

Network UPDATE

FOR THE COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN THE NORTH-WEST



October 2007

Programmed for Government & "Growing The Economy"

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

Last week (25/10/07) saw the release of the NI Executive's Draft Programme for Government for the period 2008-2011. The detail in the proposals, which can be found via the links below, should not provide much by way of surprise as much of the work had already been done by the Preparation for Government Committee in advance of devolution proper.

The Budget document will show consistent proportional allocations with, for example, health continuing to receive not far short of 50% of total spend. It is not, however, uniquely on the breakdown that our interest should be focused. While on the one hand Northern Ireland seems to be generally staying on two feet as it traverses the rough terrain towards a genuinely post-conflict society, the associated reality is that the level of financial support from central coffers will fall and fall fast as the need for disproportionate subvention (in relation to other regions) is no longer seen as quite so necessary.

The Comprehensive Spending Review for 2008-2011 has long been viewed as one of the key tests for local democracy – can we deliver public services with similar per capita investment to elsewhere, with an Executive committed to delivering this over and above politically motivated outcomes?

Both media releases and related political commentary on the PfG iterate that NI needs to develop a stronger economy, one that evolves to exploit its 21st century

assets (such as tourism and knowledge) ceasing to rely on a long-declining manufacturing base or a sympathetically large public sector.

No-one would have issue with efforts to develop prosperity – as long as it is prosperity for all, which means that, no matter how well-meaning any PfG might be to increase the flow of monies around NI, enduring inequalities and widespread levels of deprivation, remarkable in western society, cannot be relegated, indirectly or otherwise.

There had been advance "noises" that the Executive will focus on Economic Development as number one priority, somehow suggesting that this emphasis is not compatible with the social development that was embodied during "Peace" times. Let's be clear, economic is social – to build an economy and enterprise culture without due regard to existing inequalities underneath is an approach that those interested in genuine community development will need to confront. Our work is to ensure that economic development activity is not at the expense of ongoing social regeneration.

To help make sense of the draft Programme for Government, the priorities within it and Budget proposals, currently out for consultation, the Network has teamed up with NICVA to deliver a local event made up of two parts. See below for information – register via Mary Harkin: tel (028) 71 279090 or email: mary@nwc.org.

Draft Programme for Government - Consultation Event St. Columb's Park House, Thursday 6 December 07

- 10.30 – 12.30 Finding Your Way Around The Budget
- 1.30 – 4.00 Information/Consultation on Budget & Programme for Government (attendance at one or both sessions is possible – please indicate on registration)

To view the documents referred to above, follow these links:

Programme for Government - www.communityni.org/uploads/docs/25_10_07_pfg.pdf

Investment Strategy - www.communityni.org/uploads/docs/25_10_07_invest_strat.pdf

Budget - www.communityni.org/uploads/docs/25_10_07_budget.pdf



**PRIORITIES
FOR 2008-2010
What does the
Community &
Voluntary
Sector Think?**

**Review of
Public Administration –
Publication of
Emerging Findings**

**Focus Group
2pm, Tue 27 Nov 07
North-West Community Network**

Over the past five years the Western Investing for Health Partnership has gone out on a series of public consultations in terms of the strategic direction of WIFH and recommendations from these exercises have been incorporated into the existing work plan.

At a recent review meeting Partnership members discussed the impact that the Review of Public Administration will have on IFH and how to move forward in the interim. Following the recent announcement by the Minister for Health, the Partnership has decided to proceed with an action plan to carry over to the 2008/09 and 2009/2010 years. As part of that process, members are keen to hear of any key strategic areas that the community and voluntary sector would be interested in seeing the Partnership develop over the next two years.

The Partnership is due to meet again on 6 December 2007 in a workshop to look at the future strategic direction of IFH. For this reason, the Network is supporting this effort inviting a small group (max. 10) of community representatives to initially receive a presentation on the current position and to then generate suggestions that can be taken forward to the Partnership workshop and worked into the next strategic plan.

This is a key opportunity for the sector – indicate your interest/attendance by contacting Mary on (028) 71 279090 or email: mary@nwc.org.

Observers will know by now that we are in the latter half of the review process to which RPA was subjected shortly after full establishment of the NI Executive.

Led by DOE Minister, Arlene Foster, the ministerial sub-committee was tasked with treating three key aspects of the original proposals: an overall vision for local government, the number of councils that should replace the existing twenty-six, and which responsibilities should be devolved to these new councils.

The interim report is broad-ranging but not definitive. It signals that the RPA, however it evolves, will not be a single reform process that local government will undergo – gradual and culture-changing are likely new by-words. The number of councils is, according to most pundits, likely to be eleven but certainly not seven. Ongoing is the horse-trading/debate over which powers will “disaggregate” to sub-regional level, with capacity to undertake additional powers at council level a key focus.

DOE have organised a number of events to allow for stakeholder response to the “Emerging Findings” publication – for those in the West/North-West, these are:

13 Nov 07 – Radisson Roe, Limavady

15 Nov 07 – Strule Arts Centre, Omagh

Schedule for both events is:

Registration from 5.15pm, discussion 6- 9pm.

The Network invites interested groups to make contact to express interest in attending these events as it may be possible to organise transport to maximise participation. Contact the Network via the usual channels by 6 Nov 07.

Visit www.doeni.gov.uk for full paper.

The Wheel Events Calendar

Members Briefing - Gearing Up.

11 December, 6pm To 7.30pm, Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny

The aim of this early evening session is to enable staff and trustees/directors of member organisations to raise issues of governance, legislation or operations with The Wheel. There will be a short update on charity regulation but mostly time for questions and answers.

Stepping Up

12 December, 9.30am - 4pm, Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny

The Wheel's recent *Solid Foundations – Policy and Good Practice* workshop in Letterkenny combined an introduction to The Wheel's new good practice guide for community and voluntary organisations and an update on charity regulation. The STEPPING UP programme in Letterkenny examines in more detail some of the issues raised at the first workshop and provides some practical opportunities for organisations in the Letterkenny area to identify solutions to these issues.

For more information on these events and details on registration, visit www.wheel.ie or Telephone: 01 454 8727 or Email: events@wheel.ie

Irish Fundraising Handbook - 6th Edition

The Irish Fundraising Handbook is a key source of information on funding in Ireland. Grants, awards and other supports for voluntary, non-profit and social organisations is now available in this 6th edition.

- Key information on 700 sources of funding and support – public and private
- Guidance on fundraising practice, charity regulation, tax exemptions and much more
- An indispensable resource for voluntary and non-profit groups.

For further information:

Email: fh6@create-ireland.ie

Telephone: 01-4736600

Download an order form from:

Website: www.create-ireland.ie

This is mainly geared towards VCS organisations based in the Republic of Ireland but it does contain some initiatives open to NI organisations and / or joint initiative funding.

Is a Charity Commission for Northern Ireland One Step Closer?

A new Charity Commission for Northern Ireland could be just a little closer. The Department for Social Development intended for the Northern Ireland Charities Bill to be considered by a meeting of the Executive at the end of September. This should mean that there will hopefully be a timetable for the implementation of the new charities legislation in early autumn.

The Charities (NI) Order 2007 was laid before Westminster last January but did not proceed because of the restoration of the Assembly on 8 May 2007.

Traveller Focus Week 3rd -7th December 2007

The Equality Commission for NI, in partnership with An Múnia Tober Travellers Centre, is organising a Traveller Focus Week from 3rd of December to 7th December 2007 for the first time in NI. Some of the aims of the week are to: raise awareness of the Traveller community in NI, inform about the role and responsibility of the Equality Commission, celebrate and reinforce the validity of the Traveller Community, and to progress and develop partnerships to support the capacity building of the Traveller Community.

For more information or to see how you can get involved contact Derek Hanway, An Múnia Tober, on 028 9043 8265.

Mapping Youth Theatre Anyone Involved In Youth Theatre Drama Invited To Get Involved



Are you involved in theatre and drama for young people? Perhaps you are a group, school or organisation that provides activities for young people in theatre and drama?

The Ulster Association of Youth Drama's Mapping Youth Theatre project will visit a venue near you during November and invites anyone involved in youth theatre and drama, to attend and be included in their map.

UAYD is the lead organisation working in Northern Ireland to support, promote, develop and advocate for the youth theatre and drama sector. The Mapping Youth Theatre project is being organised province-wide, not only to map where groups are, but to find out more about the resources and infrastructure available to groups, the challenges they face and ultimately to start the process of setting up a Youth Theatre Forum to enable the sector to communicate its needs and develop its own voice.

Sessions will take place at 6.30pm in:

- Market Place Theatre, Armagh - 6th November
- Waterfront Hall, Belfast (Green Room) - 27th November
- Verbal Arts Centre, Derry/Londonderry - 28th November
- Braid Arts Centre, Ballymena - 29th November
- Enniskillen – details to be confirmed (contact as below for further information).

UAYD needs to know about your youth theatre, so contact them now on **Telephone:** 028 9250 9520 or **Email:** uayd@ukonline.co.uk.

If you are interested but unable to attend, then get in touch, register your details and find out more about UAYD's future activities, including details on the DramaFest youth theatre celebrations taking place in Ballymena, Lisburn and Newtownards early next year.

ACTIVE AGEING FUND



The Turkington Fund is being established in recognition and celebration of the contribution of older people to our society. It aims to offer funding for locally based community projects that are run by, and for, older people.

The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland's new grant programme will support projects encouraging active ageing. Grants will range between £200 and £3,000 and the fund will allocate £60,000 each year in small grants.

What the Fund will support:

- While not exclusive, the Fund welcomes applications that address:
- The promotion of interaction between older people and other sections of the community
- Activities to address shared concerns amongst groups of older people

- Activities that focus on the positive contribution of older people within the community
- Projects that enhance the active participation of older people in decision-making and policy influence
- Encouragement of older people to engage with a range of social, educational, health and cultural activities

As these are guidelines only, please contact the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland if you wish to discuss any idea in more detail.

Groups wishing to make an application to the fund can download an application form and fund guidelines at <http://digbig.com/4trfq> or contact Sharon Killen at the Community Foundation on 028 9024 5927.

“In My Own Words”

A Conference to look at Supporting and promoting the linguistic diversity of young children in an increasingly Multilingual Society

6– 7 December 2007. Jackson's Hotel, Ballybofev. Co Donegal, Ireland

The growing emphasis on language diversity places additional demands on children's services in the support they offer to children. Whilst knowing more than one language is generally considered beneficial, if proficiency is in a language other than the one of instruction, it can prove a challenge both to the child and the educator. This conference will question whether services for young children are geared up to cope with the demands of a multilingual society and are able to best support the multilingual children this produces.

Key themes include:

- *Advocating for children's linguistic rights*
- *Discussing the role of language in educating for peace*
- *Models for promoting early bilingual experiences*
- *Supporting identity, diversity and language in the early years*
- *Creating user-friendly language learning environments*
- *Supporting indigenous and minority languages in increasingly multilingual societies.*

This conference will focus on how services for children can support and nurture linguistic diversity and embrace its many positive influences.

As an example, County Donegal, in the northwest of Ireland has a unique linguistic heritage. In the north and west of the region is a thriving Gaeltacht area, where Gaelic is spoken as a first language. In the east of the County and along the border there is a tradition of Ulster Scots spoken. This conference is an opportunity to discuss and celebrate this diversity in a local, regional and global context.

Who should attend?

All those working with children and their families who speak more than one language or whose first language is not English. The event will be of particular relevance to those working in education, social work and health services, local government education officials, teachers and head teachers, classroom assistants, early years practitioners as well as those that work with programmes that advocate for diversity and peace, specialist teachers, EAL teachers and anyone with an interest in multilingual acquisition skills.

For further information or to book a place, contact: Donegal County Childcare Committee, Glenview Business Park, Ballybofev, Co Donegal, Ireland

Telephone: +353 (0) 7491 32416

Email: info@donegalchildcare.com

OR

Telephone: +353 (0)7491 32416

Email: angelamcginty@donegalcountychildcare.com

NI European Social Fund Call for Applications



Applications are being sought for European Social Funding under Priority 1 of the new Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2007-13.

There will be £45.5million of funding available under the first call of the NI European Social Fund.

The Minister for Employment and Learning Sir Reg Empey has announced that applications are sought in respect of projects to help people into sustainable employment and improve the employability of those disadvantaged in the labour market.

The Minister has encouraged organisations in Northern Ireland to apply for the latest round of European Social Funding (ESF). Welcoming the package for projects the Minister said:

"The Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme will help make progress towards increasing the overall employment rate and reducing local economic inactivity by extending employment opportunities, in particular for those groups at a disadvantage in the labour market."

This represents the 65% that will be made available through the Programme and a sum of £45.5 million. The remaining 35% match funding will have to be independently secured by the successful organisations. This would be the first of two calls made by the Department for applications under the new

Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme. Applications will be invited from any legally formed relevant public, private, voluntary or community sector organisation.

Highlighting the importance of the application process and the time frame for submitting proposals, the Minister said:

"My Department wants to ensure that the new Northern Ireland ESF Programme is rolled out in April 2008. The invitation to submit applications is being made now so that organisations have plenty of time to prepare their proposals. It is essential that all applicants bear in mind that this is a competition and only those proposals that can deliver the Programme's objectives and targets will be selected for funding."

Application forms and information are available in either paper or electronic format and are available at: www.eugrants.org.

Those without internet access should contact the Department for Employment and Learning, European Unit, **Telephone:** 028 9025 7677 for printed versions of documents.

The closing date for applications Friday 23 November 2007 at noon.

Community Planning – we understand planning but where's the community?

With all the uncertainty on the altered structures and responsibilities that will be delivered through the Review of Public Administration, it would be easy to lose sight of the potential that still exists around Community Planning and the scope it promises for genuine community involvement in decisions made in response to local need.

It is understood and claimed that Community Planning is still being considered as a cross-cutting element in the DOE review process but the job of the sector is to keep investing time and energy in considering what Community Planning, NI-style, could look like.

To retain the momentum of thought and purpose that was generated in the sector around

Community Planning, regional organisations Community Technical Aid, Rural Community Network and NICVA have put together a half-day seminar to do exactly that – to keep Community Planning on the agenda and help sustain our efforts in pursuing a model that will yield genuine improvements to engagement, participation and quality of service delivery.

Community Planning and the C&V Sector
9 - 1.30, Fri 23 Nov 07, NICVA, Belfast

Contact: Cathy Breslin on (028) 90 877777 or email: cathy.breslin@nicva.org

Funding Support Service Flyer

Strabane & District Community Network has launched a Funding Support Service Flyer which includes services and training available, tips on applying for funding, a focus on funding available at present and associated upcoming deadlines.

To find out more visit: <http://www.strabaneanddistrictcommunitynetwork.co.uk/>



Community Development Learning Initiative invites you to a One-Day Community Conference

'Taking Responsibility Together'

Protecting Our Children From Abuse on the Internet

Joint chairs: Noreen Sweeney, Mark McChrystal

Thursday 6 December 2007

9.15am - 4.45pm (Lunch will be provided)

Calgach Centre, Butcher Street, Derry / Londonderry

Contributors include:

- **Internet Abuse:** Impact and Support - Helena Bracken, Nexus
- **Sex Offenders:** Risk Assessment and Management - William McAuley MBE, Management of Sex Offenders Service
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children:** Eamon McTernan, Western Area Child Protection Committee
- **Policing the Internet:** Insp. Stephen Wilson (PSNI - Regional Child Protection Unit)

To book a place or for further information contact:

Stephanie - **Telephone:** 71377940 **Email:** cdli@btconnect.com. This conference is free of charge but please book early to avoid disappointment.

City Centre Unit Available



City Centre Unit

A unit has become available within the same building as the Network offices. Ground-floor and street-front situated, the unit comprises one open-plan space of approximately 500 sq.ft. Access is through the main entrance of the building, but the unit also has its own front door which opens onto Bishop Street itself.

The unit, and entire building, is equipped for disability access, has oil-fired central heating and shares WC access via communal toilets.

Available! If interested in viewing this unit, which is available for circa £9K p/a (ex VAT), simply call into the building at 23 Bishop Street and ask for Gertrude McCandless.

Northern Ireland Departments Consultation Register

Northern Ireland Departments
Consultation Register

The Northern Ireland Departments Consultation Register, www.consultationni.gov.uk, provides details of consultation exercises which are being carried out by Public Sector Bodies in Northern Ireland.

Queries on individual consultations should be referred to the organisation concerned.

Organisations wishing to include details of any consultations on the site should contact Paul Naylor by **Telephone:** 028 90 523183 or **E-mail:** paul.naylor@ofmdfmi.gov.uk

They are keen to further develop and improve this site and would welcome your comments. If you have any suggestions or comments, good or bad, please **E-mail** these to: paul.naylor@ofmdfmi.gov.uk

Advice NI's Annual Meeting

Advice NI's Annual meeting will take place in the City Hotel Derry on Friday 16th November 2007. The keynote speaker is Bill McCluggage, Director, Delivery & Innovation, DFPNI. There will be workshops on E-Learning, Quality Online, E-Consultation and Case Management.

The Annual meeting will begin with registration at 9.30am and will be followed by a Welcome & Introduction to the rest of the event. There will be a variety of workshops with guest speakers who will cover:

- E-learning
- Quality online
- E-consultation
- Case Management
- The event will be followed by lunch and networking!

Further information is available at **Website:** www.adviceni.net. You can confirm your attendance and choice of workshop [online](#), by **Telephone:** 028 90645919 or **Email:** kathleen@adviceni.net

Anti-Racist Workplace Week - 5-11 November 2007



DERRY CITY COUNCIL

Anti-Racist Workplace Week is a social partner initiative organised by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the Equality Authority in Ireland and involves key social partner organisations North and South.

The partner organisations involved in Anti-Racist Workplace Week seek to stimulate and support workplaces to:

- Be free from discrimination and harassment;
- Be welcoming to Black and minority ethnic (including Traveller and migrant worker) employees and customers / service users;
- Accommodate, make adjustments for and value cultural and linguistic diversity among employees and customers alongside a wider accommodation of diversity including making reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities;

- Take practical steps to achieve full equality in practice;
- Communicate a message promoting greater equality for Black and minority ethnic people within the wider community.

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, together with key social partners, is contributing to developments in this area by developing and implementing practical workplace strategies aimed at accommodating and valuing diversity in Northern Ireland.

For further information contact the Equality Commission **Telephone:** 028 9089 0890 or visit **Website:** www.equalityni.org

Peace III Programme - Consultation on Priority 1.1 Building Positive Relations at the Local Level

The overall objective of the Peace III Programme is to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promote reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region. Peace III will have a continued and renewed emphasis on reconciliation criteria and will specifically focus on reconciling communities and contributing towards a shared society. These strategic objectives are grouped into two Priority areas.

Priority 1 : Reconciling Communities, Budget €140-200m	Priority 2 : Contributing To A Shared Society, Budget €80-130m
1.1 Building Positive Relations at a Local Level	2.1 Creating Shared Public Spaces
1.2 Acknowledging the Past	2.2 Key Institutional Capacities for a Shared Society

Derry Local Strategy Partnership, on behalf of Derry City Council, is hosting a public consultation seminar to identify the local issues, challenges and priorities to be addressed within the overall aim of Priority 1.1 of the Peace III Programme - Building Positive Relations at a Local Level.

This objective aims to challenge attitudes towards sectarianism and racism and to support conflict resolution and mediation at the local community level. The Priority aims to establish meaningful cross-community and cross-border initiatives that will improve trust and tolerance, and reduce levels of sectarianism and racism.

Under Priority 1.1 of the Peace III Programme Local Authorities are acting as lead partners and under Peace III the majority of funds will be made available at the local level through the mechanism of Peace and Reconciliation Action Plans. This seminar is part of a wider consultation process which will formulate a Peace & Reconciliation Action Plans that will be

a strategy for addressing sectarianism and racism in the area to which it relates.

Central to the planning process is to undertake extensive consultation with relevant sectors and other interests which will identify the specific issue(s), challenge(s) or problem(s) to be addressed within the overall aim of Priority 1.1. The priority aim is broadly cast to enable local authorities to consider the context-specific, tightly circumscribed issues, challenges or problems they want to tackle. Your views and contribution are therefore vital to this process.

All interested organisations are invited to attend and the seminar which is being supported by North-West Community Network, will take place on:

Tuesday 13th November 2007 2pm-4pm, The Junction, Bishop Street, Derry~Londonderry

For information and to confirm your attendance please contact:

Paul McPhillips - tel: (028) 71308466, email: paul.mcphillips@derrycity.gov.uk.

National Minimum Wage Increase

An increase in the National Minimum Wage (NMW) has taken effect from 1st October 2007 which means that workers aged 22 and over will be entitled to £5.52 per hour and those workers aged 18-21 will receive £4.60 per hour. In addition, the rate for 16 and 17 year old workers will be increased to £3.40 per hour.

Top Training for Women



Training for Women Network

Training for Women Network Ltd is offering women an opportunity to embark on a programme of study in Executive Management at Level 7 (equivalent to Masters Level) for 12 weeks from 3 December 2007. The ILM Level 7 Award in Executive Management aims to give practising or potential senior managers the critical evaluative skills for their formal development in this role. The qualification does this by developing senior management skills and assisting

participants in gaining the knowledge required at this level.

There are no formal entry requirements, but participants will normally be either practising or aspiring senior managers with the opportunity to meet the assessment demands.

Visit: www.twnonline.com for more information or contact Roisin Barrett, tel: 028 9031 9888.

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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.

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
OCTOBER 2007**