

nicvanews



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nicvanews 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. **nicvanews** is also downloadable in PDF format from the website: www.nicva.org.

The **nicvanews** 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

This month we say 'happy 21st' to the Link Awards. NICVA's 'charity Oscars' which recognise the valuable contribution of organisations that sponsor or work in partnership with the voluntary and community sector are amazingly now in their 21st year. Could you be number 21?

This month we have a packed training section with our key event being another Members' Day covering finance and human resources issues on 9 October 2007. Other training to look out for includes strategic planning, lobbying, policy making, collaboration and company regulations.

Two new policy fora launch this month, the Policy and Advocacy Forum for campaigners and lobbyists, and the Global Poverty Forum, which looks at poverty from a local and global perspective. The latter launch is timely, with the next 'White Band' event coming on 16 and 17 October 2007. The STAND UP event seeks to outdo last year's record breaking number of people who stood up and spoke out against poverty.

Age is also on this month's agenda with Age Awareness Week seeking to highlight the rights of older people, especially in the workplace.

Where would any of us be without funding and this month brings welcome news of the Big Lottery's Reaching Communities programme, funding for the arts and a closing date of 18 October 2007 for the Modernisation Fund. Finally you might want to have your say on your experience, good or bad, with the four main lottery distributors in our online survey which closes at the end of September 2007.

Link Awards celebrate 21 years of partnership

The NICVA Link Awards in association with BT and supported by the Belfast Telegraph has opened for nominations. This is the 21st year of the Awards and nominations are invited from any voluntary or community organisation that wishes to acknowledge the support it has received from the private sector, public sector, schools, colleges, clubs and societies. Entries should relate to activities that have taken place between 1 May 2006 and 30 September 2007, (or further information see the Link Awards brochure).


In all there are seven categories which will showcase the very best in local business/voluntary and community sector partnerships and links. The main Award is the Link Award. The other awards categories are Small Charity, Medium Charity, Large Charity, Award for Innovation, Award for Challenge, Clubs and Societies and Schools and Colleges.

Five great reasons to make a Link nomination:


- Gain wider recognition for the work of your organisation.

- Develop relationships within existing commercial partners.
- Create potential for further involvement or new initiatives.
- Enhance the profile of your organisation.
- Create significant PR opportunities.

Last year's overall winner was BJM Chartered Accountants for its work with SPEAC (Special Provision for the Education of Autistic Children) which included fundraising, administration and planning.

The Link Awards brochure and entry form have been posted to NICVA members but you can also download the information at:  www.nicva.org.

The closing date for entries is **14 November 2007**. Completed entries should be returned to:

 Creative Events (NI) Ltd
1 Dublin Road
Belfast BT2 7HB

or emailed to  link@creativeevents.co.uk





Peace III by the autumn?

It is hoped that the €330 million Peace III Programme will be launched by autumn this year. Funding will be delivered under two priorities:

- (1) Reconciling Communities
- (2) Contributing to a Shared Society.

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) is currently in the late stages of negotiations with the European Commission to finalise the Operational Plans for Peace III and INTERREG. At this stage in the proceedings it looks like things are on track for agreement of the plans in October.

Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive will be discussing the programmes at their meeting in late September and the outcome of that meeting may have an effect on the timescales. Either way the coming weeks should shed some more light on when the programme will be finally agreed.

Programme outline

The EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Regions for 2007-2013 (Peace III) is being established to “reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society and to promote reconciliation.”

The programme has been forwarded to the European Commission with approval from the Ministers and the Commission but due to legislative processes it is unlikely that this funding will be available until autumn 2007 at the earliest.

Two priorities and four themes were identified by SEUPB after consultation as follows:

Priority One - Reconciling Communities (€190 million)

Theme 1 - Building positive relations at the Local Level

Strand 1

- Challenge attitudes towards sectarianism and racism.
- Support conflict resolution and mediation at the local level.
- Focus on reconciliation, cultural diversity and equality.
- Cross community, cross border initiatives that improve trust and tolerance.
- Removal of physical markers of segregation.
- Currently working with local authorities to produce local action plans.

Strand 2

Promote certain activities on a regional or cross border basis where some dimensions of building positive relations may be best addressed ie Women, Youth, Sport, etc.


Theme 2 - Acknowledging and Dealing with the Past

Strand 1

- Providing support to those most affected by the conflict, ie victims and survivors.
- Improve accessibility to counselling, befriending and other community based services.
- Build capacity so that victims and survivors are able to deal with the past on their own terms.

Strand 2

- Facilitate the exchange of different views of history, culture and identity.
- To change the awareness of the past and different roles and experiences.
- Explore legacy, memory and experiences of the conflict.

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Priority Two - Contributing to a Shared Society

Theme 1 - Creating Shared Public Spaces

- Regenerate, urban, rural and border areas.
- Target areas that are derelict, segregated, underused, threatening, unwelcoming.
- Transform and regenerate these spaces.
- Tackle issue of segregation of communities.
- Develop new and innovative approaches to the physical environment.
- Maximise the potential for reconciliation and economic development.
- Ultimately lead to changes in behaviour patterns - shopping, working, socialising.
- Propose to select 12-15 iconic projects that will:
 - Leave a lasting legacy.
 - Transform communities.

Theme 2 - Key Institutional Capacities are Developed for a Shared Society

Strand 1

- Facilitate the move away from the provision of parallel services along sectarian lines.
- Develop the capacity and skills within the public sector to contribute to a shared society.
- Promote innovative models/pilot projects in areas such as health, education or transport.

Strand 2

- Support for organisations that promote European and international networking.
- Facilitate the exchange of best practice in peace and reconciliation transnationally.
- Support research that focuses on promoting innovative best practice and transnational learning in relation to peace, conflict resolution and reconciliation.


For more information visit  www.seupb.org

Europe – A time to take stock

NICVA would like to hear about your European experiences. Not of course your Spanish holiday photos, but any examples of engagement or collaborative work with the EU. As part its decision to set up a special EU taskforce to look at how to improve Northern Ireland's access to and participation in Community policies and programmes, the European Commission is conducting a 'stock-take' study of Northern Ireland's participation in EU programmes and policies.

Given that the taskforce is designed to help the region achieve its economic goals in line with the Lisbon jobs and growth strategy, it is likely that this stock-taking exercise will be limited to an economic focus.

NICVA would like to broaden this research by conducting our own European stock-taking exercise within the voluntary and community sector and we'd like to hear about your European activities and experiences. It is our intention to present to the EU taskforce an analysis of the local voluntary and community sector's participation in EU activities. As well as identifying the scope and nature of the sector's involvement in European work, the survey will also help pinpoint both the barriers to participation and the type of additional support that is required for the voluntary and community sector to participate more fully in European opportunities.

If your organisation has been active in European work such as transnational funding programmes, study visits or exchanges, or if your organisation is a member of a European network, we would like to hear from you. If you would like your European work included in the survey please complete the online questionnaire at:  www.nicva.org or for further information, please contact Sean Kelly at NICVA on:



028 9087 7777



sean.kelly@nicva.org





OFT warns of scam telephone calls on bank charges

The Office of Fair Trading has issued a warning about a new telephone scam asking people for bank details "so the OFT can reclaim bank charges on your behalf". Given that the OFT has just brought a claim in the High Court against high bank charges, this could sound plausible.

OFT has issued the following press release:

The OFT has been made aware of a scam involving consumers being telephoned by people, alleging to be from the OFT, asking for personal and financial information including their bank account details in order for the OFT to reclaim bank charges on their behalf.

These callers have no connection with the OFT, and their intention is to use the information for identity theft or to run up bills or commit crimes using stolen details. The OFT will never contact consumers asking them for personal bank details.

The OFT is warning consumers not to pass on personal or financial information to cold callers either over the phone or via email, and if they have already done so, to contact their bank as soon as possible and review their credit card and bank account statements to see if there have been any unauthorised transactions.


For advice call Consumer Direct on:  08454 04 05 06 or visit  www.offt.gov.uk

Additional funding for Bill Of Rights Forum

The government is making an additional £100,000 available to the Bill of Rights Forum to fund an outreach programme. The funding will enable the Forum, chaired by Human Rights lawyer Chris Sidoti, to appoint two outreach workers and also develop specific programmes to consult with groups which have yet to engage in consultation on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland.

The Forum is due to report in March 2008 and provide agreed

recommendations to inform the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission's advice to government on the scope for defining, in Westminster legislation, rights supplementary to those in the European Convention on Human Rights, to reflect the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland.

More details on the work of the forum can be found at:  www.billofrightsforum.org


Donate your old phone and help charity

Don't throw away your old mobile phone or leave it to gather dust. The HIV Support Centre promises to put it to good use.



Thanks to the Foneaid Recycling Scheme, the HIV Support Centre will receive £3 for each old mobile phone received – with every phone either being re-used in developing countries or recycled.

The HIV Support Centre (incorporating the AIDS Helpline for Northern Ireland) has been working throughout Northern Ireland for the past twenty years providing support to people living with and affected by HIV and also providing training and education to those at greatest risk of contracting the condition.

If you can help please send your old phones to:

 The HIV Support Centre
3rd Floor
The Warehouse
7 James Street South
Belfast BT2 3DN

Or for more information please contact Maria on:

 028 9024 9268
 maria@thehivsupportcentre.org.uk





Get recognised for your good practice in service delivery

The Public Service Improvement Unit (PSIU) has been sponsoring the Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme since its inception in 2004. The objective of the scheme is to identify and share good practice in public service delivery. The scheme is open to all Northern Ireland public, voluntary and community sector organisations.

An evaluation of the first two rounds of the scheme is available at:



www.bestpracticeni.gov.uk

Round three is now open and organisations with a proven track record of business improvement or customer service development that are willing to share their examples of best practice with others are invited to apply.

The benefits of the scheme include recognition for your organisation's quality of service and its delivery and the opportunity to network and benchmark with similar organisations.

An application pack containing further information on the scheme, the assessment process and an application form is available from:



www.bestpracticeni.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is **Friday 28 September 2007**. For further information, please contact Stephen Girvan on:



028 9081 6029



stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk

Child poverty going in the wrong direction

The Department for Social Development's *Households Below Average Income 2005-06* report is deeply worrying. It states that more than half of children in Northern Ireland are living in families with low incomes.

In fact the proportion of children living in poor homes has risen from 51% to 56% in the last two years, despite government plans to eradicate child poverty. The local figure of 56% compares poorly with the child poverty figure of 49% in Britain.

There is also a disturbing upward trend in poverty among older people; the proportion of pensioner households with low incomes is up from 52% in 2002-03 to 59% this year.

"Northern Ireland clearly needs to be far more ambitious in its plans to tackle poverty," said NICVA chief executive, Seamus McAleavey.

"This must be a top priority for the Executive and Assembly. There is a lot of wealth in Northern Ireland now but urgent action is needed to stop vulnerable families from falling behind. This includes people with disabilities, lone parents, pensioners and children."

"The anti-poverty strategy needs to be taken off the shelf and we need clear policies and targets if we are to achieve our target to end poverty. The task is getting harder each year as income inequalities hit groups at the bottom," he added.

Download *Households Below Average Income in Northern Ireland 2005-06* at



www.dsdni.gov.uk/publications-hbai_publication_2005_06.htm





Are you entitled to more money?

A campaign that uncovered £6 million in unclaimed benefits last year has been relaunched by the Social Development Minister, Margaret Ritchie MLA.

She announced that Advice NI and Citizens' Advice have been appointed by the Social Security Agency to help people check that they getting all the support that they are entitled to. This is the third year that the Agency has operated a benefit uptake initiative with external advice organisations.

The Minister said: *"We are aware that there are people who are not claiming support that they could have. This can be for personal reasons or because they are confused by the benefit system or the complexity of the forms. This proactive approach by the Social Security Agency will make it easier for them by involving Advice NI and Citizens' Advice to give them extra support."*

"The Agency is repeating the exercise for a third year because of the success of previous campaigns. Last year, for example, six per cent of those contacted were found to have entitlement that they had not claimed. On average they were paid an extra £42 per week – a sum that can make a real difference to people's lives."

"This time we will be concentrating on people with disabilities, mental health illness or long-term illness, people over 60, carers and families/children. I would encourage anyone who receives a benefit uptake letter from the Agency to take this opportunity to see if they should be getting more money."

The exercise is in addition to three mailshots that the Agency is also undertaking to encourage people to claim Carer's Allowance, Pension Credit or rates relief directly from the Social Security Agency.

NI Charity Commission one step closer?

The Department for Social Development is currently pushing for the NI Charities Bill to be considered by a meeting of the Executive at the end of September. This should mean that we will hopefully have a timetable for the implementation of the new charities legislation in the early autumn. The Charities (NI) Order 2007 was laid before Westminster in January but did not proceed because of the restoration of the Assembly on 8 May 2007.

Young people wanted to showcase their 'cine-magic'

Have you made a short film? Would you love to see your film screened in the cinema? Cinemagic is looking for imaginative and original films made by young people to be screened as part of the 2007 Cinemagic Young Filmmaker competition in association with First Light Movies, which takes place during the annual film festival in Belfast from 16 November to 2 December 2007.

The Cinemagic festival offers masterclasses and workshops in all aspects of filmmaking, and provides a platform for young filmmakers to showcase their talents. The competition will be split into three different age categories; films made by under 15's, films made by 15 to 17 year olds and films made by 18 to 25 year olds.

The deadline for entries to the Cinemagic Young Filmmaker 2007 is **Friday 2 November 2007**. Entries should include a VHS or DVD copy of your film and a completed entry form. Films should be no longer than 15 minutes.

For further information, please visit:



www.cinemagic.org.uk/filmmaker.asp





Want to influence standards of fundraising

Are you a fundraiser or do you have an active role in fundraising? The UK Workforce Hub and the Institute of Fundraising are currently revising the Fundraising National Occupational Standards and would appreciate your views on the work so far. Since the standards were originally drafted in 2003, the profession has seen several changes including the introduction of the new Fundraising Standards Board, new Codes of Fundraising Practice and a new Charities Act. Your feedback will ensure that the standards remain current and continue to reflect best practice within the fundraising profession.

You are invited to take part in this consultation in either or both of the following ways:


Visit:

- www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk/fnosconsultation to read and comment on the draft fundraising standards.

Attend:

- The Northern Ireland consultation event at NICVA on 24 September 2007.

For more information or to register, please contact Esther Gillespie on:

 020 7520 2521


 rachel.brett@ukworkforcehub.org.uk

Nominate your learning stars

AONTAS, the National Adult Learning Organisation, is inviting nominations for the STAR Awards 2008 which take place on 4 February 2008 as part of the second annual Adult Learners' Festival. Eleven awards in total will be granted to adult learning projects based within the island of Ireland.

Nominated projects can involve initiatives, resources or group work. Projects may come from adult learning organisations, voluntary and community groups, the private sector, government agencies, statutory bodies and non-government organisations.

The purpose of the learning involved in nominated projects can be personal fulfilment, social change, active citizenship, environmental sustainability, cultural and intercultural awareness and knowledge, skills development, personal development, human rights education, community development, community regeneration, health and well-being, and employment in related fields.

Visit:  www.aontas.com/adultlearnersfestival/ to find out more and download a nomination form which should be returned by **19 October 2007**.

Want to develop youth participation?


Does your organisation work in the children's and/or youth sector and would it like to offer expertise in child and/or youth participation? The Participation Network is inviting organisations with expertise in children or young people's participation to join its membership.

Your organisation could join if it has the capacity to facilitate and support children and/or young people to express their views to decision makers.

Member organisations can:

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

For more information please visit

 www.ci-ni.org.uk/theparticipationnetwork

or email:

 participation@ci-ni.org.uk








Lay Reviewers wanted

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) is the independent body in Northern Ireland responsible for monitoring and inspecting the quality and availability of health and social care services, and encouraging improvements in their quality.

RQIA is currently recruiting volunteer lay reviewers to help monitor and review the quality of health and social care services across Northern Ireland. RQIA requires people with a strong commitment to improving the quality of health and social care, although applicants cannot be employed within the health and social care sector. Lay reviewers play a vital role in bringing new insights and perspectives to RQIA's assessments and reviews of health and social care services.

RQIA welcomes applicants from a wide range of backgrounds and from across Northern Ireland, particularly those with a disability, people from ethnic minority communities and young people. Recruitment of lay reviewers is ongoing, however applications received by 28 September 2007 will be considered for the current recruitment programme.

To find out more or request an application pack, please contact Roisin Kelly on:

-  028 9051 7404
-  roisin.kelly@rqia.org.uk
-  www.rqia.org.uk

IMPART Programme


The Social Economy Agency has just launched its new IMPART Programme. IMPART stands for Improving and Measuring Peace and Reconciliation Together. The programme is designed to improve our planning and evaluation of programmes and projects through helping us to define and validate social outcomes.

It will encourage participants to deal with questions such as:

- How do we measure social change?
- How do we know what difference we are making?
- How can we report on the impact of our work?
- How does our programme really work to change people?
- How can we measure peace, respect, trust, participation and other social assets?

The programme will introduce and develop frameworks to help participating groups plan and evaluate their work so that they can improve their effectiveness, report on their achievements to stakeholders and funders, and assess the impact of their work. Six participatory workshops in Toomebridge and Monaghan will encourage participants to share experience and best practice.

The Social Economy Agency is targeting intermediate level organisations in the fields of community development, community/good relations and community enterprise. For more information, contact Maurice McNicholl at:

-  info@social
economyagency.org

Are you ready for a Community ECO-Challenge?



Join the Community ECO-Challenge today. This new project is aimed at getting community groups to work together to improve their ecological footprint.

If you a community group or organisation in the Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, Dungannon and South Tyrone, or Newry and Mourne Council area and you:

- Want to improve your environment.
- Have approximately 20 households in your group.
- Want to lead the way in reducing your ecological footprint.

Then why not join in?

For further details contact Anne Greene or Lynn Morrow on:

-  028 3751 5800
-  a.green@sgehc.com





STAND UP and SPEAK OUT against Poverty and Inequality

The Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) and the UN Millennium Campaign are planning a number of important actions to maintain the momentum and pressure on leaders in both rich and poor countries to honour the commitments they have made to end poverty and to meet and exceed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Last year over 23 million people around the world took part in the Stand Up initiative against poverty and in support of the MDGs. By doing so, they set the first ever Guinness world record for the biggest number of people ever to Stand Up against poverty. Their actions sent a clear message to governments, that there is a growing global movement of people no longer prepared to stay seated or silent in the face of poverty and broken promises.

On 16 and 17 October 2007 to coincide with the National Day for the Eradication of Poverty (White Band Day), there will be an attempt to break last year's world record by asking people all over the world to STAND UP and SPEAK OUT against poverty and inequality and for meeting and exceeding the MDGs. Events are planned across the world including Northern Ireland. Keep an eye out on the Community NI website or to find out more visit:



www.standagainstopoverty.org

Avoiding a conflict of interest

NICVA's governance and charity advice team has drawn up a new advice note on conflicts of interest to help organisations in the voluntary and community sector identify how to prevent conflicts of interest arising and how to act appropriately if one does develop. The advice note defines conflicts of interest, puts the topic in context by giving the legal background to conflicts of interest and includes some suggestions on how organisations should deal with conflicts of interest should they arise. It also includes a sample conflict of interest policy that organisations can use.

For more information on conflicts of interest in voluntary and community organisations, or to get a copy of the advice note, please contact Oonagh Kane at NICVA at:



oonagh.kane@nicva.org



Re-Imaging Communities Programme hosts funding roadshows

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland is running a series of seminars highlighting the ways in which communities can apply for funding to re-image their local area. The re-imaging programme aims to help all communities in urban and rural areas tackle the visible signs of sectarianism and racism and to create a welcoming environment for everyone.

The three year programme was first announced on 10 July 2006 and exactly one year on, the Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness, announced that the first £500,000 had been allocated to 34 community-based projects as part of the £3.3 million Re-imaging Communities Programme.

The seminar dates and venues are:



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| 8 October 2007 | → | Houstons Mill, Broughshane |
| 9 October 2007 | → | Strule Arts Centre, Omagh |
| 10 October 2007 | → | Creggan Country Park, Derry |
| 15 October 2007 | → | NICVA, Belfast |
| 16 October 2007 | → | Fermanagh House, Enniskillan |
| 17 October 2007 | → | Marketplace Theatre, Armagh |

For information on the Re-imaging Communities Programme, please contact:  028 9038 5200

Conference aims to get to the heart of housing matters

The Annual Chartered Institute of Housing Northern Ireland Conference and Exhibition is an opportunity for those involved in housing and other related areas to hear different perspectives on issues that affect communities and gain insight into better ways of delivering services.

The agenda for the two day conference includes sessions on affordable housing, building a greener future, mixed communities, homelessness, planning, and more.


The event takes place in the Ramada Hotel, Belfast, on 3 and 4 October 2007. Please contact the conference organiser for details on:  028 9077 8222  ni@cih.org


Age Awareness Week 2007

The week coincides with the International Day Against Discrimination Towards Older People on 1 October 2007. The theme this year is Respect. Action will be taken to raise awareness among the public and the people concerned to the importance of eradicating clichés, stereotypes and violence, and promoting good relations among all members of society. Age Awareness Week 2007 will strive to promote and disseminate the values underlying equal treatment and the fight against discrimination. The core elements of the theme of Respect are:

- Public Awareness Raising.
- Eradicating clichés.
- Stereotypes.
- Violence.
- Promoting good relations.
- Promoting the values which underlie equal treatment.
- Promoting the fight against discrimination.

If your organisation would like to host an event during the week or you would like more information about Age Awareness Week contact James Knox, Equality Officer at Age Concern Northern Ireland, on:

 028 9024 5729


 jknox@ageconcernni.org





Public lecture and conference on suicide risk in young adults

Dr Rory O'Connor from the Suicidal Behaviour Research Group, University of Stirling, will deliver a lecture entitled Adolescent and Young Adult Suicide Risk: Characteristics and Promising Treatments at 8.00pm on 11 October 2007 in the Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast.

To reserve a place please email  n.ireland@bps.org.uk by **5 October 2007**.

In a related area, 'Promoting mental health – preventing self-harm in adolescents' aims to present the most up to date research within the area of self-harm and suicide and to share best practice in promoting mental health and preventing self-harm and suicide. This conference takes place on 12 October 2007 in the Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast.

Anyone with an interest in and a commitment to helping and understanding young people at risk including those working in the mental health services, education, social care, youth and community work, and mental health promotion, would benefit from attendance. There are discounts available for multiple attendees from the same organisation.

For further information, please contact Anne Kerr at The British Psychological Society NI Regional Office on:

 028 9097 4129  n.ireland@bps.org.uk

Life on a hotter Planet


Mark Lynas, journalist, broadcaster and author of *Six Degrees*, will speak on what a hotter planet means for humanity on Monday 8 October 2007 at 6.00pm in The Studio, Waterfront Hall, Belfast. There is a finger buffet from 5.30pm.

This event takes place in conjunction with the Institution of Civil Engineers which is hosting its annual conference

Climate Change - Challenging our Infrastructure in the Waterfront Hall on **Tuesday 9 October 2007**.

There is also a chance to see the internationally acclaimed British Council exhibition North South East West, described as a 'visual wake-up call' to the reality of global warming, on show at the Waterfront Hall from 1 to 12 October 2007.

For more information contact The Institution of Civil Engineers on:

 028 9087 7157



Race and the media

INCORE invites you to its third annual Diversity Conference in partnership with NCCRI (National Consultative Committee for Racism and Interculturalism) in Derry on 3 October 2007.



Race and the media will look at the freedom of the media versus biased reporting of minority ethnic communities. Speakers will include Mike Jempson, MediaWise Trust, a representative from the Press Council of Ireland and media representatives.

There will be keynote addresses on freedom of the media and an opportunity to participate in question and discussion sessions.

To register your place, please contact Janet Farren on:

 028 7137 5575
 je.farren@ulster.ac.uk

For information about the conference and the work of INCORE please contact Roisin O'Hagan on:

 028 7137 5523
 r.o.hagan@ulster.ac.uk





Delivery, sustainability, prosperity

The Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations' (NIFHA) Annual Conference 2007 will take place on 25 and 26 October 2007 in the Armagh City Hotel.

The conference programme includes a number of high profile guest speakers and practical workshops including:

- Communications
- Finance – looking in the crystal ball
- Governance
- Lobbying
- Built environment
- The work-life balancing act
- The 'green' house



You may register online at:  www.nifha.org or contact Margaret McIlwaine for more information on  028 9023 0446
 mmcilwaine@nifha.org

Need sponsorship for your sport?

The Northern Ireland Sports Forum is kicking off its 2007/8 programme with a Sponsorship in Sport seminar.

Whether you are involved in sport, professionally or voluntary, as a governing body or a club, or even as a potential sponsor, the evening will provide you with an insight into sports sponsorship and offer constructive and practical advice for your sport. It will also provide an opportunity for sport to come together and focus on common issues which affect sport today.

The event takes place at 6.30pm in Belfast Activity Centre on **27 September 2007** and costs £5 (subscribed Sports Forum member), £15 (club whose governing body is a subscribed Sports Forum member) or £20 (other).

To find out more or to register, please contact Lyne Greenwood on  028 9038 3825  lynegreenwood@nisf.net


A new dawn, or a false start?

The political landscape has changed utterly. Green and Orange are working together. But is it a new dawn or a false start? This seminar in the Stormont Hotel, Belfast, seeks to find out.

Dr Raman Kapur, director of the mental health charity THRESHOLD, will say that more significant efforts have to be made to make reparation for past psychological, political and violent injuries. He will explore the issues around true reparation and make the case that those in leadership will have to follow the 'de Klerk model' in South Africa.

Wilhelm Vorwoerd, Co-ordinator of the Ex-combatants Programme at Glenree Centre for reconciliation, will respond.

The event takes place at 12 noon on 4 October 2007. If you would like to attend, please contact:

 johnrobbnig@btinternet.com



Pathways to Work for lone parents

The Department for Employment and Learning will be hosting information open days for lone parents on the following dates:

26 September 2007

Lagan Valley LeisurePlex
10.00am to 1.00pm

18 October 2007

Belfast Opera House
10.00am to 1.00pm

24 October 2007

Roe Valley Leisure Centre,
Limavady - 10.00am to
1.00pm

The aim of the open day is to raise lone parents' awareness of the guidance and support available to them through Pathways to Work, other government departments and voluntary/community organisations which will be in attendance.

Free childcare, children's entertainment and light refreshments will be available.

For more information please contact Nicola Watton on:



028 9072 6791



Nicola.watton@
delni.gov.uk

Meaningful consultation with the older generations

Consulting with the older generations has become a key area for policy makers and service providers alike. Providing care in this sector is a major challenge for the foreseeable future. Developing strategies for meaningful consultation, using best practice methods, will be vital to achieving the standards of provision necessary.

This seminar provides the opportunity to hear the experiences of leading opinion formers and organisations working in this area. It will address the concerns of service provision, health issues and social care. Relevant case studies from within the public sector will be presented by providers.

Key areas for discussion will include:

- The government's commitment to full engagement with older people.
- Communicating effectively with people with dementia.
- Real examples of involvement with senior citizens.
- The challenge of engaging with older people in rural communities.

To register for the event please call The Consultation Institute on:

 028 9087 2800 or book online:  www.consultationinstitute.org

Collaboration and Mergers

Voluntary and community organisations are increasingly looking at ways in which to provide a better service to their beneficiaries and some have recognised that working jointly on projects is a sensible option.

This morning session will look at the various ways in which organisations can work together to mutually enhance their work both on a formal and informal basis. This session will involve workshops including one on legal due diligence which will be delivered by Cleaver Fulton Rankin solicitors.

Participants will also have the opportunity to receive practical tips and learn from the experiences of people who have been involved in collaborative working and mergers.

The event takes place at NICVA on **25 October 2007** and costs £30 for NICVA members and £40 for others.

To register, please contact Georgie Finlay at NICVA by Friday 12 October 2007 on  028 9087 7777  georgie.finlay@nicva.org





Featured Member Page

Welcome to the featured member page where we give an opportunity to you, our member groups, to tell us what you've been up to. We'd like to profile a new group each month, so if you feel you've got a story to tell or just want a bit of publicity for your organisation, why not give us a call? Contact John McCormick for more information on:  028 9087 7777  john.mccormick@nicva.org

This month's member ... Big Telly Theatre Company

Big Telly Theatre Company was formed in 1987. It designs and delivers new and classical theatre productions, interactive workshop programmes and community creativity projects that can tour Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, the UK and worldwide. It concentrates on the visual potential of theatre through fusion with other art forms such as dance, music, circus, magic and film to create a unique sense of spectacle. Big Telly's work is driven by a determination to offer audiences entertainment that surprises, stimulates and ignites the imagination. The company places audiences firmly at the centre of its work through innovative creative processes, extensive educational and outreach programmes and accessible theatre.


Big Telly is delighted to announce its official Twentieth Birthday production **Bog People**, a unique collaboration inspired by the poetry of Seamus Heaney and created by a dynamic team of Northern Irish writers and theatre practitioners. Written by Lucy Caldwell, Nicola McCartney and Francis Turnly, **Bog People** is a haunting, evocative sequence of stories about love, violence, mystery and memory with music composed by Neil Martin and directed by Zoë Seaton. This intimate and compelling piece of theatre sets the darkness echoing with its evocative exploration of the common ground in which we bury our darkest secrets. Each writer unearths new treasure and layers are taken away to reveal lives already lived and mysteries unsolved. Imagine that the ground beneath our feet is haunted, and that layer upon layer hides a secret of lives already lived.

Linked by landscape, the stories are set on a particularly significant piece of bogland over several different time periods, and the audience becomes detective, piecing together the fragments of the past.


The tour opens on 20 September 2007 at the Riverside Theatre, Coleraine, before embarking on a five week tour of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.


Previous Big Telly productions have included contemporary Irish classics, *The Playboy of the Western World*, *The Country Boy* and *The Little Mermaid* - so far seen by 30,000 people in swimming pools across the world.


Big Telly Theatre Company is delivering an extensive outreach programme for **older people's groups** and **rural young people's groups** to coincide with the **Bog People** production. All workshops are free to participants. If your group would be interested in taking part or would like further information please contact Maggie Watson at Big Telly on:

 028 7083 6473

or  maggie@big-telly.com

 Big Telly Theatre Company
Portstewart Town Hall
The Crescent
Portstewart BT55 7AB

 028 7083 2588

 info@big-telly.com

 www.big-telly.com






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





NICVA Members' Day 9 October 2007

As a follow-up to our last successful members' day on human resources and finance issues, NICVA has organised an opportunity for you to update yourself on recent employment legislation and its implications on your organisation's terms and conditions of employment. The day will also include information and advice on basic accounting procedures, budgets, national insurance contributions and statutory payments.

The sessions will run concurrently in the morning and afternoon, so you can sign up for the morning, the afternoon, or both. The morning session runs from 10.15am to 12.45pm and the afternoon session runs from 1.30pm to 4.00pm.

Session 1 Finance issues


The session will provide an overview of basic accounting procedures and the need for keeping accurate records, it will also provide you with a brief outline of the type of records that your organisation should maintain such as cheque journals, cash book etc. We will also look at the different types of statutory payments such as SSP, statutory maternity and paternity pay as well as national insurance contributions and how these affect your organisation.

Session 2 Human Resources issues

Recruitment and selection, employment statutory requirements and best practice

You may be aware of employment legislation but do you apply this appropriately to your recruitment processes? This session will identify the main pieces of employment legislation and statutory requirements and allow you to assess the implications on your own organisation's terms and conditions of employment and its recruitment and selection process.

The day is free to full NICVA members (two places per organisation only) with an extra member delegate rate of £30 per person. Non members will pay £50 per person.

An event brochure is being sent to members and you can also download the booking form at  www.nicva.org.

Key Issues for Effective Employee Management

This event at NICVA on 7 November 2007 has been developed in partnership between NICVA, the Equality Commission and the Labour Relations Agency.

The day will involve two practical seminars focusing on key areas of knowledge required by employees with line management or supervisory responsibilities:

Seminar 1

Equal Opportunity Awareness

This seminar will provide participants with an introduction to Employment Equality Legislation in Northern Ireland.

Seminar 2

Handling Discipline and Grievance

This seminar gives practical guidance on how to manage discipline and grievance issues effectively in the workplace. Both seminars will provide participants with the opportunity to explore practical case studies highlighting relevant issues and the factors to consider.

If you would like to book a place on this workshop please contact Margaret Thompson on:



028 9087 7777 or



margaret.thompson@nicva.org





Strategic Planning and getting results

This training aims to build the strategic planning capacity of voluntary and community organisations.

The programme will include strategic leadership, the art of envisioning, converting vision into strategy, and from strategy to performance.


Strategic planning and getting results will be delivered by Richard O'Rawe Associates and will be held in NICVA from 9.15am to 4.30pm on 21 and 22 January 2008.

The cost of this training is £175.00 for the two days including resource packs and refreshments.

To find out more please contact Sandra Bailie at:

 sandra.bailie@nicva.org

Or to book a place, please contact Margaret

Thompson on:  028 9087 7777

 margaret.thompson@nicva.org

New company regulations

This is a one day session which will give you information about the new regulations which have come into force under The Companies Act 2006 and an opportunity to consider the practical implications for companies in the voluntary and community sector. It will include the new rules on electronic communications, directors' duties, meetings, conflicts of interests and other provisions.

Date: 16 November 2007

Time: 10.00am to 1.00pm

Venue: NICVA

Cost: £30 for members and £40 for non-members

To book a place on this course please contact Margaret Thompson at NICVA, contact details above.

How to lobby the European Union

This one day session will give you information about the key EU Institutions, an explanation of how the decision-making process works at an EU level and an opportunity to explore the various ways in which the voluntary and community sector can influence its outcomes.


Date: 4 October 2007

Time: 9.30am to 4.30pm

Venue: NICVA

Cost: £50 for members and £65 for non-members

To book a place on this course please contact Margaret Thompson:

 028 9087 7777

 margaret.thompson@nicva.org

Improve your mediation skills

Mediation Northern Ireland is running a number of courses as follows:

Handling Life's Conflict (not accredited)

Two day course on 8 and 15 November 2007

Venue: Mediation NI, 83 University Street, Belfast

Cost: £240.00

Foundation Training in Mediation (Accredited)

(Note: people wishing to do this course should have already completed Handling Life's Conflicts.) Six day course from 20 February to 20 March 2008

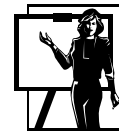
Venue: Mediation NI, 83 University Street, Belfast

Cost: £770.00

For further information, please contact Maureen

Lennox on:  028 9043 8614





Making policy work for you

NICVA will be running two 'Making policy work for you' training sessions in October in partnership with local community networks as follows:

18 October 2007 – The Junction, 8 Bishop Street, Derry, in partnership with North West Community Network.

23 October 2007 – In partnership with the Ards Development Bureau and Community Network at 43-45 Frances Street, Newtownards.

The session is fully participative using a mixture of input, discussions and question and answer sessions with policy experts. The introduction to the day will focus on the current policy climate. There will also be input from experienced policy workers in the sector about what works and what doesn't work.

Elaine Campbell, Head of Policy at Age Concern will be taking part in the Newtownards session, and Karin Eyben from NI Rural Women's Network will be speaking in Derry.

The training is aimed at all voluntary and community organisations. You should register to attend if your organisation has a policy role and you want to know how to do this more effectively, or if you have a limited policy capacity and want to find out about the policy development process with a view to getting more involved.

All courses run from 10.30am to 3.30pm, are free of charge and include lunch and all training materials. The limit for each day is 20 participants.

For more information contact Jonny Currie at NICVA on:



028 9087 7777



jonny.currie@nicva.org




Preparing for Community Planning

NICVA and Community Technical Aid have produced a joint information and issues paper on the potential of community planning. The paper has been developed at a time when all of the recommendations arising from the Review of Public Administration are themselves subject to Ministerial review. The review has a wide remit. It includes consideration of the number and functions of the proposed new councils and “... *the decisions of the previous administration to develop a council-led community planning process and the complementary power of well-being.*” The Review of Public Administration and its recommendations were developed under direct rule and it is only right that the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive want to make up their own minds about such important and wide reaching changes. Regardless of the outcomes of the review in relation to the numbers and powers of local authorities we think that community planning should stay.

The value of Community Planning has been recognised and it is being taken forward in England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland, so we are confident that it would bring real benefits here. As discussions on the RPA continue, voluntary and community organisations can use the time to prepare themselves and learn more about Community Planning. The paper will provide an introduction to that process. It considers the benefits and limitations of community planning, examines models of practice from elsewhere, and highlights what community planning might look like in Northern Ireland and poses a few key questions for voluntary and community organisations. NICVA, Community Technical Aid and the Rural Community Network are planning a conference on 23 November 2007 which will explore many of the issues raised in the paper.

To get a copy of the paper please visit:

 www.communityni.org and search for ‘community planning’ or

 cathy.breslin@nicva.org

News from the Voluntary Sector Housing Policy Forum

The Housing Policy Forum’s next meeting will take place at 2.00pm on 16 October 2007 at the Housing Rights Service. Its overall aim is to enhance the capacity of the voluntary and community sector to make policy responses and influence policy development in housing and homelessness.

The forum meets about three times a year and anyone working in the voluntary and community sector who is interested in the issues is invited to join in. Simon Community NI currently provides the secretariat for the forum.

The current regular membership includes:

- Council for the Homeless NI (Chair).
- Simon Community NI (secretariat).
- Housing Rights Service.
- Shelter NI.
- First Housing Aid and Support Services.
- NI Federation of Housing Associations.
- Chartered Institute of Housing.

NICVA publishes the minutes from the forum at www.communityni.org.

For further information, please contact Jonny Currie at NICVA on:



028 9087 7777



jonny.currie@nicva.org





New Local and Global Poverty Forum to launch

September is a busy month for NICVA's Policy Fora as they reconvene after the summer break. October will see the launch of a new Forum on Local and Global Poverty.

Voluntary and community organisations in Northern Ireland were extremely active in the Make Poverty History campaign and many people who work on poverty issues locally are keen to find out more about the links between local and global poverty.

NICVA has set up the Forum on Local and Global Poverty to explore the similarities and differences between anti-poverty work here and in developing countries. We think that by bringing together people who are active on international development issues with local anti-poverty experts we can begin to explore the causes and solutions of poverty here and across the globe. The forum provides an opportunity to learn about and from each other and discuss how we can support each other's work.

The forum will be chaired by Lawrence McBride from Trocaire and the first meeting will be a chance to explore the issues and discuss the future development. It will take place on Wednesday 24 October 2007 in NICVA at 10.00am.

Campaigners to get a new platform

On Friday 14 September 2007 NICVA launched a new initiative aimed at people in the voluntary and community sector with an interest in lobbying, campaigning and policy. The Policy and Advocacy Forum aims to help co-ordinate and support the work of lobbyists, campaigners and policy workers from all kinds of voluntary and community organisations.

Lisa McElherron, Policy Development Manager at NICVA, said *"the return of the Assembly has increased the workload of all the policy workers, lobbyist and campaigners in the sector. We all recognise the opportunity we now have to engage with locally accountable people on the issues that matter to our organisations and we want to maximise our impact. This new forum will give us the opportunity to share good practice with colleagues, support each other's work and spend some time on identifying and filling skills gaps we may have. Policy workers and campaigners tend to just get on with things and I think this is an important opportunity for us to spend a bit of time learning from each other and developing our skills and expertise."*

The forum will meet for the first time at 2.00pm on 25 October 2007 in NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast. If you would like to attend please contact Cathy Breslin at NICVA on:


 cathy.breslin@nicva.org  028 9087 7777

Policy Forum News

The **Older People's Policy Forum** met on 12 September 2007 and some of the issues up for discussion were the Older People's Community Safety Strategy, rates reform and review of concessionary fares.


Lobbying for arts funding was the main issue for the **Voluntary and Community Arts Policy Forum** which took place on 17 September 2007.

Castle Espie Wetlands Centre is the venue for the next **Environmental Policy Forum** at 10.00am on 27 September 2007. There will be an opportunity to discuss the progress of the recent Review of Environmental Governance, and a chance to visit the Hard Rain exhibition currently on display at the centre. Hard Rain combines Bob Dylan's haunting lyric, 'A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall', with pictures by the world's leading photographers to illustrate the pressing challenges of climate change, poverty, habitat loss and human rights. Visit:

 www.hardrainproject.com for more information.

The **Women's Policy Forum** will next meet at 10.30am on 2 October 2007 in NICVA.


For more information on any of the policy fora facilitated by NICVA or to join up, please contact Jonny Currie at NICVA on:

 028 9087 7777

 jonny.currie@nicva.org




Funding News

The Lottery is dominating this month's news with details of the relaunch of Reaching Communities and a number of Arts Council schemes about to close. NICVA finds it difficult to inform its members in good time about Arts Council schemes as they open and close in such a short timescale – something you may wish to comment on in our online survey of National Lottery funders. (See  www.communityni.org)

Camelot has been announced as preferred bidder to run the third licence for the National Lottery and details of its Transforming Lives programme are listed in this month's issue. Camelot is particularly keen to see applications from Northern Ireland in this round of funding.

We are still waiting for €330 million Peace III Programme to open. It is hoped that the funding is not too far in the future pending final agreement by the Assembly in October 2007.

Agreement on dormant accounts money is further off. NICVA is hopeful that the Northern Ireland Assembly will consult on priorities for the recovered assets in the not too distant future. NICVA's response to the dormant accounts consultation can be found on the Grant Tracker website  www.grant-tracker.org.

If you are waiting for a decision on a Big Lottery Fund Improving Community Buildings application, NICVA is advising all applicants who are not already doing so to begin preparing an application to the DSD Modernisation Fund Capital Grants. Big Lottery Fund is expecting to announce the successful applicants to the Improving Community Buildings scheme in October, so an application to the Modernisation Fund with a closing date of 19 October 2007 could cover the eventuality that BIG is unable to fund your project.

Breathing Spaces, jointly run by the BBC and Big Lottery Fund, is also expected to open in the autumn and will fund environmental and biodiversity projects.

Grant Tracker News

Additional features are being added to the Grant Tracker search facility and a new look to the website is planned for later this year. One of the new features already operational is the ability to search by 'NI Top 100' to see a list of Northern Ireland's biggest companies and their policy in supporting good causes. This feature was based on a suggestion by a subscriber and we're happy to hear from you about other ideas.

To subscribe to Grant Tracker, or for more information on subscription rates, please contact Georgie Finlay at NICVA on:



028 9087 7777




georgie.finlay@nicva

Big Lottery Fund relaunches £18 million Reaching Communities programme

The grant programme has been reviewed to ensure that Lottery grants are awarded to projects that best meet the needs of Northern Ireland's most disadvantaged communities.

Lottery grants of between £100,000 and £500,000 will still be available for up to five years for voluntary and community led projects that will help local people achieve their full potential, actively participate in communities, boost community ownership and improve physical and mental health.

However the Big Lottery Fund will now ask potential applicants to demonstrate how their project meets the priorities under each outcome A to D plus the underlying principles as follows:

cont'd..... 



Outcome A People have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Priorities Improve essential skills to meet social and economic needs. Increase opportunity for community based learning. Build community capacity.

Outcome B **People can actively participate in their communities to bring about positive change**

Priorities Increase opportunity for volunteering and engagement within and between communities. Build community and voluntary/statutory partnerships.

Outcome C **Community ownership of better and safer rural and urban environments**

Priorities Improve community facilities, access and services. Increase community involvement in protecting, restoring and sustaining the urban and rural environment.

Outcome D **Improved physical and mental health for all people**

Priorities Help individuals and communities to develop skills to make healthier lifestyle choices. Promote mental health and emotional well-being at individual and community level.

Underlying principles:

Addressing disadvantage and promoting tolerance and social inclusion.
Contributing to the reduction of poverty.

For more information, please visit:



www.biglotteryfund.org.uk



028 9055 1455

Arts Council to add Lotto restrictions

The Arts Council is planning to permit only those organisations currently funded under the multi-annual programme (MAP) to 'apply' for funding when the new round opens. This means the scheme is closed to new applicants for the second year running.

This would tend to support the claim that the Arts Council views National Lottery funding as no different to Exchequer funding as it seeks to maintain core organisations previously financed by DCAL. In essence only organisations whose funding runs out in March 2008 will be permitted to apply for what it calls 'standstill' funding for the 2008/2009 funding round.

The Lottery Multi-Annual Arts Programme was introduced to move organisations previously funded by the Exchequer funded ASOP (Annual Support of Organisations Programme) to Lottery revenue to ensure they received ongoing support. It was seen as a controversial move as it was considered by many commentators as a breach of the additionality principle of National Lottery funding to substitute Exchequer finance with National Lottery funds.

In 2006 the reason for closing applications to new groups was given as wanting to bring two year projects into line with three year funding cycles. This new decision may again disrupt the three year cycle. The reason given by the Arts Council for continuing to support existing groups this time is the loss of funding due to diversion of funds to the Olympic Games.

When MAP was opened it permitted organisations to apply for between two and three years funding so long as the amount required was between £10,000 and £20,000 per annum. This was later extended to £30,000 and closed to new applications. MAP has the same guidelines and criteria as the exchequer Annual Support of Organisations Programme, the only difference being the amount of funding on offer.

These decisions will be reviewed in light of the Comprehensive Spending Review when other changes may be necessary.



Funding for public art, equipment, lottery projects

The Arts Council reopened its Lottery Projects, Equipment and Public Art Schemes on 28 August 2007. All have a deadline of 27 September 2007. Lottery Projects can only apply for a one year funding term.

Guidelines and application forms for the latest rounds of Lottery Projects, Equipment and Public Arts grants schemes are now available to download from the Arts Council website - www.artscouncil-ni.org.

Brief details of the scheme are:

Public Art - the Public Art Programme supports the commissioning of new art for public places throughout Northern Ireland.

Equipment - this programme enables organisations to purchase equipment and enhance their artistic services.

Lottery Projects - this programme has its own priorities and criteria. However, all applications should fit within the objectives stated in the Council's five year plan and within its art form policies. Changes have been made to this programme which will apply to applications received for the 27 September 2007 deadline.

Please note:

- You can only apply for projects lasting up to **one year** (even though you have to address the Arts Council's five year plan).
- You cannot apply for new administrative/ salaried arts posts.
- You may not apply if you are an umbrella organisation not currently funded by the Arts Council.

The closing date for applications is **27 September 2007**.

Transforming Lives

Camelot Foundation is inviting applications from Northern Ireland for funding for projects that assist marginalised young people aged 11 to 25.

The Transforming Lives scheme aims its grants at four groups of young people:

- Young parents, or those at risk of becoming young parents.
- Young asylum seekers.
- Young people with mental health problems.
- Young disabled people.

The scheme is looking for forward thinking projects that aim to fulfil unmet need. There are four rounds of 'Transforming Lives' each year, and each round has a different theme.

If you are interested in applying, please read through the guidelines carefully before completing the application form to ensure that you are eligible.

For further information please contact James Middleton or Abbey Barley on:



020 7828 6085



info@camelotfoundation.org.uk

Download the information for applicants at:



www.camelotfoundation.org.uk

The closing date for applications is **Friday 12 October 2007** at 5.00pm.



Youth Service Capital Grants

The Department of Education is to make a small number of grants available for capital projects across the voluntary youth sector. Grants will be provided for improvement schemes, health and safety work and disabled access.

To be eligible to apply for funding your organisation must either be registered with the local education and library board, or receive funding from the Youth Council for Northern Ireland.

Grant-aid can assist with the costs of refurbishing premises, to bring the property up to current health, safety and fire authority standards etc. Priority will be given to health and safety, access for people with disabilities, Fire Authority standards and refurbishment.

The total cost of a scheme must not exceed £100,000. The maximum rate of grant payable is 85% of approved costs and professional fees. Your organisation would be expected to meet the remaining 15%.

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact David Bell prior to application.

Contact details:



**Youth Service Capital Projects:
Minor Works
Youth Service and Community
Relations Branch
Department of Education:
Youth Services
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
Bangor BT19 7PR**



028 9127 9516



028 9127 9530



www.deni.gov.uk

Funding joy or funding woe?

Your views are being sought on the four National Lottery Grants Distributors in a number of short, snappy online surveys. The Distributors surveys have been ongoing but there is still a chance to have your say.

Early feedback suggests the Arts Council needs to improve - do you agree? What about the others? A short ten question survey asks you to rate the funders. Are they very good or very poor at sharing information? Are they very fair and transparent or the opposite? We want to hear views good and bad about each of the lottery distributors – Arts Council, Sports Council, Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund.

Individual responses will be kept confidential and all responses will help inform NICVA's discussions with funders on funding policy and procedures.

The Lottery surveys run until **30 September 2007**.

To have your say, please visit:



[www.communityni.org/index.cfm/section/
Surveys/](http://www.communityni.org/index.cfm/section/Surveys/)



Allen Lane Foundation

The Foundation makes grants for work all over the United Kingdom and gives priority to work outside London. The grants are relatively modest. Single, one-off grants range from as little as £500 up to £15,000. Grants repeated for more than one year vary from about £500 per annum up to £5,000 per annum, for a maximum of three years.


The Foundation wishes to fund work which:


- Will make a lasting difference to people's lives rather than simply alleviating the symptoms or current problems.
- Is aimed at reducing isolation, stigma and discrimination.
- Encourages or enables unpopular groups to share in the life of the whole community.

The Foundation is interested in funding work which benefits people in the following groups:

- Asylum-seekers and refugees.
- Gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people.
- Gypsies and travellers.
- Offenders and ex-offenders.
- Older people.
- People from black and minority ethnic communities and migrant workers.
- People experiencing mental health problems.
- People experiencing violence or abuse.

If the beneficiaries of your work do not include a significant proportion of people from one or more of these groups, it is very unlikely that your application will be successful.

You can apply at any time. Applications will be processed continually. Full guidelines are available from the Allen Lane Foundation's website:  www.allenlane.org.uk.

If you have any queries about making an application you are encouraged to phone Heather Swales, the Executive Secretary, for clarification on:  01904 613133

Pfizer Foundation

The Pfizer UK Foundation was established in 2005 to address health inequalities across the UK arising from social, economic, cultural and demographic factors. It supports community based projects that tackle health inequalities in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, which fall outside core NHS statutory funding.

The aim is to support projects providing tailored, innovative, modest and local solutions to needs defined by local healthcare and social care experts, community groups and charities.

Applications are invited from organisations that:

- Are charities, community-led organizations.
- Clearly address a defined health inequality.
- Are based in a deprived or marginalised community, targeting a specific local area.
- Can demonstrate a tangible impact on a defined group of people.
- Require funding of between £3,000 and £50,000.
- Intend to use the grant within a calendar year of payment.

Local organisations that have been funded include Lenadoon Women's Group and Asthma UK, South and East Belfast.

Contact Jens Birkenheim at Pfizer UK for an application form or visit the Pfizer website.



pfizerukfoundation@pfizer.com



www.pfizer.co.uk/community



Co-op Community Fund

The Co-op Community Fund will help community groups, self-help groups, voluntary groups and community charities (or local branches of national charities).

Your project must:



- Benefit a local community in which at least one Co-operative group business trades in.
- Have a charitable purpose (your group does not need to be a charity to have a charitable purpose).
- Be in line with our values and principles.

Your group does not have to be a charity to apply to the community dividend scheme, but it must have a charitable purpose. There are three charitable purposes covered by the community dividend scheme.

Relieving poverty – this includes any project that aims to improve conditions for those less fortunate, such as helping the residents of a particular housing estate or helping people who are suffering any form of ill health.

Improving education – this includes any project that aims to provide education in the community, such as nurseries, youth centres and so on.

Other purposes benefiting the community – this includes projects that benefit the wider community, such as environmental projects, protecting heritage sites or promoting racial harmony.

The scheme can provide funding up to £5,000. Please note that not all Co-op stores are part of the Co-operative Group. To check where your nearest Co-operative Group outlet is, or whether your local store is part of the Co-operative Group, please visit:  www.cooponline.coop or call:  0800 0686 727

To apply, download the guidelines and application form at:

 www.co-operative.co.uk/en/communityfund
or contact:  0161 827 5879

Deadlines

United States Institute for Peace Unsolicited Grants Programme

Financial support for research, education and training, and the dissemination of information on international peace and conflict resolution. Most awards fall in the range of \$25,000 to \$45,000.

Deadline

1 October 2007



00 1 202 429 3842



www.usip.org



grant_program@usip.org

Heritage Lottery Fund (Northern Ireland)

Landscape Partnerships

This initiative allows partnerships representing a range of heritage and community interests to tackle the needs of landscapes, whose various elements may be in different ownership.

Deadline

1 October 2007 Stage 1 application



028 9031 0120



<http://www.hlf.org.uk>



northernireland@hlf.org.uk

Baily Thomas Charitable Fund

Learning Disability Grants

Funds research into learning disability and the care and relief of those affected by learning disability. Grants range from £250 to high thousands.

Deadline

1 October 2007




01582 439225



www.bailythomas.org.uk



info@bailythomas.org.uk

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Deadlines


National Manuscripts Conservation Trust


National Manuscripts Grants Programme

Financial assistance to owners and custodians in the United Kingdom for the preservation of the nation's written heritage. Grants over £1,000.

Deadline

1 October 2007

 <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/preservation/trust/>

 nmct@nationalarchives.gov.uk

European Commission Information Society and Media DG


eContentplus

Aims to make digital content in Europe more accessible, usable and exploitable.

Deadline

4 October 2007

 <http://ec.europa.eu/econtentplus>

 eContentplus@ec.europa.eu

Comic Relief

Older People

Funding to allow older people to participate and remain in control of their lives for as long as possible.

Mental health

A new programme to promote the rights and support the recovery of people who have mental health problems, and to help these people feel more included in society.

Domestic Violence

Funding to help services for young people affected by domestic violence.

Exploitation of Young People

Funding to help services for young people exploited through prostitution, trafficking and the Internet.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

There are two parts to the programme:

- (1) Supporting Vulnerable Women and
- (2) Building Community Links.

Young people with mental health problems


Assistance for projects that help young people who have mental health problems.

Young people with alcohol problems

This programme aims to: (a) help young people who have alcohol problems get the help they need; (b) make sure staff have specialist skills; and (c) encourage closer relationships between agencies working with young people.

Deadline

12 October 2007: application deadline (over £5,000)

 020 7820 5555

 www.comicrelief.com

 ukgrants@comicrelief.org.uk


Performing Rights Society Foundation


PRSF Grants Programmes – Live Connections and New Works Schemes

Funding to increase the public's understanding and appreciation of new music and to encourage, promote and sustain music creation and its performance of all genres and at all levels of activity. Live Connections offers funding towards one-off live performances of electronic music. Awards for New Works offers support to those wishing to commission a new piece of music from UK based music creators.


Deadline

12 October 2007

 020 7306 4044

 www.prsf.co.uk

 info@prsfoundation.co.uk

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Deadlines

Lloyds TSB Foundation for NI

Lloyds TSB Grants

Funding to enable people in Northern Ireland, primarily those in need, to be active members of society and to improve their quality of life.

Deadline

12 October 2007



028 9038 2864



www.lloydstsbfoundationni.org



info@lloydstsbfoundationni.org

Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

Churchill Fellowships

Funding for British citizens to travel overseas to undertake study projects related to their trade, profession or particular interest.

Deadline

16 October 2007



020 7584 9315



www.wcmt.org.uk



office@wcmt.org.uk

Camelot Group plc

Transforming Lives

Funding to support work aimed at bringing marginalised young people into the mainstream of UK life.

Deadline

12 October 2007



020 7828 6085



www.camelotfoundation.org.uk



info@camelotfoundation.org.uk

AJ Muste Memorial Institute

AJ Muste Grants Programme

20 to 30 grants made annually to international, national and local projects in the US and around the world, giving priority to those with small budgets and little chance of funding from more traditional sources. There are no geographical restrictions.

Deadline

19 October 2007



00 1 212 533 4335



www.ajmuste.org



info@ajmuste.org

Groundswell UK

Small Grants

Grants of up to £700 to homeless people to set up their own projects.

Deadline

15 October 2007



020 7737 5500



www.groundswell.org.uk



info@groundswell.org.uk

Department for Social Development: Voluntary and Community Unit

Modernisation Fund: Capital Grants

A capital programme to encourage collaboration and resource sharing among voluntary and community organisations and with a priority on services and facilities for disadvantaged children and young people.

Deadline

19 October 2007




028 9082 9440



www.dsdni.gov.uk



colette.mccluskey@dsdni.gov.uk

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Irish Youth Foundation


Funds projects concerned with helping young Irish people aged between five and ten who are disadvantaged and in need.

Deadline

20 October 2007: Closing date for applications - must register first

 00 353 1 605 5580

 <http://www.iyf.ie>

 info@iyf.ie



European Commission Information Society and Media DG

Safer internet plus

Funding to fight against illegal content and to promote safer use of the Internet and new online technologies, particularly for children, as part of a coherent approach by the European Union.

Deadline

22 October 2007

 <http://ec.europa.eu/saferinternet>

 saferinternet@ec.europa.eu




Northern Ireland Events Company


Major International and World Class Events

Funding for world class and major international events with the potential to project positive images of Northern Ireland.

Deadline

26 October 2007: Closing Date for Events between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009

 028 9066 6661

 www.nievents.co.uk

 info@nievents.co.uk




Architectural Heritage Fund

Grants and Low interest Loans


Grants, low-interest loans, and advice for voluntary and community groups to repair and regenerate historic buildings.

Deadline

26 October 2007: Deadline for December Meeting

 020 7925 0199

 www.ahfund.org.uk

 ahf@ahfund.org.uk




Community Relations Council


CRC Core Funding

The programme is dedicated to the promotion and development of community relations in Northern Ireland based on the principles of equity, respect for diversity and interdependence.

Deadline

26 October 2007: Closing date for renewal applications

 028 9022 7500

 www.community-relations.org.uk

 akeenan@nicrc.org.uk




MacRobert Trust


Guidelines


Support in the areas of Science and Technology; Youth; Services and Sea; Disabled and Handicapped; Ex-Servicemen's Hospital and Homes; Education; Community Welfare; and other charitable areas. Grants vary but most lie between £5,000 and £10,000.

Deadline

31 October 2007: Closing date for March 2008 applications

 013398 81444

 www.themacroberttrust.org.uk

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Global Health Council

Gates Award for Global Health

One million dollars prize money to recognise an organisation that has made a major and lasting contribution to the field of global health.

Deadline

31 October 2007

00 1 802 649 1340 ext 2144



http://www.globalhealth.org/conference/view_top.php3?id=745



dcarey@globalhealth.org

**Centre for Global Education**

DFID Development Awareness Mini-grants

A scheme aimed at organisations or networks with an interest in development education work in Northern Ireland to raise awareness and understanding of international development issues, of our global interdependence, of the need for international development, and of the progress that has been made and that is possible.

Deadline

31 October 2007

028 9024 1879



http://www.dfid.gov.uk/funding/dafminigrants.asp#Northern_Ireland



stephen@centreforglobaleducation.com

**Church Of Ireland Board For Social Responsibility**

Church of Ireland Priorities Fund

The objective of the fund is to raise and distribute money, on behalf of the Church of Ireland, to various worthy projects within the island of Ireland.

Deadline

31 October 2007

00 353 1 497 8422

www.priorities.ireland.anglican.org

priorities@ireland.anglican.org

**Whitley Laing Foundation**

Whitley Awards

Support for the leaders of pragmatic, long-lasting nature conservation projects. These can be located anywhere in the world.

Deadline

31 October 2007

020 7602 3443

www.whitley-award.org

info@whitleyaward.org



Staff contact list

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Seamus McAleavey | Chief Executive |
| Teresa Flanagan | Chief Executive's Personal Assistant |

Corporate Services

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Una McKernan | Director |
| Lynn Anderson | Printroom Operator |
| Sandra Bailie | Skills Development Manager |
| Judith Barr | Finance Assistant |
| Martina Crilly | Finance Assistant |
| Tara Cullinan | Receptionist |
| Paul Gormley | ICT Officer |
| Stephen Gray | Head of ICT |
| Elizabeth Hamill | Head of Fundraising and Marketing |
| Susan Lavery | Human Resources Officer |
| Michael Montgomery | Caretaker |
| Eamonn McKee | Finance Manager |
| Linda McGuinness | Finance/Grants Officer |
| Fergal O'Kane | Web Developer |
| Fancea O'Neill | Finance Manager |
| Damien Smith | Caretaker |
| Margaret Thompson | Secretary |

Member Services

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Paula Reynolds | Director |
| Georgie Finlay | Secretary |
| Neil Irwin | Member Services Manager |
| Oonagh Kane | Governance Officer |
| James Lavery | Information Officer |
| Frances McAtamney | Membership Officer |
| Denise McCann | Member Services Manager |
| Mark McCarey | Governance Review Officer |
| John McCormick | Information Officer |

Policy

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Frances McCandless | Director |
| Leeann Brady | Research Officer |
| Cathy Breslin | Secretary |
| Andrea Burke | Research Assistant |
| Jonny Currie | Policy Development Officer |
| Eileen Dornan | Data Input Assistant |
| Sean Kelly | Policy Development Officer (European) |
| Gordon McCullough | Head of Research |
| Lisa McElherron | Public Affairs Manager |
| Paul Mc Gill | Communications Officer |
| Fiona Veitch | Designer |



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**Northern Ireland Council for
Voluntary Action**

61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast BT15 2GB, Northern Ireland

Tel: 028 9087 7777

Fax: 028 9087 7799

Minicom: 028 9087 7776

International Code: +44 28

Email: nicva@nicva.org

Website: www.nicva.org

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