



Welcome to Supporting Communities 215th 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

Closure of Boiler Replacement Scheme

The Department for Communities has announced the closure of the Boiler Replacement Scheme.



Department for
Communities

An Roinn
Pobal

Department for
Communities

The Scheme, which offered a grant of up to £1,000 for homeowners to replace boilers that are over 15 years old, has ended due to budgetary constraints, and applications will no longer be accepted.

from the NI Energy Advice Line Service on 0800 111 44 55.

The Department will continue to fund the Affordable Warmth Scheme to help those on lower incomes with the costs of energy efficiency measures. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) will continue to replace boilers for those customers who have already received formal approval. Customers whose applications cannot be processed will be contacted by NIHE.

The Boiler Replacement Scheme (BRS) was to help homeowners with the cost of replacing boilers. It was delivered across Northern Ireland on behalf of the Department by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. The BRS was aimed at homeowners and who have a household gross income less than £40,000 per year and replaced gas, LPG or oil-fired boilers which were at least 15 years old. Between 2012-13 and 2022-23, 48,926 grants were approved amounting to £32.9 million.

Free comprehensive advice and support on how to save energy in the home and eligibility for help to improve energy efficiency on assistance is available

Departments provide funding to enhance council facilities for people with disabilities

Council facilities are to benefit from a £714,000 investment aimed at making them more inclusive for people with disabilities.



Department for
Communities

An Roinn
Pobal

Department for
Communities

The Access and Inclusion Programme, funded by the Department for Communities (DfC) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), has been running since 2018 and has enhanced services at dozens of public venues across the country.



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working,
active landscape valued by everyone

The Department for Communities has secured a capital budget of £414,000 for the 2023/24 programme, with up to a further £300,000 available from DAERA for projects specifically located in rural areas.

Department for Communities Permanent Secretary Colum Boyle said: "Working in partnership with the disability sector, DAERA, local councils and the NI Museums Council (NIMC), the Department's capital grant programme promotes a more inclusive society

by improving accessibility at arts, cultural and active recreation venues for people with disabilities.

“Over the past five years, we have made a real and positive difference to the everyday lives of people with disabilities, investing £5 million to enhance facilities at around 260 venues across Northern Ireland.”

DAERA Permanent Secretary Katrina Godfrey said: “DAERA, through the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Programme, continues to work closely with other departments, agencies and councils to address access and isolation issues in

rural areas. The Access and Inclusion Programme is an excellent example of how this collaborative working is promoting a more inclusive society by improving accessibility to facilities in rural areas.”

Recently supported projects include a sensory hub in Antrim and Newtownabbey Council area, inclusive swim facilities in Armagh, Craigavon & Banbridge Council area, Changing Places facility in Causeway Coast and Glens Council area and digital visual and audio guided tours at cultural venues in Derry City and Strabane Council area.

Good Relations Week 2023 - Togetherness is working

Good Relations Week 2023 ran from 18 to 24 September.

During Good Relations Week, the Housing Executive is thanking staff and partners who work together to support a range of initiatives right across Northern Ireland to make a difference in communities and neighbourhoods. With dozens of events planned in the coming days to celebrate this year’s theme of togetherness, the Housing Executive is playing its part in funding and hosting events with several partner agencies and organisations to build on the strong community relationships already in place.

Jennifer Hawthorne, Director of Housing, said: “The Housing Executive recognised early on the importance of good relations, with the Community Cohesion Unit established in 2004 to deliver the organisation’s Good Relations Strategy. As the strategic housing authority in Northern Ireland, we recognised that we had to be more than a landlord.

“It was essential for us to engage with the communities we serve at a grass roots level to better understand how we could work with our tenants and customers to better understand their needs and wants, and any issues they needed help with. Over the last 19 years we have built on these foundations to now working with community groups, organisations social enterprises and charities, creating stronger and better relationships with our tenants, customers and communities.

“We employ over 20 people, including 13 Good Relations Officers – one in each of our area offices across Northern Ireland – to support all our communities, working with over 400 youth and community organisations. As part of our duty under Section 75 to encourage equality and good relations we have invested in our communities and estates – over £525,000 in the last year alone through Community Cohesion programmes. “Evidence shows that for every pound we invest in an area the social return on investment is substantially increased. For example, the ‘Making a difference to People & Place’ project in the West Winds estate in Newtownards has generated £11.31 for every £1 we have invested.

“This is not profit, but income generation, building social value that directly benefits our communities. This vital funding can support jobs, training opportunities, and the provision of localised services like weekly lunches for older people, breakfast clubs, and critically, help groups in our communities generate match funding from other organisations.

The logo for the Housing Executive, featuring the word "Housing" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font above the word "Executive" in a lighter, grey, sans-serif font.

“By encouraging more community groups to become involved, we can work together to assist residents in pursuing initiatives and projects that individually fulfil their needs, for example, garden allotments, community outdoor spaces, men sheds, craft groups, providing training for local people to help them gain employment, family and community events to combat social isolation and improve mental health.”

Jennifer added, “Currently we invest 0.3% of rental income to support cohesion activities. When we compare our cohesion spending and benchmark against other housing authorities across the UK and Ireland, we invest almost five times more than any other housing authority. The Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey (CTOS) 2022 results show that our Housing Community Networks are having a positive impact in local communities. Our research indicates that by consulting with our residents and not just relaying information to them, by co-designing initiatives, we are improving community relations.

“One of the assessors involved with the independent assessment report from Customer Service Excellence (CSE) noted how the ‘...Community Involvement Strategy 2018-23 continues to be instrumental in your plans to move Northern Ireland forward to a more inclusive society. “Our dedicated staff do important work in our estates and neighbourhoods, and we plan on continuing to improve – work is well underway to redevelop our Cohesion and Involvement strategies which will make our vision clearer and even more customer friendly.

“We look forward to consulting with our customers, partners, communities and the public in the coming months for feedback.”

Consultations

Children's Rights Impact Assessment and Rural Need Impact Assessment for the Executive Office's Spending Plans for 2023-24

The Executive Office

[Consultation on the Children's Rights Impact Assessment and Rural Need Impact Assessment for the Executive Office's Spending Plans for 2023-24 | The Executive Office \(executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date: 2 October 2023

NI's 2030 & 2040 Emissions Reductions Targets & First 3 Carbon Budgets

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

[Consultation on Northern Ireland's 2030 & 2040 Emissions Reduction Targets & First Three Carbon Budgets & Seeking views on Climate Change Committee \(CCC\) Advice Report: The path to a Net Zero Northern Ireland | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date: 11 October 2023

NI's 2030 & 2040 Emissions Reductions Targets & First 3 Carbon Budgets

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

[Consultation on Northern Ireland's 2030 & 2040 Emissions Reduction Targets & First Three Carbon Budgets & Seeking views on Climate Change Committee \(CCC\) Advice Report: The path to a Net Zero Northern Ireland | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Closing date: 11th October 2023

The Belfast Agenda: Draft Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027

In 2021, we began the process of facilitating a review of the city's community plan, the Belfast Agenda. In addition to the legislative requirement to review the community plan, faced with the legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic and an on-going cost of living crisis, there has been a need to refocus on what partners can do collectively to make Belfast "a great place to live and work for everyone."

Following extensive engagement with residents, the community and voluntary sector, statutory and non-statutory bodies including the private sector, we are pleased to be able to present a refreshed Belfast Agenda which outlines the city's strategic direction from 2023-2027.

In response to feedback from our first community plan, we have also published a suite of action plans produced by partners with the intention that these will be updated annually and help track progress.

At the end of the consultation period, we will update the Belfast Agenda to take account of what we've heard and publish the document. However, you will still have the opportunity to get involved and have your say at different stages over the next year as we begin to develop and implement the Belfast Agenda



actions.

To stay up to date with what's happening with the Belfast Agenda, please 'follow' and sign up for updates using the link on this page.

[The Belfast Agenda: Draft Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027](#)

You do not have to sign in or register on our Your Say Belfast platform to take part. However, if you are a registered user, you must sign out of Your Say Belfast account so that your response is anonymous. Please be aware, that if you are signed into Your Say Belfast, your email and site registration details can be linked to this survey.

The survey can be accessed on the link below.

[The Belfast Agenda: Draft Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027 | Your say Belfast \(belfastcity.gov.uk\)](#)

Fundraising Regulator: Review of the Code of Fundraising Practice

Throughout 2022-25 the Fundraising Regulator is carrying out a two-year process of reviewing and updating the Code of Fundraising Practice.

The [Code of Fundraising Practice](#) sets out the standards that apply to fundraising carried out by all charitable institutions and third-party fundraisers in the UK. This includes registered charities, exempt charities, organisations employed by charities to raise funds for them, and online fundraising platforms. The code underpins the system of voluntary self-regulation which fundraisers commit to and provides a framework for assessing public complaints.

The [last code review took place in 2018/19](#) and was largely a revision of the existing version, focussing on clarity, length and accessibility. Since then, changes in legislation, technology and fundraising behaviour have created a context in which the code would benefit from a full review.

Our approach

We review the code through an ongoing process of engagement with charities, fundraisers, regulatory partners, representative bodies, the public and other stakeholders. This allows us to make sure the code stays up to date, reflects best practice, and remains clear and accessible.

We want an open dialogue with fundraisers on the standards to which the sector should hold itself accountable. Similarly, we want to make sure that the public has a voice by considering the needs and experiences of individuals being asked to give, particularly those in vulnerable circumstances.

Outline of code review process and timeline

Set out below are our plans to ensure that the code review is based on evidence and takes account of the views of those who have an interest in the outcome.



Phase one: Information gathering (2022-23)

We will begin the review process with an information gathering exercise, seeking views on how the code can be improved so that it provides an effective regulatory framework now and in the future. This will include:

An eight-week public [call for information](#) which closed on 25 November 2022.

- Targeted engagement with other regulators and voluntary sector partners with an interest in the regulation of charitable fundraising. This will include organisations representing certain groups – such as small charities - who may sometimes struggle to have their opinions heard, and colleagues from the devolved nations to make sure the code review process considers views from across the UK. Research into the public's experience and expectations of charitable fundraising to help identify parts of the code that may require attention.

Phase two: Public consultation (2023)

We will develop proposals for amending the code that take account of the feedback gathered through the information gathering phase.

In autumn 2023, we will run a 12-week public consultation to gather feedback on any proposals for change. All interested parties will be encouraged to respond. By taking part in [this consultation](#), you can comment on our proposals to change the code and help ensure that the updated version remains effective and relevant for the future.

Policy and Practice Focus

82% of private renters in NI face shortfall between their housing benefit and cost of rent

Policy update from Housing Rights

New figures obtained by Housing Rights from the Department for Communities show that 82% of all private renters in receipt of Local Housing Allowance in Northern Ireland face a shortfall between their housing benefit and the cost of their rent.

As of March 2023, there were 35,290 households in Northern Ireland in receipt of Local Housing

Allowance through Universal Credit. 86% (30,190) had a shortfall between their housing support and the cost of their rent. The average shortfall was £116 per month.

Of the 24,050 households in receipt of housing benefits, 78% (18,700) had a shortfall between their



housing benefit and the cost of their rent. The average shortfall was £90 per month. Stephen Morrison, Policy Co-ordinator for Housing Rights said:

“These are incredibly worrying figures for the private rented sector and particularly for low-income and vulnerable households. When compared with last year, the shortfall between tenants’ housing support and rental costs has risen by 15%.

The backdrop of this is an extremely overheated private rental market in Northern Ireland which has seen rent price increases of 10% [1] while people’s support has stagnated.”

Despite the rising costs of rent, Local Housing Allowance, the rate at which housing benefit / Universal Credit is paid to people renting privately, has been frozen since 2020.

To compound these worries, Discretionary Housing Payments, a vital lifeline on which over 10,000 households depended on to assist with this shortfall has been stopped for those who have been receiving them for 2 years or more.

Mr Morrison continued:

“With winter looming, we are fast approaching an affordability crisis in the private rental sector, as rising costs and stagnating support will drive many tenants into arrears or homelessness.

We call on the UK Government to immediately unfreeze Local Housing Allowance and realign it to the 30th percentile of affordability. This change is the minimum required to recognise the scale of this crisis, and will in the short-term ease payment fears for the thousands of people feeling the sting of this cost of living crisis.”

Publications

The Cost-of-Living Crisis - Tough Times, Smart Solutions NICVA Report July 2023



The cost of living crisis and the impact on NI charities Shauna O'Neill of NICVA writes;

With more and more people struggling through the Cost of Living Crisis, and a NI voluntary and community sector still under severe pressure due to Covid, charities themselves are struggling to survive.

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 costs.

As the membership body for the voluntary and community sector we wanted to find out how the rising cost of living has impacted on demand and delivery to build a picture of the support needed by the sector and how this can be provided with a lack of functioning government.

We began engaging with our members in July 2022 through a series of surveys and discussions with sector representatives. While this engagement provided great insight we felt we needed to go out into communities to establish the full extent of the impacts of the cost of living on our sector and hear the stories behind the statistics.

Throughout the spring of 2023, we hosted a series of events with community networks across Northern Ireland to bring the sector together to talk about the issues they're facing.

Here is what we heard:

Challenges facing the sector

Voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations supporting communities through the cost of living crisis are themselves reaching crisis point. They are facing unprecedented demands, at a time when the sector has never faced as many cuts. The sector can't continue to respond to this crisis without support.

The key challenges for organisations are:

- Increased levels of need in communities
- Increased demand for services
- Increased need for volunteers to meet this demand but a reduction in the number of volunteers that are available to provide support
- Services having to scale back what they were doing because they do not have enough resources.

Many of the organisations are facing multiple pressures and staff are concerned about the cumulative effect of all the other cuts in services.

We grouped what we heard into the following themes:

- Financial Pressures facing the sector in the form of rising bills, particularly the rising cost of fuel and energy.
- Increased pressure on sector - more people need services when funding is at an all-time low and the pressure on staff is immense.
- Lack of long term and substantial funding - organisations cannot plan ahead, and cannot offer

long term employment to staff with the skills and experience to make a difference.

Recommendations from the sector

Consistent themes emerged throughout our engagement with the sector on what support organisations need now and into the future. These included:

- support individuals in communities to reduce their expenditure and maximise their income
- support organisations to work more efficiently and collaboratively
- change the nature of funding to provide some stability to the sector
- lobby on the sector's behalf on key areas.

Support needed from NICVA and network organisations

These insights will inform NICVA's work with partners across the voluntary and community sector and

support our engagement with the Government and partners on issues of public policy.

Key areas of work include:

- highlight the value and impact of the sector
- lobby for changes to support communities and those working with them
- support the sector to work more sustainably and strategically.
- support the sector to become more connected and collaborative
- promote a cohesive story from the sector that is well told
- make events and training more accessible and available online / hybrid

Next steps

The roundtable discussions provided valuable insights into the challenges being faced by people and organisations across NI and the devastating impact of the cost of living crisis. NICVA will continue to work in collaboration with others to address these concerns.

[Download the full report](#)

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 July 2023](#) | [Northern Ireland Policing Board \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](#) and the Annual Report and the Accounts of the Policing Board are available at [Annual Report & Accounts 2022-23 \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](#)



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](#)



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



Click the link below to access the latest newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives: [PCSP Projects coming to Life | Policing and Community Safety Partnerships \(pcsp.org\)](#)



Get the latest issue of Signpost with information and activities relevant to older people and organisations supporting older people: [age-ni-signpost-express-september-2023.pdf \(ageuk.org.uk\)](#)

Events

Working together to improve housing outcomes: Celebrating 20 years of the Community Housing Advice Partnership

Half-day conference

£45 CHAP members

£55 non CHAP member

Location; The Junction, 12 Beechvalley Way, Dungannon, BT70 1BS

Date: 23 October 2023

Time: 12:45pm to 4:15pm

Housing Rights invites you to a half-day conference on quality standards in housing advice for Northern Ireland, and to mark 20 years of the Community Housing Advice Partnership (CHAP).

We will celebrate 20 successful years of CHAP, and look forward to the next 20 years discussing the steps we can take to evolve the partnership, placing CHAP in the best possible position to meet need now and in the future.

The event will begin with a celebration of the project and a networking lunch.

We will start a conversation about housing advice standards and how these might operate in a Northern Ireland context. We will hear from Grainia Long, Chief Executive, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Margaret Kelly, Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman. There will also be a panel discussion and opportunity to ask questions.

For more information, go to; [Working together to improve housing outcomes: Celebrating 20 years of the Community Housing Advice Partnership | Housing Rights](#)



UnLtd / Social Enterprise Support Online Information Session

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 10:30 AM 11:30 AM

Social entrepreneurs, community groups starting a business, and anyone interested in learning more about the support available for social enterprises in Northern Ireland, come along to this online information session.

Join us Tuesday, 3 October, to hear from Nuala Smyth, Social Entrepreneur Support Manager, who will share with you the practical support and financial support available from [UnLtd](#).

UnLtd finds, funds and supports social entrepreneurs - enterprising people with solutions that change our society for the better. We know social entrepreneurs offer some of the best solutions to loneliness, community resilience and long-term economic, social and cultural health and have a big role to play in tackling some of the monumental challenges we face today in Northern Ireland.

Stephen Marks, Supporting Communities' Social Enterprise and Business Development Advisor, will also be there to give an overview of the Social Enterprise training available to organisations.

To register, please email anita@supportingcommunities.org.



Training

Volunteer Now Training Sessions in September 2023

[The New Environment: Recruit, Retain, Reward Volunteers](#)

Thursday 19th October 2023 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Online Standard Course From £15 +VAT



Join Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd for a short session to look at volunteering and what the future hold in terms of recruitment, retention, and recognition.

Joining information will be sent out the day before the session.

[Keeping Children Safe: Designated Officer Refresher Training](#)

Tuesday 24th October 2023 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Online Standard Course from £30

This is a half day's refresher training for Designated Officers who have already attended a full day's training. It covers:

- The role and responsibilities of the Designated Officer
- Health and Social Care Trusts structures and processes
- Issues and experiences around referrals and sharing information
- Recent developments in safeguarding children and young people.

Participants should ensure their basic awareness training is also refreshed every three years (or earlier if required). *Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis and are limited to a maximum of 5 per organisation.* Joining information will be sent out the day before the session.

Find out more and book your places here – <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/>

Housing Rights Training

Universal Credit & Housing

Location: Online

Date: 24 October 2023

Time: 10:00am to 1:00pm



Gain the knowledge to help your clients apply for Universal Credit housing costs and understand ongoing commitment required to maintain this benefit.

Voluntary / Community from £56.00 to £70.00

Public / Statutory from £100.00 to £125.00

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

Advice NI Training



Upcoming Training Sessions – September/October 2023

As the leading provider of nationally accredited Social Security, Legal Advice and Independent Advocacy Qualifications in Northern Ireland, we provide training and qualifications that support the continuous professional development of people working in the independent advice sector, and throughout the wider voluntary, public and private sectors.

All our courses, including [Wiseradviser](#) courses, are available to view and book from the schedule below. If a course you want is not currently scheduled please register your interest.

We deliver training in three different formats:

[Live Online](#) – Scheduled courses delivered live via the Zoom online learning platform.

[Anytime Online](#) – E-learning courses to access anytime, and complete at a pace that suits you.

[Blended Online](#) – E-learning courses with scheduled live tutorials delivered via the Zoom online learning platform, designed to support you as you progress.

We can deliver any of our courses, or develop bespoke learning for your group or organisation on request. To speak to us about training options email training@adviceni.net.

You can view and register for all available courses on our website [here](#).

Tenant Participation & Community Development OCN Level 2 Starts 23 October for 8 weeks

This new, improved 8-week course looks at the intersection of Tenant Participation and Community Development. It is targeted at those working in social housing as well as community workers that engage with social housing providers in Northern Ireland. (We will be looking at a course aimed at the Republic of Ireland in the future!)

This newly revamped course now includes a good practice visit, more case studies, and practical examples to help you develop in your work! Get all the [details here!](#)

Contact Siobhan O'Neill at siobhan@supportingcommunities.org with any questions and to register your place.



Funding

Tree Planting for Winter 2023 - 2024

Applications are open to all landowners: farmers, smallholders, councils, community groups, schools, colleges, sports clubs, golf clubs, youth groups, healthcare and hospital grounds, church and faith communities, gardeners and other landowners. Applicants will be issued with an application number by email when their order is complete and will be kept up to date with project news, tree delivery details and other information by email.

Applications are accepted on a first come first served basis. We have limited numbers of trees and applications will be closed early if all trees are accounted for before the deadline. Please do not leave your application to the last minute - apply promptly to avoid disappointment.

Deadline: Applications for trees will close at 5pm on Monday 23rd October 2023.

Schools & Colleges:

Sponsored trees are available free of charge to schools and colleges.

Trees on the Land

Schools and colleges may apply for up to 250 trees and 2 apple trees.

Community Projects: Community Groups, Councils, Sports Clubs, youth groups, healthcare and hospital grounds, church and faith communities:

Sponsored trees are available free of charge to community groups, councils, sports clubs, youth groups, healthcare and hospital grounds, church and faith communities. Tidy Towns, residents groups, allotments, scouts groups and community groups of all kinds are welcome to apply.

There is no upper or lower limit on tree numbers - larger projects may undertake planting over a number of years as multi-year projects.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Plant Trees — Trees on the Land](#)

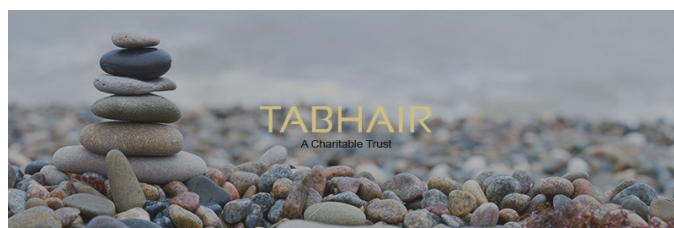
The Tabhair Trust

The Tabhair Trust is passionate about nurturing small to medium sized charities in their aspirations to change communities and restore broken lives through providing opportunities for education, training and personal advancement.

We welcome applications from charities that combine support services with enterprising mission to improve social wellbeing and employment opportunities in the lives of the disengaged and disadvantaged.

Tabhair makes grants to charitable organisations and primarily supports projects undertaken in the UK and Ireland.

Applications can be made for individual projects or core costs. Where core costs are requested, the maximum commitment considered would be 3 years.



Grants will range in size, with most grants awarded being in the range of £500 - £5000

For more information and to apply, please visit [Tabhair - A Charitable Trust](#)



Ebay Circular Fashion Innovators Fund

Funding is offered to help UK-based small firms specialising in pre-loved fashion solutions to access new technology and deliver innovative solutions.

eBay UK's partnership with the British Fashion Council created the Circular Fashion Innovators Fund in 2022, supporting small businesses specialising in circular fashion solutions. The programme is now running for a second year.

The Fund hopes to bring new technology and services to the market that can help people think and shop differently, with a particular focus on areas such as customer experience, circular inventory and services, and social commerce.

Successful applicants will receive:

- Up to £25,000 in funding to grow their business.
- A bespoke mentoring programme with internal and external industry leads.

Networking opportunities. Small businesses operating in the UK's circular fashion industry may apply.



Applicants should have an established business that has been trading for a minimum of six months and a maximum of six years. The applicant's company should be based in the United Kingdom and registered with Companies House (not sole trader) and can be a charity, social enterprise or registered company.

Applications are accepted between 25 September 2023 and 20 October 2023.

For more information and to apply, please visit [eBay | Circular Fashion Fund](#)

British Science Week Community Grants

British Science Week (BSW) is an annual programme of science, technology, engineering, and maths events and activities that takes place across the UK in March each year. BSW is coordinated by the British Science Association (BSA) and funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

Applications will be considered from community-based groups and organisations that work directly with audiences who are traditionally underrepresented and currently not engaged in science activity.

Two levels of grants are available:

- £500 grants to run one or more events during British Science Week.

£1,000 grants to run one or more events during British Science Week, as well as either preparatory or follow-up activities that will lead to continued engagement beyond British Science Week.

Examples of eligible events and activities include, but are not limited to:

- Sports science sessions with football and rugby clubs.
- Community-created science exhibitions in places of worship, community gardens, libraries and pubs.

- Community-led research projects and experiments with youth clubs and groups with special educational needs.
- Scientifically-informed theatre productions and art activities.



Activity packs and pre-recorded videos. Digital and hybrid physical/digital activities can be supported.

The grants can be used for materials, room hire, publicity, speakers, trainers, freelancers, project-specific staff costs, audio-visual hire, reasonable volunteer expenses, transport or other costs of running the event or activity.

The deadline for applications is 6 November 2023.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Community Grants - British Science Week](#)



Electrical Safety Fund

Community safety groups and other not-for-profit organisations across the UK can apply for funding to help those most at vulnerable to electrical risk and injury.

Electrical Safety First is offering grants for fire and rescue services, community safety groups, trading standards authorities, and other not-for-profit organisations across the UK to deliver projects tackling risks associated with electrical products, increasing the public's awareness of electrical safety, and promoting changes in behaviour.

Through the Electrical Safety Fund, a total of £250,000 is available for projects and activities that are aimed at addressing the problems of misuse and/or lack of maintenance of electrical products, such as:

- Product testing and product replacement events (eg amnesty events to replace unsafe electric blankets, portable heaters etc).
- Educational and raising awareness activities.



- Home safety activities/visits.

Data collection projects that would support the fund's national aims to prevent electrical-related injuries, such as collecting data relating to injuries caused by electrical products, issues with products purchased from online marketplaces, or anything else that meets the funding criteria.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for groups and organisations. However, grants of up to £10,000 may be considered for joint applications or larger projects.

The deadline for applications is 22 October 2023.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Electrical Safety Fund | Electrical Safety First](#)

Royal Countryside Fund

Previously known as the Prince's Countryside Fund, the Royal Countryside Fund's Supporting Rural Communities programme is supported by the People's Postcode Lottery and the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust. The Royal Countryside Fund is a registered charity founded by HM King Charles III in 2010 while he was The Prince of Wales.

The Royal Countryside Fund is currently accepting applications from constituted, not-for-profit organisations with an income of less than £500,000 for projects that will create a long-term difference in rural communities across the UK.

Grants of up to £25,000 over two years are available for projects that can be completed by January 2026.

The funding is designed to support community-led projects that are pursuing innovative and strategic solutions to the challenges facing their rural area and which will improve the viability and resilience of their community.

Successful projects will achieve one or more of the following:

- Support people to resolve existing and emerging community issues, circumstances, and priorities in their locality.



- Build rural community resilience.
- Develop innovative and replicable projects.
- Enable leadership and community planning.
- Improve the economic or social resilience of a rural community.
- Reduce isolation for people living in rural areas through improving service provision.
- Create a self-sufficient rural community fit for the future.

Groups are encouraged to submit their application before the deadline as the link to the application form will be taken down at midday on the closing date.

The deadline for applications is midday on 20 October 2023. For more information and to apply, please visit [Home - The Royal Countryside Fund](#)



NI Micro Community Investment Fund

Managed by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, the Micro Community Investment Fund has been launched with support from Bank of Ireland UK, in recognition and celebration of the contribution of voluntary groups and people to society and the need for a simple application process for small amounts of funding.

Applications will be accepted from grassroots community organisations based in Northern Ireland with an annual income of less than £30,000. Priority will be given to groups with an income of up to £10,000. Grants of up to £2,000 can support both new and existing activities.

The funding is intended to provide investment for community initiatives making a difference in towns and villages across Northern Ireland through projects

that focus on improving at least one of the following:

- Financial wellbeing.
- Physical wellbeing.
- Mental wellbeing.

Due to its popularity, the Fund is now nearing the position where the funds for 2023-24 will be fully allocated.

The Fund will close this year to applications on 6 October 2023 (13:00). For more information and to apply, please visit [Micro Community Investment Fund - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](https://communityfoundationni.org)



Cultural Multi-Annual Grants—Belfast City Council

Our Cultural Multi-Annual Grants scheme is open for applications. Under this scheme, we offer two funding strands which are available for two or four years.

This scheme includes:

Arts and Heritage Grants

For arts and heritage organisations with a year-round programme of activity:

- two-year (2024-2026)
- four-year (2024-2028)

Festival and Events Grants

For festivals and events:

- two-year (2024-2026)
- four-year (2024-2028)

Applications opened on Monday 7 August 2023 and will close at 12 noon on Friday 6 October 2023.

For more information, go to [Belfast City Grants](#) (link opens in new window). You can also email culture@belfastcity.gov.uk for guidance notes.



Belfast
City Council

Rosa Voices from the Frontline

Funding to support campaigning and influencing work that enables women and girls in the UK to use their voices to achieve change.

Now in its sixth year, Rosa's Voices from the Frontline Fund offers one-year grants of between £500 and £7,000. The funding is for women's and girls' organisations to deliver activism and campaigning to raise awareness of the issues women and girls face.

The campaigns could be targeted at local communities, the general public, local or national government, media, service providers or businesses.

Applications will be accepted from not-for-profit women's sector voluntary and community organisations in the UK that have been active for at

least one year and can produce annual accounts for an entire year.

They must meet Rosa's definition of a women's and girls' organisation as those which are run by, for and with women and girls.

Rosa will be hosting a 'How to Apply' webinar on 3 October. Register on Rosa's website.

The deadline for the online application and three minute video is 11 October 2023 (16:00).

For more information please visit [Voices from the Frontline - Rosa \(rosauk.org\)](https://rosauk.org)



Social Justice Small Grants Programme

Grants are available for locally based community groups and 'communities of interest' in Northern Ireland for projects that are promoting or embedding human rights and social justice in their day-to-day work, for and with their chosen communities.

Aims of the Social Justice Fund:

To support local community groups to give voice to excluded groups, and work to advance a fairer and more equal society where the human rights of all are protected.

Target Group: Community Sector

The fund will support locally based community groups and locally based 'communities of interest' with an interest in promoting or embedding human rights and social justice in their day-to-day work for and with their chosen communities.

Size of Grant:

Grants will be available up to £5,000.

In some instances, the panel may consider awards up to £15,000.

Objectives:

Applications must demonstrate that their proposal will contribute to at least one of the following objectives:

- To give voice and power to those whose human rights are most at risk and to support them to challenge inequality, exclusion, and unfairness.
- To provide groups and communities with support to challenge, monitor and remedy inequality and rights violations.
- To increase awareness of and contribute to building a culture of rights within and between communities, particularly those most marginalized from decision making

To support communities and marginalized groups to find solutions to contentious issues

Values:

Applicants must demonstrate in their application how they will advance and adhere to the values of the NIHRF:

- Inclusive – drawing on human rights expertise, including those with lived experience, to develop

NIHRF's strategy, grant making and learning.

- Applying a rights-based approach – adhering to the principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment, and legality.
- Collaborative – The essence of the NIHRF is partnership and collaboration based on mutual trust which draws on the strengths of the partners who will work together to advance the NIHRF's purpose.
- Encouraging Learning – the NIHRF will support learning between all partners, actively encouraging, listening and being open to responding and adapting.
- Courageous – We will approach complexity with courage and ambition and be open to new solutions to entrenched problems.

We would particularly welcome applications for projects which focus on peacebuilding/legacy, racial justice, gender, health, socio-economic rights, tech, and digital rights, (including the need for accountability and safeguards), and climate.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for consideration for a grant, the applicant groups must:

- be constituted and based in Northern Ireland or working towards being constituted
- have an active committee and current bank account
- maintain financial records and present accounts to your AGM
- provide minutes of committee meetings
- have at least three cheque signatories who are unrelated
- have an income of £1.5m or less

Closing date for applications is 6th October 2023 at 1pm. For more information and to apply, please visit [Social Justice Small Grants Programme - Community Foundation Northern Ireland \(communityfoundationni.org\)](https://www.communityfoundationni.org)



Jobs & Opportunities



Housing Executive Jobs:

- Health & Safety Manager - Corporate Safety, EP & BCM
- Assistant Business Excellence Manager
- Corporate Health & Safety Advisor
- Civil Engineer
- Housing Services Graduate Trainee
- Project Manager – APD Design Team
- Customer Services Unit (CSU) Supervisor

Further information on these jobs can be found at the GetGot website:

<https://nihe.getgotjobs.co.uk/home>

**NIYF
YOUTH FORUM**

**NIYF
YOUTH FORUM**
PROMOTING YOUTH VOICE

**A REGIONAL VOICE
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES**

**ARE YOU
AGED BETWEEN
16-25?**

WHAT WE DO:

- HAVE YOUR SAY ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY ISSUES
- INFLUENCE DECISION MAKERS
- BE A VOICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
- PARTICIPATE IN RESIDENTIALS
- BUILD YOUR LEADERSHIP CAPACITY
- ENGAGE IN SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS
- ACCESS TO OTHER OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN NIYF
- PARTICIPATE IN ISSUE BASED WORKSHOPS

GET INVOLVED

CONTACT:
JAMES BEGLEY ON 07778408568
OR JAMES.BEGLEY@NIYF.ORG

Central housing forum

**Housing
Executive**