

Network UPDATE



FOR THE COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN THE NORTH-WEST

"Promoting equal citizenship, justice and equality of opportunity"

Summer
2009

A Shared Future - Whose Job Is It?

"A Shared Future" has become a well-worn phrase in recent times, significantly inspired by what many thought was going to be an actual and meaningful strategy to be driven forward by the Northern Ireland Executive. Those who cling to hope of this becoming the case might be in some need of a reality check.

Nonetheless, a shared future remains a valid objective - not an aspiration - but it will not come about of its own accord. By definition, working towards a shared future outlines clearly that we have not enjoyed a shared past beyond the experience of the troubles. Social inequalities, in health, education, housing and yes, employment, have not totally disappeared and various sets of statistical data back this up. Economic advantages seem to gravitate, even in this challenging climate, towards the powerful eastern corridor between Belfast and Dublin. Even politically, the North-West, including its western Donegal hinterland, struggles to punch at its own weight never mind making progress on tackling regional disparities several years and administrations in the making.

But of course, we have in the main been living a relatively peaceful existence for quite a few years now - children being born and bred in a post-conflict environment. Devoid of the visual and lived experience of bomb, bullet and bigotry - or have we?

We can take in the news and absorb keenly the business transacted at Stormont, we can glibly discuss the merits of mandatory coalition or the absence of a democratically useful opposition. But is real and necessary social change being delivered by those we put there to deliver exactly that? How much political effort has been put into achieving a shared future?

Many communities have become more polarised than ever in terms of where they live (and socialise); educational reforms to promote equality and

inclusion have been hamstrung not by ideology but by political expediency. Developing ethnic diversity, so welcome in this peace-building era, has been contaminated by generational intolerance. Anti-social behaviour has worsened even as policing has become more visible in areas previously impenetrable.

These are facts, not laments - realities that may not have been totally avoidable but they certainly can be addressed. If we want a genuinely shared future, if we desire a positive shift in how all of our communities work together to move forward, if we believe in our rhetoric of inclusion and equality...do we leave it all to others? To those who devise then walk quickly away from policy, who pontificate on political tickets then abdicate responsibility for what happens on the ground - not the safest of bets.

A shared future will not sail up the Foyle, Roe, Derg, Mourne or any other in a bubble, it needs to be built on sincerity and in search of an atmosphere of tolerance, sensitivity and a strong will not to leave future generations with the legacy of turmoil and under-achievement.

What can we do? We can stop ignoring the language of prejudice upon hearing it, we can promote the language of inclusivity and accommodation. We can stop shaking heads or wringing hands when we hear of incidents of violence or harassment and we can begin asking who is taking responsibility for their actions or those for whom they bear responsibility. We can and we should become more active at a local level in engaging with those who threaten any kind of shared future. We must demand of our political and civic representatives meaningful leadership, actions and deliverable policies that we can feel will impact at the grassroots level.

If we aren't building our own shared future, who can we expect to build it for us?

Derry~Londonderry - Regeneration Update

Significant work has been ongoing over the past year on delivering a meaningful and realistic Masterplan for the regeneration of Derry~Londonderry - at a physical, economic and social level.

Few will argue that this city is in particular need of such dedicated effort and over the years many interventions have occurred leading to a plethora of strategies, plans etc. that read well but have delivered little.

The key difference on this occasion is that "ONE PLAN" has become the main objective, one that binds together all identified needs and outlines the required responses to them. The greatest challenge will be the same as ever - delivery. It has been recognised every step of the way that the chances of real delivery - especially for the most disadvantaged - are much higher with one strong, shared plan, with the support of all sectors and stakeholder groups, a concerted move away from a silo approach to a fully integrated, action-focused project.

For many, the key milestone in the process thus far has been the Futuresearch conference which brought together over 100 people from diverse interests for a three-day conference in Buncrana, Co. Donegal (5-7 Feb 09). The report from this event is still available at the website: www.yourcityyoursay.com, itself launched as a tool to allow everyone contribute to this regeneration process.

Leading on this work is the Strategy Board, until recently known as the Civic Regeneration Forum, and made up of a wide range of stakeholder/sectoral representatives including community, business, politicians, Derry City Council, Ilex, DSD and others (full list of current membership also available at www.yourcityyoursay.com).

It is undeniable that since the February conference, the city's general populace has lost some sense of connection with the regeneration activity. Not enough attention was paid to keeping the city's communities up to date with what has been going on, even though there has been sustained effort and progress but this has not been communicated more widely.

With an intense phase of activity to commence shortly, the need for regular and reliable communications and engagement has been well taken on board and will be supported by all the sectors involved at Strategy Board level.

Below are some of the key elements of what has emerged from or been taken forward since the Futuresearch event:

- *Sectoral Working Groups have been established, due to meet for first time in July;*
- *Community representation on Strategy Board augmented by inclusion of five Neighbourhood Renewal Chairpersons;*
- *Community Engagement workshops;*
- *Data Collection project initiated – 500+ interviews planned with broad cross-section of residents.*

With the Sectoral Working Groups beginning to meet on a regular basis to identify thematic needs to be fed into the overall plan, other work ongoing is developing an Equality Team to ensure that the eventual draft Plan fully reflects the needs of the most disadvantaged in our city.

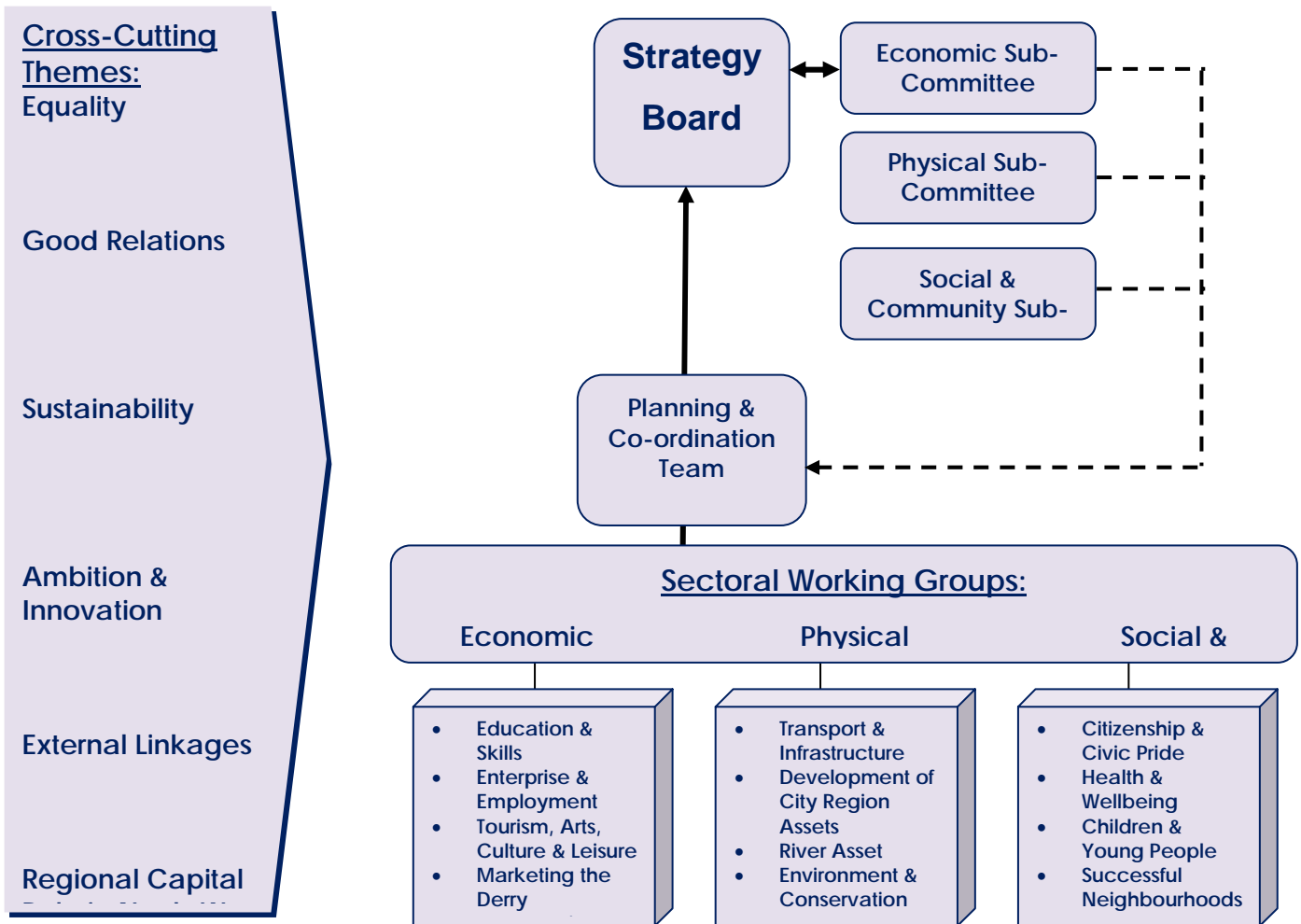
City Region

While this Regeneration plan focuses on the city of Derry~Londonderry, the perspective of NWCN, as a key player in the process, is of the city as part of a wider, complex North-West region, one which will prosper as the city prospers. It is important though, as much for our sector as any other, to be aware that a region is made up of all its parts.

In the context of RPA, and of course Community Planning, Derry~Londonderry will be part of a local authority area that stretches far into Tyrone, one that will be for the most part rural. The Community & Voluntary sector needs to retain the central role it has played in the regeneration process, and must promote the building of linkages across the region, including the Donegal hinterland.

There are real opportunities being shaped here to tackle deprivation and improve meaningful community engagement – the entire C&V sector across the North-West must re-establish its own common ground to take advantage of them.

Urban Regeneration - Organisational Framework



Notes:

Cross-Cutting Themes - these are horizontal references required to be seen influencing actions and priorities at all levels of the framework, with primacy given to legal obligations under Equality and Good Relations.

The **Strategy Board** is charged with retaining a strategic overview of all levels below - no actions can be agreed or undertaken without Strategy Board approval, direct or delegated.

The three **Sub-Committees (Economic, Physical & Social/Community)** have been devised to share out the work lying ahead (as part of the overall process) and each grouping comprises Strategy Board members, Chairs of the relevant Sectoral Working Groups, Social Partners and, if required, external advisors.

The **Planning & Co-ordination Team** has primarily an executive, supportive and practical role to carry out in ensuring that the various elements of the Organisational Framework can

carry out their functions effectively, from the preparation of materials to taking matters forward for resolution/decision-making at Strategy Board level. This Team is made up of Derry City Council, Ilex and DSD with places allocated to each Social Partner. For the Community & Voluntary sector, this representative is Damien McIlroy of Waterside Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Board, supported by North-West Community Network on communications and accountability.

The **Sectoral Working Groups** will convene for the first time on 9 July 09, made up of two main constituencies - those who participated at Futuresearch and self-selected to participate around the agreed areas of Common Ground (most of which are working titles for the SWGs), and those who have indicated interest since that time.

The roles for these groups include: conducting needs analysis relevant to the theme; inputting corresponding ideas; engaging with relevant stakeholders not already participating in the Working Group.

Rural Focus

Rural planning and Development: Comparative Perspectives on a Rural White Paper **Friday 18 Sep 2009, QUB**

The institute of Spatial and Environmental Planning at Queen's University Belfast, The School of Geosciences at University of Aberdeen and The National Institute of Regional and Spatial Analysis at National University of Ireland Maynooth have established the Irish-Scottish Forum for Spatial Planning. Its purpose is to critically examine the interaction between strategic planning and the development of urban and rural areas in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

The purpose of this second meeting of the Forum is, firstly, to place the emergence of a forthcoming Rural White Paper for Northern Ireland in the comparative context of Rural White Papers for Scotland (1995) and Ireland (1999), and secondly, to identify future trajectories for rural planning and development.

This conference at Queen's University Belfast is convened under the auspices of the Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP), an island-of-Ireland platform of interdisciplinary research and graduate training focusing on the delivery of balanced development, the creation of sustainable communities and the enhancement of a knowledge society. It embraces 8 institutions and 19 disciplines and is funded under the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL14).

This day long conference is split into four sessions as follows:

Session one: Setting the context - this will deal with the role of White Papers in public policy with speakers from Queen's University and the Rural Development Council.

Session two: Perspectives on the Rural Policy experience of Scotland - this session concentrates on the White Paper in rural Scotland, the delivery of rural development in Scotland and community engagement with speakers from various Scottish bodies.

Session three: Perspectives on the Rural Policy experience of Ireland - this session

examines new challenges for rural policy in Ireland, community engagement and rural development in Ireland and policy responses with speakers from Western Development Commission, Irish Rural Link and Queen's University.

Session four: The Way Forward for Rural Policy within Northern Ireland - this final session is dedicated to the background, process and themes for the NI Rural White Paper with various speakers from DARD, Maynooth and Queen's University and RCN.

Registration for this free forum is essential since places are limited.

If you plan to attend, please pre-register by mailing your details to isfsp@qub.ac.uk no later than Friday 4 September 2009.

For further information please visit the conference website:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/issp/> or contact Dr Michael Murray - m.r.murray@qub.ac.uk

Directory of Community Venues

For many people living in rural areas, the local community hall is one of the key assets which binds residents together. It offers local people a key focal point in which to meet, socialise, recreate, educate, worship, celebrate and sympathise. In an era where community cohesion in rural areas is constantly under threat from governmental policies of services centralisation and cutbacks, the community responsibility to ensuring that their venue is at the hub of community life is never more needed.

One small way that the venue is sustainable into the future is to encourage its usage by as many groups as possible in the locality and further afield.

This web based publication (www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org) gives details of community venues in each county throughout Northern Ireland. The publication will be updated on a quarterly basis.

If you would like your community venue to feature, please contact Linda at Rural Community Network on 028 8676 6670 or email: Linda@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

Funding Opportunities

Big Lottery Fund - Awards for All

The Big Lottery Fund has launched a vital £3.5m small grants scheme that will make a major difference to community projects across Northern Ireland.

The Big Lottery Fund's Awards For All small grants programme will make it easy for community, voluntary and statutory groups to apply for small grants that will have a big impact on local communities and the lives of people most in need.

The programme will offer grants of £500 - £10,000 to health, education, environment and community projects that will help people bring about positive change in their lives, improve health and well being, develop skills and create safer communities.

The Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All programme will offer organisations the chance to make a big difference with small grants.

Application forms and guidance notes are available to download at:

www.awardsforall.org.uk

The Big Deal

The Big Deal grant programme is open for application until 30 September 2009. Children and young people in Northern Ireland aged 0-25 can apply.

The aim of The Big Deal is to encourage children and young people to become involved in participatory activities which enhance their personal and social development and to have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to make informed choices about their lives and demonstrate their positive contribution to family and community life.

If you are interested in the Big Deal grant programme, contact 028 9033 1880 or visit the website www.thebigdealni.com.

Maximising Community Space Crossing Borders Programme

The Rural Development Council (RDC) is acting as an agent for The International Fund for Ireland's Maximising Community Space Crossing Borders Programme.

There was an open call for applications from both urban and rural groups in November 2008 - January 2009; however few applications were received from urban settlements. A further recruitment process will now take place specifically targeting urban

settlements.

It is important to note that there are a limited number of places available. The closing date for the receipt of applications is 12 noon on Friday 10th July 2009.

For further information please contact Seana Quinn on 028 8676 6980 or email: squinn@rdc.org.uk. For an electronic version of the application form please contact abell@rdc.org.uk or download in MS Word format at www.rdc.org.uk

Hilton Group Plc

Hilton in the Community Foundation wants to help as many young people as possible. Under the banner "Supporting Young People Worldwide" the Foundation is dedicated to making a real difference to those most in need, wherever Hilton operates. Ireland / Northern Ireland has been identified as an area where a greater emphasis of support could be placed.

The Foundation makes grants to a wide range of charities and organisations that meet one of our chosen areas of focus:

Young People – Education

Young People – Health

Applications are rigorously assessed to ensure that the best projects reaching the most disadvantaged young people are prioritised. The Foundation aims to support a range of causes helping young people, across the UK and Ireland, with a particular focus on these areas:

Disabled children - Children in hospital - Homelessness - Life-limited children in hospices

There is approximately £100,000 available to distribute each quarter. There is no limit on the amount of money that a charity can request. However, the Foundation is a small charity and generally will not make awards of over £30,000 (per year). Funding can be requested for up to 2 years for any particular project.

Due to high demand on the limited grant fund, deadlines have now been introduced. Please ensure your completed application is received both electronically and hard copy by 5.30pm on 4 August 2009 & 20 October 2009 in order to be considered.

Contact:

Simon Sheehan

Hilton Group Plc, 179-199 Holland Park Avenue,
Reeds Crescent, London W11 4UL
Tel: 020 7605 7733

Email: info@hilton-foundation.org.uk

Web: www.hilton-foundation.org.uk

Funding Opportunities

Victim/Survivor Groups Development Grant Scheme

The Community Relations Council, with the support of the Victims Liaison Unit, established a special fund of £750,000 over a two-year period from May 2002 to April 2004 to support healing and recovery work with victims and survivors of the Northern Ireland Troubles. This scheme has been extended to 2009 and is currently open to new applications. The Scheme seeks to ensure fair access to support for victims and survivors of the troubles. The principal aim of the Scheme is to support victims and survivors to become active members of society.

This scheme is targeted at supporting groups which are made up of victims, or are working with victims, or are working with victims resident in Northern Ireland. Priority will be given to groups who work with those who, during the course of the Troubles, have lost close relatives or had close relatives injured, or been injured or traumatised as a result of community conflict.

The Council aims to have a geographical and sectoral spread in applications received and grants given.

Web:

www.community-relations.org.uk/services/funding/

Closing date: 5pm, Friday 11th December 2009.

RDC/IFI - Integrating Communities Scheme

This programme is designed to facilitate community organisations that wish to co operate on a cross border and/or cross community basis to work on issues of common interest.

As well as training, support and mentoring, funding may be available to undertake joint projects.

This programme is open to urban and rural groups operating both within Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Priority will be given to groups not previously engaged with the Fund, however previous recipients of IFI funding will not be excluded.

The Integrating Communities programme can be accessed in two ways:

Support Phase - a focused programme of support targeting <30 community organisations from across NI and the border counties. Organisations will be matched on a cross community and/or cross border basis, or existing partnerships can be considered. Successful applicants will be provided with training, mentoring and support to help them develop their partnership and subsequently deliver a small joint

project.

Project Phase - provides project grant and implementation support for partnerships that either complete the Support Phase or are already at a stage where a full project application can be made.

The 'Integrating Communities' programme aims to: -

- Increase the capacity and confidence of unionist and nationalist communities to work together.
- Foster and develop relationships within and between communities.
- Encourage sustainable partnership working and promote continued reconciliation and peace building activities.
- Be a catalyst for groups to engage in partnerships and take decisive action toward new and innovative programmes/ projects, which will benefit their communities.

Small grants of up to a maximum of £10,000 will be available to joint partnered organisations to implement a small project which will benefit both their communities.

Application forms are available in hardcopy or available for downloading from the website.

Deadline 14 August 2009

Contact:

Teresa Canavan

Rural Development Council

17 Loy Street, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone

Tel: 028 8676 6980

Email: info@rdc.org.uk

Web: www.rdc.org.uk

BBC Children In Need Appeal

The Appeal gives grants to organisations working to combat or alleviate disadvantaged children and young people who must be aged 18 years and under, living in the United Kingdom.

Their disadvantages will include:

- Illness, distress, abuse or neglect
- Any kind of disability
- Behavioural or psychological problems
- Living in poverty or situations of deprivation

The application should demonstrate how your project will change the lives of children for the better. It should be entirely focused on children.

All applications must now be completed online.

Deadline 15 July 2009

Contact:

Paddy Sloan

BBC NI, Broadcasting House

Ormeau Avenue, Belfast, BT2 8HQ

Tel: 028 9033 8221

Web: www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey

Tackling The Recession - Practical Toolkits Available!

Following the greatest economic upheaval in a generation, community, voluntary and charitable organisations are preparing for extremely challenging times in 2009 and beyond.

Community & Voluntary organisations face not only the same risks as others, but also a set of risks more specific to the sector. Planning for what might lie ahead is vital if your organisation is to come through a recession and still be able to do its job effectively.

Organisations need to think about many issues such as budgetary control, dependency on income sources and implementing a reserves policy. Fundraising is also an extremely useful area to target and ask do we have a fundraising strategy? What capacity do we have to fundraise? Should our fundraising pitch change?

To get more detail on issues like these visit: www.nicva.org/index.cfm/section/General/key/260309-Recession-Toolkit - other sites are also very useful such as: www.how2fundraise.org

In very general terms, below are some tips that organisations of all types and size would do well to consider:

- Ensure you are clear about which of your organisation's activities contribute most to your mission. If you have to defer or cut activity you have a clear basis for doing so.
- Ensure your services are meeting members' needs.
- Analyse the demand for your services - bear in mind that the recession may put a different slant on demand.
- Act quickly and decisively - good information systems are important alongside strong governance.
- Consider ways to reduce costs - back office suppliers and bulk buying.
- Diversify your income stream and consider mergers and collaboration.
- Communicate with all stakeholders and remember this includes staff and members.
- Retain and motivate your best staff - try not to cut your training budget.
- Be realistic and optimistic about the increased demand on your services.

The Wheel also has a Recession Toolkit which was developed to help equip community and voluntary groups with the practical information resources required to weather this economic turmoil - visit www.wheel.ie.

Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS)

Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) aims to make small area information held within Central Government and Non-Departmental Public Bodies available to as wide an audience as possible.

The NINIS website www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk contains datasets on a range of socio-economic themes at small-area statistical geographies; area profiles providing statistical snapshots of your area; and mapping facilities that enable statistics to be interpreted readily in a spatial context.

NINIS provides a user-friendly tool for accessing local level information and for monitoring social conditions and the impact of government policies. The web based service provides a central point from which users may access a large range of information - from statistical and locational data to static and interactive maps.

NINIS can be used for:

- *Accessing statistical and mapping data*
- *Completing funding applications*
- *Community profiling and planning*
- *Development, monitoring and evaluation of policies and strategies*
- *Spatial research and analysis.*

Data available:

NINIS currently houses over 1,200 datasets and 6,000 maps. Data are available from 1999-2008 and can be downloaded for a range of geographical levels from COA up to Northern Ireland level.

The datasets are categorised under five main areas:

- NINIS - Census 2001 and other administrative data sources.
- Deprivation 2005 - Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005
- Towns and Villages - statistics for settlements
- Neighbourhood Renewal - statistics for Neighbourhood Renewal Areas
- Investing for Health - health and wellbeing indicators (please see below for training with Investing for Health).

NINIS Information Seminars

Information seminars on NINIS are regularly provided by NISRA staff, providing information on the background and purpose of Neighbourhood Statistics. In response to feedback NINIS Seminars now incorporate PC workshop style training.

This involves practical exercises on PCs where participants learn how to access data on the NINIS website and create Area Profiles and Customised maps. Registration is essential as places are limited for each seminar - registration forms can be obtained on the NINIS website, by clicking on the icon on the homepage.

Most seminars are held in NISRA HQ, McAuley House, Belfast.

Web: www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk

NWCN Membership 2009-10 – Join Now

The Network would like to acknowledge all groups from across the North-West who have renewed or taken up membership for 2009-10. Members now range from local voluntary groups to regional organisations, from Letterkenny to Limavady, from Castlederg to Claudy.

It is worth noting that the rate of return for membership has been extremely prompt this year, reflecting the particular emphasis that has been placed on the strategic role of NWCN. Key to our work is developing and sustaining strategic linkages between the Community & Voluntary sector, collectively as well as for constituent parts, and public bodies at regional and sub-regional levels.

NWCN's primary aim is to facilitate positive social change based on the community development principles of equality, inclusion and participation. It is strategically important for NWCN to reference a strong mandate from the sector as it advocates on behalf of the most disadvantaged – those whose needs our member groups strive to meet in what is an increasingly challenging environment.

If your group has yet to renew its membership for 2009-10, you are encouraged to do so for the modest fee of £10/€13. If however you have not previously been a member of North-West Community Network, you are invited to contact us directly or to access our website (www.nwcn.org) and follow the link to "Members Group" to see what the benefits are for your organisation.

New members always welcome – Community & Voluntary sector organisations only.

NWCN Membership Form 2009-10

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: _____

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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

Administrator:
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
Summer 2009

Please make your cheque payable to North-West Community Network, or contact the Network if you wish to make payment in another way.