

26th April 2023

E-Zine



**Supporting
Communities**
Empowering Society

Welcome to Supporting Communities 209th 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

HCN Online Forums Digital Drop-In Training Session this May

Are you a member of the [Housing Community Network?](#)

If you attend Central, Area, Regional, District Level meetings or Inter-Agencies, you will soon have access to all of your forum resources online!

Carla Mullholand, our new digital inclusion officer, will be holding regular drop-in sessions on Thursday afternoons from 1.30 pm - 2.30 pm to help members get signed up and use the online forums.

Not to be confused with the tenant portal, where you can manage aspects of your tenancy by signing in on the Housing Executive website, the collaboration portal or 'HCN Online Forums' are designed to create a simple online environment for sharing files, online chat, discussions, managing meetings and associated papers and assigning tasks or 'to-do' lists.

The online forums will improve the network's ability to collaborate by removing the need to email papers, minutes, and meeting invitations which individuals can quickly lose. Instead, all the forum's documents and discussions will be stored in an organised way online where members can access them whenever needed.

Read more [about Carla and her new role](#) in assisting the HCN to gain the digital skills needed to participate online.

Dates

- Thursday 4th May 2023 from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm
- Thursday 11th May 2023 from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm
- Thursday 18th May 2023 from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm
- Thursday 25th May 2023 from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm

Register for these session

These session will be held on Zoom. To register for any of the sessions, please [fill in this form](#).

If you have any questions, contact Carla Mullholand at carla@supportingcommunities.org.



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](#):[\(external link opens in a new window / tab\)](#)

Register with Social Value NI

Social Value is about maximising the social, economic and environmental benefits through the public procurement process. Ultimately, this allows Government Departments and their stakeholders to find new and far reaching methods to deliver on the outcomes of the Programme for Government.



<https://biteable.com/watch/3839349/057567cda04300a577b20688fe969067>

The Social Value NI website offers the public, private and third sectors a suite of bespoke resources, training modules and model procurement documentation to ensure consistency of approach while allowing public bodies, and their suppliers, to retain flexibility in the delivery of the 4 social value themes:

- Increasing secure employment and skills
- Building ethical and resilient supply chains
- Delivering zero carbon
- Promoting Well-being

Your organisation may be able to benefit from contractors working in your area – all you have to do is register as a broker here: <https://socialvalueni.org/brokers/>

Unsung heroes win Rural Community Awards

Moneydarragh Community Hub in south Down is one of six winners to scooped a coveted accolade in the Housing Executive's annual Rural Community Awards. The competition rewards individuals and groups who are making a difference in rural areas.

Unsung heroes from across Northern Ireland have scooped top prizes in the Housing Executive's annual Rural Community Awards 2022 competition.

Individuals and groups who are making a difference in rural areas received the awards which showcase the range of activities they are involved in to improve quality of life and create cleaner, safer and more vibrant places to live.

Outstanding volunteering work being carried out at grassroot level in rural neighbourhoods and villages, which helps to boost civic pride among residents, is also recognised in the awards.

Winners for 2022 are:

- Community Spirit North Region: Camlough Community Association
- Community Spirit South Region: Moneydarragh Community Hub
- Cleaner & Greener North Region: Cullybackey Community Partnership
- Cleaner & Greener South Region: Trillick Community Group
- Community Champion North Region: Roy McDowell, Ahoghill In Bloom
- Community Champion South Region: Sammy Wilson, Donaghmore Horticultural Community

Community Champions won £500 for their groups, and the Rural Community Spirit and the Cleaner and Greener award winners each received £1,000.

Tim Gilpin, the Housing Executive's acting Rural and Regeneration Manager, said: "First launched at the Balmoral Show in 2014, the competition has been a huge success, generating hundreds of inspiring applications.

"We are delighted to celebrate the work of volunteers across Northern Ireland, who are quite often the unsung heroes in our community, by organising this competition.

"So many people routinely go above and beyond to promote health and wellbeing, individual and community development, social inclusion and help make life better for all residents, which is to be commended."

Elma Newberry, the Housing Executive's acting Director of Regional Services, said: "I am very impressed with the high standard of nominations that we received in the 2022 competition.

"A large number of volunteers do a huge amount of hard work to improve their communities and I would like to thank each and every one of them. Our winners are richly deserving and are excellent examples of what individuals and groups can achieve for the benefit of the local people around them.

"Everyone is grateful to all of those who so generously give up their time and share their expertise so that we can live in places that are attractive and welcoming. Your contribution to our community is outstanding."



Consultations

Consultation launches on revised regional strategic planning policy for renewable and low carbon energy

The Department for Infrastructure has issued a draft revised regional strategic planning policy on renewable and low carbon energy for 12 weeks public consultation.



The aim of the review is to ensure that planning policy remains fit for purpose and up-to-date to inform plan-making and decision-taking in relation to renewable and low carbon energy planning applications, while reflecting our commitment to the Energy Strategy and the Climate Change (Northern Ireland) Act 2022, which has established a renewable electricity consumption target of 80% by 2030.

The consultation documents are available at [Draft Renewable and Low Carbon Energy](#). The consultation is open until 5.00 pm on 30 June 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; 27th April 2023

Prospective Scheme of Delegation for the Charity Commission for NI

Department for Communities

[Consultation on a prospective Scheme of Delegation for the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date; 15th May 2023

Section 75 Equality Action Plan 2022-2025

Department for Communities

[Consultation on Section 75 Equality Action Plan 2022-2025 | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date; 31st May 2023

Northern Ireland Policing Board

COMMUNITY POLICING SURVEY 2023

SCAN TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY

The online survey will be open from **Monday 3 April 2023 to Friday 30 June 2023** and can be accessed by scanning the QR Code or by visiting consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doj/community-policing-survey-2023

Anyone unable to access the survey online, can request hard copies of the survey by contacting the Policing Board:

Northern Ireland Policing Board
James House, Block D, 2 - 4 Cromac Avenue,
The Gasworks, Belfast, BT7 2JA

Statistics@nipolicingboard.org.uk
028 9040 8500

You can find out more about the role and work of the Policing Board by visiting our website at www.nipolicingboard.org.uk
Stay up to date by following us on social media:

Northern Ireland Policing Board

COMMUNITY POLICING SURVEY 2023

YOUR VIEWS WANTED

The Northern Ireland Policing Board is seeking views from across the community on the delivery of the policing service and how the police work in partnership with the community in local areas as part of the Community Policing Survey 2023.

With our responsibility to oversee the work of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, we want to find out about your experience of PSNI in your local area, whether that be as an individual or through your work with a community group or an organisation.

This information will be used to inform the Policing Plan and assist the Board in assessing and evaluating the impact of police partnership working within local communities. We appreciate you taking the time to complete this survey. The Board will publish the results in Autumn 2023.

Policy and Practice Focus

The road to gender equality – can equality law reform help?

Blog by Kathryn Barr, Senior Policy Officer,
Equality Commission NI



As we celebrate International Women's Day this week, it's always useful to look back on how far we have come in working towards achieving equality for women in Northern Ireland. There is no doubt we have made significant progress over the last decades. But it is equally important to look forward and ensure we know exactly what still needs to be done.

The introduction of the Equal Pay Act (NI) 1970 and the Sex Discrimination (NI) Order 1976 were major milestones in the road toward equality for women. They were landmark pieces of legislation. They significantly improved protections for women in Northern Ireland, but like so much of our equality legislation they now offer less legal protections than those enjoyed by our counterparts living in Great Britain following the introduction of the Equality Act 2010.

Here in Northern Ireland, we currently have a patchwork of legislation that's showing some significant gaps and inconsistencies. As a result of these gaps, people living here are unable to challenge some types of discrimination because the laws are simply not there to protect them.

As part of the Commission's work on law reform, we have longstanding recommendations but, really, rather than try and mend a patchwork, we would be better to work towards a Single Equality Act, which would move all our discrimination laws forward at once.

A Single Equality Act would strengthen, harmonise, and simplify protections across all the equality grounds. Our legislation could and should be world-leading, taking account of lessons from Great Britain's Equality Act, but also looking to other countries to make sure we meet the best international standards. Learning from others will help ensure effective equality protections for everyone in Northern Ireland, include stronger provisions in relation to sex discrimination and equal pay legislation.

So, what needs to change? As part of our statutory remit, the Commission keeps all equality legislation under review and makes recommendations for change. For example, reforms we wish to see in relation to our sex discrimination legislation include:

- prohibiting sex-based discrimination and harassment by public bodies when carrying out their public functions;
- protecting against combined discrimination such as when an older Asian woman is discriminated against due to a mix of her age, gender and race;
- providing stronger protection for employees against sexual harassment by a third party, such as a customer, clients or visitors.

While looking more broadly at equality legislation that would improve protections particularly for women, it is also important that [gender pay gap reporting](#) regulations are introduced – these should be accompanied by a gender pay strategy and action plan. Such a strategy should look at structural factors within society and the workplace, like gender stereotyping; education and career choices; caring roles; and the concentration of women in part-time work, especially where they are at risk of low pay.

Northern Ireland's Employment Act 2016 made provisions for these regulations, as well as a strategy, but due to the lack of a functioning NI Executive we are still waiting for this to be enacted.

So, as we celebrate International Women's Day, please take the time to read our [recommendations relating to gender policy positions and more broadly, equality law reform](#). Let's commit to work together to improve, strengthen and simplify all our equality legislation for the betterment of everyone who lives here.

Podcast: Fit Homes and rural housing with Kirsty Morrison and Ronnie MacRae - A Scottish Perspective

As social housing organisations across the country navigate a host of issues from an inadequate number of affordable homes, a cost of living crisis and an ageing population, for those working and living in rural areas these issues are compounded by a unique set of circumstances such as a lack of local services and an exodus of young families.

Two people coming up with innovative solutions to tackle this are Kirsty Morrison, the chief executive of Albyn Housing Society, and Ronnie MacRae, the chief executive officer at Communities Housing Trust. Joining Jimmy Black and Kieran Findlay, Kirsty shares Albyn's Fit Homes, which support vulnerable tenants who require support to stay at home for longer. Ronnie outlines the partnership working of Communities Housing Trust to increase the provision of affordable homes and services in remote areas.



Kirsty Morrison and Ronnie MacRae

Both have their say on issues impacting people in rural communities, Modern Methods of Construction and put their case to the new housing minister Paul McLennan.

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

Hybrid fundraising jobs increased by 900% in three years, CloF figures show



Lea Legraien writes in Civil Society News

Hybrid roles advertised in the fundraising sector have increased by more than 900% in three years while onsite roles have declined by 64%, according to new research.

CharityJob's analysis of recruitment figures showed a huge change in working patterns in the fundraising sector between 2019 and 2022 as organisations have embraced hybrid and remote working.

The Chartered Institute of Fundraising (CloF) asked CharityJob to look at its recruitment data from 2022 and compare it with that of 2019. It found that 52% of all advertised jobs in fundraising in 2022 were hybrid, while a third were onsite and 15% remote. In comparison, only 5% of these roles advertised in 2019 were hybrid, 91% onsite and just 4% remote.

Shift to hybrid and remote non-managerial roles

The biggest increases in the various ways of working were found in experienced non-manager roles, with an increase of over 900% in hybrid experienced non-manager roles and 480% in remote experienced non-manager roles. According to the analysis, the fundraising sector offers more full-time positions than the charity sector overall. Indeed, the former had 8% more full-time jobs than the latter in 2019 and 9% more last year. In total, the number of junior roles available in fundraising can be compared with the charity sector's, but the base location appears to be "more flexible, including hybrid and remote roles".

Moreover, the fundraising sector has more managerial roles compared with the rest of the charity sector while these offer more flexibility when it comes

to their base location.

Pandemic ushered 'opportunities for flexibility'

Ceri Edwards, executive director of people and engagement at CloF, said that Covid-19 "ushered opportunities for flexibility and improved work-life balance", which "changed workplaces for the better and will have ensured many of us remain with charities that have given us better prospects for our careers and a renewed outlook on our working weeks".

"These strides forward are to be welcomed and will undoubtedly make roles more appealing to many. And while we know that a career in fundraising brings huge rewards and a lifetime of impact, it won't always be enough to attract the talent we need to excite our supporters as we connect them with the causes they care about.

"Our focus now must be on ensuring that the advantages new ways of working bring are open to all, are accompanied by a strong focus on wellbeing and professional development; and that together we foster cultures of inclusion and growth for fundraisers wherever they work."

Raya Wexler, co-founder of CharityJob, added: "In a competitive job market, this is a very welcome shift. The move towards more flexible ways of working both opens up fundraising roles to much broader pools of candidates and offers existing fundraisers the optimal conditions to flourish. This means charities have the best chance of securing top talent. "The flexibility and career progression opportunities currently available mean there's never been a better time to start or progress a career in fundraising."

Publications

Health Inequalities Annual Report 2023

The Department of Health has published the Health Inequalities Annual Report 2023. This publication presents a comprehensive analysis of health inequality gaps between the most and least deprived areas of NI, and sub-regional gaps within Health & Social Care (HSC) Trust and Local Government District (LGD) areas across a range of health indicators.

Key Findings - Regional

- in 2019-21, male and female life expectancy at birth showed no notable change in NI and its most or least deprived areas. While the male deprivation gap (7.3 years) showed no notable change since 2015-17, the female deprivation gap (5.1 years) widened slightly over the period.
- inequality gaps narrowed for male healthy life expectancy (HLE) and male and female disability-free life expectancy (DFLE), following improvements in the most deprived areas. In 2019-21, the most-least deprived gap in HLE stood at 11.2 years for males and 15.1 years for females.
- large inequality gaps continue to highlight markedly higher rates of premature mortality in the most deprived areas, with the majority of gaps showing no notable change over the analysed period. Preventable mortality increased in the most deprived areas resulting in the inequality gap widening with the rate in the most deprived areas now treble that in the least deprived areas.
- large inequality gaps continue to exist for mental health indicators. Prescription rates for mood and anxiety disorders increased regionally and for most & least deprived areas between 2017 and 2021,

with the rate in the most deprived areas 66% higher than in the least deprived areas. In 2019-21 the suicide mortality rate in the most deprived areas was more than double that observed in the least deprived areas.

- alcohol and drug related indicators continue to show some of the largest health inequalities monitored in NI, with rates in the most deprived areas over five times that in the least deprived for deaths due to drug misuse and four times that for alcohol specific mortality.
- in 2021, within the most deprived areas the proportion of births where the mother reported smoking during pregnancy was almost five and a half times the rate in the least deprived areas.
- over the last five years the inequality gap in the proportion of Primary 1 children classified as obese widened from 45% to 93% due to an increase in obesity rates in the most deprived areas while rates in the least deprived areas saw no notable change.

Key Findings - Sub-regional

The report also highlights sub-regional inequalities around male life expectancy, female life expectancy, sub-regional deprivation related inequalities, drugs and alcohol misuse and alcohol specific mortality and teenage birth rates.

For more information and the full report, go to; [Health Inequalities Annual Report 2023 | Department of Health \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](#)



Scope^{NI}

Available online, includes a series of important articles on a range of matters including poverty and health, the scourge of badger-baiting, post-bereavement services, services for vulnerable children and the Windsor Framework Scope can be accessed at; <http://scopeni.nicva.org/>

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 \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](#)

The Environmental news bulletin is available at [ENRA-March-2023.pdf \(nienvironmentlink.org\)](#).



For other NIEL publications and events, go to; www.nienvironmentlink.org

Events

All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference

If you've been following us on [LinkedIn](#), you'll have seen a raft of speaker announcements rolling out over the past few weeks. We have a terrific lineup of experts, practitioners, and involved tenants from all over Ireland, ready to share their stories and best practice in tenant participation.

You can have a look at all [our speakers](#) for our upcoming All-Ireland Tenant Engagement Conference online.

We're especially excited to have Lesley Baird present our Keynote Address. Lesley is well known in the housing sector as the leader of TPAS Scotland for many years. She now runs her own consultancy business, helping to develop partnerships between landlords and tenants. She also works with Supporting Communities helping to assess housing providers who go for [TP Accreditation](#). You don't want to miss her talk!



Join us on 13 June at the [Carrickdale Hotel](#) for this exciting opportunity to learn, network, and be part of shaping the future of tenant engagement in Ireland.

Read all about it on the Supporting Communities [website](#) and book your tickets today!

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If you have any questions, contact Carla Mullholand at carla@supportingcommunities.org.

Training

Volunteer Now Training Sessions in April 2023

Keeping Children and Adults Safe: Training for Staff and Volunteers

Thursday 24th May 2023 from 10.00 AM - 3.30 PM

Online

Standard Course From £30

The integrated training programme is aimed at those who engage with children, young people and adults at risk.

It covers:

- Legal context and policy context of safeguarding children and adults
- Awareness of vulnerability
- Awareness of abuse issues
- Procedures for reporting concerns
- Procedures for creating a safe environment and assessing and managing risk
- Confidentiality
- Code of behaviour for staff/volunteers.

This training will be delivered in 2 parts:

Part 1 10.00am – 12.00pm

Part 2 1.00pm – 3.30pm

Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis and are limited to a maximum of 3 per organisation.

Joining information will be sent out 24 hours before the session.

To find out what's available and to book onto any of our courses, please click here –

www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/



Volunteer Now - Email: info@volunteernow.co.uk
Tel: 028 9023 2020



Housing Rights Training

Sustaining tenancies in the social rented sector

Help your clients to address problems they are encountering in keeping their social rented tenancy.

Online

Date; 25 May 2023 from 10:00am to 1:00pm

Fees; Voluntary / Community from £56.00 to £70.00
Public / Statutory from £100.00 to £125.00

This course will help you to support clients who are facing difficulties in their current social home. You will find out about possible resolutions to help clients work with their landlord to retain their tenancy.

What we will cover:

- rent arrears and affordability
- antisocial behaviour
- abandonment
- disrepair
- Suitability

Who should attend?

- housing advisers
- community / residents
- benefits advisers
- constituency offices staff
- social and hostel accommodation providers
- solicitors

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



REGISTER NOW

**B°LSTER
COMMUNITY**

EMPOWERING AUTISTIC VOICES

THURSDAY 4TH MAY

Canal Court, Newry
10.30am - 3pm



JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE THE CHALLENGES FACED BY AUTISTIC ADULTS

Our keynote speakers will give an insight into understanding autism, breaking into employment and overcoming social barriers with autism. Hear personal stories from young adults as they dispel the myths of Autism.

www.bolstercommunity.org



Writing Successful Funding Applications (Online Session)

Wednesday 3rd May 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

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

This session will be held on Zoom. To register, [please fill in this form.](#)

If you have any questions, contact Aidan Kearney by email at aidan@supportingcommunities.org.

Introduction to Managing Charity Finances - Lunchtime Session

Tuesday 16th May 2023 from 12 noon to 12.30 pm

Keep yourself and your books right!

Make sure your committee understands their role and responsibilities when it comes to financial matters.

This short course will look at the following:

- The roles and responsibilities of the Management Committee
- How to follow Charity Commission Regulations
- Skills and knowledge needed to plan and prepare key financial documents

Grab a bite and meet us online at 12 noon.

Register your place

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

This session will be held on Zoom. To register, [please fill in this form.](#)

If you have any questions, contact Aidan Kearney by email at aidan@supportingcommunities.org.



Understanding 'Social Value'? (Online Session)

Wednesday 17th May 2023 from 10.00 am to 11.00 am & Wednesday 21st June 2023 from 10.00 am to 11.00 am

Join us online to get a better understanding of what we mean when we talk about 'Social Value' and 'Impact Measurement'.

This session will help you to:

- Recognise the importance of measuring your social value
- Understand the jargon associated with impact measurement
- Learn about the tools available to use to measure your impact

Register your place

This session will be held on Zoom. To register, [please fill in this form.](#)

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

An Intro to Research to Support Your Funding Applications (Online Session)

Tuesday 6th June 2023 from 12 noon to 12.30 pm

Support your funding applications with solid research! Join us for this short lunchtime session to understand the process of developing beneficiary-led programs.

We will help you to:

- Understand what research is and why it is important when delivering a program in the community and voluntary sector.
- Be aware of the differences between primary and secondary research.
- Be aware of the differences between Qualitative and Quantitative data.
- Identify online resources when gathering relevant data for NI.

Grab a bite and meet us online at 12 noon!

Register your place

This session will be held on Zoom. To register, [please fill in this form](#).

If you have any questions, contact Aidan Kearney by email at aidan@supportingcommunities.org.

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



Reporting to the Charity Commission NI - Lunchtime Special Training (Online Session)

Friday 16th June 2023 from 12 noon to 12.30 pm

How would you rate your understanding of the reporting requirements for the Charity Commission NI?

Get a better understanding of the reporting guidelines and learn what you need to prepare for your annual report.

Whether you need a quick refresher or just want a peek at the topic before committing to a longer course, our lunchtime taster sessions are perfect for you!

In just 30 minutes over your break, you can catch up on this important topic and be confident that your group's governance is getting a look in!

Grab a bite and meet us online at 12 noon.

Register your place

This session will be held on Zoom. To register, [please fill in this form](#).

If you have any questions, contact Aidan Kearney by email at aidan@supportingcommunities.org.

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



Funding

Slieve Rushen Wind Farm Fund

Is your community project located within 12 km of Slieve Rushen Wind Farm in South West Fermanagh? If Yes your group may be eligible to apply for a Slieve Rushen Wind Farm Fund Grant.

For further information see [GUIDELINES](#) and [APPLICATION FORM](#)

Closing date for applications Friday 9th June 2023 at 12 noon.



Any queries please email: gemma@fermanaghtrust.org

The Fermanagh Trust will not discuss, or fund applications submitted by professional fundraising consultants on behalf of local groups. We are committed to building the capacity of grass roots organisation's and are here to help voluntary committee members directly.

Open College Network NI (OCN NI): Centre Learning Grants Programme

Open College Network NI (OCN NI) plans to award a share of £85K to education, voluntary and charitable training providers locally via their Centre Learning Grants Programme, now in its second year.

The Centre Learning Grants Programme, with a closing date for applications of Friday 12th May 2023, was created by the OCN NI Board of Trustees to help fulfil its charitable objectives. Particular emphasis will be given to help those who may be particularly disadvantaged and would not otherwise have had opportunities to engage in education.

This is the first learner funding scheme of its kind in Northern Ireland created by an awarding organisation, explained Martin Flynn, CEO, OCN NI.

"This is the second year of our Centre Learning Grants Programme and if last year is anything to go by, we are expecting another huge response from our very deserving centres. The grants programme provides a unique opportunity for education, voluntary and charitable training providers to apply for much needed additional funding that will help them to innovate and enhance their current offering to support disadvantaged learners locally.

"We will be awarding grants of up to £3,000 for specific projects or activities that advance the mission and vision of OCN NI in a way that provides robust evidence of how learning positively impacts on individuals, families and communities."

Last year, grants were given to the North West Play Resource Centre which received £3,000, the Clanrye



Group was awarded £2,945, People 1st secured a grant worth £2,200, Sacred Heart College received £1,000, Parenting NI received £1,695, Loughan EOTAS received a £2,700 grant and Fermanagh Women's Aid was awarded a Centre Learning Grant of £3,000.

Paul Donaghy Chair of OCN NI, said: "OCN NI is once again delighted to be in a position to 'give back' to learners and training providers through the extension of our Centre Learning Grants Programme.

Over the last 12 months OCN NI has consolidated its position as the leading awarding body in Northern Ireland so being able to fund and deliver this programme for another year is a key element of charitable function, which aims to ensure the advancement of education for public benefit.

"We have already seen the positive impact from last year's programme to help engage, enrich and equip learners for life, so I would encourage centres to apply as soon as possible for the 2023 programme."

[To apply for funding from the Centre Learning Grants Programme visit https://ocnni-centre-learning-grants.grantplatform.com/](https://ocnni-centre-learning-grants.grantplatform.com/). The closing date for applications is Friday 12th May 2023



Ulster-Scots Summer Schools Grant 2023

The Agency has opened its Ulster-Scots Summer Schools Grant scheme.

It is for programmes delivered from 1 July to 31 August 2023 and aims to support community and voluntary groups who wish to deliver a five-day Ulster-Scots Summer School to children aged 7-16 years. There are two options available for groups:

Standard Summer School

These provide up to 10 different Ulster-Scots workshops and activities. There will be a maximum eligible funding of two hours for each Ulster-Scots activity (maximum of 20 hours' activity).

Drama Summer School

Drama tutors may be funded to deliver a week-long programme, finalising in a drama production. In addition, groups may provide a maximum of five Ulster-Scots workshops and activities.

Please note: All summer schools must deliver an Ulster-Scots language workshop.



Groups are encouraged to read the guidelines and eligible costs before completing an application form.

Applications close at 12 noon on Friday 5th May 2023. Late or incomplete applications will be rejected.

For further information, contact the Agency's Community Development Officer Derek Reaney on reaneyd@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk or 078 4327 9912.

For more information and to register for Summer Schools, click [here](#).

Tesco Community Grants

Tesco Community Grants helps to fund thousands of local projects across the country. Since 2016 the scheme has supported over 50,000 community groups with more than £100 million in grants. The scheme aims to make a positive difference – because where our communities thrive, our business and our colleagues thrive too.

Who is eligible to apply?

Grants will be awarded to schools, voluntary or community organisations (including registered charities/companies), health bodies (e.g. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS Hospital Trust, Foundation Trust), Parish/Town Councils, local authorities and social housing providers.

This list is not exhaustive and there will be many other types of organisations that will be funded.

Applications are **not eligible** from:

- Individuals
- Community Interest Companies with shares (CIC's)
- Community Interest Companies with guarantee that are less than two years old
- Profit-making organisations

What types of projects will Tesco Community Grants fund?

Applications are open to all local good causes, but we are currently prioritising helping projects that support children's food security and health and local store nominated good causes.



This is not an exhaustive list and other project ideas also welcomed.

Examples include:

- School Breakfast clubs
- Holiday clubs
- Play areas
- Food banks
- Counselling and support services for children
- Equipment or non-statutory services for nurseries or schools e.g. forest schools, library books
- Equipment for Brownie, Guide or Scout Groups e.g. camping equipment, badges
- Services or equipment to support children and young people's health
- Equipment/kit for youth sports teams

For more information, please visit [Apply for a grant – Tesco Community Grants](#)



Community Grants

Together with our members, we're supporting communities with grants for local housing projects. Applications open on Tuesday, 25 April 2023.

Supporting people and communities is at the heart of everything we do. That's why we set up our Community Grants programme five years ago. Together, our members and colleagues are finding local solutions to the housing crisis and helping the most vulnerable people and communities across the UK.

This year we've increased our grant limit to £60,000.

If you're a local organisation with a great housing solution, you can apply for a Community Grant of up

to £60,000. Your project will need to support one of our three aims: helping people into a home, preventing them from losing their home, or supporting them to thrive at home.

We'll look at all applications and give a shortlist to our Community Board members, who'll discuss and decide which projects will receive grants in their local area.

Please visit [Nationwide Grants \(nationwidecommunitygrants.co.uk\)](https://nationwidecommunitygrants.co.uk)



Partners for Social Care and Health Improvement Fund

The Hospital Saturday Fund

The Hospital Saturday Fund is a registered charity whose aims are to provide assistance through its charitable funds for: registered health charities, hospices, and medical organisations who are in need of grants for medical projects, care, research or support of medical training within the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

McCall Foundation

The McCall Foundation was established by Mervyn McCall and Wilma McCall. In recent years the fund has focused on supporting projects addressing challenges in social care, as well as providing an annual bursary for engineering students through Queens University, Belfast.

Aim of fund

This is a partnership fund between the Hospital Saturday Fund and the McCall Foundation. The aim of the fund is to support the development of new and innovative processes, policies, products or programmes that increase the quality, impact, efficiency and/or affordability of social care.

Amount of funding available

Grants of between £5,000 to £10,000 will be available

Priorities

We are particularly interested in innovative ideas that might address any of the following current healthcare challenges:

- Social care provision
- Poorly connected care pathways
- Availability of a skilled workforce
- Underfunding of health and social care
- Poor access to services, particularly in rural areas

Eligibility criteria

- Organisations must be registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
- The project must only be of benefit to people living within Northern Ireland
- Organisations must have access to a current account in the name of the applicant organisation
- Organisations must be able to provide all relevant policies, including safeguarding and equality policies, unless they have provided these documents to the Foundation within the last twelve months

What we can fund

- Capital costs
- Running costs, providing clearly linked to the development of the health innovation
- Medical care
- Research
- Medical training

Application process

- A call for applications will open on **Monday 3rd April 2023**
- Applications must be submitted online through the Community Foundation's website by **1pm on Monday 8th May 2023** - [Partners for Social Care and Health Improvement Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](https://communityfoundationni.org)
- Panel shortlisting will be held on **Tuesday 16th May 2023**
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to present to a panel on **Tuesday 13 June 2023**, exact times tbc



The ARN Foundation Tackling Isolation Fund

The ARN Foundation is an independent Charitable Trust set up with the intent of supporting good causes across Northern Ireland.

The ARN Foundation's Tackling Isolation Fund will support organisations to deliver projects in support of older people affected by the cost of living crisis; and will be managed by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

In June 2022 the Community Foundation met with a number of key stakeholders and called for the formation of an Executive to address the cost of living crisis.

As part of the Foundation's commitment to being flexible and responsive we have agreed to review some of our funds with a view to supporting communities at this time.

Among the hardest hit by the cost of living crisis are older people. Older people are often on fixed income, and the rising cost of food and fuel has often led to having to choose between eating or heating.

The latest cost of living research from Age UK found around 65,000 households aged 60+ in Northern Ireland will have insufficient income to cover their essential spending this year.

Around 25,000 (almost 40%) of pensioners here are currently living in poverty or just above the poverty line.

There are concerns that over the next few months and into the winter that older people will suffer further. In recognition of the needs of older people, the ARN Foundation has developed a new Fund, the Tackling Isolation Fund, with a particular focus on food and fuel.

Groups supporting older people can access up to £10,000 of financial support.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply your project must target at least three of the key priorities detailed below:

- Supporting older people to keep warm.
- Supporting older people to access a nutritious meal.
- Reducing isolation and vulnerability of older people through supporting participation in activities.
- Enabling older people to access technology, and to potential benefits and entitlements that they may not be aware of.
- Beneficiaries who are rurally isolated.

Examples of projects could include, but are not limited to:

- Supporting older people through delivery of services to live an independent and well-nourished way of life in their own home and as part of the community.
- Providing opportunities for older people to be involved in the design, delivery and ongoing management of community-based initiatives.
- Overcoming social isolation through social contact with other older people building on food activities, such as cooking from scratch and sharing meals, and other activities involving the wider community.
- Promoting intergenerational activities by involving older and younger people in food-based and social activities.
- Providing choice in meeting nutritional needs, including delivery of shopping by volunteers or accompanied shopping, and befriending support.
- Increasing affordability of, and access to, basic foodstuffs and/or fuel.

Closing date for applications is 26th May 2023. For more information and to apply, please visit [The ARN Foundation Tackling Isolation Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](https://www.communityfoundationni.org)



Women and Girls Match Fund

Equality is essential for women and girls to dream freely, achieve proudly and live boldly. That's why we're working with amazing charities committed to serving the women and girls in our communities. The Women and Girls Match Fund is here to multiply generosity, tackle gender inequality and stop discrimination.

Eligibility criteria:

1. Be a UK-registered charity with a Charity Commission number or tax-exempt status and an annual income of at least £25,000 (as per last filed accounts).
2. Charities which are registered on BigGive.org (free to register).
3. Charities seeking to raise either £2,500, £5,000 or £10,000 in public donations (to be doubled by the match funds). Charities are able to use the campaign to raise unrestricted funds.
4. Charities working to improve the lives of vulnerable, disadvantaged or underrepresented women and girls within the UK and internationally.
5. Charities that are led by, for and with women and girls. *To assess this, we will look at whether your governing documents specifically mentions women/and or girls, whether you have a majority*



female board, who your beneficiaries are and your web presence (if your organisation has one).

6. We would encourage applications from charities that are led by Black and minoritised women and girls, LGBTQI women and girls, or Disabled women and girls. These applications will be prioritised in our assessment process.

Sign-up process:

Log in or sign up, head to Big Give Campaigns, and click on Apply now for the Women and Girls Match Fund

Timeline

- 27 March: Applications open
- 23 June: Applications close
- 3 August: Offer deadline
- 11- 18 Oct (midday): Campaign

For more information and to apply, please visit [Women and Girls Match Fund – The Big Give](#)

Community Facilities Fund

The Community Facilities Fund (CFF) is a grant scheme to support minor capital works, repairs and/or implementation of digital solutions to enable groups and organisations to improve income opportunities, make changes to the facility use and/or make the facility more accessible and inclusive to further engage the local community. Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council recognises the vital role that community facilities play in providing local access to a range of important services in communities, hence the inclusion of this Fund as an integral part of the council's Local Investment Plan 2023/24.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 1.00pm on Monday 8 May 2023.

The aims of the programme are:

- to improve, upgrade and/or refurbish community facilities to offer activities and services which help to increase opportunity, reduce inequality and broaden community engagement;
- to provide better access to existing community services and create a wider range of services within local communities;
- to improve the ability to respond to community needs and improve community links and networks.



The Community Facilities Fund spend must align to the principles of the Community Plan which includes sustainability, development, equality and participation. All applications to this fund must ensure that they fall within the legal powers of the council.

[Click here to read the Community Plan](#)

The Community Facilities Fund has £40,000 available for each of the seven District Electoral Areas (DEA) and applicants can apply for a minimum of £5,000 up to a maximum of £10,000. This is part of our Local Investment Plan 2023/24.

Groups who were successful in receiving funding from this scheme in 2021 are not eligible to apply.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Community Facilities Fund \(lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk\)](#)



The Brian Conlon Foundation

The Brian Conlon Foundation is an independent Charitable Trust set up in Brian's memory to continue his legacy by supporting causes that were close to his heart and that he was passionate about.

Grants will be awarded to community associations and groups in the Newry area, who are working to advance education, amateur sport, provide opportunities for young people, and assisting communities in the local area.

Grants up to £3,500 will be open for applications. The Brian Conlon Foundation will support the provision of support for projects based in **Newry City** – [view boundary map here](#)

The fund will focus on the following priorities:

- Advancement of Education
- Advancement of Amateur sport
- Opportunities for young people from the local area
- Assistance for communities in disadvantaged areas
- This might include

- Educational activities supporting people from disadvantaged areas
- Projects that provide enhanced sporting opportunities for people who are particularly disadvantaged
- Projects that will directly benefit those disaffected from mainstream education
- Early years intervention, particularly in disadvantaged areas, within Newry city

Awards will be available of up to a maximum of £3,500 to support small community projects. We anticipate, however, that the average grant will be around £2,000.

Closing date for applications is 19th May at 1pm. For more information and to apply, please visit [The Brian Conlon Foundation - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](http://The Brian Conlon Foundation - Community Foundation Northern Ireland (communityfoundationni.org))



New 'Food hubs' grant funding available for Community Fridges

Community Fridges bring people together around good food. Across the UK they are reducing social isolation, increasing access to skills, sharing knowledge and repurposing fresh (surplus) food. We know that many groups want to do more, and so in partnership with Starbucks we're offering £7,000 (per group) in funding for up to 50 Community Fridges to develop additional food initiatives.

These additional activities could be skills workshops, growing initiatives, gardening schemes or cooking (to name a few)! So, if you're already running an **open** Community Fridge feel free to apply.

What the funding is for:

The funding aims to support the development of new activities relating to cooking, growing, budgeting and using surplus food that fit into one of four themes:

Skills – To up-skill your community and raise awareness of sustainable, affordable, and healthy living. E.g. workshops, events, cookbooks, or how-to-guides.

Affordable food – To try out new ways to increase access to local and affordable food. E.g. food cooperatives, food box schemes or food markets.

Community connection – To provide opportunity for the community to come together around shared food. E.g. community meals, coffee and chats, youth



activities, and recipe shares.

Growing – To support community growing and increase the amount of edible food grown and shared locally. E.g. community gardens, greening projects and seed or plant sharing.

Timings

Community Fridge groups will be able to apply for funding from 9am 31st March 2023. Applications close 31st May 2023 at 11.59pm.

For full information please read the below:

- Application guidance: [Here](#)
- Q&A webinar: [Here](#)
- Funding Eligibility: [Here](#)
- Terms & conditions: [Here](#)
- FAQs: [Here](#)
- Preview application questions: [Here](#)

To speak with us and hear more about the funding, please sign up to our online Q&A session on 20th April at 2:00pm: [Here](#)

[APPLY NOW](#)



The Ireland Funds

The Heart of the Community Fund is an open grant round designed to meet the needs of not-for-profit organisations delivering vital services and supports to people across the island of Ireland.

The Ireland Funds recognises the challenges organisations face in securing funding to build their capacity or meet their core costs, so the **Heart of the Community Fund 2023** will provide Organisational Investment Grants with a fund of at least **€500,000**.

Funding Levels

The Heart of the Community Fund 2023 will provide grants between **€5,000 – €25,000**.

Applications

The Heart of the Community Fund 2023 will accept applications online until Tuesday, 9th May 2023.



THE IRELAND FUNDS

[START APPLICATION](#)

For more information please visit [Grants - The Ireland Funds, Progress through Philanthropy](#)