

NICVA MEMBERS' DAY

# Policy, lobbying and the NI Assembly

FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2007



**Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action**

61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast BT15 2GB

**Telephone** 028 9087 7777 **Facsimile** 028 9087 7799

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## Programme

- 9.30 Welcome and background  
**Frances McCandless**, NICVA
- 9.45 What's happened in the first four months of the Assembly  
[speaker to be confirmed]
- 10.15 Essential voice of civil society or whingeing do-gooders? What role can the voluntary and community sector really play in the NI Assembly?  
**Gregory Campbell MLA**, Chairperson DSD Committee
- 10.45 Questions and discussion
- 11.15 **WORKSHOP SESSION ONE**  
**Workshop A – Building relations with MLAs. What every voluntary and community organisation needs to know**  
Lobbying and influencing is as much about relationships as information. This session will explore the different ways voluntary and community organisations can get their issues on to the political agenda.  
**Pam Tilson**, NICIE  
**Workshop B – Telling your DEL from your AME – how government departments get and spend money**  
This seminar will explain how money is distributed to government departments and the rules which govern how it can be spent by the department.  
**Gary Fair**, Central Finance Group, Department of Finance and Personnel  
**Workshop C – Proving your work creates healthy communities**  
It can be extremely hard to measure the effect of policy and advocacy. However by using the social model of health, voluntary and community organisations can identify their impact on the health of local communities and/or service users. This workshop will explain the social model of health and how it can be applied to your work.  
**Barbary Cook**, Community Development and Health Network  
**Workshop D – Using research to inform evidence based policy**  
This workshop will focus on how to find good research as well as offering tips on how to create your own.  
**Leeann Brady**, NICVA
- 12.30 Lunch
- 1.15 **Does policy work matter and how can the voluntary and community sector organise itself to make an impact?**  
**Freda Donaghue**, Centre for Non-Profit Research, Trinity College Dublin
- 1.45 Questions
- 2.00 **WORKSHOP SESSION TWO**  
(morning session repeated)
- 3.15 **Where to now? Launch of Voluntary and Community Sector Policy and Advocacy Forum**  
Frances McCandless will offer an overview of learning from the conference and introduce a new initiative to help co-ordinate and support the work of lobbyists, campaigners and policy workers from the voluntary and community sector.
- Refreshments will be provided and there will be an opportunity to wind down at the end of a very busy day and network with colleagues.
- When, where and cost:**  
Friday 14 September 2007, 9.30am - 4.00pm  
NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast BT15 2GB.  
Free for full NICVA members (2 places per organisation only). Extra member delegate rate £30 per person. Non members £50 per person. Price includes lunch.

## Policy, lobbying and the NI Assembly Booking Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ JOB TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANISATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TEL \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Choice of workshops** (see previous page for details)

**Session One**

(please tick one workshop only)

- Workshop A  
 Workshop B  
 Workshop C  
 Workshop D

**Session Two**

(please tick one workshop only)

- Workshop A  
 Workshop B  
 Workshop C  
 Workshop D

Please tick if you have:

- Any particular requirement regarding access  
 Any particular dietary requirements

Please explain:

*Please use a separate (photocopied) form for each delegate.*

Please complete and return the form to:

Cathy Breslin, NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast BT15 2GB by **Wednesday 5 September**.

(Please enclose your cheque, if appropriate, made payable to NICVA.)

Alternatively you can book online at [www.nicva.org](http://www.nicva.org), one of NICVA's family of websites:

[www.nicva.org](http://www.nicva.org) - a site for the organisation

[www.communityni.org](http://www.communityni.org) - a site for the wider sector and general public

[www.communitybuyer.org](http://www.communitybuyer.org) - a directory of companies that provide products and services for the voluntary and community sector

[www.communityskillsni.org](http://www.communityskillsni.org) - a site focused on learning for the sector

[www.grant-tracker.org](http://www.grant-tracker.org) - a funding site