

# Network UPDATE

FOR THE COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN THE NORTH-WEST



July-Aug 07

## Representative Democracy - Power To The People !

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

So, Northern Ireland is in the first recess of the re-established NI Assembly, having seen a few months of this revitalised democratic organ in action. And what a few months they have been; what has happened to the "battle-a-day" scenario that many of us envisaged, the point-scoring and posturing that we have long become accustomed to from each of the main parties?

Instead we have had beaming smiles, photoshoots aplenty, joint statements and genuine debate in the chamber. It may be ungracious to overly question this seeming cordiality, then again, it may be naïve to believe it will last for any significant length of time as the lack of a true opposition camp is felt.

Many observers would contend that the March 07 election saw a change in how politics will work in the NI of the future. For example, were any of the parties in any doubt as to the strength of feeling on water charges? Did the hustings not deal as much with changes to education and health services as they did with constitutional standpoints? Might we hope, for a welcome change, for a nice boring political arena where debate and decisions revolve around the issues that actually affect people? Education transfer, social housing, transport infrastructure, inward investment – less sensational topics certainly but more impacting on quality of life than spy rings or what flags are flown from where and when.

If we believe that we have entered a genuine and sustainable post-conflict era, and if we want our politicians to act accordingly, then we have a role to play, as individuals and as communities – we need to participate in our democracy. Recognising that party politics will always be a reality, we must grasp the challenge of ensuring that our elected representatives remain attuned and responsive to the issues that concern us most at grassroots level, the issues that provide barriers to a genuinely inclusive, equal and engaged society.

Northern Ireland has changed beyond all recognition over the last dozen or so years but the need for social change in its most meaningful sense is arguably more acute and relevant now than at any time in recent memory. Social change is a driving principle behind community and voluntary activity, catalysing local effort in response to need and inequality - but this cannot be an effort that exists merely to plug service gaps. Community and voluntary activity is as much about articulation and expression, about using our proximity to ground level to inform the agenda, initiate debate and ultimately generate public policy.

The new NI Assembly and the Executive is underpinned by structures and pathways that potentially make it more accountable and workable than any governance the region has ever had. For this potential to be realised, we in the community sector need to familiarise ourselves with the mechanics of the Assembly, to get to grips with how to work through our MLAs and make sure that they truly do work for us.

The event below, one of a series across NI, is one step towards this:

**"Get To know The Assembly"**  
**10.15-12.30, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 07**  
St. Columb's Park House, Limavady Road, Derry  
**Guest Speaker:**  
**Joe Reynolds, Deputy Clerk, NI Assembly**  
(Supported by  
Derry City Council, Community Relations Office)

Interest is expected to be high and, as numbers are limited, you are advised to register early.

**Telephone Mary Harkin on: (028) 7127 9090 or  
email: [info@nwcn.org](mailto:info@nwcn.org)**

(see also, Regional Conference, 14 Sep 07 – NICVA, Belfast p.4)

In this edition: Modernisation Capital Fund Details; Skills Development in the C&V Sector; Migrant Workers - Training Workshop; EGSA Essential Skills Support; CFNI - Bill of Rights Grants: Final Call; Derry LSP - Call for Applications/Proposals; Regional Conference - Lobbying the NI Assembly; Derry Ciuty Council Grant Aid - - Community Information Sessions; Human Rights Education Program; Cresco Trust/Policy Innovation Unit: Conference - Reseachr & Policy Formation; African & Caribbean Associatio of Foyle; Community Relations Training; World Mental Health Day - Small Grants Application; PAC Courses; TalkTalk Innovation Awards 07; Leargas - Youth In Action Program; AONTAS - Learning Stars; FE Developments; WAVE - Art Therapy

# Modernisation Fund: £15m Capital Programme

**\*\*\* Deadline: 4pm, 19 October  
2007 \*\*\***

The second round (Capital Programme) of the Modernisation Fund is now open.

The overall aim of the Modernisation Fund is to help community and voluntary sector organisations to meet the challenge of sustainability. Of the overall £18m Fund, £2m was allocated in the first round of applications (as Revenue); £15m has been allocated to capital projects - how the remaining £1m will be distributed has yet to be finalised.

The **Capital Programme** will encourage collaboration and resource sharing among community and voluntary organisations through the development of **physical** infrastructure.

To be eligible for funding, organisations must demonstrate that their proposal delivers at least 2 of the outcomes described below.

- *Partnership and collaboration*
- *Income generation and/or cost reduction*
- *Improving access to services*
- *Enhanced capacity to deliver services*
- *Tackling obstacles to good relations within and/or between communities*
- *Delivery of services and facilities in support of disadvantaged children young people (0-24 years)*

There are three schemes within the capital programme which are intended to meet differing needs and the outcomes and priorities outlined above will vary from scheme to scheme.

These schemes are:

**An Infrastructure Pilot Scheme** – budget £9m, providing £300k - £1.5m capital grants for the development of a small number of relatively major infrastructure projects - models for the development and modernisation of the Sector.

**Community Facilities Improvement Scheme** – budget £3m, providing £100k – £300k capital grants. To allow charitable bodies, voluntary or community organisations and social economy enterprises to modernise and improve community facilities to allow better service delivery including better access to services.

**A Small Capital Grants Scheme** – budget £3m, providing £20k - £100k capital grants. To allow charitable bodies, voluntary or community organisations and social economy enterprises to undertake minor works or purchase assets to improve their ability to deliver a service to the community.

Guidance notes, applications forms and further information/contacts are available at:

[www.dsdni.gov.uk](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk)

#### **Further enquiries:**

02890 829440 / 02890 829405

[colette.mccluskey@dsdni.gov.uk](mailto:colette.mccluskey@dsdni.gov.uk)

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**The opportunity as well as challenge of this Capital Fund is in how open and non-prescriptive it currently appears. This will lead of course to a very competitive funding environment. There will also be external handling of applications (i.e. non-DSD) so be watchful for prompt refinement of criteria on the pretext of whittling down the number of applications. The Network is committed to keeping an eye on the outworking of this fund – please do not hesitate to get in touch with any queries.**

**This a very tight deadline – stay prepared.**

## **A Chance To Shape The Development Of The Community & Voluntary Sector Workforce**

Research into skills needs in the community and voluntary sector has been carried out by a partnership grouping including NICVA, Skills for Justice, Skills for Health, SkillsActive, Skills for Care and Development, Skillsmart Retail, Asset Skills, Lantra, Lifelong Learning UK, and Creative and Cultural Skills.

The research was funded by the Department of Employment and Learning and will enable the skills needs and workforce development issues of community and voluntary organisations to be analysed. It also provides a breakdown of occupations and skills needs by Sector Skills Council (SSC).

This new research raises important issues which can help to develop the sector's workforce for the future. You are invited to inform a shared action plan offering new solutions and building on the skills identified in the research.

One of these Consultation events will be held on: 29 August 2007 (9.45am to 3.30pm) - St Columb's Park House, 4 Limavady Road, Derry

If you are interested in attending, please contact Leanne Reilly at Skills for Justice on 028 9025 8028 or email: [leanne.reilly@skillsforjustice.com](mailto:leanne.reilly@skillsforjustice.com).

## EMPLOYING MIGRANT WORKERS

This workshop on developing a strategy for the promotion of race equality has been organised by the Equality Commission. The training takes place at NICVA on 21 September 2007 from 10.00am to 12.30pm.

At the workshop participants will:

- Become aware of the responsibilities placed on employers under the Race Relations (NI) Order 1997;
- Consider recommended best practice in relation to key areas such as recruitment and selection, communication and language, the working environment and race equality monitoring;
- Examine an implementation plan outlining the main steps to consider when developing a race equality employment strategy.

There is no charge for this workshop. To book a place, please contact Margaret Thompson at [margaret.thompson@nicva.org](mailto:margaret.thompson@nicva.org) or call 028 9087 7777.

## Essential Skills Signposter Training Sessions

EGSA is currently offering a number of FREE Essential Skills Signposter Training sessions to organisations. The training will:

- Improve awareness of Essential Skills needs of employees or service users and the benefits of improving Essential Skills
- Train staff to identify, support and motivate people to address their Essential Skills needs
- Provide access to information on Essential Skills provision and support across N Ireland

Sessions are offered in a range of formats e.g. the session could be on how to signpost people to appropriate learning and support or can focus on how best to ensure that information leaflets produced by organisations are accessible to adults who may lack confidence in reading. Training is normally delivered on your own premises.

For further information or to book a session, contact Ann Osborne on **Telephone:** 028 9024 4274, **Email:** [ann.osborne@egsa.org.uk](mailto:ann.osborne@egsa.org.uk)

For more information visit: [www.connect2learn.org.uk/Content.aspx?nSectionId=813&nSubSectionId=955&nContentId=1496](http://www.connect2learn.org.uk/Content.aspx?nSectionId=813&nSubSectionId=955&nContentId=1496)

## Community Foundation for Northern Ireland Small Grants Programme - LAST CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Small Grants of up to £10,000 are still available for local community groups to get involved in issues and debates around what should be covered in a Bill of Rights.

- Is the community group you work with interested in finding out more about its rights?
- Are people in your community not getting proper access to services?
- Are they struggling to deal with planning issues?
- Is there inequality in your community?
- Can people in your community hold statutory bodies to account?
- Do you know your rights and entitlements?

**Closing date for the last round of funding is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007 for projects to take place between October and December**

There is no application form. Guidelines for applying are on their website: [www.communityfoundationni.org](http://www.communityfoundationni.org) or **Telephone:** 028 90 24 5927 or 028 7137 1547

Small grants (minimum £1,000, maximum £10,000) are available to fund local community groups to run projects that will contribute to the development of the Bill of Rights and leave a lasting local legacy.

Your project must:

- Animate interest within your local community about the Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland
- Leave a local legacy (skills, knowledge, experience) that will contribute to the Bill of Rights.

For example, Grants can be used to:

- Run a lobby or campaign in your community to highlight local needs
- Organise an event in your community to promote and raise awareness of the Bill of Rights
- Produce information for your local community on what a Bill of Rights is
- Get some training and learn more about the Bill of Rights
- Visit other community groups already working on rights issues
- Attend or organise conferences and seminars.

## 1. Call For Project Applications Under Education & Labour Market Engagement Programme

The Local Strategy Partnership for the Derry City Council Area (DLSP) is pleased to announce a call for the delivery of projects under the theme of Education and Labour Market Engagement in the Derry City Council Area. All proposals for funding should address one of the following priorities:

- Priority 1: Skilled Labour Coming On-Stream
- Priority 2: Re-engagement for the Non-employed

Further details are available by requesting an 'Education & Labour Market Engagement Pack'. The application process involves the completion of EU Application Form Parts A & B.

Closing date for receipt of full application for this programme is **4pm, Wed 12 September 07.**

## 2. Call For Project Proposals For Use Of 2nd-hand Call Centre Equipment

Derry LSP has had returned call centre equipment from a former social economy call centre funded under the EU PEACE II Programme. It is now seeking to transfer these assets **in their entirety** to a viable voluntary/community project. Further details are available by requesting a "Call Centre Equipment Pack".

**Closing date for receipt of project proposals is 4.00pm, Friday 7 September 2007.**

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For an application pack for either of the above opportunities, contact the Derry LSP at:  
Local Strategy Partnership for the Derry City Council Area:  
98 Strand Road,  
Derry~Londonderry~Doire, BT48 7NN

Tel/Fax: 028 7130 8466/8405

E-mail: [paul.mcphillips@derrycity.gov.uk](mailto:paul.mcphillips@derrycity.gov.uk)

Website: [www.lspderrycitycouncilarea.org.uk](http://www.lspderrycitycouncilarea.org.uk)

## Regional Conference: Policy, lobbying and the NI Assembly 14 September 2007, NICVA

An important conference that will help community groups not only assess how the Assembly is shaping up but also how they can, through organising themselves more effectively, influence its business for community benefit.

### Conference schedule:

- 9.30** • Welcome and background - Frances McCandless, NICVA
- 9.45** • What's happened in the first four months of the Assembly
- 10.15** • Essential voice of civil society or whingeing do-gooders? What role can the community and voluntary sector really play in the NI Assembly? (Gregory Campbell MLA, Chairperson DSD Committee)
- 10.45** • Questions and discussion
- 11.15** • Workshop Session One
- **Workshop A** — Building relations with MLAs: what every voluntary and community organisation needs to know (Pam Tilson, NICIE)
- **Workshop B** — Telling your DEL from your AME — how government departments get and spend money (Gary Fair, DFP)
- **Workshop C** — proving your work creates healthy communities (Barbary Cook, Community Development and Health Network)
- **Workshop D** — Using research to inform evidence based policy (Leeann Brady, NICVA)
- 12.30** • Lunch
- 1.15** • Does policy work matter and how can the voluntary and community sector organise itself to make an impact? (Freda Donaghue, Centre for Non-Profit Research, Trinity College Dublin)
- 1.45** • Questions
- 2.00** • Workshop Session Two (morning session repeated)
- 3.15** • Where to now? Launch of Voluntary and Community Sector Policy and Advocacy Forum (Frances McCandless)
- 4.00** • Close

Conference is free for full NICVA members (2 places per organisation only). Extra member delegate rate £30 pp, non-members £50 pp - price includes lunch.

Download a booking form via the link below and return to Cathy Breslin at NICVA by 5<sup>th</sup> September 07:  
<http://www.communityni.org/uploads/docs/PolicyLobbyingAssemblybookingE.pdf>

**Derry City Council  
Main Grant Aid  
2008 – 09**

**Community Information Sessions**

Derry City Council has confirmed a series of Community Information Sessions for potential applicants to its upcoming Main Grant Aid Programme for 2008/09.

This programme funding is aimed at groups in the local Community and Voluntary Sector and offers up to £5000 for projects which benefit people in Derry City Council Area.

Groups will have up to Friday 12 October 2007 to submit a completed application form (to be made available via the council website – [www.derrycity.gov.uk](http://www.derrycity.gov.uk)), but to assist them understand the process, Council Officers will be available at two locations in the city on Tuesday 18 September and Tuesday 25 September 2007:

- *Tuesday 18 September, 2:30 – 4pm  
The Junction, Bishop Street,  
Derry~Londonderry*
- *Tuesday 25 September, 10:30 – 12 noon  
St Columb's Park House, Limavady  
Road, Derry~Londonderry*

**North-West Conference:** 'Exploring the Relationship Between Research and Policy Making'

*Cresco Trust & Policy Innovation Unit*

**Organisers:** The Cresco Trust in association with the Policy Innovation Unit (Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, Northern Ireland)

**Venue:** Best Western White Horse Hotel, Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

**Date:** 19 September 2007 (09.30 - 16.00)

**Registration:** It is essential that you register your interest in attending this event with Dr. Annette Begley on tel: 028 71269400 or email, [annette@crescotrust.com](mailto:annette@crescotrust.com). We will then be in touch with you in due course to confirm your reservation. There is no fee for attending this event.

**Human Rights  
Education Programme Autumn 2007**

**Course 1: An Introduction to Human Rights**

This training course is back by popular demand. The aim of the course is to increase awareness of what human rights are and how they work, especially in relation to the Human Rights Act 1998.

It consists of a half-day workshop taking place in Belfast and the North-West. These workshops are at an introductory level and are intended for staff and volunteers in the community and voluntary sectors. No legal knowledge on human rights is needed.

The workshop will build on participants' experience and explore:

- what rights are
- what is in the Human Rights Act 1998
- how rights work when they are in conflict and
- how to deepen your knowledge of human rights.

**North-West Date and Venue:**

9.30am (prompt) to 2.00pm - Friday 14 September 07

Verbal Arts Centre, Derry/Londonderry

*Lunch provided.*

**Course 2: Planning and Leading a Human Rights Workshop**

This is an introductory course intended for experienced trainers and educators who would like to learn more about human rights education and how to deliver workshops in the field.

Among other resources, participants will work with a new training manual produced by the Commission.

The objectives of the day are:

- to introduce international human rights education standards and consider what they mean in practice
- to identify good practice in the delivery of human rights education.

**North West Date and Venue:**

9.30am (prompt) to 4.00pm - Monday 1 October 07

The Junction, 8 Bishop Street, Derry/Londonderry

*Lunch Provided.*

***Please return the registration form (available via contact below) no later than one week in advance of the course you wish to attend. Although there is no cost, spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come/first served basis.***

Contact: Louise Furber, NIHRIC

Tel: (028) 9024 3987, Textphone: 1028) 9024 9066

Email: [louise.furber@nihrc.org](mailto:louise.furber@nihrc.org)

Web: [www.nihrc.org](http://www.nihrc.org)

**African and Caribbean Association of Foyle**

The new website for African and Caribbean Association of Foyle (ACAF) <http://www.acafni.org/> or <http://www.acafni.net/> is now live.



The logo design of the butterfly represents migration (a butterfly family famous for long distant migration). The two sides of the butterfly are the two sides of the City of Derry. The two beautiful sides. The bridge is the middle part of the butterfly, unity! The African and Caribbean population in Northern Ireland is growing by the day. Members of the community are here to contribute their part like the migrating butterfly in bringing about positive change. Look out for the announcements of the UMOJA FESTIVAL 21st and 22nd of September 2007 on the website.

## Community Relations Accredited Training Programme Free Places on a 5 day training course.



DERRY CITY COUNCIL

The training is organised by the Northern Forum of CRO's. There are thirty places in total but these are divided across the 6 participating council areas so in reality there are only approximately 5 places available for the Derry City Council area. Where there is over-demand for available places, priority will be given to those with least previous facilitation / CR experience, working full time for community development organisations. Date order of receipt of applications may also be used if necessary. The training has two sections plus a practical project day:

1. 'Head On' Section: Facilitation Skills 3 day OCN accredited training. This will be held in Limavady.
2. 'Hands On' Section: Two field trip days to explore Community Relations issues and topics in different local contexts. The first day will be in the Derry City Council area and the second day in Coleraine/Ballymoney/Moyle council areas.

If you wish to apply for the training you must be committed to attending 9am - 5.30pm on all of the following dates: Thursday 13th Sept; Thursday 20th Sept; Thursday 27th Sept; Thursday 4th Oct; Wednesday 24th Oct.

If you have any queries please contact Sue Divin or Laura Hamilton on 71345160. If you miss the application closing date (22nd August) please phone to see whether the places are already filled or if there may still be available places.

## MENTAL HEALTH DAY SEEDING GRANTS SCHEME Small Grants Application

*'World Mental Health Day' - 10 October 2007*

The Health Promotion Department wishes to announce that following the success of last year's World Mental Health Day seeding grants scheme, they are considering repeating it again this year and would like to invite groups within the Western Health and Social Care Trust area to apply. There is a limited number of small grants of up to **£500** to assist you to stage Mental Health Promotion activities on World Mental Health Day.

Mental Health Promotion encompasses a range of activities that maximise the mental health and well being of individuals and communities across the Board area, eg. events, celebrations, seminars, forums, media campaigns, creative art displays and

much more. The scope of activities is only limited by the imagination and commitment of your local organising committee.

This year's theme 'Minding Your Head' should contribute and support the current regional mental health promotion campaign. They will look favourably on small grant applications from organisations who want to conduct promotion activities which involve or are designed to promote mental health in vulnerable or hard to reach groups.

Application forms to be returned before **8 September 2007** to:

Marie Dunne, Health Promotion Officer for Mental Health, Health Promotion Department, Maple Villa, Gransha Park, L'Derry, BT47 6WJ, **Telephone:** 028 7186 5127, **E-Mail:** [mdunne@westcare.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:mdunne@westcare.n-i.nhs.uk), **Website:** [www.mentalhealthwest.com](http://www.mentalhealthwest.com)

Further information on the Regional Mental Health Promotion Campaign at: [www.mindingyourhead.info](http://www.mindingyourhead.info)

## Parents' Advice Centre Courses and Workshops

The Centre will be running a series of courses and workshops for parents starting in September 07. This includes Anger Management (Belfast), Parenting Apart (Dungannon), Managing Children's Challenging Behaviour (Belfast), Handling Teenagers (Derry) and Volunteer Preparation for the centre helpline (Derry, Dungannon, Belfast and Ballymena). For further information, contact Andrea Kerns on **Telephone:** 028 9031 0891 or **Email:** [andrea@pachelp.org](mailto:andrea@pachelp.org)

## TalkTalk: Innovation in the Community Awards 2007

Would you like £2,000 to spend on PCs, hardware, software or technical expertise to start up or develop an Internet project? The new TalkTalk Innovation in the Community Awards are offering 30 grants of £2,000 to winning charities and community groups throughout the UK to fund Internet-related projects. A year's free subscription to TalkTalk broadband is also included in the award.

The deadline for applications is 28 September 2007 and winners will be notified in early October. The awards will be presented at a ceremony in November. For more information please visit: [www.talktalk.co.uk/innovation](http://www.talktalk.co.uk/innovation)



Leargas would like to promote a major development in partner finding within the EU Youth in Action Programme. Youth Networks <http://www.youthnetworks.eu> contains details for over **1200** organisations and is updated on a daily basis.

Primarily a European Voluntary Service resource, this site also has facilities for organisations involved in youth projects to search for partners and add profiles. It is necessary to register for this free service in order to browse and add information.

Your organisation profile will then automatically become part of an Ireland only network through which EU Youth in Action programme documents are available.

Léargas encourages all Irish organisations to visit this informative website and register

Here are just some of the features available to members of this site:

- Search for Youth project(s) partners.
- Search for (EVS) vacancies
- Apply online for (EVS) projects
- Participate in online brainstorming
- Find out about seminars and trainings
- Browse smaller internal networks, such as the Ireland-only network

**For more information on this and on Leargas itself, visit [www.leargas.ie](http://www.leargas.ie)**



**National  
Association  
of Adult  
Education**

## Nominate Your Learning Stars

AONTAS, the National Adult Learning Organisation is inviting nominations for the

government organisations.

The purpose of the learning involved in nominated projects can be personal fulfilment, social change, active citizenship, environmental sustainability, cultural and intercultural awareness and knowledge, skills development, personal development, human rights education, community development, community regeneration, health and well-being, and employment in related fields.

Visit [www.aontas.com/adultlearnersfestival/](http://www.aontas.com/adultlearnersfestival/) to find out more and download a nomination form which should be returned by 19 October 2007.

STAR Awards 2008 which take place on 4 February 2008 as part of the second annual Adult Learners' Festival. Eleven Awards in total will be granted to adult learning projects based within the island of Ireland.

Nominated projects can involve initiatives, resources or group work. Projects may come from adult learning organisations, voluntary and community groups, the private sector, government agencies, statutory bodies and non-

## *For FE's Sake!*

Since August 2007, Northern Ireland's 16 further education (FE) colleges have merged into six new area based 'super' colleges. The six new colleges will continue to be at the heart of local communities, providing education and training to learners throughout Northern Ireland.

The new colleges and their websites are:

**Belfast Metropolitan College - [www.belfastmet.ac.uk](http://www.belfastmet.ac.uk)**

**North West Regional College - [www.nwrc.ac.uk](http://www.nwrc.ac.uk)**

**Northern Regional College - [www.nrc.ac.uk](http://www.nrc.ac.uk)**

**South Eastern Regional College - [www.serc.ac.uk](http://www.serc.ac.uk)**

**South West College - [www.swc.ac.uk](http://www.swc.ac.uk)**

**Southern Regional College - [www.src.ac.uk](http://www.src.ac.uk)**

To find out about courses in your local college text 'college' to 60900, or visit one of the websites above. To find out more about the mergers please contact the Association of Northern Ireland Colleges (ANIC) at [comm@anic.ac.uk](mailto:comm@anic.ac.uk) or the Department for Employment and Learning at [feprogramme@delni.gov.uk](mailto:feprogramme@delni.gov.uk) or visit [www.delni.gov.uk/femerger](http://www.delni.gov.uk/femerger).

