

Network UPDATE



FOR THE COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN THE NORTH-WEST

"Promoting equal citizenship, justice and equality of opportunity"

January
2008

PEACE III Update

Many of the funding Priorities within the Peace III funding programme are now up and running with others due to commence over the next few months.

The Steering Committees for both programmes whose role it is to select projects for funding have been formed and have already taken decisions on some applications. The Community & Voluntary representatives on these Steering Committees are: **Gareth Harper** of the Rural Community Network (Priority 1 *'Building positive relations at the local level'*) and **Sylvia Gordon** of GroundworkNI (Priority 2 *'Creating shared public spaces'*);

Priority 1.1 *Building positive relations at the local level*

This Priority will be delivered at both local and regional level:

Local:

Under this Priority, local councils are expected to 'cluster' or join together to form partnerships to develop and deliver Peace Action Plans which focus on tackling sectarianism and racism in their area. Community & Voluntary organisations hoping to receive funding under this theme must be included in these local plans and local councils have a duty to undertake meaningful consultation with the sector before submitting their plans to the SEUPB.

The Community Relations Council & Border Action are to provide technical support to the councils in the preparation of their plans. SEUPB expect to receive 11-13 action plans by March 2008.

Groups interested in this Priority should contact local councils for information on the development of their Peace III 1.1 Action Plans.

Regional:

While the budget for this measure is €50m, following a call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) in July 2007, 48 EOIs to the total value of €123m were received. Currently, 15 of these have been shortlisted and 13 have now progressed to the economic appraisal stage. A call for applications for this measure should be open by 28 Jan 2008.

Priority 1.2 *Acknowledging & dealing with the past*

SEUPB have invited Border Action and the Community Relations Council (CRC) to be responsible for implementing Priority 1.2 given its focus on those most affected by the conflict i.e. victims and survivors. Currently negotiations between SEUPB and CRC/Border Action on the delivery of Priority 1.2 are ongoing but it is hoped that this Priority will be rolled out before March 2008.

Priority 2.1 *Creating Shared Public Spaces*

With a budget of €82M, this priority focuses on the development of large infrastructural projects to regenerate urban, rural and border areas through the creation of genuine shared spaces. A call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) opened in May 2007 and of the 126 received, 20 were shortlisted and 12 have now progressed to the economic appraisal stage. It is expected that overall some 8-12 projects will be funded with support ranging from €1.5-€10M per project. During the December Steering Committee meeting 2 applications were rejected while 1 was approved. Five further applications will be discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting planned for 5 February 2008.

Priority 2.2 *Key institutional capacities are developed for a shared society*

This Priority aims to help the public sector to deal, in a more targeted manner, with the issues that contribute to a shared society. It also aims to support people who have been excluded or marginalised from economic, social and civil networks as well as organisations that promote European and international networking and facilitate the exchange of best practice in peace and reconciliation transnationally. It is important to note therefore that this Priority is not solely aimed at the public sector. Currently this Priority is not open for application but it is expected to open before summer 2008.

COMMUNITY ARTS - SMALL GRANTS

Community Foundation Northern Ireland

The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland is offering Small Grants ranging from £500 to £1,000 for community arts projects.

Aims of the Funding:

- To support grassroots arts initiatives that foster 'a Shared Future' and that promote the inclusion of immigrants, asylum-seekers and their families as well as travellers
- To give community and arts organisations the opportunity to develop small scale, new or innovative inclusive projects that will make a difference at local level
- To fund small community arts projects addressing 'a Shared Future' through a range of community arts approaches that will serve as models of good practice and learning
- To encourage communities that experience difficulties with cultural and ethnic diversity to use community arts as a way to take up the challenge of social inclusion.

There are no set deadlines - applications will be considered on a rolling basis.

Please note: Grant applications should be made at least two months before project start date.

Contact for further information:

Community Foundation for NI, Community House, Citylink Business Park, Albert Street, Belfast BT12 4HQ,

Tel. 028 9024 5927.

Fax. 028 9032 9839

Website: www.communityfoundationni.org

Email: skillen@communityfoundationni.org



Comic Relief Grant Schemes

Deadline: 29th February 2008

Comic Relief operates a number of grant schemes through its Red Nose Days funding programme and has announced that the next application deadline for grants over £5,000 is 29 February 2008.

Grants are available through six programme areas:

<i>Young people</i>	<i>Older People</i>
<i>Mental Health</i>	<i>Refugees & Asylum Seekers</i>
<i>Domestic Violence</i>	<i>Disadvantaged Communities</i>

The grants programme is open to registered charities and constituted C&V groups and grants are made for between one and three years. Although there is no maximum grant size Comic Relief is likely to make grants of between £15,000 and £40,000 per year.

For more information, visit:

www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/uk.

Derry City Council's Support Grants programme (max £1000) is open for new applications from Friday 1st February 2008 at 10.am.

Further details of the different programme areas (including Community Relations; Community Development; Women's Development; Sports Development, Festivals and Events; Arts & Culture and Heritage & Museums) are available along with the criteria and application forms on www.derrycity.gov.uk under the 'Grant Aid' icon.

Groups may contact the relevant programme officer in advance of their application to discuss their idea or for guidance on the application process. Funding is for projects which run between 1st April 2008 and 31st March 2009. Groups should expect the application process to take approximately two months so are advised to apply well in advance of the intended project start date.

Community & Voluntary Equality Awards



UNISON's Community & Voluntary branch wants to recognise the valuable work undertaken by the sector to improve equality and human rights. Many UNISON members are quietly involved in practical community action on equality and/or human rights. UNISON's Community & Voluntary branch wants to give public acknowledgement to this immensely valuable work and therefore offers two £500 Equality Awards - one for activities in an urban region, and one for activities in a rural region.

The work can involve many different activities. It could be a project to empower migrant workers to participate fully in society, or a project which raises awareness of human rights of residents in a particular area, or an activity which

improves conditions of employment. Or it could be any activity that encourages, raises awareness of, or develops confidence/skills to enable people to fully partake in our society as equals, in a community-based, practical way.

They are looking for activities/projects that have been done in the last year by community and/or voluntary organisations. There is a very simple application form which can be obtained from Pauline Kersten:

Email: kerstenpauline@hotmail.com

Tel: 07771857741

or download at:

www.ulearnni.org/downloads/files/commvol_application_form_equality_awards.pdf

Training Needs Audit for

Community & Voluntary Sector - Derry City Council area

The Community Services Section of Derry City Council has commissioned local social economy organisation, Holywell Consultancy, to carry out an audit of the training needs of the local Community & Voluntary Sector.

According to Mr Gerald McColgan, Community Services Programme Organiser *"The purpose of this audit is to gain a holistic picture, directly from the sector, in order to identify where training needs lie and what the priorities are in relation to this. The intention is for Community Services to be in an informed position to decide, subject to available resources, what training opportunities it can provide in response to priorities stated by Community and Voluntary Sector workers."*

The audit will also collect information on the capacity of local Community & Voluntary sector organisations to provide training.

Derry City Council area benefits from a very strong Community & Voluntary sector, but it is over ten years since the last detailed audit of this kind was conducted. It is hoped that not only will Council benefit from having clear information on the topic, but that local groups may also be able to use the report as evidence to pull in funding for their training needs. The process may also assist some groups with strategic thinking about the needs of staff in their

organisations. Ultimately the audit will result in delivery of training on the ground as prioritised by the sector.

"Obviously the quality and value of any audit depends totally on groups responding to the consultation process," stated Mr McColgan. *"We would therefore encourage Community & Voluntary sector groups to participate in this process in two clear ways - firstly by filling in and returning the questionnaire and secondly by attending one of the public meetings."*

A hard copy of the questionnaire will be posted to all groups on the Community Services contacts list and is also available for completion on-line via the Holywell Consultancy website:
www.holywellconsultancy.com/site/surveys.aspx

The closing date for return of questionnaires is Friday 29th February 2008. It is preferable for groups to complete the questionnaires on-line if possible but postal, e-mail or faxed returns are also welcomed. The public meetings will be held as follows:
Wed 6 Feb 08 - The Junction, Bishop St. (10am-1pm)
Fri 8 Feb 08 - Community Services Waterside Office, Old Clondermott School, Irish St (10am - 1pm_

**For further information please contact: DCC
Community Services Section tel: 71365151.**

INTERREG IVA Update

Priority 1.1 Enterprise

This Priority which has a budget of €70m focuses on promoting business innovation and growth, investment in business infrastructure and support for clusters and networks that encourage cross-border cooperation - opened on 15 November 2007. Currently 8 projects will be brought to the Steering Committee for decision on 14 February 2008. Although the call for applications is due to close shortly it will re-open later in the year.

Priority 1.2 Tourism

This Priority which focuses on product and market development, and improving tourism infrastructure is expected to open with 'focused' calls in February 2008. These calls will focus on a specific area of the programme only.

Priority 2.1 Collaboration

This Priority focuses on collaborative approaches to innovative ways of addressing specific cross-border problems and delivering public services in border areas. It also includes the exchange of information/expertise/best practice in cross-border cooperation.

The implementation of this Priority is as follows:

- *Health and Social Care* – Call closed;
- *Rural Development* - Focused call expected mid

2008;

- *Collaboration between public sector bodies* - Focused call expected mid 2008;
- *Energy* - Focused call expected February 2008.

Priority 2.2 Infrastructure

This Priority focuses on cross-border infrastructure projects e.g. ICT, Transport, Telecommunications, Energy, and Utilities. The implementation of this Priority is as follows:

Roads – Calls closed;

Improved Broadband Communications – Call closed;

Environmental Management – Focused call expected mid 2008.

Currently all 5 cross-border plans have been received in relation to the Enterprise, Tourism and Collaboration themes and are currently undergoing assessment.

For more information on the Peace III and Interreg IVA programmes contact the Special EU Programmes Body on 028 9026 6660 or visit: www.seupb.eu

N.B. An information seminar on the new programmes is being hosted by the Special EU Programmes Body in Armagh City Hotel on 5 February 2008. Information on registration can be obtained from :david.matthews@seupb.eu.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE

29th & 30th May 2008

Derry Well Woman is proud to announce that it will be hosting an International Women's Health Conference from 29th May - 30th May 2008.

This event is being organised on behalf of the Cross Border Women's Health Network and will be held in the Everglades Hotel, Derry.

The Conference aims:

- to develop and strengthen international links between health and social care professionals, academics, researchers, development workers and politicians interested in the key role of women in determining population health status &
- to lobby politicians and decision makers for action against health inequalities and social exclusion.

Further information available at:

www.derrywellwoman.org

Understanding Groups

A Course for People Working with Groups

27 & 28 February 2008

Foyle New Horizons, Springtown Industrial
Estate, L'Derry

Aim of the Course:

Effective work with groups is based on understanding what happens in them. This two day course is open to people working in community, voluntary and statutory settings.

The aim of this course is to promote effective work with groups based on the theoretical and practical understanding of what happens in them.

Cost FREE

Duration: 2 Days: 9.30 am - 4.30 pm

Facilitators: Health Promotion Officers, Health
Promotion Department, Western
Health and Social Care Trust

Places are allocated on a first come first served basis. If you are interested in attending please contact Sarah Davidson, Health Promotion Department, Maple Villa, Gransha Park, L'Derry on or before Friday 8 February 2008. **Telephone:** 028 7186 5127

Holywell Trust - St. Patrick's Day 2008

Do you want to celebrate St. Patrick's Day 2008 in a more meaningful way?

Over this year's St. Patrick's weekend 14-17 March, Holywell Trust will host three events:

1. Friday 14 March 9.00am-12.30pm

Venue: The Junction

Live Radio Foyle 93.1FM Broadcast – Paul McFadden show 9-10.30am - DIVERSECITY – different voices from our community on how we re-image and re-invent ourselves.

2. Saturday 15 March Gala Concert in St. Columb's Hall

(Doors Open 7.30pm) **£10** – Music from diverse traditions.

3. Monday 17 March – Sponsored Walk – Building on Holywell's annual sponsored walk – symbolic walk on the walls with people from different backgrounds and races – followed by Big Brunch with the Mayor in the Guildhall.

...we want you to take part!

Do you want to make a significant contribution to the long term future of this city?

For the past few years Holywell Trust has been promoting the concept of the development of a neighbourhood within the city's walls which is:

- A place where people of different races, religions and beliefs would live together.
- A place which would act as a model of tolerance and of celebration of different cultures.

Holywell Trust has already helped to ensure that the War Memorial in the Diamond has become a shared space with a shared history.

We want you to help create a future which celebrates diversity.

To book your place at the Radio Foyle Seminar or for information on the St. Patrick's Day Walk on the Walls please ring 028 71261941 or

Email: edeane@holywelltrust.com or

gemma@holywelltrust.com

“Housing Co-ops and Community Land Trusts can help tackle the housing crisis.”

Following the recent “boon” of additional funding for affordable housing (cf. £205m.), the focus immediately shifts to deciding where these homes are to be sited to meet the most pressing needs.

Below, Conal McFeely, speaks not just about the issues facing the area in which his organisation, Creggan Enterprises, operates but also how Community Land Trusts, led by the Social Economy and C&V sectors, can bring maximum benefit to the most disadvantaged communities.

“The recent budget announcement at Stormont was endorsed and welcomed by all the political parties represented on the Executive and the business sector. However, as a social economy initiative, Creggan Enterprises is concerned how little was in the budget for the community development and social economy sector.

We support the recent comments of Creggan Neighbourhood Partnership which said that the issue of affordable and social housing is crucial to building greater social justice and community cohesion. Social Development minister, Margaret Ritchie must ensure that Derry receives its fair share of the housing budget allocation.

Last year, the Creggan community celebrated its 60th anniversary - and it is important to remember that one of the main reasons it was built was because of the scandals of families as large as ten being forced to live in a single room.

It would be good when we recall the renting of the first of those 'dream houses' to local families in July 1947 to be grateful that such squalor belongs to the past. Sadly, now, there is a growing issue of young families being deprived of affordable housing. Today, once again, families are faced with the unpleasant choice of sharing a home, or paying rents they cannot afford.

Creggan is a close-knit community with local people willing and ready to support each other and those in need. This spirit of self-help has played a key role in the ongoing development of the area over the last 60 years - and it is this approach that offers the best prospect for resolving this latest crisis of lack of homes.

Self-help groups within the social economy and community development sector – such as Creggan Enterprises - have championed the development of the economic and social well-being of the local community over the history of the estate. It is this sector that has created the infrastructure and environment for the provision of many services and jobs, but there is still much more to be achieved.

We believe that, once again, it is our sector that should take the lead in improving the local community, by providing the basis for new homes in Creggan and elsewhere.

The time is right for the Assembly to support and encourage the establishment of community land trusts and housing co-operatives to help overcome the housing shortage in Derry and throughout the region as a whole. Currently on the cityside of Derry, 2,300 people are on the waiting list. Of these, 1,100 are deemed homeless and there are 525 people seeking social housing accommodation in Creggan

Given local concerns about the shortage of affordable housing, there is a need for local groups and residents to work as partners in finding community solutions to build new affordable homes.

The social economy sector can and should be the lead developer, creating a not-for-profit community land trust (CLT) that owns, develops and manages local assets for the benefit of the local community.

The objective would be to acquire land and property and hold it in trust for the benefit of the local community - for example, the former Rosemount Barracks site should be given to the local community.

Derry is renowned for its self-help ethos. So it is natural that CLTs should be set-up, working in partnership with Derry City Council, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Planning Service to re-zone land currently in community and public ownership for a house building programme that recognises existing and future housing demand.

It is time for co-ordinated action to influence those with power to ensure investment is targeted to sustain the process of social and economic regeneration that breaks the link between low income, poor housing, ill health and lack of educational and employment opportunities.

While it is right to call on government departments, ministers and public bodies to recognise the housing and regeneration needs of Creggan by allocating sufficient resources, let us not sit idly waiting for this to happen. Our future, like our past, relies on our own resources of energy, optimism and vision – let us use these to address local need.”

Conal McFeely
Creggan Enterprises
Email: conal@rathmor.com



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

Capacity Building and Networking - Older Persons' 2 Day Residential 2008

The event this year will be held from Monday 10 -Tuesday 11 March 2008 at the Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal. For more information contact Louisa Pemble, Positive Ageing Cross Border Project, Telephone: 00353 47 1745 or 0872 684225.



**Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies
Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Language Strategy Website**

The Northern Ireland Languages Strategy is now out for public consultation and the first phase of this is an online questionnaire for language stakeholders and members of the general public. The Strategy team links languages with intercultural skills and we hope to get as much feedback as possible from a variety of sectors. They look at languages in the broadest possible sense and the Strategy embraces languages for business, leisure and personal development; language learning at school and in higher education; English as an additional language; Irish and Ulster Scots; sign languages.

To respond to the questionnaire visit: www.nils.org.uk.

Let's hear UR voice



After extensive research with children, young people, parents and professionals, the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People has identified five priority areas or themes to work on over the next three years. Under each priority there are four actions, these will allow us to focus on more specific areas where we can help change things for children and young people.

NICCY would like your help in choosing the one action area under each of the five priorities that you think is the most important.

Visit the online vote page at

[:www.niccy.org/urvoice.aspx?menuId=633](http://www.niccy.org/urvoice.aspx?menuId=633) to start choosing the action areas. Under each priority you are asked to choose ONE action that you think is most important for us to work on.

The consultation runs until 15 February 2008. If you have any questions please email: communications@niccy.org.

GVA –GIVING A VOICE TO NEW VOICES: AFRICANS IN NORTHERN IRELAND SYMPOSIUM, Thursday 21st February 2008 Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages (AICH)

Aberfoyle House, University of Ulster, Magee Campus, Northland Road, Derry

The Academy is hosting a one day symposium focusing on the ongoing project of *Giving Voice to New Voices; Africans in Northern Ireland*.

This event will be themed on the title **Calling Northern Ireland Home**. Many Africans have come to Northern Ireland to work, some have settled and other groups or individuals have made the region their preferred academic destination. There are also asylum seekers and political refugees from Africa who reside in Northern Ireland. There are also cases of Africans, albeit in small numbers who are in Northern for missionary work or exchange in religious work.

Main guest speaker is Dr. Taiwo Matthews, a medical practitioner, who has been an independent member of Ennis Town Council, County Clare since 2004. He is a keen Irish speaker which, he says, has made it easier for him to integrate into his local community. He is also President of the African Forum in Ireland.

Dr. Robbie McVeigh, an expert in race relations who has written many publications and reports including the *'Next Stephen Lawrence'* will present a paper on what he terms, the new *'White Europe'* Policy.

Neltah Chadamoyo, a Zimbabwean who is a board

member of the Africa Centre, Ireland whose most recent contribution is to the research team that produced two research publications - *Negative Positive Politics: Participation of Immigrants and Ethnic Minorities in the Electoral Process* and *Politics, Positive Vision: Immigration and the 2004 Elections*. She also contributed to *Immigration and Social Change* in the Republic of Ireland.

Other speakers include Khanyisela Moyo, Research Associate and Vice Chair of Afro Community Support Organization, Alex Igundunasse, a PhD student in Psychology and Elly Omondi Odhiambo, Research Associate in Migration.

This event is open to the public. To book a place, please contact the following:

Mrs. Gemma Thornton +44 (0)28 71375785
g.thornton@ulster.ac.uk

Mr. Elly Odhiambo +44 (0)28 71375195
07922317860 e.odhiambo@ulster.ac.uk

This Project is funded by the Community Relations Council and the European Union Peace II Programme.

Making a Difference to Local Children's Lives

A unique mentoring service run in partnership between children's charities NCH Northern Ireland and Chance UK, is looking for people in the Londonderry area who can make a difference to the life of a child.

Project lead, Donna O'Kane is responsible for finding, training and matching up a range of volunteer mentors for children between the ages of 5 and 11 years who need some additional support and encouragement. Based in Clooney Family Centre in Derry, Donna is working towards having twenty volunteers trained by the end of March 2008.

As she explained, "We have a number of referrals for young people who need the kind of support we offer being processed at the moment. More are in the pipeline, so we are keen to have a full group of

volunteers who are trained and ready for action".

Donna is challenging all potential volunteers to think again. "We have experience of the incredible difference a positive role model can make to the lives of children and young people, so we want people to think again and get in touch to see what they can do".

Volunteers, aged 18 and over, are asked to spend just two hours a week over the period of one year with a child who has been identified as needing the kind of support a volunteer mentor could give.

Anyone who feels they could rise to this challenge is asked to contact Donna for full details on: (028) 7132 9444 / email: Donna.O'Kane@nch.org.uk

International Women's Day 2008

Call for Submissions

Edenplace Arts Centre, Pilots Row, Rossville Street, Derry, will host "Ordinary Extraordinary" - an art exhibition for International Women's Day 2008.

Women artists and women's groups are asked to participate. The theme of the exhibit is open and may reflect women's issues, history, cultural identity, gender etc. For more information contact Judy Logue

Telephone: 71269418 or **Email:** judi_edenplaceartscentre@yahoo.co.uk

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'Network Update' is produced by:

North-West Community Network

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**Co-ordinator:
Colin Devine**

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
JANUARY 2008**

Lobbying Across the Border



North South Rural Voice is delivering cross border lobbying training in various venues across the border region over the coming months. Each session is designed to give participants an introduction on to how to lobby on a cross border basis. Participants can then use this information to lobby for changes in practices and policies, which affect their daily lives in the border region.

One example of a practice that

could be influenced by lobbying from the border region is the issue of cross border banking charges and NSRV is hoping that this training will give people the skills and ideas they need to lobby successfully around this and other border issues.

Find out more at:

**www.nsrv.info/lobbying-training
or contact NSRV on 00 353 42
969 0806 or info@nsrv.info.**

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.