

nicvanews



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nicva*news* is published ten times a year for **NICVA** members, bringing you information for and about the voluntary and community sector. The looseleaf format makes it easy to photocopy or pass a section on to colleagues. **nicva***news* is also downloadable in PDF format from the website: www.nicva.org.

The **nicva***news* editorial team is — John McCormick, Neil Irwin, Georgie Finlay and Paula Reynolds. If you have any comments, suggestions or articles, please contact:
John McCormick, NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB, tel: 028 9087 7777, fax: 028 9087 7799, email: john.mccormick@nicva.org




This month's round up


News just in! Your final opportunity to comment on the long awaited Charities Bill has just been announced - see page 4 for more detail.

This month we bring you the 'scoop' on our annual conference, where inspirational speakers such as the social entrepreneur Jerry Greenfield inspired delegates to put sustainability at the top of the voluntary and community sector agenda. The related pledge on page three is encouraging organisations to commit to a least a small step towards reducing their carbon footprint.

The Link Awards are gearing up for their grand finale on 8 February 2008. All the nominees have had their initial certificate presentations and the nail biting starts in preparation for the final announcement on 'Oscar' night. It's the 21st Link Awards and the final competition in its current format, so why not treat yourself to a great night out at the Gala Night? Good luck to everyone involved.

Love your organisation? Show you care by taking up the Grant Tracker Valentine's Challenge. Grant Tracker is free to access for one day on 14 February 2008 and anyone who visits the website  www.grant-tracker.org and gives feedback, is in with the chance of winning a year's free subscription.

The New Year brings thoughts of change and making things better so why not try one of our governance reviews? A governance review can take an objective look at things like your committee procedures, policies and best practice. If you're not sure, have a look at the NICVA website and see how the first group to have a review, Craigavon and Banbridge Carers, got on?

Finally, just a quick reminder that NICVA News welcomes your articles, whether it's news, an event or course or even a publication. Drop an email to  john.mccormick@nicva.org by the first Tuesday of the month to be included.

A 'Jerry' good scoop

Participants at NICVA's pre-Christmas sustainability conference 'Building tomorrow's world ...' were treated to an entertaining and thought provoking keynote address by Jerry Greenfield, one half of the celebrated Ben & Jerry's ice cream brand.

In a first for NICVA, using video link to the conference from his home in Vermont, Jerry told the story, as he put it, of a friendship between the "two slowest, fattest kids in the class" which led to the creation of a globally renowned social economy enterprise.

Initially unimpressed by the whole nature of the business world, they hit upon the idea of inviting local people to "get a scoop of the action" and buy shares in the fledgling company, the principle being that local communities would benefit from the company's success.

However, realising that making money and giving back to the community are often incompatible, they developed a two-point bottom line, where they measured success in both profits made and in benefit to the community.

Other speakers on the day included Alice Owen, the Sustainable Development Commissioner, who gave us a great picture of what sustainable development might look like, and Kenny Boyd, who entertained us with tales of his daring Rathlin to Ballycastle swim to raise money and highlight climate change.

With a lively debate, workshops, exhibitions and a final pledge to commit to making at least a small step to reduce our organisations' carbon footprint, if you missed it, you missed out on a great day. Check the NICVA site for video presentations, 'diary room' chats and more...





Fresh faces for NICVA Executive Committee

NICVA's AGM on 7 December 2007 saw the election of a new Executive Committee, the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts, a review of the year from the chief executive and a report from NICVA Chair, Bob Stronge.

Bob reported that the challenges we face are the same for society as a whole - how do we develop a modern, inclusive and effective sector that is able to drive forward social change; to contribute to a prosperous and dynamic society where citizens are valued and inequality and sectarianism become things of the past?

He said: *"At times NICVA has to sit in an uneasy place between government and the sector, particularly with regard to policy comment and campaigning but also in terms of the modernisation and change agenda. In my time as chair I have begun to appreciate what a delicate balancing act this can be."*

"We have a leadership responsibility to the sector; we exist to work for positive social change, to promote our collective values and protect vital services to the vulnerable and disadvantaged."

The newly elected executive committee members are:

Isobel Loughran, Women Into Politics; Ricky Rowledge, Council for the Homeless; and Margaret Ward, Women's Resource and Development Agency. Michael Briggs, East Belfast Community Development Agency, was re-elected.

To download a copy of Opportunities our latest Annual Report or to read it online using our new publication viewer, visit:



www.nicva.org/index.cfm/section/news/key/AGM_2007.

Nail-biting and speech writing time for Link entrants

The judges have been busy deciding on the winners of this year's NICVA Link Awards in association with BT and supported by the Belfast Telegraph.

Certificates are being presented at celebration events on 15 and 16 January 2008 and the next big date in the calendar is the Gala dinner on Thursday 7 February 2008. World-famous actor and director Kenneth Branagh has already thrown his support behind the Link Awards.

Branagh, who is President of NICVA, took time off from promoting his new film *Sleuth* to praise the crucial role of voluntary and community organisations in creating a better society, especially in Northern Ireland, where they have contributed greatly to building peace:

"This work needs support from the private sector and from society generally. The NICVA Link Awards celebrate the wonderful efforts already being made, but they also encourage us to do more and to do it better."

He also urged people to buy their tickets for the awards ceremony.

The Gala, often referred to as the Charity Oscars, takes place in the Ramada Hotel, Belfast. Television's Paul Clark is your host for the evening and tickets cost £60 per person or £540 for a table of 10. The gala is a great night to network and simply enjoy. As the Awards are in their 21st year, look out for a particularly special celebration.

Tickets are available from:



Creative Events

1 Dublin Road, Belfast BT2 7HB



link@creativeevents.co.uk or call



028 9023 5001





Have you made a New Year pledge yet?

Let's face it, we might have resolved to give up smoking, eat less or exercise more, but for many of us these resolutions could have already bitten the dust. Why not make a resolution this year that really is achievable and helps not just you but your entire community?

NICVA is encouraging voluntary and community groups across Northern Ireland to commit to taking at least a small step to reduce their carbon emissions, by signing a pledge to action.

The pledge reads:


This Declaration is intended as a statement of intent from voluntary and community organisations to tackle the issue of climate change by taking action in our organisations and in our communities.

We believe that climate change will disproportionately affect the disadvantaged, poor and excluded and that voluntary and community organisations have a central role in working with communities and government to promote sustainable development that delivers both environmental and social justice.

We commit to face this challenge by:

- Recognising the need for urgent action at all levels to combat climate change.
- Adopting and implementing plans within our organisation to reduce carbon emissions (for example by recycling, using less energy and using public transport where possible).
- Showing leadership and enabling members, service users and clients to meet this challenge and reduce their own carbon emissions.
- Supporting national legal targets for greenhouse gas emissions.
- Working in partnership with government and others to reach or exceed these targets.
- Working together as a sector to inspire and encourage action on this issue.

Please visit:

 www.nicva.org/index.cfm/section/news/key/pledge_for_action and leave your name and organisation in the comments box if you'd like to sign up to this pledge for action.


NICVA updates charges for conference facilities

You may already know that NICVA offers low cost room hire and conference facilities in Belfast for voluntary groups, community organisations, charities and others.

Our conference facility charges have remained static since 2004, however in light of rising costs we have reviewed the charges and updated our prices to reflect this. The new prices will take effect from 1 January 2008.


NICVA will of course honour any prior bookings up until March 2008, after which time the new charges will apply. The new charges will apply for all new bookings from 1 January 2008.

If you have any queries or would like more information on our conference facilities please contact Margaret Thompson at NICVA on:

 028 9087 7777

 bookings@nicva.org

Or visit:

 www.nicva.org/index.cfm/section/article/page/NICVAresources.







Northern Ireland is a step closer to having its own Charity Commission ...

The long awaited Charities Bill was formally introduced to the Assembly on 10 December 2007. The Bill which replaces the draft Charities (NI) Order 2007 (which was originally intended to be enacted earlier this year in Westminster) will:

- Provide statutory definitions of 'charity' and 'charitable purpose'.
- Establish a Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and a Charity Tribunal.
- Create a Register of Charities for Northern Ireland.
- Introduce the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a new form of charitable body).
- Set out new rules with regard to fundraising and collections.


The Charities Bill is currently proceeding through the Committee Stage of the legislative process of the Assembly which will hear oral evidence from various interested parties, including NICVA. The Committee is inviting written evidence addressing specific clauses in the Bill to be submitted to:  committee.socialdevelopment@niassembly.gov.uk by **Tuesday 5 February 2008**.

For background and up to date information on the reform of charities legislation see NICVA's dedicated Charity Law Reform webpage at:  www.nicva.org.

Modernisation Fund Capital Grants Update

The DSD has provided a summary update on the Modernisation Fund assessment process. Applications received under this programme are currently being assessed by the recently appointed Intermediary Body for the Modernisation Fund Capital Programme. This process is planned to be completed by the end of January 2008.

Projects successful at this stage of the allocation process will then be subject to a robust economic appraisal before final allocation decisions on the resources available under this programme can be completed.


It is planned that these activities would be completed for projects by summer 2008. Applicants unsuccessful in the initial assessment process will be informed during spring 2008. For further information, please visit:  www.dsdni.gov.uk

Thinking of getting a governance review, but not sure?


You can now get a flavour of the process online. In September last year Banbridge and Craigavon Carers, a small Northern Ireland charity, took up the offer to have a NICVA governance review. They completed the review and were presented with their report in December 2007.

So how did the group find the review process and would they recommend it to other organisations? When key members of the organisation were asked these questions they gave a very positive response. All of them agreed that the process was very valuable, that bringing in an external organisation was helpful and that they would recommend the review process to other organisations.

If you would like to watch these interviews and see how this group found the review process, or are thinking of a NICVA governance review, visit the governance and charity advice pages at:

 www.nicva.org

For more information on the governance review process or to sign up for one, please contact Oonagh Kane or Mark McCarey at NICVA on:

 028 9087 7777





Community Foundation shines spotlight on achievements of women

A cross community women's group in Scarva and a woman dedicated to the prevention of suicide are among the winners of the 2007 Community Awards sponsored by the Progressive Building Society. The Community Awards annually celebrate outstanding achievements of groups and individuals working in the voluntary and community sector.

Winner of the Progressive Award for innovative action by a group that has had a particular regional impact is the **Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network**. The **South Armagh Rural Women's Partnership** has won the McClure Watters Award for best practice in respect of voluntary financial management. The Community Foundation Leadership Award for an individual's contribution to her local community was awarded to **Patricia Mulhern** from Enniskillen.

New awards this year include the *Belfast Telegraph* Difference Maker's Award, which recognises an individual woman seeking to make a difference through a peace-building or diversity project. The inaugural winner is **Muriel Cash**, the driving force behind Magnet, a cross-community women's group in Scarva.

The *Irish News* Local Change Award, recognising an individual, group or organisation which is working to create positive change in society, went to **Jo Murphy**, co-ordinator of the PIPS Project in North Belfast, an organisation dedicated to preventing suicide and self-harm.

Each of the award winners received a vase donated by Belleek Pottery in Co Fermanagh.

Eaga – helping you save our planet

You have seen on the news and other documentaries that our planet is changing. As a new start to the New Year we should be thinking of ways in which we could reduce our carbon footprint and become more environmentally friendly as our New Year resolution.

So what can we do? - small changes like turning off appliances that are on standby and only filling the kettle to the level required are all little things we can do everyday to help fight climate change. The price of oil has increased to a record high and making your home more energy efficient by making sure that your loft is adequately insulated to 270mm and that the cavity walls have been filled **can not only save us money** on household bills and keep our home warmer for longer, but it will also make a contribution to saving the planet.

Free insulation this winter - you could receive free insulation measures for your home this winter through the Warm Homes Scheme. Managed by eaga plc and funded by the Department for Social Development, the Warm Homes Scheme provides eligible householders with free insulation measures such as loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, draught-proofing and a host of other measures to make homes warmer, healthier and more energy efficient.

To qualify for the insulation measures, you must privately rent or own your own home and:

- **Either** have a child under sixteen (or be an expectant mother in receipt of a MAT B1 certificate) and be in receipt of a specified benefit.
- **Or** be under the age of sixty in receipt of a specified disability related benefit.
- **Or** be over the age of sixty and be in receipt of a specified benefit.

To find out more please contact the Scheme Manager at eaga plc on:

FREEPHONE 0800 181 667
MINICOM 0800 072 0156






Free internet learning resources for community development


EverybodyOnline produces free introductory internet learning resources to enable people to experience the benefits of the internet. They are ideal for community development workers and IT tutors and come in a range of formats - toolkits, mini-guides, handouts and planning guides.

Available topics include: 'Parents Online', 'Digital Photography' and 'Online Money Management'. The resources use the interactive features of the internet to engage both first time and novice internet users. The materials are written at an introductory level with step by step instructions for the less experienced ICT facilitator; they are also designed so that tutors can edit and develop the learning materials as required.

The EverybodyOnline Hub is an initiative from UK digital inclusion charity Citizens Online and is supported by Microsoft.

Download your free learning resources at:

 www.citizensonline.org.uk/EOLhub/toolkits
or call Citizens Online on:

 01793 882 800

Participation Network – are you in?

Are you an organisation in the child/youth sector that has the capacity to facilitate and support children and/or young people to express their views to decision makers in statutory agencies, local government and government departments?

If so, your organisation can become a member of The Participation Network, free of charge.

The Participation Network, an OFMDFM-supported initiative, has been established to support public authorities in Northern Ireland to effectively engage with children and young people in the development of policies and services that affect them.


By joining The Participation Network, your organisation can:

- Support children and/or young people to influence the development of policy and services that affect them, as well as build relationships with public decision makers.
- Profile its involvement supporting children and young people.
- Exchange information on models of good practice in public decision making.
- Access a range of resources about child and youth participation in public decision making.

For further information, please visit:

 www.ci-ni.org.uk/theparticipationnetwork

To request a registration form, please email:

 participation@ci-ni.org.uk





UNISON branch launches Equality Awards

UNISON Community and Voluntary Branch wants to give public acknowledgement to the important work undertaken by the voluntary and community sector to improve equality and human rights in our society.


The Branch is offering two £500 Equality Awards. There will be one Award for activities in an urban region, and one for activities in a rural region.

The work could involve many different activities. It could be a project to empower migrant workers to participate fully in our society, or a project which raises awareness of the human rights of residents in a particular area. It could be any activity that, through a community-based, practical approach encourages, raises awareness of, and/or develops the confidence and skills to enable people to fully partake in society as equals.

Pauline Kersten, project manager of UNISON's Community and Voluntary Branch said: *"Many of our members are quietly involved in practical community action on equality and/or human rights and we want to give public acknowledgement to this immensely valuable work in the sector."*

"We are not looking for new projects, but we are focusing on activities/projects that have been done between January and December 2007 by community or voluntary organisations."

Deadline for applications is 5.00pm on Friday 29 February 2008. For further information, please contact Pauline Kersten on:

 028 9027 0150 or 077 7185 7741

Wiseradviser – the website for money advisers

The Wiseradviser website - www.wiseradviser.org - is a superb tool that offers registered users support and access to lots of resources. This includes the latest news items, discussion forums, job advertisements, training and a calendar of events. Registered users also have the opportunity to download a range of resources including the common financial statement and money advice standards.

There is also a discussion forum where advisers can discuss issues and start up new subject topics for discussion. The forum currently has various threads running including a social policy bulletin board and a money advisers Northern Ireland forum which is moderated to ensure discussions are kept clean and legal. The discussion forum is both an excellent support and communications tool for advisers.

Registering to use the site is very easy and can be done in as little as five minutes.

Once your registration has been approved you get full access to the site and its wealth of information including all the upcoming wiseradviser money advice training courses.

If you wish to advertise any events or jobs on the wiseradviser website for free please send details to:



Joanne@adviceni.net

Alternatively you can contact Joanne at Advice NI on:



028 9064 5919

Please also get in touch if you have any problems with accessing the website.



Getting to know the Assembly

The Northern Ireland Assembly presents a number of exciting opportunities and challenges for voluntary and community organisations.

Responsibility for the decisions that impact on the people and communities we represent now rests in the hands of locally elected and locally accountable MLAs and Ministers. An important part of making the most of the Assembly will be understanding what actually happens in Stormont.

This session aims to explain how the Assembly works with a particular focus on how voluntary and community organisations can use the Assembly to bring their issues to the attention of MLAs and Ministers. It will include:

- The procedures of the Assembly, including the various types of debates.
- The roles of the various scrutiny bodies such as statutory committees and standing committees.
- How legislation is passed.

Training and information sessions are currently being arranged in partnership with local community networks. One session will take place in Belfast at NICVA on Tuesday 11 March 2008 from 10.30am to 12.30pm. There is no charge for these sessions but you must book a place by contacting Cathy Breslin at:

 cathy.breslin@nicva.org

To find out when the dates and locations of the local sessions have been confirmed, please contact Jonny Currie at:

 jonny.currie@nicva.org

Building Future Success - charity retail conference

The Association of Charity Shops is holding its first ever Northern Ireland charity retail conference at NICVA on Tuesday 4 March 2008. This one day conference is the first event specifically aimed at charities with shops in Northern Ireland. Focusing on operational and day to day issues that can make the difference between success and failure, the conference will look at specific areas of opportunity as well as areas of concern in a range of sessions throughout the day.

The conference, sponsored by Cookstown Textiles Recyclers, is aimed primarily at charity shop managers, area managers and senior volunteers in Ireland, but will be attractive to anyone interested in the charity retail sector. Registration is open to Association members, other voluntary and charitable organisations and others from outside the sector.

For further information or to register, please contact Susan Cuthbert at the Association of Charity Shops on:



020 7255 4470



susan@charityshops.org.uk



www.charityshops.org.uk





The challenge of change

The Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) is hosting its annual conference on 7 and 8 February 2008 in the Millennium Forum, Derry. 'The Challenge of Change' will encourage the local government sector to take a proactive approach to modernisation.

This will be the first major event following the outcome of the review of the RPA decisions on local government - a full picture of the number, role and functions of local government in Northern Ireland is expected to be announced in January. This conference will give delegates the opportunity to reflect on these decisions and begin preparations for the future. Speakers at the conference include Jonathon Porritt, UK Sustainable Development Commission; Paul Coen, LGA; Dame Jane Roberts, Councillors Commission; and John Stewart, Emeritus Professor of Local Government.

As well as the local government sector being fully represented, there will also be delegates from the voluntary and community sector, government departments and other public bodies.

For further information, or to register, please contact Emily Greenhill, NILGA, on:

 028 9024 9286
 e.greenhill@nilga.org

Old Age and Happiness: Implications for Health and Savings Policies

A recent US survey found that older people are, on average, happier than younger people. It also found that both old and young *believe* that old people are less happy than young people. Thus, people are incorrect in terms of their perceptions of the relative happiness of younger and older people. In other words, ageing is wrongly perceived as being associated with unhappiness.

Dr John Garry, from the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy at Queen's University, has replicated the study in Northern Ireland and will present his findings at the launch of the report *Old Age and Happiness: Implications for Health and Savings Policies* on **14 February 2008**.



The report found that:

- There is no evidence that older people are less happy than younger people.
- People do (incorrectly) think that older people are less happy than younger people.
- Young people in particular hold this view, which may account for risky behaviour by young people - particularly risky health behaviour.

The study also generated information about what it is that people feel makes them happy.

The launch takes place at the Institute of Governance, 63 University Road, Belfast, from 12.15pm to 2.30pm.

A light lunch will be provided. If you would like to attend, please contact Deaglan Coyle on:

 028 9097 3472
 d.p.coyle@qub.ac.uk



It's All About Time - what it means for your organisation

It's All About Time is a report that gives a comprehensive insight into volunteering in Northern Ireland in 2007. It describes the numbers of people volunteering, what they are doing and their experience as a volunteer.

It also provides detailed information from organisations that involve volunteers as to their experiences and practice. The report was commissioned by the Volunteer Development Agency on behalf of the Voluntary and Community Unit (VCU) within the Department for Social Development, which funded the work and it will inform the development of a Volunteering Strategy for Northern Ireland being led by the VCU.

This information session will provide an overview of findings from the report and the issues it raises for volunteer involving organisations. It will give an opportunity to reflect on the findings in relation to current volunteering practice.

The event takes place at 10.00am on 21 February 2008 at the Volunteer Development Agency, 129 Ormeau Road, Belfast. Contact Julie-Anne at VDA to register on:  028 9023 6100
 training@volunteering-ni.org



Introduction to Mental Health Law

This event on 20 February 2008 in the Law Centre, Belfast, will provide a general overview of mental health law and the key principles relevant in Northern Ireland. It is aimed at advisers and professionals who have an interest in advising on the implications of mental health legislation and case law in Northern Ireland.

Topics covered will include:

- Overview of mental health law and related legislation.
- Powers of compulsory detention.
- Principal forms of mental disorders.
- Mental Health Review Tribunal process and powers.

For further details, please contact Deborah Hill at the Law Centre on:

 028 9089 9368
 deborah.hill@lawcentreni.org

A Flavour of Psychology

Queen's University Belfast is offering a free 'flavour of psychology' at an open day from 9.30am to 4.00pm on Friday 15 February 2008.

Lectures on the day include:



- A womb with a view.
- Adolescent and young adult suicide risk: characteristics and promising treatments.
- Masculinity, identity and the body.
- Testing the 'contact hypothesis' in Northern Ireland: when and how it works.
- Self awareness, attention and the brain.
- Directions and developments in violence treatment: introducing life minus violence.

This event is generously supported by The School of Psychology, Queen's University Belfast.

To reserve a place please email:  n.ireland@bps.org.uk

Insights in Leadership

Leadership is a key issue for the third sector. In this event organised by CO3 (Chief Officers 3rd Sector), Julia Middleton, the Founder and Chief Executive of Common Purpose, will introduce and consider the challenge of leading outside of the normal, traditional roles and in situations where there is no authority.

The event takes place at 4.30pm on 1 February 2008 at CO3, 34 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast. For more information please contact Tracey at CO3 on  028 9024 5356  tracey@co3.bz



An introduction to grief and bereavement in nine sessions

CRUSE Bereavement Care is offering this course to help people understand more about bereavement, either personally or in their professional lives and to encourage potential volunteers.

The Bereavement Awareness Course will introduce participants to grief and bereavement and the nature of support that can be offered to those experiencing grief in its many forms.

All sessions will take place in Newforge Country Club, Belfast, 7.00pm to 9.00pm, from 4 February 2008 to 21 April 2008 as follows:

Understanding grief
4 February 2008

Depression
9 February 2008

Bereaved of a parent
11 February 2008

Children and bereavement
25 February 2008

The role of the coroner
3 March 2008


Suicide
10 March 2008

The death of a child
7 April 2008

Skills for bereavement support
14 April 2008

Supporting bereaved people
21 April 2008

For further information, please contact CRUSE on:

 028 9043 4600







NICVA extends a warm welcome to our new members



Walkway Community Association

Contact Rachael Davison
 028 9059 5858
 davison.rachael@hotmail.com

Jampa Ling Tibtian Buddhist Centre Belfast

Contact Lynn Carrington
 028 9042 4706
 lynnrvcarrington@yahoo.co.uk

The Welcome Organisation

Contact Sandra Moore
 028 9024 0424
 tommy.shian@btinternet.com

Killesher & Cleenish Community Care Association

Contact Vera Gibson
 028 6634 1368

NI Youth Forum

Contact Eilish Smyth
 028 9033 1990
 028 9023 8157
 eilish@niyf.org
 www.niyf.org

Myasthenia Gravis Association

Contact Shona Hendrick
 028 9127 5221
 shona.kendrick@mga-charity.org
 www.mga.co.uk

Phoenix Recycling Services Ltd

Contact Dr Mark McKinney
 028 7034 3787
 markmckinney@hotmail.co.uk






discounted services



Communitybuyer.org has been connecting the voluntary and community sector with top suppliers since March 2007.

Communitybuyer.org is an online directory of products and services specially for the voluntary and community sector. With ratings and advice it's an essential resource for your buying needs. Only companies that have a keen interest in working with the voluntary and community sector are listed and great discounts are available to NICVA members. Look out for the NICVA member discounts badge on the site.

To find out more, visit:

 www.communitybuyer.org

Office Equipment



Canon NI has negotiated special pricing agreements to offer NICVA members the best deals available on office equipment. NICVA members can access preferential rates on photocopiers, stationery, printers, fax machines, computer consumables, print cartridges, projectors and more.

Insurance

The trustees of all voluntary and community organisations need to insure themselves against risk – for loss or theft of property, liabilities to their staff and clients, and also for damage to buildings. Often other more specialised insurance cover is required, together with sound advice to enable groups to make the correct choices and secure best value for money. Marsh UK Ltd (Risk and Insurance Services) is one of the UK's leading insurance brokers which has arranged in conjunction with NICVA to provide an insurance scheme tailored to the needs of the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland.

Exhibition Stands

Trade Displays design and manufacture exhibition stands, portable display systems, site dressing and graphics. Working with NICVA they offer our members free advice and a discounted rate on a wide range of products.

Lone Worker Personal Security Service



Guardian24's personal security service is a fully automated instant response service, available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It can be accessed from a standard mobile, landline, PDA, Identicom or PC. Guardian24 can be used as a panic alert to enable lone workers to summon help when they find themselves in threatening or hostile situations.

Office Furniture

Create an impression at a price you can afford with Claremont Fast-track Solutions and quality office furniture that is elegant, fully functional and made to last. NICVA has purchased this furniture for its own premises. Give us a call if you'd like to take a closer look.





Bus Advertising

Viacom Outdoor Ltd in partnership with NICVA has agreed to provide preferential pricing on a range of bus advertising opportunities exclusive to NICVA member organisations.



Software Savings

Phoenix Software offer NICVA members special pricing which will save up to 50% on Microsoft software as well as providing good support systems. Savings can also be made on many other software packages, including Novell, Lotus, Seagate, MacAfee anti-virus software and many more.



For further information on discounted member services, please contact Frances McAtamney at NICVA on:  028 9087 7777  frances.mcatamney@nicva.org



This section contains details of key consultations of interest to the voluntary and community sector. Any that NICVA is responding to are marked by an asterisk *. If you would like to feed into NICVA's response, or if you wish to receive a copy of NICVA's responses, please visit  www.nicva.org or contact Jonny Currie on  028 9087 7777.

Consultation	Organisation	Response Date	Contact Name	Contact Number	Email
Crumlin Road Gaol and Girdwood Barracks - Master Plan	Department for Social Development	22-Jan-08	North Belfast Community Action Unit	028 9072 6014	secretariat.office@northbelfastcommunityactionunit.org
The Energy (NI) Order 2003 and the Water and Sewerage Services (NI) Order 2006 - Statement of Policy with respect to Financial Penalties	Utility Regulator Electricity and Gas	04-Feb-08	Karen Algie		karen.algie@niaur
Consultation on Proposal for Implementation of New Financial Eligibility Test for Access to Civil Legal Aid in Northern Ireland	Legal Services Commission	08-Feb-08	Caroline McAuley	028 9040 8805	accesstojustice@nilsc.org.uk
NMC Review of pre-registration nursing education	The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)	08-Feb-08	Marie Saldanha	020 7462 5880	marie.saldanha@nmc-uk.org
Corporate Plan for 2008-2011	NICCY	15-Feb-08	Patricia Lewsley	028 9031 1616	
Draft annual Plan 2008/9 - Consultation Document	Ofcom	19-Feb-08	Ed Richards	020 7981 3000	
Consultation Paper: Improving Stroke Services in Northern Ireland	Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	29-Feb-08	Heather Tweed	028 9052 8626	heather.tweed@dhsspsni.gov.uk
Screening of policies for Equity Impact Assessment	Newtownabbey Borough Council	29-Feb-08	Helen McBride	028 9034 0000	info@newtownabbey.gov.uk





Look out for the new NICVA training calendar

Following last year's fantastic programme of events a new training calendar for 2008 is being finalised. We devise the calendar based on our members' training requests so the courses are all ones that are in big demand.

The courses are practical, relevant and aimed simply at giving you the best training at the best price.

Some highlights you might want to keep an eye out for are:

- Managing staff.
- Fundraising.
- Time management.
- Presentation skills.
- Finance for non financial managers.
- Recruitment and selection.

As usual NICVA members get a great course discount and will receive a personal copy of the finalised calendar by mail. It will also be available on the NICVA website.

For an informal chat about your training needs, please call Roisin Kelly at NICVA on:



028 9087 7777

ILM Level 7 Award in Executive Management for women

The Award is a concise qualification aimed at developing the senior management skills and knowledge required at this level. The mandatory unit, 'Making informed decisions', examines different decision making strategies and their uses – assessing their relative strengths and weaknesses. Participants then research and employ appropriate strategies in an area relevant to their role.

All participants are able to choose from a diverse range of optional units to build their qualification which allows individuals or their employers to custom build a qualification focusing on the key areas that are most relevant to the demands of a specific role, industry or organisation. From managing corporate risk to improving marketing strategy, the ILM Executive Management qualifications can be fully tailored to meet the varying needs of participants across all employment sectors.

The training runs from 28 January 2008 to 8 March 2008 at Training for Women Network, Weaver's Court, Belfast.

For more information contact Clora Gallagher on:



028 9031 9888

Kick Start 2008: Supporting work with fathers

Is your organisation interested in developing work with fathers? Do you wonder where do you start, what is possible, who can help or what has been tried in other places? Would you like training and ongoing support to achieve your goal? Then 'Kick Start' might help you.

Kick Start is an initiative (co-ordinated by The Men's Project within Parents Advice Centre) which offers a seven month package of training, support, reflection and practical action to organisations that are trying to, or wishing to, engage with fathers in Northern Ireland.

The next programme intake begins in February 2008. To find out more please contact Trisha McQueen or Colin Fowler on:



028 9031 0891 or visit:



www.mensproject.org/kickstart.html.





Mental health first aid training

Aware Defeat Depression has organised a number of mental health first aid training events to help participants:

- Preserve life where a person may be a danger to themselves or others.
- Provide help to prevent the mental health problem developing into a more serious state.
- Promote the recovery of good mental health.
- Provide comfort to a person experiencing a mental health problem.

The training will help you:

- Recognise the symptoms of mental health problems.
- Provide initial help.
- Guide people towards appropriate professional and other help.

Dates and venues:

23 and 24 January 2008 – NICVA, Belfast
Funded by Promoting Mental Health Strategy

13 and 14 February 2008 – Royal Marine Hotel, Bangor
Funded by Protect Life, Suicide Prevention Strategy

19 and 20 March 2008 – NICVA, Belfast
Funded by Promoting Mental Health Strategy

To register or for more information, please contact Patricia on:



028 7126 0602



patricia@aware-ni.org

Ever thought of trying some TV production?

Northern Visions is running a free 5-day intensive and practical school in television production including interviewing, presenting, studio production, location filming and post production from 28 January 2008 to 1 February 2008 at 23 Donegall Street, Belfast.

Does your organisation regularly publicise its activities through press statements and do you want to reach more of the public and make sure you deliver the right information?

Would you like to use the medium of television to communicate to a wider audience using NvTv or even the Internet?

This course is designed to enhance the publicity of any voluntary or community organisation through producing video reports for itself. The course will give you the skills you need to produce your own reports - from scripting to shooting to editing, it's really not that difficult.

During the course you will work on a project which will be broadcast on NvTv.

For further information, or an application form, please contact:



info@northernvisions.org or visit



www.northernvisions.org/courses/





CENI training programme launched

CENI has launched its new 2008 training calendar, bringing short courses in evaluation, outcomes and quality as follows:

Methods and Tools for Self-Evaluation

21 February 2008

Designed to help participants understand the different approaches to gathering evidence and the range of evaluation methods and tools available.

Analysing and Reporting

6 March 2008

Building on the inputs from previous courses including self-evaluation and the use of evaluation methods and tools, this new course explains the process of analysis in more detail and is designed to help participants consider approaches for examining both quantitative and qualitative evidence.

Getting the Most from External Evaluation

28 February 2008

Explores issues such as the purpose of external evaluation, what an external evaluation involves and how to go about commissioning an evaluation consultant so as to ensure best value.

Introducing Outcomes

29 January 2008

Focuses on measuring the benefits gained from project activities and provides an introduction to concepts and issues as well as a number of examples of outcomes.

Evaluating Social Capital Outcomes

14 February 2008

Demystifies concepts and explains the different dimensions of social capital. Participants will be supported to identify social capital outcomes and indicators as well as explore tools for gathering evidence.

Implementing PQASSO

(two day course)

5 and 6 February 2008

This two day course covers all aspects of introducing and implementing the PQASSO system (Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations) within an organisation.

Each course costs £100 (voluntary and community groups) per day per person (covers delivery, materials, refreshments and lunch).

All courses run from 10.00am to 4.00pm and will take place at NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast.

For more information or to book a place, please contact Gladys Swanton, CENI Training Manager, at:



gladys@ceni.org





Developing Managers Programme now recruiting

The University of Ulster in association with Boston College is recruiting for its latest Developing Managers Programme (DMP), which was first launched in 1995 in response to a demand from business for a management development initiative targeted specifically at middle/aspiring senior managers. Since then some 19 programmes have taken place. In this time, more than 300 managers have participated, with the programme having received a Regional Training Award for excellence.

The programme is aimed at middle/aspiring senior managers who, as part of their personal development, are keen to pursue a management qualification as well as benefit from a practically orientated management programme.


The programme is relevant for those who do not have a specific academic background in management, as well as for those who wish to develop their existing management skills.

The programme runs from February 2008 until November 2008 and includes a one week residential in Boston, incorporating lectures in Boston College and visits to a number of North America's leading organisations.

The programme is structured around six modules ie leadership and team building, managing people, finance, marketing, business excellence, and strategic planning. It runs from February 2008 to November 2008. Successful completion of the programme leads to the award of the Advanced Diploma in Management Practice.

Thanks to a DEL bursary the cost of the course is **reduced from £3,950 to £2,450 for small voluntary and community organisations.**

For further information, please contact Rachel Sherrard on:

 028 9036 8070

 r.sherrard@yahoo.com

 www.ulster.ac.uk/dmp



EPAG gets European funding update

The European Programmes Advisory Group (EPAG) was established by NICVA to provide a forum for the voluntary and community sector to discuss EU issues and in particular the implementation of EU funding programmes.

At the last meeting members were given an update by officials from the Department of Finance and Personnel and the Special EU Programmes Body on the current status and implementation arrangements for the Competitiveness and Employment (C&E), Peace III and Interreg IV programmes. All the programmes have been approved and the various programme monitoring committees which will oversee the implementation of the programmes as well as the programme steering committees which will make the final decisions on applications have been agreed.

Many of the programme priorities within the C&E, Peace and Interreg programmes are open and receiving applications. For example, the Peace III Priority 1.1 'Building Positive Relations at the local level' is aimed at council level, and many councils have already begun developing Peace Action Plans. In order to receive funding under this priority, it is extremely important that organisations contact their local council so that they are included in these action plans.

The voluntary and community sector representative on both the Peace III and Interreg IVA Monitoring Committees is Frances McCandless (NICVA), while Lisa McElherron (NICVA) is the sector representative on the C&E Monitoring Committee. The voluntary and community sector representatives on the Programme Steering Committees are: Gareth Harper of Rural Community Network (Peace III, Priority 1.1 'Building positive relations at the local level'); Sylvia Gordon of Groundwork NI (Peace III, Priority 2.1 'Creating shared public spaces'); and Tony Kennedy of Co-operation Ireland (Interreg IVA, Priority 2).

For more information about EPAG, contact

 sean.kelly@nicva.org


Lobbying Forum to engage with policy makers

Following on from the recent visit by the NICVA Policy, Lobbying and Advocacy Forum to Parliament Buildings, Stormont, where members received advice from Mervyn Storey MLA on how to interact successfully with MLAs, the Forum now plans to engage directly with policy staff within the political parties. At the next meeting of the Forum on 27 February 2008, at 10.30 am at the UUP Headquarters, Cunningham House, Belfast, Dr Brian Crowe will explain his role within the Ulster Unionist Party and provide an insight into how the UUP makes policy and how best voluntary and community organisations can influence this work.

The aim of the Policy, Lobbying and Advocacy Forum is *"To enhance the capacity of organisations that have in interest or role in lobbying and campaigning to build links with each other, make policy responses and participate in policy development"*.

Membership is drawn from across the voluntary and community sector and is open to any organisation with an interest in policy, lobbying and advocacy.

If you would like more information on the Forum or would like to attend the next meeting, please contact Sean Kelly at NICVA on:

 028 9087 7777

 sean.kelly@nicva.org



Policy Forum News

The final quarter of 2007 was a busy period for NICVA's Policy Fora. At the beginning of October 2007 the **Women's Policy Forum** discussed the Bill of Rights Forum, EU Structural Funds, and the Department of Employment and Learning's engagement with the women's sector

NICVA set up the **Forum on Local and Global Poverty** to explore the similarities and difference between anti-poverty work here and in developing countries. The first meeting in October 2007 brought together people active on international development issues with local anti-poverty experts in order to begin exploring the causes and solutions of poverty here and across the globe. The Forum will continue to provide a opportunity to learn about and from each other and discuss how we can support each other's work. The next meeting is scheduled for 12 March 2008 at 10.30am in NICVA.

The **Older People's Policy Forum** met on 30 November 2007. As well as discussing recent policy developments on transport and rates, the forum heard a presentation from the Northern Ireland Policing Board on its work and the role of the advisory group for older people.

The Arts Council and DCAL were in attendance at the **Voluntary and Community Arts Policy Forum** on 17 December 2007 to share information on the Cultural Olympiad of London 2012 and its impact on the arts in Northern Ireland.


The draft Programme for Government provided a strong focus for the **Voluntary Sector Housing Policy Forum**, of which NICVA is a member. It launched a pre-Christmas press briefing highlighting the potential implications of the draft Budget and the draft Investment Strategy.


NICVA now facilitates six policy fora for specific issue and interest groups:

- Women.
- Older people.
- Environmental.
- Local and global poverty.
- Voluntary and community arts.
- Policy and advocacy.

The fora aim to encourage greater participation and enhance the capacity of the voluntary and community sector to engage more proactively in policy issues, influence policy development and make policy responses.

For more information on the Policy Fora or to join in, please contact Jonny Currie at NICVA on:

 028 9087 7777

 jonny.currie@nicva.org



Local and Global Poverty Forum set to meet

The second meeting of the Local and Global Poverty Policy Forum will take place on Wednesday 12 March from 10.30am to 12.30pm in NICVA. The aim of this forum is to enhance the capacity of organisations that are active on the issues of local and/or global poverty, to build links with each other, make policy responses and participate in policy development.

The Local and Global Poverty Policy Forum was formed in October 2007 and is jointly chaired by Lawrence McBride from Trócaire and Linda McClelland from War on Want NI.

Membership is drawn from across the voluntary and community sector and is open to any organisation with an interest in coming together on a regular basis to network, share experiences and knowledge or develop policy positions that will build links between local and global approaches to addressing poverty.

For further information on the Forum or to confirm your attendance at the meeting, please contact Jonny Currie at:



028 9087 7777



jonny.currie@nicva.org

New Forum for men's policy issues

Many practitioners in the men's sector find themselves isolated and working on the margins without supportive resources or a supportive policy context for their endeavours. NICVA is hoping to develop a new policy forum in partnership with these practitioners to enhance the capacity of men's organisations to make policy responses and participate in policy development.

An introductory meeting for interested organisations will be held in NICVA on Tuesday 4 March 2008 from 10.30am to 2.30pm.

The meeting will include an information session explaining how the Northern Ireland Assembly works, with a particular focus on how voluntary and community organisations can use the Assembly to bring their issues to the attention of MLAs and Ministers.

For further information, please contact Jonny Currie at:



028 9087 7777



jonny.currie@nicva.org

