



## North-West Community Network

### New Focus

The North-West Community Network held its AGM on 22nd April in the City Hotel.

The Network is currently assessing its position within the community and voluntary sector within the North-West and determining the role that it will play in the future.

Following the business of the AGM workshops were held on the future of the Network.

The future role of the Network is likely to change to reflect the changing needs of the community sector. The Network was established in 1994 and has pursued the same role and functions during this period, focusing mainly on face-to-face group support.

The need for this type of work has changed over recent years. The Network has identified the need for a strategically placed organisation to represent the sector and lobby for the development and implementation of policies to directly benefit the community and voluntary sector in the North-West. In other words the Network is considering focusing on policy work.

To ensure that the member organisations of the Network can influence the future work of the organisation the following forum events have been organised.

Date	Venue	Time
14th May	The Junction, 8 Bishop Street	10.30 - 12.30
17th May	Clooney Hall, Clooney Terrace	10.30 - 12.30
18th May	Strabane District Caring Services, 32-35 Bridge Street, Strabane	2.00 - 4.00
20th May	Donegal Workers Cooperative, 18 Celtic Apartments, Letterkenny	10.00 - 12.00
20th May	Roe Valley Leisure Centre, 9 Greystone Road, Limavady	2.00 - 4.00

Each of the above events is targeted at NWCN member organisations but other organisations are welcome to attend.

These sessions are only part of the consultation exercise on the future direction of the organisation.

Members can also contact the Network office directly or feed their views through the Network website, [www.nwcn.org](http://www.nwcn.org).

MAY 2004

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# NWCN Calls on Secretary of State to clarify position of Community Organisations

## Churches Voluntary Work Bureau Keeping Safe

Two day training course to assist voluntary and community groups to develop good child protection policies, procedures and practice.

This course examines the nature of abuse, the relevant legislation, drawing up child protection policies, good practice guidelines and covers issues regarding day trips and residentials.

The course will take place on:

Dates:  
Wednesday 12th May  
Wednesday 19th May

For booking information contact Geoff or Amy at Churches Voluntary Work Bureau on (028) 7127 1017 or email [info@cvwb.org](mailto:info@cvwb.org).

Following the recent publication of the Independent Monitoring Commission's First Report the North-West Community Network calls on the Secretary of State Paul Murphy MP to clarify the position of the Northern Ireland Office concerning one of the recommendations made within the report.

The recommendation (Section 8.7 of the Report) states that:

"- No organisation, statutory, commercial or voluntary, should tolerate links with paramilitary groups or give legitimacy to them. In particular, societies and other similar organisations should make every effort to satisfy themselves that none of their members are linked to paramilitary groups. If there is any suspicion that they might be, then the onus should be on the person concerned to show there is no basis for that suspicion, not on the organisation to act only if it is proved. We will examine this role in future reports."

The Network has written to the Secretary of State highlighting the following points:

- The recommendation is written in a language that does not reflect the sophistication of the work of organisations within the community and voluntary sector. The community and voluntary sector is made up of long established organisations that are more than just 'societies, associations and clubs'. As pointed out in 'Pathways for Change', a position paper of the Task Force on Resourcing the Voluntary and Community Sector in Northern Ireland, the sector represents 4.5% of the workforce in Northern Ireland with an estimated annual income of £657m.
- If you were to read the report of the Commission in isolation you would be forgiven for thinking that the community sector in Northern Ireland was controlled by paramilitary organisations. This is far from the case. The picture painted by the report is an unrealistic representation of the sector.

- The community sector in Northern Ireland has played a crucial role in helping to develop a peaceful society in Northern Ireland. This was accomplished by working and negotiating with paramilitary organisations. To deny this fact is to deny the reality of the situation in Northern Ireland.

- These ongoing links with paramilitary organisations, both Loyalist and Republican, are necessary to facilitate the development of a safer society in Northern Ireland for all. Community organisations are often to the fore of negotiations between interface areas, in parade disputes etc. To be involved in these types of negotiations and discussions without ongoing links with paramilitary organisations would be denial of the necessity of this activity at this early stage of the transition to a peaceful society.

- Recently developed Government policy (A Shared Future, People and Place, Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy) continue to place the community sector centrally within the development of policy and delivery of services in local communities. To act on the recommendation of the Commission, would be to take a backward step in the development of good relations within local communities.

- This recommendation, if enforced, could lead to local community organisations being judged along political lines in considering funding proposals.

- This could lead to community organisations marginalising a section of society, former political prisoners, for fear of having their funding curtailed.

- Not to work with paramilitary organisations, or those people with perceived links to these organisations, would make the work of community organisations impossible in certain areas. In some instances this may even go against the principles of the community organisation.

- Good community development and community relations work relies on the support and development of all those within our local communities, including those associated in the past or present with paramilitary organisations.

# NWCN Calls on Secretary of State to clarify position of Community Organisations

The North-West Community Network has also asked the Secretary of State to clarify the Northern Ireland Office's position regarding the following questions:

- Does the Northern Ireland Office intend to implement the recommendation outlined under 8.7 of the First Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission?
  - If this is the case how will the Northern Ireland Office implement this recommendation?
  - If the Northern Ireland Office does not intend to implement this recommendation can this be made clear to community organisations throughout Northern Ireland? Indeed, can the NIO insist that this recommendation be removed from the recommendations outlined in the report?
- Can the NIO ascertain from the Independent Monitoring Commission their understanding of community development

and community relations processes within Northern Ireland and how these can contribute to the promotion of a peaceful society in Northern Ireland?

- Can the NIO also ascertain from the Independent Monitoring Commission what further work they intend to carry out in the area of community organisation make-up in the future as referenced in 8.7 of their report?
- Can the NIO clarify how the make-up and work of community organisations falls under the remit of the Independent Monitoring Commission?

It is hoped that a response to these questions will be received in the near future. Further information on this issue will be included in the Network Update and on our website [www.nwcn.org](http://www.nwcn.org).

## The Junction Outreach Programme

The latest series of events for The Junction Outreach Programme, organised by the North-West Community Network and Holywell Trust, have just been finalised.

Each of the events listed below will take place at Friday Lunchtime in The Junction and will follow the same format:  
 12.30 - 1.00 - Lunch  
 1.00 - 2.00 - Presentation & discussion

Date	Event	Presenter
7th May	Foyle Regional Energy Agency	Laurence Arbuckle
14th May	REACT North-West	Jim Carruthers
21st May	Local Writer's Showcase	Seamus Keenan & Bridget O'Toole

Date	Event	Presenter
28th May	Politician's Forum	Mitchel McLaughlin (Sinn Fein)
4th June	INCORE	Frank Foley
11th June	Common Purpose	Toni Forrester
18th June	Gallagh Community Arts	Oliver Green
25th June	Evaluation	

Each of these events is open for anyone to attend and we are particularly keen to see some new faces at the events over the coming months.

For more information contact the Network on (028) 7127 9090.

## Arts & Disability Awards Ireland 2004

To Challenge & Inspire

Who can apply?  
 Individual disabled artists or a collaboration of individual artists living in Ireland working in all art forms.

How much?  
 £5000 maximum

When?  
 Application deadlines: Monday 24th May (Round I) or Monday 6th December (Round II).

How?  
 Contact  
 Arts & Disability Forum  
 Ground Floor  
 109-113 Royal Avenue  
 Belfast  
 BT1 1FF  
 Tel. (ROI: 048) (NI: 028) 9023 9450  
 Textphone: (ROI: 048) (NI: 028) 9032 5744  
 Fax: (ROI: 048) (NI: 028) 9024 7770  
 Email [info@adf.ie](mailto:info@adf.ie)

The Arts & Disability Awards is a partnership between the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaion and the Arts & Disability Forum.

## EGSA

### Make the Right Connection

#### Tax Credits Are you losing out?

Families with children and working people on low incomes may be entitled to extra money.

If you haven't already claimed tax credits, please contact your local advice centre where you will be told what you might be entitled to and receive help in making your claim.

To find your nearest advice centre, look in the phone book or call (028) 9064 5919 or (028) 9023 1120.

A major new campaign aimed at encouraging adults to make a connection with adult learning was launched across N Ireland week beginning Monday 19th April.

Make the Right Connection is a year long call to action, which aims to celebrate the achievements of N Ireland's adult learners, promote participation in adult learning and increase access to guidance for would-be-learners.

EGSA is confident that this campaign will provide N Ireland with a new and exciting vehicle through which all involved in adult learning can promote their achievements. Working closely with partners in the broadcast and print media at regional and local level and with the many supporters of adult

learning, it is hoped that the Make the Right Connection brand will become synonymous with adult learning in N Ireland.

The campaign comprises a number of innovative and exciting elements. From April 2004 through to March 2005 a series of adult learner stories will feature on TV, radio and in the press, showcasing the achievements of local people who have gone back into learning.

To find out more about how you can link with the campaign locally contact the Make the Right Connection Team at EGSA on (028) 9024 4274 or email [rightconnection@egsa.org.uk](mailto:rightconnection@egsa.org.uk) or log on to the website at [www.rightconnection.org.uk](http://www.rightconnection.org.uk).

### North/South Rural Voice

North/South Rural Voice is a new cross-border programme which is designed to encourage groups and communities from across the Border region to explore opportunities of joint working which will promote a broader understanding of the issues within each area and through small initiatives reduce isolation, disadvantage and community polarisation. It has been developed by Irish Rural Link (IRL) in the South and Rural Community Network in the North and seeks to promote the engagement of rural communities on both sides of the border so as to strengthen their capacity to develop actions and set priorities together.

As part of its work, North/South Rural Voice will have a small grants programme

available to rural community groups in the border area.

This grant is targeted at rural community organisations who wish to become involved, or who are already involved, in cross-border co-operation and networking. Grants of up to £3,000 / €5,000 are available.

To request an application form, or to find out more, contact Caroline at Rural Community Network on 028 8678 0316 (NI) or 048 8678 0316 (ROI). You can also email: [caroline@ruralcommunitynetwork.org](mailto:caroline@ruralcommunitynetwork.org).

# Mapping Our Community

The 'Mapping our Community' project is now well underway. The main aim of the project is to support the future development and sustainability of the community and voluntary sector in the Derry City Council area.

A group of thirty Community Interviewers have been recruited by each of the key umbrella organisations, to conduct face-to-face interviews with representatives of all the community and voluntary organisations in the Derry City Council area.

These interviewers undertook Market Research Interviewing Training on 30th and 31st March, delivered by Market Research Northern Ireland. This was followed up with briefing sessions with interviewers and they have just completed piloting the interview schedule on their relevant support organisations. Feedback from these pilots is being used to produce the final interview schedule.

Community and voluntary organisations will receive a letter asking them to take part in an interview during the first week in May. A community interviewer will fol-

## NWCN Membership Fees

The Network recently circulated its annual call for payment of membership fees to our member organisations.

The response to date has been good but many membership fees still remain outstanding.

The membership fees are important to the Network in that they allow us a small revenue stream to carry out our work

low this up with a phone-call to set up the interview. The interviews will take place up until the end of June '04. The participation of community and voluntary groups and organisations in the research interview is vital to the success of the project.

During the interview, groups will be asked to give background information on their organisation; the resources of the organisation e.g. physical and human; the types of activities it engages in and any issues facing it.

A launch of this stage of this project is taking place on Monday 10th May 2004 from 10.00am – 12.00noon in Clooney Hall Centre, Waterside, Derry~Londonderry~Doire. Anyone who is interested in finding out more about it is welcome to attend.

The project is being funded under Measure 3.3 of the Building Sustainable Prosperity Programme, Derry City Council and Invest NI.

but also allow us to accurately record our member organisations.

If you have any queries about your membership of the Network please contact Gerard on (028) 7127 9090.

## Accounting for Change

Accounting for public money in the community sector - is there a better way?

Community Change are organising this conference on:

Date:  
Thursday 13th May 2004

Time:  
10.00am - 3.00pm

Venue:  
The Interpoint Centre  
20-24 York Street  
Belfast  
BT15 1AQ

Speakers:  
John Dowdall - NI Audit Office  
Louise Mason - NI Audit Office  
John McGrath - Chairperson of DSD Task Force on Resourcing the Voluntary & Community Sector  
Leo O'Reilly - Department of Finance and Personnel

Chair:  
Mike Morrissey

RSVP by 7th May 2004  
(028) 9023 3587 or  
info@communitychange-ni.org

## Limavady Area Partnership Final Call for Project Funding

Limavady Area Partnership has announced the opening of Priority 3 Measure 2 (Locally based Human Resource, Training and Development Strategies) of the Peace II Programme.

Proposals should result in at least one of the following:

- Individuals completing training and development courses and achieving recognised qualifications
- Improved performance and growth within social economy agencies/community organisations
- Strengthened community infrastructure
- Increased capacity in groups and individuals to play an active role in social and economic activity.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 12.00noon on Monday 24th May 2004.

Prior to submission of applications, applicants must contact Limavady Area Partnership to obtain further details and guidelines regarding eligible activities under this particular call.

For further information contact:  
Limavady Area Partnership Ltd.  
c/o 7 Connell Street  
Limavady  
BT49 0HA  
Tel. (028) 777 60306  
Email [peace2@limavady.gov.uk](mailto:peace2@limavady.gov.uk)  
Website [www.limap.co.uk](http://www.limap.co.uk)

## North-West Community Network Membership Application

Complete and return the form below, with your £30 membership fee, to the Network office to join the North-West Community Network. Membership is only open to organisations.

ORGANISATION	
CONTACT PERSON	
ADDRESS	
POSTCODE	
PHONE	
FAX	
EMAIL	
WEBSITE	

### Northern Ireland Anti-Poverty Network (NIAPN)

IT'S YOUR SHOUT!

The Northern Ireland Anti-Poverty Network will hold a series of six, Northern Ireland wide consultations on NEW TSN over the month of June.

- The first will be on the 8th June, 11am-1pm @ NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast.
- The second will be in Derry/Londonderry on 15th June, 11am-1pm @ the Junction, 8 Bishop Street.
- The third will be in Enniskillen on 18th June 11am-1pm @ the Intec Centre, 36 East Bridge Street.

Additional consultations will be held in Newry, Ballymena, and Cookstown. Information on these will be forwarded to NIAPN members and the public once details have been finalised.

These events are open to all simply call Patricia at the NIAPN office and let us know that you're attending. This is the central Government policy for tackling poverty and social exclusion within Northern Ireland. It is important that NIAPN members and all those who tackle poverty and social exclusion issues make sure your voice is heard.

NIAPN  
61 Duncairn Gardens  
Belfast, BT15 2GB  
T:028 90987 5010  
F: 028 9087 5011  
Email: [info@niapn.org](mailto:info@niapn.org)

# Joint Government/Voluntary & Community Sector Forum Call for Nominations

The Joint Government/Voluntary & Community Sector Forum Panel (the Panel) is made up of 15 representatives from the community and voluntary sector. The sector's current representatives are drawn from a wide range of organisations. The term of the current members is about to expire and NICVA are seeking nomination for new membership.

The Panel meets with the membership from Government Departments three times per year as the Joint Government/Voluntary & Community Sector Forum (the Joint Forum). The Panel also meets independently before and after each Joint Forum meeting.

The Joint Forum was established in 1998 and this will be the Panel's third incarnation. The Joint Forum focuses on issues that are of general concern to the community and voluntary sector.

Over the past year, it has worked on a variety of issues including the Programme for Government, the Task Force and 'Pathways for Change', 'A Shared Future' and the evaluation and monitoring of 'Partners for Change'. The workplan for the coming year will focus on a range of themes including the Task Force, Partners for Change, communications, and Compact alliance.

## The Role of a Panel Member

A member will be expected to attend the Joint Forum three times per year and the Panel sits on six occasions, timed around the date of the full Forum meetings.

A member must nominate their own alternate, who should represent the same interests e.g. be from the same organisation or sub-sector.

The member should keep their alternate informed of all developments and ensure that the alternate is able to take their place if they are unavailable for a meeting. Further guidance on the role and nomination of alternates will be issued to members once they have been selected.

A member will be required to disseminate information about the work of the Forum and Panel within their own sub-sector. A member will also be required to proactively seek input to the Forum from their sub-sector, particularly in cross-cutting issues.

A member may be asked to contribute to a sub-group and if they feel they can make the appropriate commitment, should endeavour to attend all additional meetings, or, if appropriate, ensure the attendance of their alternate.

All community organisations in Northern Ireland should have received details in the post from NICVA detailing the nomination process. Those interested in nominating a member of their organisation to become one of the 15 community and voluntary sector representatives should complete a nomination form and single page description outlining:

- (1) The nominee's past experience in the voluntary and community sector.
- (2) How the nominee could communicate with the wider sector on issues raised in the Joint Forum
- (3) What the nominee could contribute to the voluntary and community sector Panel of the Joint Forum if he/she was chosen to become a member.

This information should reach Zoë Anderson, NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB by 14th May 2004.

## Inishowen Partnership Company

### Grant Aid Applications

The Inishowen Partnership Company is a development organisation of Community and Voluntary Groups, Statutory Agencies and Social Partners established in 1996 with the responsibility of promoting the 2000-2006 Social Inclusion Programme of the National Development Plan. The groups targeted under the Social Inclusion Programme include: long-term unemployed, disadvantaged women, travellers, elderly, homeless, people with disabilities, ex-prisoners, low income farm households, ethnic minorities, substance misusers, single parents and young people at risk.

The Partnership is inviting applications for small grants from Inishowen based groups and individuals under its Social Inclusion Programme 2000-2006 as follows:

- (1) Small Grant for Community Groups
- (2) Education Grants
- (3) Youth Support Grants

If you or your group wishes to apply for a grant under any of these measures please contact Inishowen Partnership Company, St. Mary's Road, Buncrana. Tel (074) 9362218.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 14th May 2004 at 5.00pm.

The Network  
receives financial  
support from:



Network Update is  
produced by:

North-West Community  
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6-8 Pump Street  
Derry, Londonderry  
BT48 6JG

Tel. (028) 7127 9090  
Fax (028) 7127 9357

Email [info@nwcni.org](mailto:info@nwcni.org)  
Website [www.nwcni.org](http://www.nwcni.org)

## WHSSB - Community Grant Aid 2004/2005

The Western Health and Social Services Board (WHSSB) announces the opening of their community grant aid programme to support worthwhile health and social well being initiatives being delivered through community and voluntary organisations.

At least £200,000 will be made available for WHSSB themes and up to £40,000 for Northern Local Health and Social Care Group (NLHSCG) themes through an open public call for applications. The monies will be allocated evenly across the themes detailed below. The programme will be open for applications from the community and voluntary sector from the 26th April and will close again at 12 noon on 2nd of June.

The WHSSB is keen to support projects, which address an area of identified need, which fit into the following themes:

1. Respite Service for Children
2. Personal Esteem & Lifestyle Choices for Adolescents
3. Support for Older People
4. Support for those with Physical & or Sensory Disability
5. Support for those with a Mental Health Disability & their Carers
6. Support for those with a learning Disability & their Carers

NLHSCG (applicable to Foyle Trust area only)

7. Supporting Families

8. Support for people with chronic respiratory problems

Please note that it is imperative that potential applicants satisfy themselves that their proposal clearly fits within these themes and in particular, the more detailed guidance and criteria associated with these and the process generally. These notes are available with the application form. Those projects which do not, will be sifted out in an initial criteria sift and will not be the subject of full assessments.

Monies awarded will be on a non-recurrent basis and the projects supported must demonstrate that they are new or innovative in nature or application. They must also show that they operate at least on a district Council wide basis, alternatively Trust wide, or preferably, across the entire Board area.

An application pack can be obtained by contacting:

Grants Officer  
WHSSB  
15 Gransha Park  
Clooney Road  
Londonderry  
BT47 6FN

Tel. (028) 7186 0086

Email [grantsofficer@whssb.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:grantsofficer@whssb.n-i.nhs.uk)

Website [www.whssb.org](http://www.whssb.org)

