

22nd March 2023

# E-Zine



**Supporting  
Communities**  
Empowering Society

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Welcome to Supporting Communities 207th Edition of E-Zine, bringing you Best Practice from the Community Sector; Funding and Training Updates and Policy Developments in Northern Ireland, Great Britain and Republic of Ireland

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## Community and Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Support - future plans

The Department for Communities is asking for your participation in a departmental [survey](#) and invites you to join some upcoming engagement events. Further details can be found below and on our [website](#).



Department for

**Communities**

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Department for

**Communities**

The Department is carrying out a programme of work aimed at refreshing the policy frameworks for our voluntary and community sector support. A review of sectoral needs will inform how government can better support the sector to deliver outcomes set out in any future Programme for Government.

### HAVE YOUR SAY

Please take part in this short [survey](#). It should take you no more than ten minutes to complete and will give the Department valuable information on current capacity and support needs within the sector.

You can also sign up for the following events.

The Department would like to take the opportunity to outline current plans and explore priorities within the sector for boosting capacity and improving the landscape of infrastructure support. Events are open to all and will include a roundtable discussion of key questions of interest.

When	Where	How to Register
Thursday 30th March 2023 9.30 am - 12.30 pm	Clifton House Belfast	<a href="#">Register here</a>
Tuesday 4th April 2023 12.30 pm - 3.30 pm	Playhouse Derry	<a href="#">Register here</a>
Wednesday 5th April 2023 10 am - 12 noon	Virtual (Zoom)	<a href="#">Register here</a>

Additional policy workshops will be held between April and June: further details to follow in the coming weeks.

You can find out more information on the Department's website here; [website](#).



## Over 28,000 more NI households to benefit from £600 Energy Bill Support Scheme

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has released information on how domestic customers without a direct relationship with an energy supplier can receive support for Energy Bills.

Domestic customers across Northern Ireland who did not automatically receive the one off £600 Energy Bill Support Scheme payment can now apply via an online portal.

Over 28,000 households across Northern Ireland have no direct relationship to a domestic energy supplier, such as off grid homes. These households did not receive the support payment when it was initially rolled out in January of this year.

Following a successful trial in specific Northern Ireland postcodes, an online portal is now available as well as a customer helpline for those without internet access.

Eligible customers include:

- care home residents and others in care facilities/ sheltered accommodation (wholly or partly self-funded)
- park home residents, houseboats and caravans that can provide proof of address
- social and private tenants who pay for energy through a landlord on a non-domestic supply
- homes on a heat network/private wire
- off-grid homes
- farmhouses used for wholly domestic purposes

To access the portal and for information on eligibility, search 'energy bill support alternative funding' on [Help with your energy bills: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/help-with-your-energy-bills/overview)

Alternatively, customers can ring the Northern Ireland helpline on 08081753894.

Eligible customers are being urged to apply as soon as possible whilst also staying alert to potential scams. It is important to note that no links to webpages will be sent out via email and if you receive one, this could be a scam.

Northern Ireland Secretary of State Chris Heaton-Harris said: Welcome news for those Northern Ireland households without a direct relationship to a domestic energy supplier, with people able to apply for £600 support from today. I urge all those eligible to apply online or to get in touch through the telephone helpline as soon as possible."



The alternative funding route is in place to make sure the same level of support reaches households without a direct relationship to an electricity supplier.

Customers who have received support automatically via their electricity supplier through the main Energy Bill Support Scheme Northern Ireland (EBSS NI) are not eligible for support under the alternative funding aspect of the scheme, and do not need to apply.

These schemes are the latest part of a range of targeted measures to help households across the country with the cost of living. In addition to the support provided through EBSS and Alternative Fuel Payments NI, the UK government's Energy Price Guarantee (EPG) is expected to save the average UK family £900 over this winter.

Further support in direct payments is also being provided to vulnerable households this year, including cost of living payments for pensioners, people receiving disability-related allowances and those on means-tested benefits. The Household Support Fund provides additional assistance for those most in need and £26 billion worth of targeted support will help protect the most vulnerable over the next financial year.

Geoff Nuttall, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) said, "NICVA is pleased that people with no direct route to receiving help through an energy supplier will now get help through this new BEIS scheme. This intervention will provide some much-needed support at a difficult time. Our members have told us the difficulties they and the people they support are facing every day and how hard the sector is working to help people. The rising cost of living is affecting everyone, but we know it impacts the most vulnerable in our society even more. Especially if they're not connected to the networks through which others have already received support. We welcome this new scheme to ensure much needed help reaches them too."

"The various projects are run by volunteers and they deserve to be commended for all their hard work and dedication in transforming this estate, for the support they provide to their neighbours and for their valuable grassroots cross-community work."

## New laws mean changes for private tenants and landlords



New laws governing private tenancies in Northern Ireland will come into effect from 1st April 2023. The laws will affect both landlords and tenants within the private rented sector. While tenants are not required to take any action, they are advised to be aware of how the new law will affect them and their tenancies. When the law comes into effect from 1st April, private landlords will be required to take certain actions.

From 1st April 2023;

- Landlords must provide tenants with a notice containing tenancy information. This includes for current tenants who have not already received this type of tenancy information;
- Landlords must also provide tenants with a notice of variation when any changes are made to their tenancies;
- Landlords must provide receipts for any cash payment in relation to a tenancy;
- Landlords are only permitted to take or hold on to a tenancy deposit of no more than one month's rent;

- There will be increased time periods for protecting and providing information on tenancy deposits; and
- Failure to protect a tenancy deposit will become a continuing offence, as the previous six month time barrier to prosecution of tenancy deposit offence has been removed.

In the lead up to the changes, the Department for Communities is making tenants and landlords aware of how it may impact them.

More detailed information on the [Private Tenancies Act](#) is available on the [dfc website](#):

All private landlords who let a property under a private tenancy should be registered under the [Landlord Registration Scheme](#):[\(external link opens in a new window / tab\)](#)

If you are a tenant and struggling with finances, a range of information is available on income support, housing and other areas, through the [NI Direct website here](#):[\(external link opens in a new window / tab\)](#)

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# Consultations

**Services for those who have been bereaved by suicide (postvention services)**

Public Health Agency

[Public Consultation for services for those who have been bereaved by suicide - NI Direct - Citizen Space](#)

Closing date; 9<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Design considerations for a Renewable Electricity Support Scheme for NI**

Department for the Economy

[Design considerations for a Renewable Electricity Support Scheme for Northern Ireland | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date; 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023

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# Policy and Practice Focus

## Podcast: ALACHO on damp, homelessness and refugees with John Mills



ALACHO, the Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers, brings together those tasked with dealing with a multitude of issues which are increasingly shaped by worldwide events. The Covid pandemic led to emergency measures on

rents and evictions, while the ongoing conflict in Ukraine prompted efforts to provide homes for refugees. Even the damp and mould in people's homes can be traced back to a hike in energy costs.

John Mills, head of housing at Fife Council and current co-chair of ALACHO, joins Kieran Findlay and Jimmy Black to share how chief housing officers across Scotland's councils are tackling these issues while managing inflationary pressures impacting the budgets of councils and their tenants. He also reveals the one thing the Scottish Government can do to help most, if not all, of these challenges.

Jimmy Black has written a blog to accompany the episode, [here](#).

All episodes of the Scottish Housing News Podcast are available [here](#).

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## Daniel McDonnell: Time for charities to focus on long-term fundraising

Unicef's global face-to-face fundraising specialist explains why the charity has shifted its face-to-face strategy from volume targets to supporter lifetime value.

This article appeared in Civil Society News.

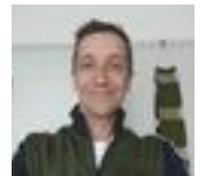
As operations shut down across the world, many for six months at a time, 2020 and 2021 were devastating years for face-to-face fundraising (F2F), with thousands of jobs lost and donors left unrecruited.

While F2F has now largely recovered, this almost complete standstill at a time when other acquisition channels were accelerating also provided an opportunity to reflect. What this revealed was an overreliance on an acquisition strategy that was becoming untenable.

Like many other charities, our focus at Unicef pre-pandemic was almost exclusively on growing and optimising acquisition. But it's an approach that invites F2F fundraisers to concentrate on volume rather than quality long-term net revenue. For F2F to add real value, the focus needs to shift further towards achieving sustainable revenue. And this means looking holistically at the entire F2F journey, so the emphasis is on recruiting supporters who are likely to stay long-term and providing them with an experience that makes them want to. F2F is the only truly large-scale push marketing strategy to recruit new donors and there must be an awareness of this. However, there is still much that can be done increase the lifetime value of a F2F recruited donor.

At the start of 2022, recognising the need for a sharpening of our own programme, we made this shift

with the launch of a new strategy that, for the first time, has no global target for volume.



Using the new technology offered by modern CRMs and digital signups, we are working to deliver a holistic journey with a major focus on supporter lifetime value (LTV) and other quality focused KPIs. This means increased attention on the first 12 months of a F2F recruited donor's life, where attrition and value loss for Unicef is highest.

This means changes across the whole process, including:

Eliminating 'death by silo' – encouraging all relevant stakeholders and teams to work together in understanding and analysing the entire donor journey. Using journey mapping tools, we identify and discuss pain points and opportunities in acquisition and ongoing donor communication to see where we can optimise. Then we test, test and test some more, with a focus on being audience focused. From 'dropping' donor journey touch points into a dialogue and measuring the impact that has on donor engagement, to changing the channel of the welcome message or creating typology surveys to better understand donor motivation, we are on a mission to improve the donor experience and break down silos.

Being more data driven – by accessing historical data and understanding the lifetime value of F2F recruited donors, we can make informed decisions on how and who we need to target for the best possible return on investment for our beneficiaries. Most importantly, we can communicate to managers, team leaders and fundraisers alike what a donor is worth in the long term, shifting their focus to engage in the most valuable conversations.

Training and quality control – we have built a best practice guide on how to engage our fundraisers from day one to month 12. This covers everything from training and refresher training, inspiration sessions, and feedback from welcome calls and signup surveys, to mystery shopping and KPIs, right through to celebration in success and personalised thank yous. Interactive and multimedia training covers global codes of conduct, fraud awareness, and child safeguarding – and delivers certificates on completion that can be attached as a badge to their LinkedIn profiles. We have also created the Fundraiser Support Interview, which involves interviewing a fundraiser, then quantifying it against a list of checkpoints to inform training needs. Most importantly, this turns fundraiser knowledge and skill level into a manageable KPI for our partner agencies and in-house teams. We want to ensure our fundraisers feel equipped, valued, empowered, motivated and inspired to deliver best in class conversations.

It's an approach that's essential to ensure our F2F campaigns deliver the best possible return on investment for our beneficiaries, and experience for our fundraisers and donors.

*Daniel McDonnell is Unicef's global face-to-face fundraising specialist. He will be speaking at the inaugural [International F2F Fundraising Congress \(#F2FCongress23\)](#) taking place in Vienna this 30 May to 1 June.*

- See more at: <https://www.civilsociety.co.uk/voices/daniel-mcdonnell-time-for-charities-to-focus-on-long-term-fundraising.html#sthash.DwG4Cj9N.dpuf>

# Publications

## Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey – Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Statistics on young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) were published today by the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency.



### NEET statistics published by NISRA.

The main points are:

- There were an estimated 18,000 young people aged 16 to 24 years in Northern Ireland who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in October to December 2022. This was equivalent to 9.0% of all those aged 16 to 24 years in NI. The proportion of young people who were NEET in the UK was 11.6%.
- The NEET rate among males aged 16 to 24 was 8.0% and among females was 10.0% in October to December 2022.
- The number who were NEET increased from the previous quarter and decreased over the year. Neither change was statistically significant.
- In October to December 2022 there were an estimated 13,000 young people aged 16 to 24 years who were not in education, employment or training and who were not looking for work and/or not available to start work (economically inactive). The remainder of those who were not in education, employment or training were looking for work in

the previous four weeks and available to start within the next two weeks (unemployed).

The Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) tables provide information on the labour market status of 16 to 24 year olds. The tables are published in February, May, August and November and the figures are obtained from the Labour Force Survey (a survey of households).

A person is considered to be in education or training if any of the following apply; they are enrolled on an education course and are still attending or waiting for term to (re)start; they are doing an apprenticeship; they are on a government-supported employment or training programme; they are working or studying towards a qualification or they have had job-related training or education in the last four weeks.

The full suite of reports is available at: [NISRA Economic and Labour Market Statistics \(ELMS\) | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/ELMS/)

## Live Here Love Here is Northern Ireland's largest civic pride programme



It's about loving where you live... and feeling empowered to take positive environmental action. Examples include: creating a community vegetable patch, organising a beach clean, or starting up a tool swap scheme.

Create your profile [here](#) and join us in doing something positive for your community today.

Sign up for the e-bulletin here; [Live Here Love Here - Show your support](#)



Catch up on what's been happening at the Board in [Policing Matters Issue 31: March 2023 \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](#) and the Chief Constable's Report to the Policing Board March 2023 is available at; [chief-constables-report-to-the-northern-ireland-policing-board.pdf \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](#)

## Scope<sup>NI</sup>

Available online, includes a series of important articles on a range of matters including the potential costs of hospital log-jams, the role of charities in all our futures and continuing failure in responding to children with special educational needs; Scope can be accessed at; <http://scopeni.nicva.org/>



The Environmental news bulletin is available at [ENRA-January-2023.pdf \(nienvironmentlink.org\)](#). For other NIEL publications and events, go to; [www.nienvironmentlink.org](http://www.nienvironmentlink.org)



RCN produces a range of publications including Rural Brief, a regular update of news and views affecting rural communities as well as Consultation Responses and Policy updates. A range of RCN publications is available at [Publications Archive - Rural Community Network](#)

# Events

## NICVA Cost of Living Crisis Conference: Tough Times, Smart Solutions In Person Tuesday 27 March 2023 - 10.00am to 1.00pm



How can NICVA best support your organisation and help fight your corner through the current cost of living crisis? This is an opportunity for you and your organisation to share the challenges you are facing and help us tailor our government influencing and practical support to your needs.

Voluntary and community organisations are on the front line of the cost of living crisis supporting people and communities, all while facing rising demand for services, falling income and rising operational costs.

Our sector can't continue to respond to this crisis without support. NICVA's priority is to ensure organisations are fully supported in delivering their vital services during these challenging times and in the future. This event will be a safe space to share your concerns, learn from other organisations and

have a say on the support your organisation and beneficiaries need.

By sharing your stories and information with us, you will help shape the support that NICVA provides to the sector and to influence our asks of Government. We want to ensure we hear from as many and wide-ranging organisations as possible, so we will run similar events across Northern Ireland, in partnership with local networks, to provide maximum opportunity for you to participate and have your say.

These further events are being planned in Derry/Londonderry, Enniskillen, Coleraine, Portadown, Omagh and Newry. Dates and to follow shortly. For more information and to register, go to; [NICVA Cost of Living Crisis Conference: Tough Times, Smart Solutions In Person | NICVA](#)

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## FREE Seminar: Volunteering & Net Zero Impact the world without impacting the planet



*As the world commits to achieving Net Zero status, what does this mean for volunteering?*

Join Martin J Cowling and Volunteer Now for a thought provoking and engaging free seminar that will consider the four cases (see below) for Net Zero volunteering, potential risks and a step-by-step guide to taking action as individuals, organisations and communities.

The four cases for Net Zero volunteering:

1. Business case
2. Moral case
3. Ethical case
4. 'Marketing case'...people are actively looking for organisations to support

Also on the agenda:

- The risks of Greenwashing
- What does Net Zero look like?  
With a range of options for organisations from having a net zero volunteer opportunity annually through to a complete net zero program, there are a combination of strategies we can employ between the two.
- Into action as individuals, organisations, communities.

Date: **Thursday 19 April 2023**  
Time: **9.30am-1.00pm**  
Venue: **NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB**

Book your place here – [bit.ly/VolunteeringNetZero](https://bit.ly/VolunteeringNetZero)



Volunteer Now [info@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:info@volunteernow.co.uk)  
Tel: 028 9023 2020

## Fundraising Forum

This is a free breakfast event on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 9.00am – 11.00am** in partnership between The Housing Executive's Social Enterprise Team and Belfast Met.

During the informal session you will be able to hear about support and investments available from both organisations. There will be an opportunity to see how past participants have benefited from support. Attendees will also be a chance to speak with other social enterprise funders. A light breakfast will be served.

Please click on the link below to register your place

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/yourbusinessthemet-tickets-535764896227>



## All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference

Attention social housing providers, participation practitioners, community members and tenants who want to make a difference! Get ready for the first-ever All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference, taking place on 13 June at the [Carrickdale Hotel & Spa](#), located between Newry and Dundalk.

Supporting Communities is excited to bring you this island-wide event featuring involved tenants, leading housing professionals, and customer engagement experts to discuss the latest trends and best practices in tenant participation.

Whether you are a landlord looking to improve your services and increase satisfaction rates, or a tenant seeking a better living experience, this conference is for you. You will have the opportunity to network with like-minded individuals, participate in interactive sessions, and hear from industry leaders on topics such as:

- Why Tenant Engagement is Important to your Business
- A Customer-Centric Experience: Putting Yourself in your Tenant's Shoes
- Tenants Speak: Why I am an Involved Tenant
- The Journey of a Small Voluntary Housing Body Embracing Tenant Engagement
- The Evolution of Tenant Participation
- What Housing Regulators say about TP in the North and South

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to learn, network, and be part of shaping the future of tenant engagement in Ireland.

[We are adding more information about the event online](#) and [tickets are on sale now.](#)

**Be sure to mark your calendar!**

# Training

## Volunteer Now Training Sessions in March 2023

Volunteer Now has both safeguarding and volunteer management courses with places still available taking place in March. We have places on Keeping Children & Adults Safe: Policy Development on 1 March, Diversity, Equity & Equality Session 3 on 7 March, Volunteer Strategy on 15 March and Keeping Adults Safe: Recruitment, Selection & Management to name a few.



We also have 2 free VOLT Sessions in March – Engaging Students as Volunteers on 16 March and Volunteer Involvement of the Over 50's on 30 March.

To find out what's available and to book onto any of our courses, please click here – [www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/)

Volunteer Now - Email: [info@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:info@volunteernow.co.uk)  
Tel: 028 9023 2020



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## Housing Rights Training

### The Essentials: Accessing Social Housing



#### TRAINING COURSES

Online via Zoom

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 - 10:00 to 13:00

#### [CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

This training course will assist participants in 'walking through' the current Housing Selection Scheme points system and the assessment process completed by NIHE to support applicants in gaining social housing. The training course will focus on:

- accessing social rented housing
- assessment and ranking of applicants
- complex needs assessments
- allocations
- challenging decisions
- legislation in place to support the assessment process and applicants being assessed for social housing

#### **Outcome of the Course**

By the end of this course you will:

- have gained more knowledge on how to advise clients on increasing their housing points
- have a better knowledge of the points system

For more information on Housing Rights Training, courses and seminars, go to; [Housing Rights Training](#)



# ask for Angela

On a date that  
isn't working out?

Are they not taking  
'no' for an answer?

Feel like you're not  
in a safe situation?

**Approach staff in a  
participating venue  
across Northern Ireland  
and ask for 'Angela'**

They will know that you need help

QR code to  
find out more



## Writing Successful Funding Applications (Online Session)

Wednesday 5th April 2023 from 10.00 am to 11.00 am

Join us for this short session looking at planning and completing a successful funding application. Learners will gain:

- an understanding of the key processes of a successful funding application
- increased confidence when approaching funders
- enhanced fundraising skills and knowledge

### Register your place

To register for this course, [please fill in this form.](#)

**Please note, this session is designed for community groups in Northern Ireland.**



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## Tenant Participation & Community Development (OCN Level 2)

6 Weeks from Wednesday, April 26, 2023 to Wednesday, May 31, 2023

10.30 am to 12.30 pm

This 6-week course looks at the intersection of tenant participation and community development. It is suitable for social housing staff and community workers who engage with social housing providers in **Northern Ireland**.

(We'll be offering another course aimed at housing providers and community workers in the Republic of Ireland as well - check back soon!)

This course will ensure participants can:

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

**Course Dates:** 6 Wednesdays from 26th April - 31st May 2023

**Time:** 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

**Venue:** Zoom

**Cost:** £337.50 per person

*This course requires a minimum of 8 participants to run.*

### To Register

Please contact Siobhán O'Neill at [siobhan@supportingcommunities.org](mailto:siobhan@supportingcommunities.org)



# Funding

## Social Enterprise Plus Programme

The Social Enterprise Plus Strategy aims to stimulate economic activity among people living or working in Housing Executive communities.

An important part of the strategy includes an investment programme. A new round of Social Enterprise Plus Funding will open on 1 March 2023.

Two Types of Award:

1. Building Capacity Award – awards up to £10,000
2. Get Going Award – Award up to £1,000

Applications, where possible, should demonstrate outcomes in these priority areas, but if you are unsure please make contact with the Social Enterprise team:

- Reduction of negative effects of the cost of living crisis
- Energy and net carbon / environmental impact
- Preparing social enterprises for social clauses within Government contracts including Housing Executive maintenance contracts
- COVID-19 recovery

Applications will be assessed against relevance to the Social Enterprise Plus Strategy 2020-2024, meeting the listed priority areas and suitability for public sector finance support. Funding is limited so not all applications that meet the criteria will be successful.

### 1. Building Capacity Award (up to £10,000)

The Building Capacity Award is aimed at social enterprises and community organisations who want to grow a viable business either by creating employment or training opportunities or a product/service to benefit the community, or an innovative partnership which brings new benefits to a Housing Executive community. The focus is on trading for sustainability and growth.

#### Who can apply?

- We will consider applications from community-based social enterprises and community focused organisations. Applicants must demonstrate how Housing Executive communities will benefit as a result of the award.
- Applicants must provide a business plan. This must demonstrate trading capability/potential and their ability to be a viable, sustainable business. For this reason running costs are generally not eligible for funding.
- Applicants must also provide relevant quotes for equipment and/or services.

#### Making an application

Applications will go live on our website (link below) on 1st March and must be submitted by no later than:

Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 4.00pm.

Applications submitted after this date will be deemed as invalid.

[The Housing Executive - Housing Community Network \(nihe.gov.uk\)](https://www.nihe.gov.uk)

### 2. Get Going Award (Max £1,000)

The Get Going Award is aimed at helping individuals with a good business idea get their idea off the ground. Applicants must demonstrate the difference the award will make to them or to others.

#### Who can apply?

- Individual applicants must be a resident in a defined Housing Executive estate or involved in a social economy initiative in a Housing Executive estate or neighbourhood.
- Applicants must also provide relevant quotes for equipment and/or services.
- Please note we cannot fund the following:
  - i) Travel to interview/work fares
  - ii) Clothing for interviews
  - iii) Driving license costs

\*the above are general statement of principle, if in doubt make contact with the Social Enterprise team

If you have any queries please make contact with the social enterprise team either via email or the contact number on the website.

#### Making an application

Applications will go live on our website (link below) on 1st March and must be submitted by no later than: Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 4.00pm.

Applications submitted after this date will be deemed as invalid.

[The Housing Executive - Housing Community Network \(nihe.gov.uk\)](https://www.nihe.gov.uk)

If you need assistance with creating a business plan you should visit Home - [Go For It \(goforitni.com\)](https://www.goforitni.com) Or contact a member of the Housing Executive Social Enterprise Plus Team at [socialinvestment@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:socialinvestment@nihe.gov.uk)

Applications will be assessed by a panel of managers after the window for submission is closed. Funding is limited so not all applications that meet the criteria will be successful.



## Inclusive Communities: The Phoenix Community Fund

Thriving, connected communities is at the core of our business and community purpose, and the Phoenix Community Fund has been established to help local charity and community groups across our licenced area.

In 2023, we're utilising the Phoenix Community Fund to support community groups and organisations across our licence area with funding to help them deliver activity that reduces social isolation, removes barriers to inclusion and promotes equality in their community. The Phoenix Community Fund is currently open for applications, with applications reviewed and funding awarded on a monthly basis. Full information on the Phoenix Community Fund, including Terms and Conditions is available at: <https://www.phoenixnaturalgas.com/phoenixcommunityfund>

### Application Requirements

Your application for funding towards an event or activity must:

- Consent to The Phoenix Community Fund Terms & Conditions
- Be based within the [Phoenix Natural Gas licence area](#)
- Use the funding towards an event or activity within the local community
- Clearly demonstrate how your event / activity will help reduce social isolation, reduce barriers to inclusion or promote equality in the community
- Be an inclusive event / activity open to a cross section of the community
- Be scheduled to take place between 1st June 2023 – 1st April 2024



## Inclusive Communities: The Phoenix Green Community Fund

Environmental Responsibility is one of the core pillars of our Responsible Business Strategy. Just as we aim to act as an environmentally responsible business by supporting biodiversity projects and initiatives within the communities that we serve, we also continue to provide a low carbon solution to homes and businesses, supporting zero carbon targets.

In 2023, we're utilising the Green Community Fund to support community groups and organisations across our licence area with funding to help them deliver activity that helps to improve our environment and tackling the climate crisis in some way, no matter how big or small.

The Green Community Fund is currently open, with applications reviewed and funding awarded on a monthly basis. Full information on the Green Community Fund, including Terms and Conditions is available at: [Phoenix Green Community Fund | Phoenix Natural Gas](#)

### Application Requirements

Your application for funding towards an event or activity must:

- Consent to The Phoenix Green Communities Fund Terms & Conditions
- Be based within the [Phoenix Natural Gas licence area](#)
- Use the funding towards an event or activity within the local community
- Clearly demonstrate how your event / activity will help reduce social isolation, reduce barriers to inclusion or promote equality in the community
- Be an inclusive event / activity open to a cross section of the community
- Be scheduled to take place between 1st June 2023 – 1st April 2024



## Planned Interventions Funding Support Workshops

The Education Authority Youth Service, in partnership with the Dept. of Education, are delighted to launch the Planned Interventions Programme for 2023, on behalf of The Executive Office. All awards are dependent on the availability of funding from approved budgets.

EA T:BUC Team have organised a number of application support workshops which all applicants are strongly encouraged to attend. They provide advice on programme planning, completing the application form, resources for support and the Programme outcomes.

2 workshops will happen in person, and 2 online. Links to the online workshops, in MS Teams, will be sent after registration is completed. You need only register for one event.



### DATES & VENUES

**Wednesday 22nd March 2023 10:30 - 12:30**

The Lodge Hotel, Lodge Road Roundabout, Coleraine, BT52 1NF

**Tuesday 28th March 2023 10.00-12.00**

The Mount Business Centre, 2 Woodstock Link, Belfast, BT6 8DD

**Wednesday 5th April 2023 11.00-13.00**

Online

**Monday 17th April 2023 17.00-19.00**

Online

For more information and to apply, please visit [Planned Interventions Funding – EANI Funding](#)

## Financial Assistance Call 2 2023/2024

Financial Assistance Call 2 2023/2024 is opening on 13 March 2023 at 12 noon, due to the short duration of the opening for the King Charles III Coronation Fund, all theme guidance notes have been provided early. Guidance notes can be accessed via the Electronic Grant Management System (EGMS), which can be accessed [here](#) or through the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council web page under **Grants and Funding**. However, you will be unable to start completing an application until the Call opens at 12 noon, Monday 13 March 2023.

Themes available:

### Open to Community Voluntary Sector (ALL)

- Community Events & Festivals (Projects running between 01 October 2023 – 18 March 2024)
- King Charles III Coronation Fund (Call only open for three weeks until 03 April 2023 and is for projects running between 01 and 31 May 2023)
- Good Relations
- PCSP Community Safety and Support
- Sports Development Minor Capital Items

- Sports Programmes

### Open to Community Voluntary Sector (ALL) and Business

- Arts and Culture Projects

### Open to organisations responsible for Sports Facilities

- Sports Facility Capital

**Opening date:** Monday 13th March 2023 at 12 noon

**Closing date:** Various – Please refer to theme guidance or the electronic grant management system for theme closing date.

**Please note:** All themes are subject to funding availability. Late application submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances.



## Community Technical Assistance Grants

Grants are available for community groups in Antrim and Newtownabbey to support consultancy and administration costs.

The funding is intended to cover various expenses related to project development, such as consultancy fees, statutory approval fees, public and employer's liability insurance, and volunteer expenses.

Grants of up to £10,000 are available and projects must take place between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024.

Grants may be used to meet the following costs:

- Consultancy fees (business plans / plans / feasibility studies / audits /options appraisals/



economic appraisals/ environmental assessments, etc).

- Statutory approval fees - up to a maximum of £300.
- Public and employer's liability insurance.
- Volunteer expenses (up to a maximum of £10 per day: ie hospitality or travel to a meeting/ conference/event). Proof of expenses will be required.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Grant Manager \(eformz.info\)](https://www.eformz.info)

## Climate Action Fund - Energy and Climate

This funding aims to inspire and support communities across the UK to address the energy and climate crisis. We're looking for projects that show how communities can address climate change while tackling the energy challenges through community-led climate action.

### We want to fund projects that:

- encourage communities to use energy in an environmentally friendly way
- bring communities together so that they can explore ways to promote energy efficiency
- enable communities to understand and engage with opportunities for clean energy generation, which do not use fossil fuels.

All projects should consider how everyone in the community can get involved with climate action. They must also address any reasons why some people might be left out.

We're looking for projects that will bring a range of benefits to communities, including:

- improving health and well-being
- creating local 'green' jobs, such as jobs providing low-carbon heat for homes, community energy champions and energy advisors
- reducing carbon emissions
- supporting communities to be more resilient.

We want to fund projects that aim for long term change. And projects that have the potential to have a positive impact beyond the communities they're directly working with.

**Area** UK-wide

**Suitable for** Community and voluntary organisations

**Funding size** - Projects can apply for up to £1.5 million over 2 to 5 years, with most projects over £500,000. Minimum grant £500,000. We aim to fund around 8-12 projects.

**Total available** £10m including £1.5m for a Learning Network.

### Application deadline

You can apply when you're ready. We expect the programme to remain open until at least December 2023 but it will depend on when and how many others apply for our funding.

There will be virtual information sessions on the following days:

- 21 March, 12 noon to 12:45 pm
- 18 April, 12 noon to 12:45 pm
- 16 May, 12 noon to 12:45 pm
- 20 June, 12 noon – 12:45 pm

For more information and to apply, please visit [Climate Action Fund - Energy and Climate | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)



## The Gill's Charity Fund

The Gill's Charity Fund offers funding to organisations for projects for the benefit of older people resident in the Borough of Carrickfergus (as per the old Local Government area).

In recognition of the needs of older people, and the great work that groups supporting older people are doing, the Community Foundation acquired the management and administration of the Gill's Charity Fund in 2021. The Fund will be accessible annually.

### Who can apply?

- Fully constituted voluntary organisations and community groups based within Northern Ireland, although the project must be strictly aimed at older people resident in the Borough of Carrickfergus only.
- Applying organisations should provide, promote, maintain or manage or organise amenities and facilities for the promotion of welfare or recreational or cultural activities of a charitable nature.
- Organisations with an income level of below £100k

### Examples of types of projects that may be supported:

- Reducing isolation and vulnerability of older people, through supporting participation in activities.
- Reducing the fear of crime amongst older people.
- Encouraging and supporting independence of older

people.

- Improving health and well-being, and supporting older people to remain in their homes.
- Supporting older people to keep warm.
- Supporting older people to access a nutritious meal.
- Reducing potential for age discrimination, and/or abuse.
- Enabling older people to access technology.
- Enabling older people to access potential benefits and entitlements that they may not be aware of.
- Engaging older people to take community action.
- Enabling active participation of older people in the community in decision-making, and addressing issues facing their sector.

### What can be supported?

- Running costs, such as sessional costs for tutors, venue hire, transport.
- Capital costs are eligible, if essential to the project

Closing date for applications is 27th March 2023. For more information and to apply, please visit [The Gill's Charity Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](https://www.communityfoundationni.org)



## Evishagaran and Craiggore Community Benefit Fund

### Purpose of the fund:

The Evishagaran and Craiggore Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund was established in 2022 by the ERG Group.

The fund's aim is to provide financial support towards the development of locally-beneficial community-based projects and initiatives within a 7km radius of Evishagaran and Craiggore wind farms, Dungiven.

Applications are invited from charities and community organisations based within a 7km radius of the Evishagaran and Craiggore wind farm sites.

[Evishgaran Map](#)

[Craiggore Map](#)

### Applicants can apply for financial support for any one or more of the following purposes:

- Projects that are promoting ERG's culture and sustainability of renewable energies, energy efficiencies and energy poverty The advancement of education; and/or
- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement; and/or
- Projects for environmental and/or biodiversity benefit; and/or
- Improving the health of residents; and/or
- Promoting care & support of vulnerable people; and/or
- Promoting recreational or sporting activities; and/or
- The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science; and/or
- Improving or maintaining community buildings or facilities; and/or
- Social and local community development; and/or
- The promotion of culture and knowledge; and/or
- Support for young people and sports; and/or
- Promoting ERG's culture and sustainability of renewable energies; and/or
- 

- Any purpose that is adverse to the wind farms, to ERG or to the wind energy industry as a whole
- Supporting social development leveraging on ERG's business activities; and/or
- Supporting the "call of ideas" for the innovation in the nearby areas; and/or
- Education in relation to sustainability, the development of renewables, and the fight against climate change



### Priority will be given to:

- Collaborative projects
- Projects that aim to improve the health of residents, particularly mental health
- Projects that promote care & support of vulnerable people, particularly relating to the cost of living/fuel poverty

***In the event of oversubscription, organisations who are being directly funded by ERG, will not be given priority.***

### Funding available:

Amount of funding available:

There will be two elements to this fund;

- Micro grants of up to £4,000 for small projects
- Strategic grants of up to £10,000 for larger scale strategic partnership projects, with one lead applicant (We anticipate supporting up to 2 of these grants)

**Closing date for applications is 24th April 2023.**

For more information and to apply, please visit [Evishagaran and Craiggore Community Benefit Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](https://www.communityfoundationni.org)