

Network

UPDATE



FOR THE COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN THE NORTH-WEST

"Promoting equal citizenship, justice and equality of opportunity"

May
2008

Disadvantage – tackling or compounding?

In the Derry~Londonderry area over the last fortnight, it would have been difficult to miss the media coverage directed towards the pending loss of well-established services within some of the city's most disadvantaged areas, many that target the most vulnerable in society such as children and older people.

There is a strange mixture of factors that impact on any consideration of this situation, among which remains the enigma that is the Neighbourhood Renewal strategy the intent of which this publication has endorsed in the past.

Whilst it is clear that Neighbourhood Renewal should never have been seen as a strategy to sustain community & voluntary activity, neither was it expected, to quote Mark Durkan "to be the only show in town" yet there is a distinct shortage of billboards touting what else is available.

Neighbourhood Renewal seems unfortunately to have become characterised not by its worthwhile ambition but by its operational difficulties. The Network recognises some of the issues over governance and administrative procedures but remains a firm advocate of de-bureaucratising and simplifying the audit process – this should have been achieved long before now, having been a government commitment through Positive Steps.

It has been disconcerting to observe, via media coverage, the fracture lines that have threatened to appear within and across communities over the next phase of Neighbourhood Renewal when the sticking point remains as it has always been – the absence of genuinely joined-up government, the institutional malaise of departmental silos. As an under pressure department truthfully outlining its inability to continue funding all those it has supported over the last few years, DSD would surely agree that the people of NI elected towards one Assembly, feeding into one Executive and not ten "Executive-lites." The previous Children's Fund and Executive Funds evidenced some recognition and effort towards collective, cross-cutting responsibility in the face of established need but this never looked like being revisited upon the restoration of the institutions.

In terms of maintaining cohesion and unity of purpose, this departmental discreteness is what those of us concerned about vital community-based services should focus on. It is also what the political parties would be better focusing their efforts on, leaving political posturing at the door. The levels of persistent deprivation and paucity of opportunity

in too many of our communities is too important for that. Minister Ritchie says that she will continue to "challenge other Departments to put the alleviation of poverty at the top of their agendas" and referred to the central truth - "the vital need for the entire Executive to embrace the neighbourhood renewal strategy." Yes, please...and quickly!

For now though, we are seeing not joined-up working but soaring stress levels at the coalface as hard-hitting decisions get closer to biting. Even for those who proclaim that this day was always going to come to pass, there are misgivings as to how we got here and what it means, longer-term, for a range of community services (as well as beneficiaries and communities) if the current direction is pursued to its end.

Timing is crucial here, with the Assembly due for recess in a few weeks' time, so it is crucial that three key issues are held onto within any planned lobbying:

Transparency of decision-making - not just now but in future – the level of maturity at community level in terms of understanding difficult decision-making when resources are dwindling should not be under-estimated, but the communication to many groups whose funding is to end in August 2008 has not been deemed as sufficiently explanatory. Even for groups who have been given up until end of March 2009, the signal has been issued that they fit better within the remit of other departments but that seems to be as far as it goes.

Equality of treatment – if the decision-making is not fully understood, then the likelihood of the process being seen as wholly fair is diminished. If details on how decisions were made are not forthcoming, and there is little to indicate they will, then the only satisfactory step is to remove the August 2008 cut-off point and allow all affected groups the "breathing space" to examine alternate sources of funding.

Executive responsibility – all voices, all energies and all creative thinking, within and outwith the corridors of power, must come together to remove all doubt - it is our elected representatives and institutions that bear the responsibility of meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged through collaborative working and decision-making. If they can't buy in to and deliver that, their value becomes less easy to discern.

POSITIVE STEPS

The Government's Response to Investing Together:
Report of the Task Force on Resourcing the
Voluntary and Community Sector

Positive Steps... Compact... What About Impact!



[Positive Steps](#) – a stock phrase or a living document that informs us on how Government will continue to resource the Community & Voluntary sector? Well, in 2005 the correct answer would have been b) but who knows anymore?

The document was devised as a response to "Investing Together" which itself was a comprehensive analysis of where the Community & Voluntary sector was at in Northern Ireland and what was needed from government to retain the valuable and complementary role the sector plays in delivering public services alongside its long-standing role as an advocate for positive social change.

Positive Steps followed, in very welcome fashion, by identifying a number of key initiatives/work items that would underpin the mutually supportive dynamic between community/voluntary activity and government. Among these are:

- Modernisation Fund
- Dormant Accounts
- Community Investment Fund
- ICT Strategy
- Full-Cost Recovery
- Support Services Strategy
- Lead Funder Principle

Admittedly some of these have been progressed to varying degrees but not all and some have barely raised a flicker on the radar. This is why it is hard to fathom why there are now plans to move us past Positive Steps into a newer, more time-appropriate phase of existence.

This is problematic – firstly there is regular and significant conflicting assessment on how much progress has been made on Positive Steps (cf: *NICVA – Positive Steps, Fifth Monitoring Report & DSD – Updating Progress, Government's Report on the Implementation of Positive Steps*). Secondly, in the current climate of efficiencies, cuts, closures and redundancies, one begins to wonder what there will be left for Government to commit to before very long!

This commentary does not propose ad infinitum reference to a 2005 document but it does highlight that, without a clear framework of commitment, based

on mutual and supportive relationships, the Community & Voluntary sector has as yet no sight of what it can expect from central authority over the next couple of years, years we already know are likely to be difficult.

And we must also go a step beyond this and ask two things: who in the North-West has heard of [The Compact](#)?...who in the North-West would recognise the Compact if they saw it? Congratulations to those who can give affirmative responses.

For the benefit of the likely majority, the Compact is a document dating back to 1998 which formalises the Government's relationship to the community & voluntary sector, signed off at the time by Mo Mowlam and Tony Blair. It is described as a jointly-prepared, agreed statement of general principles and the shared values which will govern the further development of the relationship between Government and the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland.

Within the roles set out for both Government and the sector are, respectively:

- To provide for the participation of the voluntary and community sector in the development of public policy, AND
- To advocate and campaign to seek change as a response to need.

Bringing things up to the present day, a revision of the Compact has been submitted to sectoral representatives with not much in the way of editorial change. Therein lies part of the problem: NICVA's own Executive Committee recently elected not to endorse the draft version of the revised Compact. It is apparent that part of this is down to the two stools situation...without developmental commitments through the likes of Positive Steps, or a Compact that is meaningful and genuine, the Community & Voluntary sector has no solid compass with which to orient itself for the future.

Work is progressing on devising a Compact that befits the times we are in but there is, as ever, the need for honest assessment within the sector on how we see our future – service providers, advocates, partners, not one, not two but the triumvirate of all three.

**Department for Social Development
Scrutiny Sub-Committee Meeting, NICVA – 11am, 19th June 2008**

Features elsewhere in this publication will refer to the range of funding pressures under which the Community & Voluntary sector is struggling at present. Outside of party politics, opinions have formed that our elected representatives may not actually be fully aware of the bigger picture – what stands to be lost, how the success of existing strategies may be compromised through the demise of community infrastructures. This event offers one opportunity, before the summer recess, to remove all semblance of uncertainty or ignorance. The meeting will be governed by standard protocols but it is intended to make best use of the location and attendance so that our Assembly members leave with full awareness of the risks being taken in relation to future gaps in service provision and social inclusion.

Registration via: Neil Irwin, tel: (028) 90 877777 or neil.irwin@nicva.org

Preparing for Community Planning

Community & Voluntary Sector Workshop

10.30 – 1.30, 25 June 08

St. Columb's Park House, (NWCN & Community Places)

As part of the Review of Public Administration, it has now been agreed that, from 2011, the twenty-six local councils in Northern Ireland will reconfigure to become eleven. Under current plans, this will see Derry City and Strabane District Councils form one new "super-council." Also in the West/North-West, Omagh and Fermanagh will join, as will Limavady, Coleraine, Ballymoney and Moyle.

Community Planning, as well as the devolution of a range of powers that are at present centralised, will be a key element in the delivery role of these new councils. Community Planning is linked to a clear demand from local communities for joined up working through the planning, co-ordination and improvement of services for their areas.

Consequently, this workshop will:

- look at the background to Community Planning and its potential for local communities;
- describe details of the proposals for giving new local councils here a power of Community Planning;
- outline how it operates in Scotland which is seen

as a model for here;

- identify how community groups can begin to prepare for Community Planning;
- provide details of tried and tested methods of community consultation and engagement;
- provide information on the new structures for Health, Education and the administration of the European Rural Development and Peace III Programmes.

This workshop will be facilitated by Community Places' staff who have many years' experience of supporting local community planning. They also have an in-depth understanding of both how it operates elsewhere and what is currently proposed for our own new local councils.

The workshop will be participative and will include materials on community planning and consultation methods.

**To register for this workshop (25 places), contact the Network on:
Tel: (028) 71 279090 or email: info@nwcn.org**

Cohesion – Sharing - Integration

This is the label being given to the Executive's latest strategy in formation towards a "shared and better future." You would be correct in thinking that we did have a Shared Future strategy until a number of months ago (and a Racial Equality Strategy), that reflected some of the core realities in a Northern Ireland coming out of conflict and still very much in transition. Of course it was not resourced, caused semantic reaction in certain political quarters and was subsequently conspicuous by its absence in the draft Programme for Government signed off earlier this year. No matter, we are now looking at the impishly named CSI which it is hoped will build upon the earlier documents and empirical evidence.

Junior Ministers Jeffrey Donaldson and Gerry Kelly both spoke at a recent conference on the emerging strategy in Lisburn and made positive noises about the need for better dialogue, increased community confidence and more community integration. Worthy indeed but hard-hitting enough?

There is a strengthening viewpoint that, as seen through the PFG and associated documents, the Executive has been somewhat ambitious if not aspirational in terms of how quickly the trousers of peace would be comfortable in the wearing for what is still a divided society. There are ready-made mostly economics-inspired responses to this and they do have

some credence but they do not tell the whole story. Our economy needs fixing but do not tell us our social wellbeing is where it needs to be.

A new and welcome layer has grafted onto Northern-Ireland society through the 21st century phenomenon of inward migration and many observers see the contribution that this will bring in peace-building terms. Linguistically, we can no longer talk about just two communities and if we have so many minority constituencies, does that not mean those of us who have been around these parts for a while are actually part of the same majority? Let us deal with racism surely but in full cognisance of the sectarian faultlines which exist underneath.

Communities across NI will be keeping their eyes peeled on what CSI may evolve into, and whatever additionality it can bring to existing S75 and Good Relations frameworks, so much the better. But how big a sin of omission would it be to under-estimate the sheer scale of work to be done in reducing traditional mistrusts, providing salves to the hurts inflicted over so many years?

By the very fundamental nature of these abiding issues, community & voluntary groups must be supported in playing a key role – not as a temporal measure but as drivers on the long road ahead.

Code of Governance – Launch

The Developing Governance Group, including North-West Community Network, presents the official launch of the Code of Good Governance.

08.45-11.15am, Friday 06 June 2008, NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast

There will be presentations on how to use the Code and the latest on the Charities Bill.

A senior official from DSD will be present to officially launch the Code.

Rural Community Network

Summer School 2008

10th - 12th June 2008

“Whose community development is it anyway?”

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the pressures of community development work?

Have you ever wondered if you are making a difference?

Have you ever taken time to sit down and reflect on your community development work?

The activities planned and themes explored on each day are linked and ideally it would be great if everyone could attend on all three days, however the daily programmes have been designed in such a way that attendance on only one day will still be an extremely valuable experience. If you are a community development worker, community activist or policy maker, then Rural Community Network's Annual Summer School is for you...

For a full booking form visit RCN website www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org and return completed form to ciara@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

AccessNI - Workshop Update

The Network and the North-West Volunteer Centre recently co-hosted a practical workshop to share experience and insights on the early phase of the AccessNI background checking system.

Many assurances were provided, advice given etc. but it was always clear that any new system will throw up issues and questions that cannot be answered immediately.

A record of the Workshop is being used to submit a follow-up paper dealing with such questions. If you work with volunteers and have any queries relating to how AccessNI works, you are encouraged to submit these to the Network for inclusion in the forthcoming papers. Simply email your question with the subject: AccessNI Workshop to neola@nwc.org and every effort will be made to source a satisfactory response in the weeks ahead.

DEL Learner Access and Engagement Pilot

The Department for Employment and Learning's 'Learner Access and Engagement' programme will run for three academic years, commencing in September 2008, and will provide opportunities for non-statutory organisations, (mainly, but not necessarily, voluntary and community bodies) to provide learner support through a contractual arrangement with the FE colleges.

Under these arrangements, a college will award learner support contracts on the basis of competitive tender.

Organisations tendering to deliver this service will be expected to satisfy specified criteria around competence and accountability. Importantly, all bidders will also be required to demonstrate a record of successful engagement at community level, including working with people who have numeracy and literacy skills needs.

Each college will devise specific criteria to meet local needs in terms of geographical areas, student types or by means of educational need. It is possible that each of the six colleges will invite applications for a number of contracts across the geographical area served by the college.

Support to be provided by non-statutory organisations, under standard contracting arrangements, will include:

- engaging 'hard to reach' adults who meet the eligibility criteria
- promoting relevant (i.e. employment related) FE courses
- providing 'on course' support and assistance with study skills
- practical and motivational support and encouragement
- advice and information on College and other external support services
- exit and progression information

Fuel Poverty Seminar

“Towards the development of an Action Plan for the West”

Wednesday 11 June 2008, 9.30 am - 1.00 pm
Alley Arts & Conference Centre, Strabane

The aim of this seminar is to raise awareness of fuel poverty, to highlight research into the impact of fuel poverty on health, to demonstrate best practice in tackling fuel poverty and to enable the development of a shared action plan for the West.

For further information or to receive a booking form contact:

Colette Brolly, Western Health Action Zone

Tel: 028 71 880221

Email: Colette.brolly@westerntrust.hscni.net

Day of Private Reflection

Saturday 21 June 2008 will be the second Day of Private Reflection, when people from Northern Ireland, Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland and further afield are invited to reflect, individually and privately, upon the conflict in and about Northern Ireland and the future.

The Day is intended to acknowledge the deep hurt and pain caused by the conflict, to allow us reflect on our own attitudes, on what more we might have done or might still do, and to make a personal commitment that such loss should never be allowed to happen again.

Find out more at www.dayofreflection.com.

Derry Local Strategy Partnership Board

Community & Voluntary Sector Representation

The Derry LSP Board is constituted to include a Community & Voluntary Sector Pillar of seven representatives collectively covering a range of themes and areas of activity. As part of the original process (2001), a strong equality-focus was adopted in the devising of seven Electoral Colleges and a clear adherence to Section 75 principles in ensuring the best representation possible.

Below are the seven Electoral Colleges with current postholders (and current employer) as well as the *three vacancies*. Having considered the current job of work and the value of retention and continuity, the Network's Executive Committee has endorsed a new, rapid process to select interested individuals to fill these three vacancies, with a term running up to December 2010.

Electoral Colleges

1. Women – Clionagh Boyle, Derry Children's Commission
2. Social Economy & Labour Market – Conal McFeely, Creggan Enterprises/Ráth Mór
3. Area-based Regeneration - Vacant
4. Area-based Regeneration – Vacant
5. Section 75 – Children/Young People/Older People – Willie Lamrock, Londonderry YMCA
6. Section 75 – Community Relations/Ex-Prisoners/Victims of Domestic & Political Violence/Cultural Diversity Groups - Catherine Cooke, Foyle Women's Information Network
7. Section 75 – Ethnic Minorities/People with Disabilities/People of Different Sexual

Orientation/People of Different Racial Groups – Vacant

Two of the above (Clionagh Boyle & Catherine Cooke) have joined the North-West Interim Partnership for the rollout of Peace III Measure 1.1 and their contribution will be vital in setting a solid foundation for the next phase of this measure (beyond October 2008) and in ensuring that community & voluntary representation for this work is identified and supported to maximise the impact of the spend available.

The role of LSP C&V Representatives is changing to some extent but the level of commitment shown, in terms of energy, time and dedication, by current incumbents merits recognition. Not unsurprisingly, the contribution of Community & Voluntary sector representatives, over and above their employment duties, has proven a significant driver in Derry LSP's achievements of the last few years and this role will continue with an increased focus on peace-building activity through Peace III.

The call for interested parties to nominate towards the three vacancies will issue shortly. All those considering nomination should note that the time commitment is significant (≥ 2 working days/month) and that two-way communication with the wider Community & Voluntary sector in the North-West is a core responsibility.

Please contact the Network with any further queries or in relation to the forthcoming Selection process.

Evidence-based Research - Call for North-West Resources

Amid all the current pressures on the sector, particularly around dwindling funding streams, the growing importance of the evidence-base is one that the Community & Voluntary sector needs to fully assimilate in future planning.

It is not breaking news to highlight the steady shift towards outcome-based funding with impact, intended and achieved, the measure of critical importance. And why shouldn't it be thus? Much of our work in this sector is shaped by reaction to inequalities of access and opportunity. The vital task of mapping where gaps and imbalances exist and persist has always been clear, as should be the power of argument when such situations are incontrovertibly evidenced. This is where the depiction of need evolves into the selecting of priorities, and this can lead to tensions.

Competition for future funding will no doubt increase, and while being mindful of "the race to the bottom", we need to understand the realities within which we operate e.g. an economy-focused Executive and an eastern-oriented EU.

The Network is determined to push for an increase in strategic collaboration across the North-West, the

geographic entity that will guide more and more of the decisions that affect us. Decisions on health & social care will take place at LCG level, decisions on urban regeneration and community development will take place at new super-Council level, also to become the engine-room for Community Planning. The need to adopt this new sub-regional perspective is already here and the workplan is forming. Some devolution of powers is guaranteed but there will still be the task of ensuring that regionally or centrally set priorities do not make any decentralisation a fool's errand.

With a possible commissioned exercise to follow, the Network is asking community groups (and those from other sectors) to identify and notify of all existing research-type resources dealing with community provision, gaps and recommendations in the North-West. This could be in the form of evaluations, baselines, focused publications, neighbourhood strategies or other commissioned pieces. It is NWCN's view that amassing the evidence that has already been gathered achieves many goals: the avoidance of duplication, creating potential to share good practice (e.g. on methodologies), developing sharing networks and ultimately informing a shared and vocal expression of the areas's needs and required responses.

The Talk on the Hill

Ministers Announce Consultation On Review Of The Civic Forum

OFMDFM has announced the launch of a public consultation as part of a review of the Civic Forum.

The Civic Forum comprised representatives of ten sectors of civic society, including the business, trade union and voluntary sectors. It was established to act as a consultative mechanism on social, economic and cultural issues but was unable to meet during the suspension of the devolved institutions in 2002. The period of appointment of the original members has now lapsed and the time is ripe for a comprehensive review.

Commenting on the consultation, former First Minister Ian Paisley said: "As the nature of civic society here has changed since the Forum was first established, we believe there is a need to fundamentally review the structure and role of the Forum to ensure that our mechanisms for engaging with civic society are appropriate."

Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness added: "The review will examine the effectiveness and appropriateness of the current structure, operation, composition and membership of the Civic Forum and draw on experiences elsewhere. The review will seek to canvass as wide a spectrum of opinion as possible."

The review will seek the views of individuals or organisations with an interest in how the Civic Forum and civic society might contribute to good government in Northern Ireland.

The review will also take account of other models of civic partnership, both here and elsewhere, and will recommend how any future Forum should operate and interface with government.

You can follow the progress of the review at www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/civic-forum-review

Minister To Review Health And Social Care Infrastructure

An urgent review into capital investment priorities across the health and social care service has been commissioned by Health Minister, Michael McGimpsey.

The review will examine current proposals for infrastructure developments in the medium to long term and will include new builds, equipment and information technology as well as considering existing facilities which require significant refurbishment. It will be taken forward in the context of current policy frameworks, including Developing Better Services, the Primary Care Strategy and the Bamford Review.

The minister said: "Too many of our facilities are dilapidated and in dire need of renewal or major refurbishment. The cost of maintaining these facilities, which have suffered from years of investment neglect, is too high and is, I believe, a waste of our limited resources.

"I have £3.6billion capital to invest in the infrastructure of our health social care and public safety services over the next ten years. This massive investment will be spent on new and re-furnished buildings, modern equipment and technology, and will bring real benefits to both staff and the public. A number of major projects are already in progress. However, even this enormous sum is not enough to address all the capital developments required. We need to urgently review and determine the investment priorities over the next ten years so that we can make best use of the available resources and target them where they will have the maximum impact on delivering high quality services.

"We must become more efficient and effective. Like all other departments, I have to achieve 3% efficiency savings in each of the next three years as part of the comprehensive spending review...proposals should focus on making achievable efficiency savings and not cuts."

The review is scheduled to be complete by September 2008.

New Era For The Public Library Service

Culture Minister, Edwin Poots, has secured Assembly agreement on new arrangements for the delivery of the public library service from 1 April 2009.

The Libraries Bill passed Final Stage in the Assembly. It establishes a new body, the Library Authority, and transfers to it the responsibility for delivering and managing a unified library service for all Northern Ireland.

Mr Poots emphasised the value of the public library service: "The service provided by public libraries has a vital role in today's society. Libraries are a rich resource that provide open access to books and information for knowledge, enlightenment and entertainment.

"Libraries can, and do, help citizens achieve an improved quality of life, and they nurture vibrant communities. A society that puts effort into achieving the best structures for the management and delivery of libraries is one that cares for these values."

As a service of central government accountable to the Executive and the Assembly, the library service under the Library Authority will be well placed to support a range of government priorities, including promoting literacy and lifelong learning and addressing social inclusion. The move to a unified service will also realise efficiencies, £1.2million by 2011, which will go back into frontline services.

The Library Authority will be operational from April 2009, and staff which work in the library service in the Education and Library Boards will transfer to the Library Authority on that date.

The competitions to recruit members of the new Board will begin with that for the Chairperson, to be advertised in June, followed by those for other members of the Board in August or September.

Current Funding Opportunities

(Further information available via Grant-Tracker on communityni.org – full access available at NWCN)

ECOTEC - Lifelong Learning: Grundtvig

The Grundtvig programme is a passport to partnerships and training opportunities for adult education organisations, teachers and learners. The programme is part of the European Commission's new Lifelong Learning Programme and aims to strengthen the European dimension in adult education and lifelong learning across Europe.

Monday 30 June 2008: In-service training

Disability Action NI - Community Access Grants

Disability Action are offering grants towards the costs of improving access to community buildings in Northern Ireland. The maximum total grant payable is £2,000 (including VAT if payable).

Monday 30 June 2008: Annual closing date

Tesco plc - Corporate Social Responsibility

Benefits local projects whose work supports the welfare of children, older people and people with disabilities based in areas where Tesco has stores. Grants range from £1,500 to £5,000.

Monday 30 June 2008: Children's welfare and education

Justice for Women - Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize

The Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize is awarded each year to commemorate the life and work of Emma Humphreys who died, aged 30, in 1998.

Monday 30 June 2008: estimated Annual Closing Date

Heritage Lottery Fund (Northern Ireland) Young Roots

Young Roots is a grant programme they set up to help local youth organisations promote the involvement of young people with the heritage of the United Kingdom.

Monday 30 June 2008: Application Closing Date for current guidelines

Heritage Lottery Fund (NI) - Your Heritage

The Heritage Lottery Fund support a wide range of projects involving the national, regional and local heritage of the United Kingdom.

Monday 30 June 2008: Deadline for current guidelines

Lloyds TSB Foundation for NI - Lloyds TSB Grants

The Foundation allocates its funds in support of the Northern Ireland community, to enable people, primarily those in need, to be active members of society and to improve their quality of life.

Friday 11 July 2008: Quarterly Closing Date

Peace III North-West Cluster Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan

A summary is now available of the proposed implementation arrangements for the North-West Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan which has been submitted to SEUPB under Priority 1.1 of the EU Peace III Programme. Priority 1.1 (Building Positive Relations at the Local Level) is being delivered through local authority led partnership arrangements.

The local authority areas of Strabane District Council Area, Derry City Council Area and Omagh District Council Area have come together to form a NW cluster and their first task was to establish an Interim NW Peace & Reconciliation Partnership (until October 2008) and to formulate a Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan for the NW cluster.

The Action Plan provides a framework through which funding will be secured from Priority 1.1 to challenge attitudes towards sectarianism and racism and to support conflict resolution and mediation at the local community level.

Six strategic priorities have been identified for the North West and a total budget of £5million is being sought under Priority 1.1 to deliver the range of indicative actions that have been identified.

The six Strategic Priorities are:

- 1: Moving towards acceptance of cultural identity and inclusive celebration.
- 2: Influencing young peoples attitudes at an early stage through appropriate media.
- 3: Promoting shared use of our local facilities.
- 4: Assisting Protestant participation, especially in disadvantaged urban and rural areas.
- 5: Promoting the inclusion of ethnic minorities and other marginalised people and acceptance of multiculturalism.
- 6: Addressing the needs of those who have been affected by conflict.

In order to develop the final action plan into an agreed set of programmes the Interim Partnership is now establishing sub-committees whose role will be to oversee the design, implementation and review of Programmes under each of the Strategic Priorities.

Based on the experiences and learning from both the Peace I and Peace II Programmes, the Peace III Programme will continue to maintain a unique participative bottom up approach seeking to support the active role of people, communities and voluntary organisations in decision making which directly affects them.

Derry City Council is acting as the lead partner in the Peace III NW Cluster, should you wish to discuss the action plan please do not hesitate to contact Oonagh McGillion or Rosalind Young, by Tel: 028 71308466 or by email: oonagh.mcgillion@derrycity.gov.uk and rosalind.young@derrycity.gov.uk.

Your Network...Supporting Your Organisation...

The Network wishes to advise of the availability of its resources to Community & Voluntary groups in the North-West, preferential rates for current member groups (see below for Membership Form for 2008-09 or go online to www.nwcn.org).

Available:

- Use of board/training room – optimum group size 8-10, ideal for meetings and events of all kinds, city centre location/neutral environment, access to all amenities (e.g. for catering needs or to welcome visitors unfamiliar to the area); also available for out-of-hours usage by arrangement;
- Resource Library – a regularly updated and catalogued reference resource on matters of relevance to the sector, from Anti-Poverty to Volunteering;
- Community Hotdesk – an Internet-ready PC (with printing/scanning facilities), perfect for staying connected or getting updates while on city-centre business;
- Grant-Tracker – access to the most comprehensive database of funding opportunities available to NI/Ireland-based groups
- LCD & Overhead Projectors – available for hire to enhance your presentation and/or reporting.

Indicative Rates for Board/Training Room Hire:

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
Per Hour (9am – 5.30pm)	from £10	from £15
Per Half-day	from £30	from £45
Per Day	from £60	from £80

Additional charges apply for Flipcharts, pens, notepads, photocopying, faxing, emailing, basic hospitality

NWCN Membership Form 2008-09

To become a member of North-West Community Network for the year 2008/09, 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

Web: www.nwcn.org

Co-ordinator:
Colin Devine

Adminstrator:
Neola Nelis

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
MAY 2008**