

For more information email training@adviceni.net.

Supporting Communities and the Department for Communities Discuss the New Tenant Participation Strategy

On Tuesday 29th September 2020, we, as the Independent Tenant Organisation (ITO), had our first meeting with colleagues in the DfC to discuss the review and co-design of the new Tenant Participation Strategy.

Further updates on how you can get involved will be posted soon.



Funding

This month our Funding Surgeries go back to the basics with the overall theme of 'Establishing Need'. If you'd like to establish an evidence base to support your funding applications, this is the one for you!

Our Funding and Social Value Officer, Anita Doonan, will meet one-to-one with group members who are interested in:

- Creating a survey of your community
- Collecting the results into an easy read document you can share
- Identifying what funder to apply to based on your information
- Putting an application together using the survey results

Book Your Place

Surgeries on this theme will be held on the 7th and 21st October.



Supporting Communities
Empowering Society

Online Funding Surgery

HELP WITH FUNDING BASICS: ESTABLISHING NEED

Book an Appointment
October 7th or 21st

This service is free for HCN members and just £35 for Non-HCN members.

Make an appointment:
email anita@supportingcommunities.org

This service is free for HCN members and just £35 for Non-HCN members.
Email anita@supportingcommunities.org to arrange an online appointment.

The Telecommunity Fund Grant offers grants up to £2000 to support young people, older people and people with disabilities

Who can apply:

Constituted grassroots community and voluntary groups

Criteria:

- Priority will be given to applications from small groups, typically with an annual income of less than £200,000, as evidenced in the most recent set of accounts
- Projects must aim to directly support one of the following specific groups:
 - Young people
 - Older people
 - People with disabilities
- The Fund will not support projects targeting all ages.
- Priority will be given to projects that will benefit groups dealing with disadvantage (e.g. rural isolation, low income, social exclusion, reduced access to services), and projects that involve the beneficiaries in their development and delivery.

Examples of types of projects that may be supported within Fund themes:

- Community education and training opportunities
- Communication and leadership skills
- Local initiatives to improve resources and community facilities
- Creativity and self-expression through drama, music or a range of arts activities
- Inclusion and involvement of disadvantaged communities
- Out of school projects for young people

The Foundation will not fund organisations or activities which promote causes that are contrary to our purposes. Causes and activities that are contrary to our purposes include, but may not be limited to, those outlined in our investment policy. We will not, therefore, fund organisations or activities which we determine are linked to the promotion of armaments, alcohol, human rights abuses, tobacco or pornography.

The fund will also not support organisations who advance religion, including those who have purposes within their governance to advance religion, or who seek financial support for any projects aimed at advancing a particular religion.

The Telecommunity Fund is open on an ongoing basis. The applications are assessed at panel meetings held approximately 3-4 times per year.

The next panel meeting will take place on 24th November 2020, therefore applications submitted after 27th October 2020 at 12 noon will not be considered in this round.

It is recommended that you read our [Grant FAQs](#) before starting your grant application. Should you have any further questions please contact the Grants Team on 028 9024 5927.

For more information and to apply please visit <https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/the-telecommunity-fund-grant/>

The Community Foundation
Northern Ireland

'Tak£500' Participatory Budgeting (PB) fund is launched in ABC Council

WHAT IS TAKE500?

Tak£500 is a Participatory Budgeting process which means that local people get to decide how public funds are used to address needs in their area. Community Planning Partners have pooled their resources to fund community projects.

Communities can apply for up to £500 for a project they think will benefit their area – and best of all, it is the local residents who decide which projects should go ahead!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

You can apply for up to £500 to pay for things such as online activities, equipment, events, tutors, venue hire and other innovative ideas.*

All ideas must be based around the **'Take 5 Ways of Wellbeing'**. These are five simple steps to help maintain and improve your wellbeing on a daily basis.



The

fund is open to everyone from

- Both constituted groups and non-constituted groups can apply for funding.
- There must be a minimum of three people per group
- Children and young people aged eight and above can also form a group and apply for funding. If you are under 18 you will need an Adult Sponsor to support your application and to help develop and deliver your idea. (More details on this below).

If your group is not constituted, you will need to be sponsored by a constituted group or organisation.

For more information and to apply please visit <https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/TAKE500/>

The Community Foundation for NI is administering various grants on behalf of CGN Europe

Several local community benefit funds managed by CGN Europe - a wind energy and energy storage company that believes in a sustainable future - are now available to their surrounding communities including:

- Carn Hill Wind Farm
- Corby Knowe Wind Farm
- Cloonty Wind Farm

- Dunbeg Wind Farm
- Dunmore Wind Farm
- Monnaboy Wind Farm



For more information and to apply, please visit <https://communityfoundationni.org/achieving-impact/available-grants/>

The Prince's Countryside Fund is now open

The Prince's Countryside Fund has grants of up to £10,000 available for projects from across the UK which are working to create resilient rural communities. Supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery locally-focused, legally-constituted not-for-profit organisations can apply for one year of grant funding from the Fund. Projects must be completed by 31st March 2022.

Projects from all across the UK are invited to apply for this funding. You should apply for as much as you need to complete your project, to a maximum of £10,000. We anticipate an average grant would be in the region of £8,000.

The theme is Rural Community Resilience and we will be looking for applications that will build on some of the amazing projects that came about as a result of



THE PRINCE'S
COUNTRYSIDE
FUND

the Covid-19 pandemic this year, and the effect that this had on rural communities. We will be looking for projects which protect or boost community assets and enterprises, or otherwise strengthen the sense of community.

Rural Community Resilience means different things to different communities, but the concept we are looking for is a project which will allow the community to survive and thrive, especially when facing a situation which affects everyday rural life.

For more information and to apply, please visit <https://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/grant-giving-programme/grant-programme>

National Lottery Fund launches Leaders with Lived Experience

This fund supports organisations set up or run by people with first-hand experience of a social issue, who are trying to create positive change for communities and people who share those experiences.

This funding will support lived experience leadership, and make sure lived experience plays a key role in shaping how communities move towards recovery and renewal after the impact of COVID-19. We expect to fund between 30 and 40 grants.

Area: UK-wide

Suitable for: Voluntary or community organisations, set up or run by leaders with lived experience

Funding size: £20,000 to £50,000

Application deadline: 13 October 2020, 5 pm



For more information and to apply, please visit <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/leaders-with-lived-experience-2020#section-1>

Sport Hardship Fund has reopened

Sport NI in partnership with the Department for Communities are delighted to announce the re-opening of the Sports Hardship Fund; to further help sports clubs and other organisations delivering sporting activities, who are still experiencing financial hardship.

Initially opened on 14 April the Sports Hardship Fund has so far provided support totalling over £1m to help over 500 sports clubs maintain facilities during the lockdown.

This next phase will prioritise new applications for £2,000 and now includes club and organisations who 'block book' (hire) their facilities as well as owning or leasing facilities.

Returning applicants may also apply for a £1,000 top up to their award if they have fully expended the initial £2,000.

Who we can support

Eligible organisations delivering sport and physical recreation can apply to our fund if experiencing financial hardship.

These organisations include:

- Governing Bodies of Sport recognised by Sport NI (with and office base in NI)
- Constituted local sports clubs affiliated to a Governing Body of Sport recognised by Sport NI
- Community & Voluntary sector organisations that deliver or enable sport and/or physical recreation as their primary activity. Sports and activities must be recognised by Sport NI.
- Small charitable trusts that deliver or enable sport and/or physical recreation as their primary activity; and do not qualify for financial help elsewhere. Sports and activities must be recognised by Sport NI.

A list of recognised Governing Bodies and activities is available ([List of Recognised Governing Bodies & Activities](#))

What we'll fund

The fund has been developed to help sport and physical recreation organisations meet their obligations, in particular fixed costs, which are no longer supported with revenue as a result of coronavirus.

This might cover expenditure on:

- **Facility Hire i.e. block bookings.**
- Rent/lease payments
- Heat
- Light
- Utilities
- Water Rates
- Essential grounds/facility maintenance (to maintain a state of readiness)
- Some Insurance (essential building/contents insurance, public liability, pro-rata)



How much we'll fund

Each successful applicant (**previously not in receipt of a Sports Hardship Fund award**) will receive **£2,000 towards eligible costs incurred from 1st April 2020. Applicants who have previously received funding from the Sports Hardship Fund may be eligible for an additional grant of £1,000,**

Priority will be given to those applicants not previously in receipt of a Sports Hardship Fund award.

Organisations **should not apply** if they have:

- Received grant funding through the Department for Economy Retail Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Grant.

Where to apply

Please click [here](#) to read the programme guidance note and to begin an online application for the financial support fund.

This fund will close for completed applications at 12 noon on Thursday 5th November 2020.

In the event that the 3rd call is oversubscribed, we will assess new applicants first (on the basis of date/time of submission). Repeat applications will be assessed on the basis of date/time submitted.

Help and Advice

If you need help or if you have any questions please contact:

Email: sportshardshipfund@sportni.net

Telephone:

Angharad Bunt 078 1018 3023

Conleth Donnelly 079 6724 0549

For more information please visit <http://www.sportni.net/funding/our-funding-programmes/sports-hardship-fund-2/>

Weston Culture Fund now open for applications

Eligibility

Size of organisation

Organisations that can demonstrate a minimum annual income of £500,000 in pre-Covid year (not including income relating to capital projects)

Type of organisation

Registered charity, CIO or exempt organisation registered with the Charity Commission and operating within the UK

Cultural activity

- Performing, visual and literary arts organisations
- Arts centres
- Independent cinemas
- Accredited museums and galleries or museums/galleries working towards accreditation that are NOT run by local authorities
- DCMS sponsored museums and galleries

Grant range

Minimum of £100,000 to maximum of £2 million based on size of organisation

Timescale

Applications open 5 October 2020 and close 5pm on 9 November 2020

Decisions made and all applicants notified by 31 January 2021

For more information and to apply please visit <https://garfieldweston.org/weston-culture-fund/about-the-weston-culture-fund/>



Covid Social Enterprise Fund is Open For Applications

How to Apply

The Covid Social Enterprise Fund is open for applications from 9am on Monday 28 September to Friday 23 October at 5pm.

Please read the Guidance Notes and ensure you have all the required documents ready from the Document Checklist below.

Once you are happy that you have everything you need to complete the application, you can access the form [HERE](#).

Please note, the form does not have a 'save' facility and must be completed in one sitting. If you wish to keep a copy of the form for your own records, please print or save a PDF copy prior to submission.

If for whatever reason you are unable to complete the application through this online form, please contact us at hello@covidsocialenterprisefund.com and request a copy of the form by email.

Guidance Notes and FAQs

Before completing your application, be sure to thoroughly read through these Guidance Notes and FAQs.

If applicable, please download, complete and return the Appendix below regarding State Aid.

[Covid Social Enterprise Fund Guidance Notes and FAQsDownload](#)
[Appendix 1: Covid Social Enterprise Fund State Aid FormDownload](#)



Document Checklist

Before you start filling out the application form – Please prepare and have the following checklist information ready in advance (this helps give your application the best chance of success):

- Governing documents (e.g. Certificate of Incorporation / Memorandum & Articles of Association / Rules / Constitution)
- Latest certified/audited full year accounts e.g. 2018/19
- 6 months management accounts up to August 2019
- 6 months management accounts up to August 2020
- Brief statement of financial affairs (to include all bank balances / loans held / latest debtor & creditor aggregates)
- 6 month cashflow projections from September 2020
- Anti-Money Laundering documentation (copy bank statement / copy photo ID & copy proof of address for two company directors / trustees)
- State Aid Declaration form (if applicable – see Appendix 1 on website)

Help is on Hand

If you have any questions prior to completing the application form, please get in touch with the team at Social Enterprise NI on 028 9046 1810.

For more information and to apply please visit <https://communityfinanceireland.com/covid-social-enterprise-fund-is-open-for-applications/>