



Welcome to Supporting Communities 153rd 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

Time to secure the long term future of the Housing Executive - Minister Ní Chuilín



In a wide ranging statement to the Assembly, Communities Minister Carál Ní Chuilín set out her plans to address the significant challenges facing our housing system.



Over the last 18 years successive Executives have invested £2.3bn to build 30,000 new social houses. But, at the same time, the number of our households in housing stress has increased by 17,000. The Minister said it was time we faced up to the fact that change is needed if we are to ensure that every household has access to a good quality, affordable and sustainable home that is appropriate to its needs.

The Minister said:

“My ambition is to ensure that every household has access to a good quality, affordable and sustainable home that is appropriate to their needs. I have outlined my plans to address some of the most significant challenges. These are challenges that I will not shy away from. Everything I do will be focused on ensuring equality, focused on addressing the highest need and focused on fundamental transformation.”

Central to the Minister’s plan to increase the supply of social housing and reduce housing stress is to revitalise the Housing Executive.

She outlined her intention to:

- Change the status of the landlord part of the Housing Executive so that it may borrow, invest in its homes and ultimately build again;
- Consult on the Housing Executive’s House Sales Scheme to protect the current supply of social housing;
- Reintroduce ring-fencing of the new build Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) to prioritise certain areas of highest housing need;
- Introduce reform of the social housing allocations system; and
- Ensure the Housing Executive prioritise adaptations.

The Minister added:

“I will revitalise the Housing Executive. The huge investment challenge facing the Housing Executive is a

long-standing issue. I plan to change the classification of the Housing Executive landlord to a ‘mutual’ or co-operative designation so that it may borrow and secure a sustainable future for all of its 85, 000 homes and provides security for current tenants and future generations.

“We need to build more social homes, and we need to build them where they are needed. We need to sort out the long term future of the Housing Executive. We need to make sure it can repair its homes, regenerate its estates and start building again.”

Turning to the Private rented sector the Minister added that she intends to introduce legislation to the Assembly to improve the safety, security and quality of the Private Rented sector. Key areas of reform include extending the notice to quit period, ensuring rent is fair and considering an enhanced role for councils in registration and enforcement.

Other areas covered in the Minister’s statement include her intention to:-

- Develop new ways to help people into home ownership, continuing to support shared ownership schemes such as Co-Ownership;
- Expand the rental options available by introducing intermediate rent here which will provide an additional supply of good quality, well managed and maintained homes, which are affordable for lower income families.
- Develop a fundamental Housing Supply Strategy to provide a framework for delivery of the right volume and types of homes to meet changing housing needs and demand and put mixed tenure at the heart of our housing policy; and
- Prioritise action to improve our response to homelessness.

The Minister concluded:

“We need to make our social housing system work better. We need to make sure it is fair and helps the People and Families who need it most. I have set out a way forward on a number of important issues. We can no longer afford to talk as housing stress spirals out of control. We need to get on with it.

“Equality and Rights are the basis of my approach, and you can’t get more basic than the right to a home.”

'Key Milestone for Climate Action in Northern Ireland'

'A key milestone for climate action in Northern Ireland' is how the submission of a Climate Change Bill to the Northern Ireland Assembly has been described by the Climate Coalition Northern Ireland and MLAs.

The Private Members Bill is being submitted to the Speaker's Office today – three months after the Assembly passed a motion calling for the introduction of a Climate Change Act within that timeframe.

Supported by MLAs from across the political spectrum, the Climate Change Bill will provide a legislative basis for climate action in NI. The Bill sets a target for Northern Ireland to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2045 and includes the establishment of a Northern Ireland Climate Office. The Bill is co-sponsored by Sinn Féin, SDLP, Ulster Unionist Party, Alliance Party, Green Party, People Before Profit, and an Independent MLA.

The Bill is an outcome of in-depth consultation with legal experts, Climate Coalition NI members, and elected representatives, and responds to the groundswell of public opinion in favour of a Climate Change Act.

The public's demand for climate action is evident in declarations of climate and ecological emergencies by local and national governments, public demonstrations including protests and youth strikes, and opinion polls like RSPB's recent survey in which 74% of respondents supported the introduction of a Climate Change Act for NI.

Climate Coalition NI Chair Dr Amanda Slevin (PCAN Policy Fellow, Queen's University Belfast) said: "As a cross party, cross-community initiative, the Climate Change Bill shows how much we can achieve when we work together. NI needs its own Climate Act, building on the commitment within 'New Decade, New Approach' to introduce legislation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Paris Accord.



The Bill will establish the necessary legislative basis for multi-level climate action and offers opportunities for a just transition to a sustainable, low-carbon future for Northern Ireland."

Anurag Deb, the lawyer who led on drafting the Bill, emphasised:

"This Bill is the product of a lot of time, effort and discussion, but it is by no means the finished product. It is only the first step in securing effective climate change mitigation in Northern Ireland."

Clare Bailey MLA, who is Lead Sponsor of the Bill, said:

"The Bill will enable Northern Ireland to become climate resilient and to achieve an environmentally sustainable economy. These measures are much needed. Northern Ireland is falling behind on a raft of climate targets and indicators ... We owe it to our citizens to make the just transition to a low carbon economy, leaving no one behind."

James Orr, CCNI Member and Director of Friends of the Earth NI, played a key role in the evolution of the Bill:

"I salute the broad coalition of political support for the Bill. This Bill is a declaration of hope in the future, a future that young people and communities across the planet have been demanding for years.

We will be scrutinising the Bill's progress over the next year to give it the strength and ambition needed to tackle the global climate emergency. "

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



NIYF need your help! The Forum has recently launched a short survey which aims to; promote the voice of young people, identify the top issues young people are facing right now, & speak truth to power to decision makers in NI.

It would be helpful if you could circulate the below links to your organisations social media platforms, share with any young people you are working with and pass round your teams.

The survey is open a total of 3 weeks and will close Monday 9th of November.

OUR VOICES: SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

Are you aged 11 - 25 and live in Northern Ireland?

Complete our short survey about the impact of COVID19. Be entered into a draw to win a £200 gift card of your choice.

Have your views, thoughts & opinions heard by people in power & decision makers

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GZ3CGBJ>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CL0u8Qx-lg>

Protect yourselves, protect your grandparents – Minister Swann

As thousands of pupils return to school after the extended Halloween break, the Health Minister Robin Swann has urged young people to play their part in the fight against Covid-19 by downloading the StopCOVID NI app.



Almost half a million people in Northern Ireland have now downloaded the app since its launch three months ago. To date, more than 21,000 users have received an exposure notification telling them to self-isolate, including the Health Minister.

At the start of October, the StopCOVID NI app achieved a world first when a new version was launched, making it available to the 11-17 year old age group. With more young people testing positive for Covid-19, the app is a vital tool to help curb the spread of the virus.

The Minister said: "Our health and social care service is there for everyone in our community and right now it's under tremendous pressure. The hard-working and dedicated staff need us to do everything we can to reduce the numbers of people becoming infected.

"The StopCOVID NI app is part of our fightback and my message to young people is please download the app, use it to help protect yourselves, your friends and your families, specially your grandparents who are more likely to be at risk of serious illness from coronavirus."

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 the Executive's Decisions Relating to Measures to be Taken in Response to the Increased Incidence of the Transmission of COVID-19, Official Opposition: Referral to the Assembly and Executive Review Committee, Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill [HL] 2019-21: Support and Onshore Petroleum Licensing and Drilling.

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/>

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Special Focus

Housing
Rights

Ending intimidation points - is there another way?

Housing Rights policy officer Kerry Logan looks at how we can address issues surrounding intimidation points.

In the Department for Communities' 2017 Fundamental Review of Allocations, the DfC proposed the removal of intimidation points from the Housing Selection Scheme and that people who have been made homeless through intimidation would instead only receive 20 Primary Social Needs points (which recognise the trauma associated with violence or the fear of violence the applicant has experienced) and 70 points for Full Duty Applicant Status.

However in a recent statement in the NI Assembly, Communities Minister Carál Ní Chuilín [expressed her commitment, not to ending intimidation points, but to looking at it another way](#). Housing Rights welcomes this commitment and shares the Minister's reservations regarding the proposal to completely remove this award without alternative necessary safeguards; we also believe a blanket removal would be too simple a solution for such a complex issue; and would not provide adequate protection to those in crisis whose lives are under threat.

While Housing Rights does not support the blanket removal of intimidation points, we understand that there are issues with the current system. Notably the intimidation points test does not account for victims of intimidation in all areas of life e.g. domestic violence victims or victims of sex trafficking.

Intimidation Points – the current system

Under the current system an applicant will receive 200 intimidation points if:

- The Applicant's home has been destroyed or seriously damaged (by explosion, fire or other means) OR The Applicant cannot reasonably be expected to live, or to resume living in his/her home because, if he or she were to do so, there would, in the opinion of the Designated Officer, be a serious and imminent risk that the Applicant, or one or more of the Applicant's household, would be killed or seriously injured.

It must then be established that the above is

- as a result of a terrorist, racial or sectarian attack, or because of an attack motivated by hostility because of an individual's disability or sexual orientation, or as a result of an attack by a person who falls within the scope of the NIHE's statutory powers to address neighbourhood nuisance or other similar forms of anti-social behaviour

Housing Rights' position on intimidation points

Housing Rights acknowledges that the award or withholding of an award of intimidation points is one of the most contentious decisions that can be made under the current Housing Selection Scheme. The is due to the fact that the decision to grant an applicant "intimidation points", results in an applicant receiving 200 points for intimidation, 70 points for FDA status and 20 points for Fear of violence. This can often lead to individuals moving to the top of the waiting list, to detriment of others who may have already been waiting for some considerable time.

Although Housing Rights has experienced some difficulties in the application of intimidation points and recognises that the system can be open to abuse, we have also seen the award of these points act as a necessary safeguard to clients who are in a critical situation; as a lifeline to protect them and their families.

The award of intimidation points acknowledges an escalated harm or crisis. It is our view that the proposed award of Primary Social Need (PSN) points only does not alone acknowledge the level of crisis experienced. In fact, the Housing Selection Scheme Guidance Manual already states that PSN points will be automatically awarded to someone with intimidation points, therefore, the proposal being made by the Department is a straightforward deduction of 200 points.

In light of the above, Housing Rights recommends that it would be appropriate to consider replacing intimidation points as currently awarded with a new award for applicants experiencing a "life threatening trauma," to encompass both a wider range of specified groups and acknowledge the critical nature of their situation e.g. domestic violence victims or victims of sex trafficking. In any situation of life threatening trauma the need to safeguard lives must remain the priority, with Housing Selection Scheme points allocated accordingly.

This could be at a lower level of points than 200 but should still be sufficient to reflect the urgency and importance of rehousing the members of the household into a safe and secure environment. We recommend the use of modelling to assist the Department in identifying the appropriate level of points for this situation. Furthermore, we continue to recommend urgent attention to be given to addressing the underlying problem of lack of supply - increasing the supply of social housing in Northern Ireland is crucial in order to meet the needs of all those on the waiting list.

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.

Our Population: Perceptions of the Outcomes Framework 2019/20

The Executive Office has published the 'Our Population: Perceptions of the Outcomes Framework 2019/20' statistical bulletins. Following the 2016 report 'Our Population: What Matters Most?', which aimed to explore the day-to-day issues that were most important to the people of Northern Ireland, a draft framework of 12 Outcomes was developed using the responses from this survey.

'Our Population: Perceptions of the Outcomes Framework' and the recent bulletins on 'Our Young People' seek to gather information on public perceptions around Northern Ireland's current position in relation to each of the Outcomes in this draft framework.



This information is complementary to the formal tracking of NI population indicators to help assess NI's progress towards the Outcomes.

The bulletins and associated data tables are available on the Statistics and Research section of the Executive Office website at: www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/our-population-perceptions-outcomes-framework

NI Human Rights Commission

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission E-Newsletter
October 2020

<https://mailchi.mp/82bc1ff14290/northern-ireland-human-rights-commission-e-newsletter-april-4861214?e=68dae10861>



NI Environment Link

The Environment News, Research and Analysis newsletter is available at; <https://www.nienvironmentlink.org/cmsfiles/ENRA-Sept-2020-1.pdf> and the Assembly News round-up at; <https://www.nienvironmentlink.org/cmsfiles/Assembly-News-September-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 the general mental health and of young people, homework and the incidence of domestic violence in NI.

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>



Catch up on what's been happening at the Board in Policing Matters at the link below.
<https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/sites/nipb/files/publications/policing-matters-october-2020.pdf>



RNIB Talking Newspaper

During these challenging times, information is vital. In response, RNIB is ramping up its support and services to ensure blind and partially sighted people get the help they need. RNIB is urging people anyone in our communities who know of family members or neighbours who may need such assistance to call the Helpline on 0303 123 9999 or email helpline@rnib.org.uk.



Supporting people with sight loss

For more information on the range of services go to; <https://www.rnib.org.uk/rnibconnect>



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 October/ November 2020 edition of inpartnership – the newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives; <https://www.pcsp.org/sites/pcsp/files/publications/pcsp-inpartnership-october-november-2020.pdf>

Social Enterprise



Social Enterprise NI

Social Enterprise Futures 2020 – 25th – 26th November

Social Enterprise NI in Partnership with SEUK, SENSCOT and Wales Co-Op are hosting Social Enterprise Futures on the 25th – 26th November. SENI are delighted to be able offer a Limited (30) number of Bursaries for the Event.

You can apply via the information below:
SE Futures 2020 – 25-26 November <https://bit.ly/3iLls8c>



If anyone is interested in attending the above event, please email Christopher.morgan@socialenterprise.org.uk and ask for a Social Enterprise NI bursary to attend the event (there are 30 places on offer at this stage).



We can support you to start or grow your business, whether you have an idea on paper or a social venture in practice already. We offer awards from £500 to £15,000 across three separate start-up packages for social entrepreneurs in Northern Ireland.

- **Try it awards** support social entrepreneurs to test their hunches and ideas
- **Do it awards** provide funding and support to help you get started and create a clear social impact
- **Grow it awards** help social entrepreneurs already thriving to grow their impact and build a sustainable financial model

Need anything else?

If you want to reach out to us about your idea or want to talk through an application (or anything else!), please email our Social Entrepreneur Support Manager based in Northern Ireland, [Nuala Smyth](mailto:Nuala.Smyth@unltd.org)

Award opportunities now open and available for Northern Ireland

To help make your idea for social change a reality; access to training and events and one to one support from a Social Entrepreneur Support Manager. **Apply now for funding.**

We are particularly interested in hearing from social entrepreneurs from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds or from disabled social entrepreneurs.

If you have a new idea - get in touch!

UnLtd

Events



TENANT PARTICIPATION:

GOOD PRACTICE FROM NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL WITH TRACEY WILSON

Online Session 23 November at 2 pm

Join us for a special online event featuring Tracey Wilson, Tenant Participation Manager with North Ayrshire Council.

We'll learn about the approaches they've used for customer engagement in North Ayrshire in the past and what they have done to adapt to Covid-19.

We'll also find out why the TP Accreditation process was so beneficial for North Ayrshire and get Tracey's insights on how her organisation achieved double gold status.

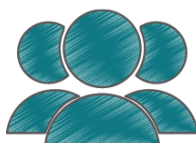


Book Your Place:

This event is free to Empowering Communities members.
Non-members pay just £25.00.

Contact Siobhán O'Neill to register.

Email siobhan@supportingcommunities.org or call 07974 263686.



www.supportingcommunities.org

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

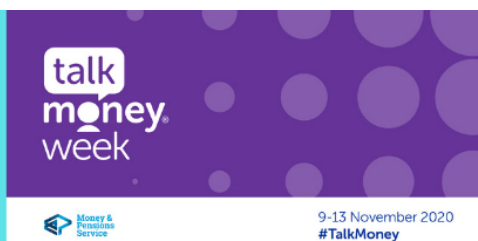
Who should attend?

- 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



Talk Money Week 9th-13th Nov 2020

As part of Talk Money week, we are providing Financial Clinics for 1-1 appointments for anyone.

To book a free 30 minute session contact us below.

You can contact us by email info@kithandkinfinance.org

We are based in NICVA Buidling Belfast or

or Call Sean Bruen 07732 704808

Training

ONLINE TRAINING CALENDAR

AWARENESS LEVEL COURSE LIST
NOVEMBER 2020 TO MARCH 2021

WRITING SUCCESSFUL FUNDING APPLICATIONS

- Tuesday 3rd November at 10:30 am
- Thursday 12th November at 10:30 am

INTRO TO USING ZOOM

- Tuesday 3rd November 10:30 am
- Wednesday 18th November at 10:30 am

ONLINE SCAMS: BE AWARE!

- Friday 6th November at 11:00 am
- Tuesday 17th November at 11:00 am
- Friday 27th November at 11:00 am
- Tuesday 8th December 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

BOARD TRAINING FOR TENANTS

- Wednesday 13th January at 2:00 pm

SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS

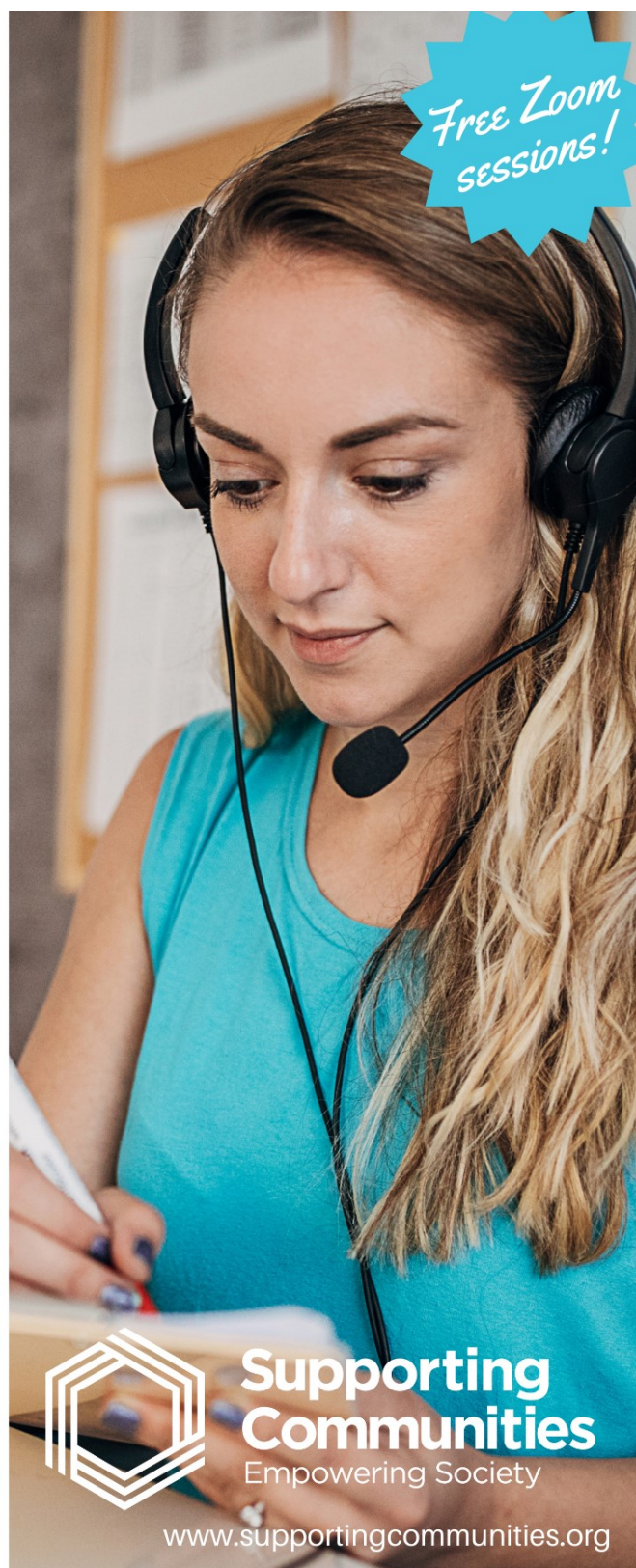
- Tuesday 16th February at 10:30 am

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AWARENESS

- Tuesday 2nd March at 10:30 am

'ADVANCED' ZOOM

- Tuesday 9th March at 2:00 pm



Full details of each session available online!

To register, contact Aidan Kearney:
aidan@supportingcommunities.org

Need help setting up Zoom before you take a course?

Contact Martin Quinn:
tel: 0774 3562027

martin@supportingcommunities.org

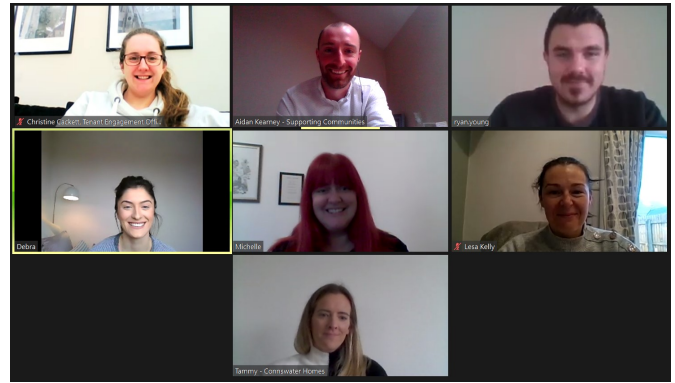
Tenant Participation and Community Development Training Course

Supporting Communities is currently delivering its accredited OCNNI Level 2 Tenant Participation and Community Development course.

Six housing professionals from three different housing associations are participating via Zoom and Google Classroom.

This course would, under 'normal' circumstances, be delivered in person within the office or at a neutral venue. Given the current restrictions, our trainers Aidan Kearney and Stephen Marks have had to explore and utilise new digital training methods for this cohort. Zoom is the chosen platform for classroom sessions with assignments, resources and feedback being completed via Google Classroom.

The course, in its new digital form, is proving to be a big hit as participants from all corners of the province can now access the sessions and share good practice at the click of a button. An aspect of the training also covers essential digital awareness to give participants the skills and knowledge to access the digital platforms we are using, which has also been advantageous in other parts of their daily lives.



Throughout the restrictions, the training team, along with all departments within Supporting Communities, have continuously adapted our ways of working so that we can continue to deliver services and training to our clients effectively.

The delivery of this Tenant Participation and Community Development course is just one small example of the broadened approach to the way we are now working.

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>

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 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 currently have a large number of Anytime Online courses that can be completed at a time and place that suits you, as well as a number of scheduled Live Online courses.

Courses included the Wiseradviser series which are all free to anyone offering free money & debt advice.

Advice NI's Adviser NI courses has also been revamped and will be available soon.

For more information or to register just visit www.adviceni.net/training.
For more information email training@adviceni.net.

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Funding



PETER
SOWERBY
FOUNDATION

Peter Sowerby Foundation invites Charities to apply for new increasing access fund

The Peter Sowerby Foundation actively solicits applications from charities, community groups and registered healthcare providers for projects that meet our trustees' priorities. This means that we do not accept unsolicited applications for grants. However, if you have an idea for a project that is closely aligned with the Foundation's aims and priorities you can get in touch with us through our [contact page](#). Please submit a brief synopsis of your project, including a summary budget and proposed timeline for us to consider. We cannot respond to all the ideas we are sent, but we do read all proposals and get in touch with those we feel could be a good fit.

Our funds

Usually, the Foundation awards grants from two funds: the [Good Causes fund](#) and the [Health Breakthrough Fund](#). However, in October 2020 the Foundation launched a new, short-term [Increasing Access Fund](#).

The Increasing Access Fund was created in response to the Covid-19 crisis, with an open call for expressions of interest being announced in October 2020. **The Open Call is running until 16th November 2020 at 5.00pm.**

Details of the fund and how to apply are [here](#).

Increasing Access Fund

The [Increasing Access Fund](#) is designed to support charities to develop new or adapt existing services that respond to the COVID-19 situation to meet local and national needs.

The Fund is aimed specifically at ensuring or increasing access to key services and activities for beneficiaries who have struggled with access due to COVID-19. It will support charities to digitally enable access to services, or to adapt their delivery of existing services to comply with social distancing or other Covid-response measures.

Good Causes Fund

The projects we support through our Good Causes [fund](#) are typically in the areas of healthcare, social care, community, the environment and conservation, education and the arts. The size of grants awarded range from small grants of a few thousand pounds to significant multi-year grants of over £100,000.

<https://www.petersowerbyfoundation.com/apply>

The Co-op Covid-19 Fund

Over the summer, Co-op customers raised £1.5m to help those going hungry by buying items from their picnic range, with 20p per item being donated to the National Emergencies Trust (NET). NET are working with local Community Foundations to distribute this money to food charities and community causes to fund programmes that provide access to food and sustainable solutions to food poverty.

Closing Date: Nov 13, 2020 with grants sizes up to £10,000.

Who can apply?

Voluntary and community organisations, including but not limited to:

- registered charities, including charitable incorporated organisations
- constituted organisations and non-registered charities
- community interest companies and community benefit societies
- parish and town councils (if the funded activity is not deemed part of their statutory duties)
- Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs)

What kind of projects will be funded?

Funding can only go towards sustainable food poverty programmes which tackle Co-op's funding priorities detailed below:

- REDISTRIBUTION – We will actively redistribute our surplus food to the people who need it most in our communities
- ACCESS – We will provide easy access to nutritious food and balanced meals for customers with a limited budget
- UPSKILLING – We will help to educate and upskill customers on low cost meal solutions, limiting food waste and shopping smartly
- YOUNG PEOPLE – We will support future generations by prioritising the wellbeing of children and young people struggling with food insecurity
- COMMUNITIES - food programmes for vulnerable communities delivered in those communities

For more information and to apply, please visit <https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/the-co-op-covid-19-fund/>

The 
Community
Foundation
Northern Ireland

Improving Lives Grant

The Improving Lives grant programme provides grants to charitable organisations that help people when other sources of support have failed, are inappropriate, or are simply not available.

We support established organisations delivering services directly to beneficiaries. We are looking for services which can demonstrate a track record of success, and evidence the effectiveness of the work.

This is our largest grants programme, through which the majority of our funds are distributed.

Grant size: £20k – £60k per year

Length: 1-3 years

Decision timescale: 6 Months

Deadlines: None

Priority areas:

We have six funding priorities that describe the work we support and how we want to bring about change for the most disadvantaged people in the greatest need.

1. Help at a critical moment
2. Positive choices
3. Accommodation/housing support
4. Employment and training
5. Financial inclusion, rights and entitlements
6. Support networks and family

For more information and to apply please visit <https://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk/explore-our-grants-and-apply/improving-lives-grants-programme/>

The
Henry Smith
Charity

founded in 1628

£7.75m Programme to support Arts and Cultural Organisations

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland to distribute grants on behalf of Department for Communities

Please note applications will open online at 2pm on Wednesday 28th October

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland will deliver, on behalf of the Department for Communities, a £7.75m programme of support, aimed at helping arts and cultural sector recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Through the Stability and Renewal Programme for Organisations, grants of up to £500,000 will be available to organisations working in the arts and cultural sector to help them respond to the immediate impacts of the Covid-19 crisis, including help with re-opening, adapting and stabilising their organisations in the long-term

The Stability and Renewal Programme is part of the £29 million Executive allocation that was made to DfC to support the arts, culture, heritage and language sectors which have been severely impacted by Covid-19.

This is the latest package of support from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland on behalf of the Department for Communities which has included £1.9m for the Organisations Emergency Programme, and £3.8m under the Individuals Emergency Resilience Programme.

The Stability and Renewal Programme for Organisations is open to arts, culture and community organisations whose primary role is to create, present or support one (or more) of these categories:

- Dance
- Drama

- Literature
- Music and Opera
- Traditional Arts
- Visual Arts
- Performing arts and theatre
- Festivals and cultural events
- Participatory Arts
- Comedy
- Cross Art form
- Community Arts
- Creative Industries in the following segments:
 - Independent Cinema
 - Product Design, Fashion Design, and Graphic Design;
 - Crafts;
 - TV, Video, Photography, Film, and Radio;

The Stability and Renewal Programme for Organisations will open at 2pm on 28th October for online applications and will close on Friday 27 November 2020 at 12noon.

Further details, including Guidance Notes and FAQs, will be available from 2pm at <http://artscouncil-ni.org/funding>

After applications close at midday on Friday 27 November, decisions on awards will be made by 29 January 2021.



£5.5m Heritage Recovery Fund Northern Ireland opens on Monday 2nd November



The Heritage Recovery Fund is part of the £29million which the Department for Communities announced on 24 September to support the culture, language, arts and heritage sectors impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Applications will open on Monday 2 November. Heritage organisations

The Heritage Recovery Fund will support organisations across the heritage ecosystem that were financially sustainable before COVID-19, have exhausted all other reasonable financing options and are now at risk of failure. The fund will support these organisations to ensure that successful applicants can reopen by 31 March 2021. If reopening under social distancing is not permissible or does not represent a value for money approach, the fund will support organisations to operate on a sustainable and cost-efficient basis so that they are able to reopen at a later date.

Grants of £3,000 to £250,000 are available.

Individuals working in the heritage sector

The Heritage Recovery Fund also has a separate strand for individuals working in the heritage sector, such as specialist heritage builders, conservators, tour guides and craftspeople registered with an appropriate professional body.

Grants of £3,000 or £5,000 are available.

Key features

- £5.5m fund
- Grants of £3,000 to £250,000 for non-profit or private heritage organisations
- Grants of £3,000 or £5,000 for individuals working in the heritage sector
- Open for applications between 2 November and noon on 27 November 2020
- Funding must be spent by 31 March 2021

For more information please visit <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/heritage-recovery-fund-northern-ireland>

BCPP Level 2 open for applications up to £12,000

The Building the Community-Pharmacy Partnership (BCPP) Programme is led by CDHN and funded by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB), with strategic direction provided by a multi-agency Steering Group. BCPP Aim: To bring pharmacy and community together to reduce health inequalities.

Who can apply?

BCPP funding is open to constituted community/voluntary organisations and community pharmacies based in Northern Ireland. Projects must be a partnership between a community/voluntary organisation and a community pharmacy. Either can be the lead applicant but both partners must be named in the application form. A constituted community/voluntary organisation is a group which may be run on a voluntary basis and is set up as an organisation with a management committee, constitution and its own bank account. A copy of the constitution is required with the application. The community pharmacy must hold a current contract with HSCB. Qualified Pharmacists not associated/affiliated to a pharmacy holding a HSCB contract are not eligible to apply.

Grants of up to **£12,000** are available for projects that will last up to one year. You do not have to complete a Level 1 before applying for a Level 2 project.



Community Development
& Health Network

All applications for this round must be on the Application Form which has COVID-19 in the title on the front page. The number of sessions and the number of participants have been reduced and planning/training has been increased. We encourage participants to hold their Projects using Zoom where possible.

Please contact a member of the BCPP team for support and to address any queries you may have by emailing bcpp@cdhn.org including your telephone number in the message and we will contact you.

PLEASE NOTE: Closing date for this round is 3rd December 2020.

Download BCPP Application Form & Guidance Notes (COVID-19) for Level 2 funding at <https://www.cdhn.org/bcpp-level-2-application-pack>

North West Learning Fund Phase 2 Now OPEN

Grants of up to £15k are available for organisations located in the DCSDC area and County Derry~Londonderry which support economically inactive people find a route to employment.

The purpose of the Fund is to encourage innovation and collaborative approaches by government and private philanthropists to improve the sustainability of organisations working within the Community and Voluntary Sector. The Fund will also provide additional strategic, organisational support through a bespoke

mentorship programme for grant recipients upon completion of a strength checker.

The North West Learning Fund (Phase Two) closes 16th November 2020.

To apply please visit <https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/north-west-learning-fund/> or contact skelpie@communityfoundationni.org for more info

