

# Network UPDATE



FOR THE COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN THE NORTH-WEST

February  
2008

*"Promoting equal citizenship, justice and equality of opportunity"*

## Your Good Health!

### New Health Changes Announced for Northern Ireland

**Health Minister Michael Mc Gimpsey has announced what Northern Ireland's merging health structures may look like, after the long years of uncertainty surrounding at the heart of its Review of Public Administration and Health.**

The Minister has changed the proposals originally made under RPA and come up with what he describes as a more modern, responsive and forward looking health service which tackles health inequalities and puts patients at the heart of its thinking.

As part of the RPA the 19 health trusts have already been reduced to five health and social care trusts, leaving four health boards. The Minister is now proposing to replace the boards with a new *Regional Health and Social Care Board*, answerable to him, which will replace the regional health authority proposed under RPA. This new body will have around 400 staff, rather than the 2000 in the previous proposal and will be responsible for commissioning.

Beneath it will sit five local commissioning groups (LCGs), one for each Trust, which will plan and decide which services are necessary and resource them. These may change, depending on how many local councils Northern Ireland eventually has.

The Minister is proposing that there will be locally elected representatives on these bodies and that the process would have very strong links with local communities and community and voluntary sector groups, although it is not yet clear how this will happen. The need for lay representation at local level seems to have been accepted.

The functions of the Health Promotion Agency are to be included in a new organisation with a wider role to provide expertise and support to local government on health inequalities and health promotion for their communities. Locally elected representatives will be appointed to the Board of this new health promotion and improvement organisation. The Department itself will also be slimmed down and will focus on serving the Minister, formulating policy, targets, legislation and standards.

With these proposals now out for consultation the Network has joined up with CDHN and NICVA to organise a North-West consultation workshop:

**Mon 7 April 2008 (1.30 – 3.30pm)  
St. Columb's Park House, Derry~Londonderry**

**To register for what is sure to be a popular event, contact the Network on (028) 71 279090 or email: [wendy@nwc.org](mailto:wendy@nwc.org)**

#### **FAMILY INFORMATION GROUP – Recent Releases**

The Family Information Group is well-established as an advocate for families of disabled children, often providing essential interpretation and navigation through the maze of information and services faced by families of disabled children.

FIG has recently released both a CD-ROM compilation of its seminal publications over the last ten years, as well as what will quickly become a reference document for those interested in genuine User Involvement (see NWCN article inside). A compendium of commentaries from a wide range of individuals, "The Way I See It" is an insightful, informative and challenging piece of work that is so timely as attention focuses on how we make public services more accessible and influenced by those who use them.

Free copies of both items (one per individual/community group) are available, while stocks last, from:

**Family Information Group, Creggan Day Centre, Fanad Drive, Derry BT48 9QE**

**Tel: (028) 7128 5675 Email: [b.mckeeper1@ntlworld.com](mailto:b.mckeeper1@ntlworld.com)**

**Web: [www.familyinformationgroup.com](http://www.familyinformationgroup.com)**

## Support Services Strategy

In late 2006, DSD commissioned Deloitte as consultants on a Support Services Strategy for the Community & Voluntary Sector in Northern Ireland.

The Support Services Strategy had been outlined as a commitment by government through Positive Steps and was seen as potentially yielding a sensible and necessary framework for community development/ infrastructure support for the C&V sector, across all geographies and interests.

Notionally, the Support Services Strategy would have guided the Community Investment Fund under which many community development organisations (including NWCN) have been funded since April 2007 but this has not been the case.

Only recently has the Deloitte report been made public and it is understood that work on the actual Strategy is now resuming in earnest.

At a time when the advocacy and needs-identification role of individual community groups is not automatically seen as part of their overall contribution to service provision, the retention of a robust tier of representation is essential. The Support Services Strategy is therefore relevant to all grassroots community groups so that community activism loses none of what gave rise to it in the first place.

The Deloitte report can be viewed at:  
[www.dsdni.gov.uk/support\\_services\\_strategy\\_report.pdf](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/support_services_strategy_report.pdf)

You may also wish to view the independent report commissioned by NICVA (Blueprint Consulting, Feb 07):  
[www.communityni.org/uploads/docs/Supportservices\\_NI\\_CVA\\_Final\\_Jan07.pdf](http://www.communityni.org/uploads/docs/Supportservices_NI_CVA_Final_Jan07.pdf)

## New FREE Social Enterprise Directory

CAN (Community Action Network – [www.can-online.org.uk](http://www.can-online.org.uk)) has just launched a FREE directory of social entrepreneurs, social enterprises and enterprising charities. Sign up today if you want to be listed.

By listing you can:

- Improve your external visibility by being listed in the social enterprise directory - CAN's website is used by press, government and the commercial sector
- Take part in national research, polls and surveys on social enterprise
- Influence Government policy through consultation
- Receive news and event updates from CAN and CAN Mezzanine

"CAN is a cornerstone of the UK social enterprise sector. They provide effective solutions to the obstacles that can hold social enterprises back from reaching their full potential." *Phil Hope, Minister for the Third Sector*

To register your organisation, fill in this online registration form. <http://www.can-online.org.uk/register.php>

Registration will only take a few moments of your time and is automatic. You will be asked to supply a username and password which will enable you to update your information yourself should your information change. If you have any questions about the directory, please contact Reena on [r.chadha@can-online.org.uk](mailto:r.chadha@can-online.org.uk)

## Integrating Communities – Rural Development Council

**'Integrating Communities' is a programme of support managed by the Rural Development Council and funded by the IFI. It is designed to facilitate community organisations that wish to co-operate on a cross border and / or a cross community basis to work on issues of common interest. As well as training, support and mentoring, funding may be available to undertake joint projects.**

It is open to urban and rural groups operating both within Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Small grants of up to a maximum of £10,000 will be available per project on a joint/partnership basis to partnered organisations to implement a small project which will benefit both their communities. The grant will be available subject to the satisfactory completion of the core

training, mentoring & support elements by all groups and also the submission of an acceptable project proposal which meets the agreed criteria.

The project phase provides project grant and implementation support for partnerships that either complete the support phase or are already at a stage where a full project application can be made.

For further information, contact:

**John Kelly or Yvonne Breen**  
**Northern Ireland Rural Development Council**  
**17 Loy Street**  
**Cookstown BT80 8PZ**  
**Tel: (028) 8676 6980**  
**Email: [info@rdc.org.uk](mailto:info@rdc.org.uk) Website: [www.rdc.org.uk](http://www.rdc.org.uk)**

## ‘State of the Sector V’

NICVA has commenced work on the latest (fifth) version of State of the Sector, a comprehensive analysis of the “condition” of the Community & Voluntary sector in Northern Ireland. This latest research will be especially important as it will reflect the challenging environment the sector currently inhabits, and the factors that have led us to this point.

State of the Sector does not just provide quantitative data on the current make-up of the sector; more importantly, it builds upon this information to provide essential overview of how the sector has evolved over time, generally in response to external factors.

Given the raft of changes that have occurred in Northern Ireland since State of the Sector IV in 2005, the importance of the next edition cannot be overstated. It will not only be those within the sector who wish to learn more about the scale and scope of our work – government will also have a keen eye to assist it in its own future policy and therefore funding decisions.

Questionnaires relating to State of the Sector V will issue after Easter (publication date Dec 08) and all groups in the North-West are strongly encouraged to engage in this fundamental research. The analysis and prognosis that it will generate are of vital importance to all those providing valuable services on the ground.

In the interim, you are asked to comment on what the publication should cover, how it should be disseminated across all stakeholders by taking part in a short survey available at:

<http://nicva2.org/surveys/index.php?sid=16&newtest=Y>

This is your initial chance to make sure the document provides greatest value to the sector overall.

## CDHN Toolkit - User

The Community Development & Health Network was commissioned in Autumn 07 by the Department for Health to develop a Guide to Engagement for Commissioners under the new RPA commissioning structures.

Now nearing completion and due for release in April 09, the toolkit has been prepared in order to provide guidance for commissioners on how to ensure that users, carers and communities get fully involved in the new devolved commissioning processes. The aim is to make sure that the engagement process is built on real partnerships, where users, carers and communities begin to have ‘citizen control’.

The toolkit, which will be supplemented by a CD-Rom resource, identifies a wide range of existing good practice around genuine user engagement and very much emphasises the opportunity for individuals and groups to become “co-designers, co-planners and co-providers of services”.

It will become a useful reference document for both community and public sectors so that the full engagement potential, and responsibilities, of the new structures can be realised.

View the draft version of the toolkit by visiting:  
[www.cdhn.org/toolkit/cdhntoolkit.pdf](http://www.cdhn.org/toolkit/cdhntoolkit.pdf)

## Redsocks Training and Consultancy

Training and consultancy to the Community and Voluntary Sector in the UK & Ireland.

These days, the community and voluntary sector is more competitive than ever before. The result is that more and more people are chasing the sources of funding that you may have relied on in the past.

Knowing how to prepare and present high quality applications to the Trusts and Foundations who have the money is crucial. Or maybe you need to develop a new fundraising strategy from scratch.

Whatever your requirements, Redsocks Consulting claim to have the answer. In three unique one-day workshops, expert professionals will take you through every aspect of fundraising so that you leave with the practical skills you need to improve your income stream straight away.

The courses are being held at the Linen Green in Moygashel, Co. Tyrone:

- Creating successful applications to Trusts and Foundations - **Tuesday 11th March**

- Creating and delivering a Capital Development Appeal - **Tuesday 22nd April**
- Developing a Fundraising Strategy - **Tuesday 29th April**

Each is tailored to a specific aspect of income generation.

To register your interest, call Denny Elliott on 07799 346997 for more information or apply online:

[www.redsocks.org/application.php](http://www.redsocks.org/application.php)

Download a PDF file of the full course details here.  
[www.redsocks.org/files/redsocks-course-details.pdf](http://www.redsocks.org/files/redsocks-course-details.pdf)

### **Contact:**

Denny Elliott  
Director, Redsocks Consulting  
39 The Demesne, Carryduff  
Belfast BT8 8GU, Website - [www.redsocks.org](http://www.redsocks.org)

## CTA - COMMUNITY PLANNING PROJECT

Community Technical Aid has secured funding, via the Big Lottery, to develop understanding at a local level of what Community Planning can look like as we await firm announcements on its eventual shape as a central element within the Review of Public Administration.

Working in conjunction with both regional and local partners, CTA's Community Planning Project will deliver:

- Capacity building workshops to develop knowledge and skills
- Mentoring and support on the production of Local Community Plans
- Advice and information on new structures of public bodies
- Networking opportunities and sharing of good practice.

Community Planning essentially involves local councils working in partnership with public bodies and local communities to identify, prioritise and deliver action on needs as identified collectively.

The Network will be working closely with CTA in devising pilot projects in the North-West (details to follow) but should you need further information on any aspect of this project please feel free to contact:

**Annie Morgan, Community Planning Support Worker**  
**Tel: (028) 9023 9444**  
**Email: [annie@communitytechnicalaid.org](mailto:annie@communitytechnicalaid.org)**

## "It's Your Community" Awards

*Turning derelict land into a playground. Planting trees where none grew before. Creating a wildlife pond where there was once a puddle. Turning an abandoned building into an arts centre for young people... O2's It's Your Community is a new awards programme to help people come together to make a real difference to the communities in which we live.*

The Awards (up to £1000) are designed to make a difference to community projects and the grants not only improve the local environment, they bring people together to make changes that the whole community will benefit from.

Managed and judged by the Conservation Foundation *It's Your Community* encourages people to 'think global and act local' and is aimed at providing funding for projects designed to improve local communities throughout the UK.

O2's *It's Your Community* exists to inspire everyone to make a tangible visible difference to places they live. Awards should be for the benefit of the community or to build community spirit and affirm the positive position that people are taking to improve their local neighbourhood.

For more information, visit:  
[www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk](http://www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk)

## Finding Health Statistics Made Easy

Getting hold of health statistics in Northern Ireland is now a little easier thanks to a new website: [www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/ith](http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/ith)

The Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) provides a central point from which users may access a large range of statistical information on local issues.

Information is available at a number of geographical levels including Census Output Areas, Super Output Areas, Electoral Wards, Local Governments Districts, Parliamentary Constituencies and Health and Social Services Boards.

A Spokesman for the Department of Health said "The new System will provide free access to information relating to small areas across Northern Ireland. It will also provide support for policy makers monitoring the development of efficient and responsive services".

Using the Investing for Health Strategy as its starting point, NINIS provides information on the health and well-being indicators that have been identified in the strategy including poverty, education and skills and healthier choices.

The site features a simple postcode search tool to view health and well-being statistics for your local area.

## Studies in Neighbourhood Renewal

Groundwork NI is an environmental organisation working for sustainable neighbourhood renewal through environmental regeneration in areas of high social and economic need. The Changing Places, Transforming Communities programme, a cross-border initiative funded through the EU INTERREG IIIA, typified this approach.

As part of this programme a final report and a resource pack were produced. The final report gives an overview of the project as well as information and images of the twelve environmental regeneration schemes implemented through the programme. The Resource Pack includes four practical case studies taken from the Programme as well as some theory and helpful hints covering the themes of community consultation and involvement, implementing an environmental regeneration scheme and developing and strengthening partnerships.

This information will be of interest to communities which want to consult, involve and empower residents to improve and enhance open spaces within their neighborhoods in partnership with relevant organisations or groups which are interested in developing cross border partnerships. The report and resource pack are free. To receive your copy please send a large SAE to the value of 85p to:

Melvyn Waddell, Groundwork NI  
63-75 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast BT15 2GB,  
Tel: 028 90 74 9494 E  
Email: [melvynwaddell@groundworkni.co.uk](mailto:melvynwaddell@groundworkni.co.uk)

## **There is a big difference between feeding into someone else's ideas ... and developing your own**

(Making User Involvement Work, Joseph Rowntree Foundation 2006)

Many different definitions of community development are in circulation but it is surely true that they each have at their core the guiding principles of equality, inclusion and participation. Even a cursory examination of each of these makes clear that user involvement is a key ingredient within the community development mix. The tenet that every man, woman and child has the inherent right to be involved in the decisions that impact upon their quality of life, is there much room to question this? It may be, for some, naïve to adopt the position that this is the only approach to service design and delivery that makes any kind of sense but it is hard to escape the wisdom of a recently-heard comment: "If you want to know how well a pair of shoes fit, you ask the person wearing them, not the person who made them."

User involvement has achieved a higher profile over the last decade or so but as often as not, when and where it occurs, it deals with aspects such as user satisfaction in response to services already received. This is far from the sum total of what user involvement is about – it needs to be a cyclical, cradle-to-grave practice, from needs identification to service design, service delivery and of course review. Like community development itself, user involvement is not simply something you do, it is the reflection of a culture of inclusion, it is about how and not just which services are designed and delivered.

For user involvement to become a default element rather than a discrete observance to legislative duty there is much that community and voluntary groups can do. Fundamentally, we need to ensure that the deep reservoir of knowledge and experience that exists within our own service users is given due value, that it is drawn out as a key element in our own service delivery. Groups must build such feedback into their practice but not just to participate in the currently uneven and inconsistent user involvement practice – they must have the confidence to speak out when they feel that these fall short, let public bodies know not just that their methods and style are unsatisfactory but guide them towards what would work better.

What is also crucial in the quest for effective user involvement is the awareness that there is strength to be gained from sharing - across areas, across organisations, across age groups and across any other platform that allows mutual support. For individuals and groups to have belief that their own experiences are important, it is imperative that linkages are made with others – from this, confidence, eloquence and conviction will grow. Networks, formal or otherwise, are needed to validate and capture the experience at the level where it really matters. Public services embody the responsibility the state has towards its constituents, it makes perfect sense for people like you and I to have the opportunity to facilitate this responsibility being met.

Community and voluntary groups also need to place a high value on how well placed they are to make genuine

user involvement more of a reality. If policy can be influenced by experiential and knowledge-based evidence, as we are told it can and should, the proximity of community groups to those who have this experience and knowledge is second to none. It is not just that community groups have access to service users, it is also that they tend to work to a certain set of values and principles (often unnamed), a culture of ethical service delivery that quite naturally gives rise to advocacy on the basis that they know of what they speak.

There is also an education process that community groups can help drive forward – that user involvement is not just about consultation, or at least the consultation practice that we have become used to. Staid, impenetrable, single-format circulations from public bodies that allow little time for meaningful response (and no investment to support it), or tokenistic public exercises that can amount to little more than a head count and a box checked off on the to-do list.

There is no such thing as consultation fatigue – what many are worn down by is being consulted badly! As a sector that exists in part to reach where statutory provision struggles to impact, we have developed skills around flexibility, innovation and variety of approach. Much good practice is already out there, including within public bodies, and where it exists it needs to be highlighted and built upon. There are "champions" of user involvement in many places – these need to be supported and encouraged. There are community development functions within many large statutory bodies, albeit often on the fringes - these are resources that can be used to advance the understanding of what real user involvement looks like. This latter point is though is self-contradictory – user involvement is not about just one approach, it begins with according the respect due to service users and working out how to show this comes afterwards.

In the Northern Ireland of today, individuals and the communities they come from have an opportunity to grasp. We have a political and social landscape that seems to want to make things better for everyone, we have outward signals that placing more influence within reach of the average citizen is to be delivered through RPA (and in Health & Social Care, ongoing work on PPI), and we have a community & voluntary sector that is well-placed to ensure that the promise becomes real. That is not to say that challenges do not exist – with a restored Assembly and (ever-)evolving structures in health such as Local Commissioning Groups, communities have much learning to undertake to understand how the system works. The mechanisms exist to allow greater influence to be exerted but the capacity to make use of these is not yet where it needs to be. Through participation, working with an equality focus and ensuring that inclusion is possible for all, including the hardest to reach, user involvement can be brought in from the sidelines to become a fertiliser for effective public service design, delivery and evaluation.

We do not just need better user involvement, we have a right to it.

***NWCN Excerpt from "The Way I See It" (Family Information Group, 2008)***



## Would you like your Community Experience to lead to a University of Ulster Degree?

If you have substantial experience in the Community & Voluntary sector, you could gain direct entry to the 2nd year of the part-time degree BSc (Hons) Community Development.

As a first step, the University is offering experienced community sector practitioners and activists the opportunity to enrol on a short course Accreditation for Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) at Magee and Jordanstown Campuses Thursdays 3 April - 8 May 2008.

Course Cost                           £235.00  
APEL Portfolio Submission:   £200.00

### **Tutors: Rosemary Moreland; Eilish Rooney; Isobel Hawthorne-Steele**

Session One:	Introduction
Session Two:	Community Practice & Praxis: Wealth of Experience
Session Three:	Critical Reflection: Experience & Processes of Change
Session Four:	Understanding APEL
Session Five:	Learning through Work and Life
Session Six:	Library Tour
Session Seven:	Essay writing
Session Eight:	Portfolio Building
Session Nine:	Occupational Standards in Community Development Work
Session Ten:	Portfolio Clinic and Module Evaluation

Those who successfully submit an APEL Portfolio will gain 100 Level 1 university credits and can apply for direct entry to the second year of the BSc (Hons) Community Development (part-time) Magee, September 2008.

### **Closing date for applications: 14 March 2008**

For an application form and further details contact:

- Sharon Adams 028 9036 6680 email: [sb.adams@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:sb.adams@ulster.ac.uk) (Administrator),
- Eilish Rooney 028 9036 6998 email: [e.rooney@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:e.rooney@ulster.ac.uk) (Programme Director)
- Rosemary Moreland 028 9036 8333 email: [rj.moreland@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:rj.moreland@ulster.ac.uk) (Jordanstown)
- Isy Hawthorne-Steele 028 7137 5017 email: [i.hawthorne@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:i.hawthorne@ulster.ac.uk) (Magee)

A "Taster Session"/Information Night for APEL will be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March (7pm-9pm) in the Minor Hall, Magee Campus, Northland Road, Derry~Londonderry

University staff and Course Tutors will be available to answer any questions about the APEL Course or the BSc. in Community Development (Level 2) which it is hoped will follow in September 2008 (demand permitting).

## **Social and Community Development Masters course**

Queen's University, Belfast's School of Education is now recruiting for its Masters in Social and Community Development. This three year course is offered on a part time basis, with three modules in each of the first two years and a dissertation in the third year. This multidisciplinary course will be of interest to those who work in community development settings or whose work involves working with communities from the voluntary, community or statutory sectors, including community outreach and policy making.

**For more information please contact Barbara McCabe on 028 9097 5979 or [b.mccabe@qub.ac.uk](mailto:b.mccabe@qub.ac.uk).**

## **Leadership Training through the Arts - Delivered by YoMo Training ([www.yomo.ie](http://www.yomo.ie))**

A practical one-day training course for young people, exploring leadership qualities through the use of the arts. The training aims to support and inspire groups to deliver a community project or activity immediately following the course.

The course will be offered on each of the following three days:

- **Wednesday 26th March 2008**
- **Thursday 27th March 2008**
- **Friday 28th March 2008**

Typical Group Size: 5 - 6 Young People plus 2 Adults

### **Course Content:**

- Identifying the needs of the local community
- Examining the qualities of the group and individuals
- Group workshops to share experiences
- Examining the need for leadership for effective group work
- Using Visual Arts to explore and express issues
- Using Performing Arts to develop group presentation skills
- Managing projects, people and resources/
- Action Plan Film

The training will take place in the new Regional Cultural Centre in Letterkenny. Contact: Hugh Doyle (Project Manager) [hugh.doyle@hse.ie](mailto:hugh.doyle@hse.ie)

Tel: 00 353 74 91 03255 or 00 353 87 904 9179

## **Local Government in Northern Ireland – weakest in Western Democracy**

Professor John Stewart, a leading academic in local government studies, recently addressed 300 local government delegates at the NILGA conference held in Derry:

‘Local government in Northern Ireland is by far the weakest when compared to other western democracies ... and if you get everything you are asking for, it will still be the weakest!’

Professor Stewart went on to outline that governments across Europe are in the process of strengthening their system of local government to more effectively deal with diversity in a more turbulent and uncertain world. He warned that if councils do not have a critical mass of services, it will entirely undermine the potential of Community Planning to transform public service delivery.

Alderman Arnold Hatch, President of NILGA said: ‘It is gratifying to hear respected experts such as Professor John Stewart reinforce the NILGA position. Ministers are due to make their final decisions this week (ed. This did not occur) and I will be writing urgently to the Stormont Executive in one last ditch attempt to urge them to devolve power to local communities. It is well proven that holding too much power in the centre does not work!’

Also speaking at the NILGA conference was Jonathon Porritt, the Chair of the UK Sustainable Development Commission, who encouraged councils to take a greater leadership role in dealing with climate change. Paul Coen, Chief Executive of the Local Government Association, highlighted that the Audit Commission report published last week showed that councils in England are now among the best performing parts of the public service. He suggested that there is strong evidence for further decentralisation.

NILGA conference delegates also discussed the early plans for Local Government Modernisation and heard about projects in other areas which have delivered major improvements and efficiencies.

Vice-President of NILGA, local Councillor Helen Quigley, said: ‘The NILGA conference was a resounding success. It highlighted the major opportunities for local government modernisation. For example, conservative estimates indicate that savings of 10% could be made on the current Local Government annual spend of £450m per annum if a more strategic purchasing initiative was introduced - and this is just one project! It is high time for the Stormont Executive to give the local government sector the powers it needs to make a difference.’

## **Inter-Sectoral Collaboration - Challenges & Successes**

**10am - 12.30pm, Thur 10th April 2008 - Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh, County Tyrone**

This seminar will be of interest to you if you are/will be involved in Local Action Groups, Local Commissioning, Groups or Peace III...or are involved in schemes such as Extended Schools...are an elected representative...or are keen on collaborative working within and between sectors.

Guest Speakers include:

Karen Meehan, Chair – WHSSB; Tom Kiernan, DSD; Karen Philips - Derry City Council; Michael Doyle – NIHE, Rep. from Western Community Networks, Siobhan Sweeney – Western HAZ; Brendan Bonner, Western IfH

For further information and/or to book a place at this seminar contact:

*Camille McDermott*

*Community Development, WHSSB*

*Tel: 028 7186 0086*

*Email: [camille.mcdermott@whssb.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:camille.mcdermott@whssb.n-i.nhs.uk) by 13 March 2008.*

## NWCN Membership 2008/09

Forms for membership of North-West Community Network will shortly be dispatched in electronic format (and in hard copy to those without email addresses) and will also be available via the Network's website ([www.nwcn.org](http://www.nwcn.org)).

The cost of membership has been retained at £10/€14 per year but membership benefits continue to develop with an expanding database, strengthening linkages at strategic level and possibly the most representative Executive Committee the Network has ever had. A new Networking/Membership section will also be added shortly to our website.

The forthcoming year promises to be as varied and challenging as any in recent times – ensure the community & voluntary sector in the North-West has the most effective representation possible by subscribing for 2008/09.

### “Mapping Our Community – Community Directories still available...

“Mapping Our Community” was a partnership project led by Derry LSP from 2005-07.

Of the many outputs of the project is a Community Directory of groups in the Derry City Council area, detailing not only contact information for these 400+ groups but also their services and resources that may be available for sharing and collaborative use.

Some groups have yet to collect their copy of the Directory – remaining stocks are being held at the Network and if your group has not yet picked up a copy you are asked to do so at your earliest

convenience.

There is no doubting the usefulness of the Directory as a handy “flick-through” item but it is worth remembering that the contents are also available online (with any updates/amendments since received). There is also a Mailing List for nearly 500 groups in the Derry City Council area.

Go to: [www.lspderrycitycouncilarea.org.uk](http://www.lspderrycitycouncilarea.org.uk) and click on the “Mapping Our Community” link.

The Community Noticeboard element of the site is a feature that NWCN hopes to incorporate in the redevelopment of its own site in the near future.

## NWCN Membership Form 2007-08

To become a member of North-West Community Network for the year 2007/08, please complete the form below and return to the Network with your £10/€14 membership fee.

*\*\*\*Membership is only open to community/voluntary organisations\*\*\**

### Your Organisation:

Name Of Organisation:	_____
Named Contact(s) & Designation:	_____
Address:	_____
	Postcode: _____
Telephone:	Fax: _____
Email(s):	_____
Website:	_____
Brief Description Of Organisation's Role & Activities:	_____

**Please make your cheque payable to North-West Community Network, or contact the Network if you wish to make payment in another way.**

NWCN receives financial support from:



**'Network Update' is produced by:**

**North-West Community Network**

**23 Bishop Street  
Derry~Londonderry  
BT48 6PR**

**Tel: (028) 7127 9090**

**Fax: (028) 7127 9357**

**Email: [info@nwcn.org](mailto:info@nwcn.org)**

**Web: [www.nwcn.org](http://www.nwcn.org)**

**Co-ordinator:  
Colin Devine**

**Administrator:  
Wendy Gibbons**

**Network Update is sent electronically to those groups for whom the Network has a reliable email address.**

**This supports the Network's sustainability efforts, both fiscal and environmental.**

**Please feel free to circulate the document and/or to encourage groups not currently in receipt of Network Update to contact us and therefore ensure future inclusion.**

**NETWORK UPDATE  
FEBRUARY 2008**