

Network UPDATE



FOR THE COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN THE NORTH-WEST

October
2008

"Promoting equal citizenship, justice and equality of opportunity"

Peace III – Equality in Partnership

Many will have been paying attention to developments around the outworking of *Peace III Priority 1 - Reconciling Communities, Theme 1.1 – Building Positive Relations at the Local Level*. Of the wider Peace III Programme this is one measure that, though comparatively low in finance available, was designed to be accessible to grassroots community groups seeking to sustain crucial peace-building activity in communities where it is most needed.

Unfortunately, the governance arrangements for this element of Peace III have been unnecessarily, and surprisingly to many, complicated by influences and predispositions that risk undermining many years of social partnership working in the Derry City Council area in particular.

At time of writing, it is unclear what the future holds for the unrolling of programmes ready to deliver on the Strategic Priorities for the Peace & Reconciliation Plan. These have been devised and agreed over recent months by an Interim Peace III Partnership involving social partners of the North-West Cluster (namely the council areas of Derry, Strabane & Omagh). The issue and **principle** in this instance deals with the legal status under which the Peace III partnership will operate – Joint Committee or Unincorporated Association.

Under any Joint Committee option, a tier of Social Partners will be brought together to assess and make recommendations on bids for Peace III funding associated with this Measure – but this secondary-level decision will then be subject to ratification by a Councillor-only tier of elected representatives from the three council areas.

At first glance this may not seem in any way controversial but such analysis would ignore several crucial factors:

- social partnership has been working successfully in the Derry City Council area for over twelve years through the Local Strategy Partnership, this having been conducted on a basis of genuine equality and

demonstrating a proven track record throughout previous Peace and other programmes;

- the decisions that have been taken by Omagh and Strabane Councils towards Joint Committee status seem to have been taken on grounds, underpinned by neither legal opinion nor SEUPB, that the Joint Committee structure is the only one permissible or that provides adequate legal protection for elected members;
- the legal framework that certain councils are deferring to is the Local Government (NI) Act of 1972. Analysis of this legislation clarifies that Joint Committee is an option but not the only option – this has been confirmed by SEUPB, who have not ruled out the option of a social partner-based Unincorporated Association.

Derry City Council, as lead partner in the three-council cluster, has already and commendably voted for the Unincorporated Association option, recognising the importance of building upon the firm foundations of social partnership established over many years. Admittedly, neither of the other partner councils can call or reflect upon this depth of experience but this in itself cannot be allowed to become a barrier to improving the quality and style of consensus decision-making upon which this Peace measure will heavily rely.

While this governance issue remains undetermined, you may hear opinion that this wrangle is holding up the release of key funding to groups on the ground. This is misleading – firstly, the amount of money that is waiting to be released is much smaller when compared to previous Peace programmes. Secondly, the real delay sits with those who have not yet grasped the realities of 21st Century democracy. Partnership, whether it be on Peace III, Local Action Groups or, in times to come, Community Planning, is grounded in equality and not a qualified version thereof. Peace III is the last directed intervention of its kind that NI will receive – at least let us ensure that it is handled on sound principles and in the best way possible.

Reaching Communities & PESP – Thank You!

The Network and CDLi would like to thank all those individuals and organisations (including from other sectors) who provided Letters of Support and/or returned questionnaires to support the recent bid to Big Lottery's Reaching Communities programme. We are now awaiting response from BLF's assessment of the proposal and assure you that you will be kept updated as information arrives. Thank you again to all who supported this bid!

Fuel Poverty – Comfort In The Cold

(courtesy of Western Health Action Zone)

As the winter months arrive, fuel costs remain high and the economy continues to shudder and shake, the issue of fuel poverty has become a more pressing concern for many of the most vulnerable in our community. This piece provides useful information on what fuel poverty actually is, who it affects and crucially what practical and tangible support is available, and how we can all raise awareness so that the very real impact of fuel poverty is better managed.

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A household is in fuel poverty if, in order to maintain an acceptable level of temperature throughout the home (21°C in the living room and 18°C in other occupied rooms), it would have to spend more than 10% of its income on all household fuel use (DSD). Fuel poverty is, principally, a function of three distinct features:

- Low household income
- High energy prices; and
- Inefficient home heating and insulation

Fuel Poverty in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland has a very high rate of fuel poverty compared with the rest of the UK. In 2001, 1 in 3 households was classed as suffering from fuel poverty compared to 9% in England and 13% in Scotland in the same period. By 2004, a quarter of all households in NI were known to be in fuel poverty. Figures just released in the 2006 House Condition Survey show that fuel poverty is now 34%, again over 1 in every 3 households classed as enduring fuel poverty.

Fuel Poverty in the Western Board Area

Ending Fuel Poverty; A Strategy for Northern Ireland (2004) indicated that each of the District Councils in the Western Area had levels of household fuel poverty above the Northern Ireland average. New figures for the Western Board for 2006 just released show fuel poverty ranging from 30% in Derry to 40% in Strabane, with Fermanagh, Limavady and Strabane all above the Northern Ireland average.

A number of influencing factors of fuel poverty are highly prevalent in the Western area:

- the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures (2005) highlights that the 5 Districts in the Western Area experienced higher levels of percentage of unemployment (long term unemployed) than the NI average and median gross weekly earnings of £275.90 compared to the NI average of £324.70. Overall this has a negative impact on household income thus increasing the likelihood that the household may suffer from fuel poverty;
- the Western area has had a reliance on solid fuel/E7 heating systems and any conversions which take place either through Government schemes, social housing bodies or locally based schemes must convert to oil;
- figures from the House Condition Survey and locally based research has highlighted that properties in the West also suffer from low levels of home insulation;
- the rurality of the Western Board also means that there may be higher levels of hard to treat properties, traditions of self sufficiency in rural areas lead to reluctance to claim welfare benefits and rural areas

may have limited access to advice/information services.

Households that are particularly vulnerable to fuel poverty are those that contain an elderly person, someone living with a disability or long term illness, or a family with at least one child under 16. Recent statistics also show that homes in rural areas and working families on low income are particularly vulnerable to fuel poverty.

Consequences of Fuel Poverty

Fuel poverty is a major health concern and there is a growing evidence base on the link between fuel poverty and ill health. More specifically the evidence base links the effects of cold, damp and mouldy houses with: respiratory illness; increased blood pressure and risk of heart attacks and strokes; worsening arthritis; increased accidents in the home; social isolation and adverse effects on children's education and nutrition. Although these risks apply to all people, the old, young children and those who are disabled or who have long term illness are especially vulnerable. Some 1,360 elderly people are dying from cold weather related illnesses in Northern Ireland annually.

Help available for those in fuel poverty

There are a number of ways in which those in fuel poverty can be helped including:

- Provision of advice on achieving a warm home.
- Advice on how to budget for fuel and energy payments.
- Benefit Health Checks to ensure people are in receipt of all their benefit entitlements.
- Grants and schemes to make homes more energy efficient.

Western Fuel Poverty Action Plan

Western HAZ is currently leading on the development of a fuel poverty action plan for the West. The aim of this action plan will be to provide a co-ordinated approach to the reduction of fuel poverty throughout the West. They will work with a range of organisations who work with and for vulnerable people to ensure that those who are in fuel poverty are identified and signposted to the various schemes of support and help that are available.

Some of the things planned over the coming months to support people in fuel poverty are:

- Producing a range of promotional material.
- Hosting five affordable warmth workshops
- Providing training for groups and front line staff on energy efficiency measures.
- Liaising with a range of agencies and groups to promote the free phone advice number and referrals to various schemes.
- Piloting 2 warm zone projects
- Develop fuel poverty stamp saving schemes.
- Producing a checklist for front line staff to help them identify people in fuel poverty and sources of support.
- Lobby for additional resources to address fuel poverty in the West.

For further info, contact Colette Brolly, Western HAZ –

Tel: 028 71880221 **or**

Email: colette.brolly@westerntrust.hscni.net

Reviewing the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Community Development Work Consultation Events

Do the current community development standards reflect what you do as a community development worker?

Are you interested in finding out more about the standards?

(visit: www.lluk.org/documents/cdw_nos.pdf)

These events will provide an opportunity to contribute towards how community development work will be defined and practised over the next five years or more. They are part of a series of events taking place in Britain and N Ireland to bring together community development practitioners to share their experience and ideas and collectively discuss and contribute to the revision of the existing National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Community Development Work.

Who the Event Is For:

- Anyone who does, or supports others to do,

Northern Ireland's Charity Commission

The Charities Bill for Northern Ireland has passed through its final stage at the Northern Ireland Assembly and is now awaiting Royal Assent.

It is anticipated that this will be achieved by October 2008 and followed by the establishment of a Charity Commission by the end of the year. The commission can then set about creating a Register of Charities in 2009.

If you are a charity or act on behalf of a charity you may be interested to know that a major conference is planned by Servicing the Legal System Programme (SLS) in Belfast's Waterfront Hall on 19 November 2008 which will inform the legal profession and the charities themselves about the changes.

These will include:

- The definition of a charity including the new list of charitable purposes and the public benefit test;
- The establishment of a Charity Commission for Northern Ireland;
- Lessons to be learnt from the Charity Commission in England and Wales;
- The practicalities facing charitable trustees;
- Advice to be given to clients who are involved with charities.

If you would like more information or to register for the above event then please contact SLS Legal Publications (NI) on 028 9066 7711

community development work or uses a community development approach ie. facilitating communities to collectively take actions for themselves and on their own terms;

- Employers of community development workers;
- Community development workers (paid and unpaid);
- Community development trainers, researchers, fieldworkers, issue-based workers;
- Other workers - in Health, Housing, Regeneration, Planning, Community Relations etc. - who use a Community Development approach in their work.

You are invited to discuss your experiences and contribute your ideas to the review of the National Occupational Standards in Community Development at the following event:

Derry, 12.30 – 3pm - Tuesday 4th November
Room MD012 Magee Campus, University Of Ulster
(Lunch provided)

To reserve a place contact: Rosemary Moreland Tel: 02890365131 or Email: rj.moreland@ulster.ac.uk

Cross Community Study Published

The Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister has published research which examines the extent and impact of cross community contact.

The research was carried out by the University of Ulster and the University of Oxford on behalf of OFMDFM.

The report entitled 'Can Contact Promote Better Relations? Evidence of Mixed and Segregated Areas of Belfast' tracked a number of individuals between 2006 and 2007 to determine if and how cross community contact works.

The key findings to come out of the research were:

- Direct contact with a member of the other community resulted in a reduction in prejudice over time.
- Neighbourhood contact had an impact not only on attitude to the other community, but also towards ethnic minorities in Northern Ireland; positive cross-community contact led to less racial prejudice.
- Indirect contact has a positive effect by changing opinions about accepted and acceptable patterns of cross-community interaction.
- When people viewed members of their community involved in cross-community contact, this led to an increase in their own cross-community contact.
- Indirect contact is especially effective for people who have little experience of direct cross-community contact.
- Indirect contact is more effective when people were in a closer relationship with another member of their community known to have cross-community contact.

Copies of the report are available for download at www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk

Joint Forum Update – October 08

As a member of the Joint Government Community & Voluntary Sector Forum, the Network will update you on matters of regional policy and procedural issues as discussed at this level. Equally, you are invited to submit your ideas on how relationships between the sector and all government departments can be improved through effective partnership-working.

Strategy Development:

Support Service strategy – Consultation papers currently being agreed with senior civil servants and DSD Minister. Still planned for wider consultation in Autumn 2008.

Volunteering Strategy – first draft now completed but no firm timelines for next phase of development.

Advice Services/Centres – this is described as being at an advanced stage and it is hoped that consultation details will issue shortly.

Funding:

With the ongoing pressures around departmental funding, community & voluntary groups are encouraged to direct their attention back to the likes of Trust Funds and European funding initiatives.

There has been a perception that many Trust Funds had diverted their attention away from NI and while this may be true in some cases, just as significant has been comment on the dwindling number of applications from NI to those funds that remain open. Joined with this is the observation that the quality of application that does come from NI groups is not as high as it used to be.

C&V groups are therefore encouraged to re-apply their efforts to sourcing funding from what were previously well-accessed sources – and to ensure that they deliver applications to the highest standard possible.

A *Working Group On The Funding Environment* has also been formed from Joint Forum members and a report will be presented in early 2009 – the remit of this group is in part to collate all available information on departmental and other sources of funding and make this fully accessible to groups finding it harder to access funding from established sources.

Dormant Accounts:

In the current economic climate, there have been fears that banks and other lending institutions would become less likely to engage in the voluntary Dormant Accounts scheme. Though little has been or can be determined in the current shifting environment, there is nothing to suggest that the original projection of £10-20m being made available in NI will change significantly.

DSD Procedural Guidance

Following recent issues raised around working practice, DSD has been engaging with a number of stakeholders and has now issued the following notes on two key issues (DSD-funded projects only):

Leave/Absence – DSD is not the employer of staff, funded organisations are responsible for all matters in connection with employment terms and conditions. Funding is linked to the post and not the person in employment. Any changes in circumstances within an organisation around staff absence must be shared (and

documented) with the Department, and agreement reached on how project commitments/outcomes are to continue to be met during any absence.

Working Hours – DSD post funding is based on NJC or NIPPA pay scales i.e. 37 hours per working week. It has been agreed however that if an employee is contracted to work at least 35 hours/week, this constitutes full-time employment and the full entitlement can be paid. Posts contracted for less than 35 hours per week need to be calculated and reduced on a *pro rata* basis, based on the standard length of f/t working week within the organisation.

Training:

The Joint Forum has also established a sub-group to look at ways in which the relationship between the Community & Voluntary sector and government departments can develop and improve understanding of how the other works. The first event to stem from this work is outlined below, with future events planned for 2009 on: "Best Practice In Policy Development" & "The Challenges of Leadership." Again, suggestions on activities which would help in this regard are welcomed and can be taken forward to the Joint Forum via the Network.

"A View From The Other Side"

12.30-2pm, 17 November 08, NICVA, Belfast
(light lunch available from 12.00pm)

A lunchtime seminar at NICVA, facilitated by the Joint Government / Community & Voluntary Sector Forum will explore the differences between working in the public and community/voluntary sectors through the experiences of two speakers each offering "a view from the other side."

This is the first in a series of training events from the Joint Forum, with the aim of sharing good practice and building stronger relationships between the community and voluntary sector and Northern Ireland departments and their agencies.

The guest speakers at the seminar will be *Ian Walters*, Chief Executive of Action Mental Health, and *Louise Warde-Hunter*, Head of Early Years, Youth and School Finance within the Department of Education. They have both built up considerable experience working in both sectors, and will provide some practical insight into effective partnership working.

Places for this seminar are limited so in order to register or for more information please contact jonny.currie@nicva.org.

Joint Forum Action Plan 2008-09

As well as the actions detailed elsewhere in this piece, the Joint Forum will continue to assess progress made against the commitments outlined in Positive Steps, with regard to updating government commitments in the ongoing context of resourcing the sector. This will be supported by revising and reaffirming the Compact, the high-level framework for the relationship between government and the sector. A key part of this will be securing Executive endorsement for the Compact and cross-departmental support for its tangible enactment.

Derry Local Strategy Partnership Board

Call for Community & Voluntary Sector Pillar Nominations

There are currently three vacancies on the Board of the Derry Local Strategy Partnership. The work of the LSP has evolved throughout its existence, becoming ever more diverse and involving inter-agency working with an increasing number of working partners. Central to the work of the LSP in the next few years will be the secretariat for Peace III – Peace & Reconciliation Plan in the North-West Cluster. There are also ongoing partnerships with agencies such as Ilex on developing the skillsbase of our workforce, existing and emerging.

Below are details of the current Community & Voluntary sector representation on the LSP Board – nominations are now invited for those listed as vacant:

- 1) Women - **Clionagh Boyle (NCH Early Years)**
- 2) Social Economy & Labour Market - **Conal McFeely (Creggan Enterprises Limited)**
- 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**

Previous calls for nominations have not always generated the level of response hoped for. Nonetheless, it is hoped that those who feel they can effectively represent the interests of the wider Community & Voluntary sector at a city level will come forward with nomination.

At present, the emphasis is on having these posts filled as quickly as possible so that the Community & Voluntary sector pillar can maximise its contribution to the work of the LSP and the application of meaningful social partnership.

Successful applicants (*contact the Network for an application pack*) will require to meet the terms of a Job Description for the post of C&V Representative and to sign up to a Code of Conduct and Accountability protocol.

They will also be expected to attend meetings with and submit updates to representative organisations (such as the Network) in meeting their responsibilities as representing the wider sector and not just the interests of the Electoral College for which they have been selected.

N.B. Should insufficient nominations be received in relation to any of the current vacancies, the Network proposes to fill one post to support the relationship between the LSP Board and the wider sector. This would only apply until a suitable nomination was received relevant to the post taken up by the Network.

Guidance on Good Consultation (BERR)

The British Government has published a new Code of Practice on Consultation. This Code is based on the results of a review of Government consultations in 2007 involving many people who regularly respond to Government consultations.

The new Code will apply from November 2008 to all central Government departments' formal, written consultation exercises. Other public sector organisations are invited to sign up to the Code. A list of organisations adopting the Code will be published **in November 08**. Where the new Code refers the reader to supporting guidance, this will also become available by November 08.

To view the new Code, go to www.berr.gov.uk/bre/policy/scrutinising-new-regulations/reviewing-consultation-process/page44083.html

Do You Have ICT Facilities Available For Community Use?

North-West Community Network has over recent months received a number of queries from various organisations and individuals enquiring about the use of ICT facilities in various parts of the North-West. If your group has a technology suite that can be accessed by outside organisations, for whatever purpose, the Network invites you to submit your details, to include,

- Organisation name, address & contact details (inc. email & main contact person)
- Number of (internet-ready) workstations available, any other equipment e.g. digital camera, printing, projector
- Any specialist packages available, for example, SAGE.
- Disability access
- Available car parking
- Rates for room & equipment hire
- Other facilities available, such as refreshments etc.

Please contact neola@nwc.org with all relevant details so that an up-to-date directory can be circulated - giving your organisation some free marketing and potential new income leads.

Future Search for Derry~Londonderry

"Changing Patterns...Changing Outcomes"

Through the Civic Regeneration Forum, NWCN is helping to organise a forthcoming visioning and planning process known as ¹Future Search, building to a high-profile conference in February 2009.

Event details:

Dates: 5, 6, 7 February 2009 (2 overnights)

Location: Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal

Structure: 5 sessions – Past, Present, Future, Common Ground and Action / 100+ participants

This process will draw together all parts of our community towards developing a 10-20 year vision and action plan for the City – socially, culturally, physically and economically.

In the North-West many will have abiding memory of the City Vision process of ten years ago, an experience that many recognised as inclusive and purposeful but that perhaps did not deliver all that it could have on implementation.

Those taking the Future Search process forward (including Derry City Council, Ilex, local politicians and other social partners) are emphatic that this Future Search will not be a "starting from scratch" experience and that implementation based on agreed actions is the essential objective.

To date the Future Search Steering Group has identified a number of Stakeholder groups each of which will have ten named invitees to the conference.

Two of these ²Stakeholder Tables are designated for Young People (x 10) and Citizens (x 10). Importantly this does not mean ten employees of organisations working with young people or with particular interest groups. What it does mean is ten actual young people who collectively can provide the broadest possible perspective of the youth of our city. Similarly, ten further individuals from various areas and interests will be brought together to provide the same level of input from their particular experience and expertise.

The Network has begun to work with partner organisations to ensure that the process surrounding this is as inclusive as possible, bearing in mind the limitations of having only ten places available for each of these tables.

On the page opposite is a Nomination Form that you are asked to circulate widely and as appropriate in your area of activity. This is only the beginning of the process and the support of grassroots organisations in helping people become aware of Future Search is vital.

What is also vital is a robust and transparent

approach to selecting the ten individuals who will eventually participate in the Future Search conference (20 across both tables). This is a role that a number of partner organisations have already committed to, though you are invited to contact the Network if you wish to support this process.

It has also been recognised that support is required for all participants between now and February 2009, to develop group dynamics and in what will not be a typical or familiar environment. NWCN has secured a small amount of funding to provide personal development and groupwork support leading up to the event.

You are therefore encouraged to raise awareness of Future Search and the opportunities to participate and to encourage any potential participants to complete and return the Nomination Form by Wednesday 12 November 08. The Network will then work with partner organisations to devise an equality-based approach to selecting the final groups of ten.

Information on Future Search will begin to circulate more widely in the near future – in the meantime, if you have any queries on the process and who is involved, please contact: Gerard McCleave of Ilex (tel: 02871 269226).

Initial meetings for those interested in participating as part of either the Citizens or Young Persons stakeholder tables will take place before the end of November 08, to be followed by meetings with Future Search leads when they visit the city in the first week of December.

If you feel you can contribute to this process in any way, please do not hesitate to contact the Network. Equally, if you can circulate this information (inc. Nomination Form) to any groups who may not receive Network Update, this would help reach those groups that are hardest to reach, an important dimension in this process.

¹ *Future Search is a unique, worldwide planning process that supports large groups/communities in: developing a common mission; taking responsibility for action; developing commitment to implementation. For further information, visit: www.futuresearch.net*

² *Other Stakeholder Tables include: Local Authorities, Health & Wellbeing, Politicians, Culture/Leisure/Tourism. Those who have already been nominated for some of the places associated with these tables will add to the community perspective that will inform the overall Future Search experience.*

Future Search for Derry~Londonderry

"Changing Patterns...Changing Outcomes"

NOMINATION FORM

Are you from, or living in, Derry~Londonderry or the surrounding area?

Are you willing to participate in a high-profile conference in February 2009 to develop a shared vision and plan for city for the next 10-20 years?

If you would like to be considered as a possible participant in the Future Search Conference for Derry~Londonderry, please complete this Nomination Form and return to the Network by **12 November 2008**.

(This Nomination Form is also available by email, post or at www.nwcn.org.)

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| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | (A) | | OR | (B) | | |
| I am a... (please tick) | Young Person (16-25) <input type="checkbox"/> (or Advocate/Representative) <input type="checkbox"/> | | | Resident/Citizen/Inhabitant <input type="checkbox"/> (or Advocate/Representative) <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| My Age: | 16-25 <input type="checkbox"/> | 26-34 <input type="checkbox"/> | 35-44 <input type="checkbox"/> | 45-54 <input type="checkbox"/> | 55-64 <input type="checkbox"/> | 65+ <input type="checkbox"/> |
| My Gender: | Male <input type="checkbox"/> | | Female <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| My Background: | Protestant <input type="checkbox"/> | | Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> | | Other <input type="checkbox"/> | |

The community I identify with is best described by: (Please tick all that apply)

| Where I live: | My interest OR perspective OR association: |
|---|--|
| Cityside South <input type="checkbox"/> | Disability <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cityside West <input type="checkbox"/> | Ethnic Minority <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cityside North <input type="checkbox"/> | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender <input type="checkbox"/> |
| City - Waterside <input type="checkbox"/> | Travelling Community <input type="checkbox"/> |
| City - Rural <input type="checkbox"/> | Cross-Border <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other <input type="checkbox"/> | Other <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Please specify: | Please specify: |

This is an open framework based on the twenty places available at the Future Search Conference (10 x Young People, 10 x Residents/Citizens/Inhabitants).

Please feel free to nominate under any heading not listed as this is a totally inclusive process which seeks to maximise the participation and contribution of all interests and perspectives.

Due to the limited numbers, an equality-based approach will then be adopted in allocating final Conference places.

Personal Details: (confidential and only for the purpose of Future Search – contact will be made after 12 Nov 08)

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name: _____ | Daytime contact no: _____ |
| Address: _____ | Evening Contact no: _____ |
| (inc. postcode) | Associated with: _____ |
| Email: _____ | (community org. – only if relevant) |

N.B. Please feel free to print, copy and circulate.

NWCN Annual General Meeting

10am, Tuesday 18 November 2008

St. Columb's Park House

All Community & Voluntary groups in the North-West are welcome to attend this year's AGM.

If your organisation is a member of the Network, you are eligible to put forward a motion for discussion and also to stand for election to the incoming Executive Committee 2008/09. If interested in either option but not yet a member, you have until 4th November to sign up. You can use the membership form below or the online version at www.nwcn.org which also contains the Nomination Form for the Executive Committee.

Like many organisations, the Network is subject to funding pressures yet it looks forward to sustaining the support and leadership role it provides to the sector in what will be a crucial couple of years ahead. Over the next three years and beyond, the sector will require to take a number of steps in preparation for Community Planning and the Network will be making this a particular theme in its work.

If planning to attend, it would be desirable if you could inform the Network in advance. If unable to attend, a copy of the Annual Report including Statement of Accounts will be available from the Network after the AGM.

N.B. Nomination Forms must also bear the signature of a lead person within the organisation – this cannot be that of the person nominated.

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.

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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 2008**