

Network UPDATE



FOR THE COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN THE NORTH-WEST

"Promoting equal citizenship, justice and equality of opportunity"

WINTER
2011-12

What's Another Year?

So, into 2012 and for many a year that is simply the final step before the biggie that is City of Culture 2013 (insertion of "UK" at reader's discretion!). And of course this is true but the decade we have already entered is set to be significant in many, many ways. Not to look immediately past City of Culture but it seems only fair to assess the emerging programme in terms of legacy it will create, for the people of this City Region more than those attracted here by embellished entertainment opportunities.

City of Culture also has a significant responsibility in contributing to the tone for the remainder of a decade laden with historical anniversaries. The Maiden City Walls, the Ulster Covenant, Battle of the Somme and Easter Rising – a rich seam of commemoration that, handled well, could do more for a Shared Future than any half-baked strategy produced by the NI Executive.

Of course City of Culture is but one of the Catalyst Projects within the "One Plan" and the year ahead will tell us much about the prospects for delivery across the piece. As we consult on the draft Programme for Government, while absorbing continuing tales of economic woe, the case for the North-West needs cranking up and driving home.

There are challenges also for the Community Development approach, one which has been perceived too often as maybe a nice way of doing things – if only we could afford it. This evidences a

lamentable misunderstanding of the value, economic and social, of the community development approach. And unless this acknowledgement is captured in legislation, especially once new councils assume responsibility for community development, much of the work of community & voluntary sector organisations will rely on variable goodwill rather than commitment when it comes to resourcing. Where is the wisdom in allowing this kind of scenario to form when the need for community services is actually increasing?

It is not a massive leap from there to signal a welcome for the return of RPA, and with it the prospect of Community Planning. The Network has been co-hosting (with Rural North-West) the Community Planning Pilot Project for the last year, and with the role maintained at Strategy Board level, it was felt this gave a unique insight in conjoining the strategic and the operational. Insight yes, all the answers – not yet, but hoping to get there eventually.

In making these points, there is some regret at how much of the real meaning of the word partnership has been sucked out through over and misuse. All of us need to get back to understanding the word, grasping that the kind of partnership that serves us best is when communities are supported in their participation to achieve common and shared interests. Who's up for it?

Working Better Together: *Building Change Trust* Social Economy Conversation

**11.00am – 2.00pm 25 January 2012,
Rath Mór Centre, Centre, Derry**

A key question for all of us working in the third sector is; 'How can we as a sector work better together?' Do we need to further develop our skills and capabilities? Do we need to make better use of our assets or grow our asset base? Do we need to work better to support one another and if yes how?

Building Change Trust is interested in the ongoing discussion around the social economy and in knowing what is necessary to stimulate action and growth within it. The Trust plans to bring forward a number of exciting new initiatives that will support and facilitate sustainable change in the third sector. The events will focus on promoting sustainable social and organisational change; enabling the third sector to lead and deliver transformation at all levels. BCT, Creggan Enterprises and Holywell Trust will jointly host a Social Economy

Conversation in your area. This is an opportunity to explore how we can do more for ourselves, become more self sufficient and entrepreneurial.

Content will include assessments of the values and principles that underpin our work in the third sector, the sectors traditional relationship with grant funding and the realm of new possibilities in finance, investment and trading and why we need better collaboration, a focus on sustainability. These sessions can help those working within the Third Sector come to a shared understanding of what the social economy really is. Importantly it will provide an opportunity to get involved in ideas generation to map out how we as a sector can work better together.

For further info and/or register, contact Charlie Fisher or Cathy Summerville:
T: 02890 245927
E: cfisher@communityfoundationni.org / csummerville@communityfoundationni.org

Be the Change You Want

26 January, 10am -12.30pm, Diocesan Office, 24 London Street

This special event is designed to inspire a conversation - about how we can change our communities for the better by volunteering for the common good. It is also about moving this conversation forward to see how we can achieve even more by working with unexpected partners.

Be the Change You Want is organised by a joint volunteering project funded by the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in the Republic of Ireland.

A unique partnership between the GAA, Voluntary Arts Ireland, the Church of Ireland diocese of Derry & Raphoe and

City Church Belfast, the project brings together a diverse partnership to promote volunteering to meet need in our community.

Keynote speaker will be Bishop Ken Good (Church of Ireland Diocese of Derry and Raphoe). There will also be an opportunity for an open conversation, followed by lunch. Be the Change You Want is about bringing as many diverse voices to the conversation as possible. It will therefore be an excellent networking opportunity.

This is one of a series of planned events. Places are limited so could we ask you to **RSVP** to tony@vairland.org or (NI - 028) / (RoI - 048) 7127 2501



CO3 leadership conference 2012 – dealers in hope

CO3 Leadership Conference 2012 – Dealers in Hope

The biannual leadership conference for Charity Chief Executives, Directors, Trustees and Funders in Northern Ireland takes place 23 - 24 February 2012 at City Hotel, Derry~Londonderry.

International keynote speakers include Dr. John E. Brothers (author, adjunct professor and Senior Fellow, Support Centre for Non Profit Managers) and Rick Moyer (Director, Non Profit Sector Fund Meyer Foundation, USA).

This conference will focus on leadership and provide some challenge to current

thinking and perspectives impacting the sector. The conference includes contributions from two international keynote speakers bringing expertise in non profit leadership, the life cycle of organisations and how to make the most from moments of change in leadership. The conference also includes three masterclasses on hot topics identified by CO3 members, a lively question time panel and an active workshop exploring the development and impact of Derry's Peace Bridge. The conference will be incorporating the Voyager Awards for Third Sector Leadership, to celebrate great leadership in our sector and acknowledging those making a contribution as chairpersons and partners to the sector.

Book online at: www.conference.co3.bz

Survey Reveals A Sector Struggling To Cope In A Changed Landscape

The new State of the Sector survey (www.thirdsector.co.uk) confirms many of the enduring characteristics of charities and voluntary organisations: they're worried about security of funding, their heart is more with Labour than the Conservatives,

But there's much in the survey that wasn't visible when last conducted two years ago, and these new elements confirm what many observers have been saying for some time now. Responses from more than 700 people, the majority working at a senior level, reveal a sector struggling to come to terms with an environment that continues to change rapidly - principally because of the steep fall in statutory funding. The loss of income is painful enough for those that have relied on national or local government money,

but it has brought with it the pressure to rethink what they do, how they do it and who they do it with: more are looking at partnership and collaboration.

This re-examination of function and mission may be no bad thing in that it may bring rationalisation, elimination of duplication and a more efficient use of resources overall: shrinking funds concentrate the mind. More worrying, perhaps, is a growing fear about the sector's independence that appears to be prompted by the payment-by-results requirement attached increasingly to public service contracts. Does this all add up to the need for a wide-ranging new commission by the sector to redefine its needs and purposes and set a course for the coming decade or two?



NWCN thanks Ilex Director of Strategy & Regeneration, Gerard McCleave, for the following status update on delivery of the "One City, One Voice, One Plan" regeneration document (December 11).

Progress since 24 June 2011:

- Re-constituted Strategy Board in place and meeting
- Local Development System for delivery agreed and operating
- Regeneration Forum established and meeting
- Business Leaders Group in place
- Catalyst Programme Working Groups being established
- Regeneration Capacity Fund in place
- Briefings for all Government Ministers and Departments
- NI Executive endorsed the One Plan
- Embedded in draft Programme for Government, Investment Strategy, and Economic Strategy.

Commentary from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD):

- One Plan is an enormous achievement
- Implementation of One Plan will face extraordinary challenges
- Primary imperative to continue, and reinforce, the alliance and joint working
- Plan must be used to embed agreed priorities within the wider framework of policy & resource allocation, from Central Government & others
- Continued work required to build the capabilities of alliance of organisations
- Crucial to improve communications.

Catalyst Programmes (under relevant Transformational Theme):

Employment and Economy

- Growing the Digital Economy – NWRSP progressing. EA underway.

- Digital Derry Action Plan completed.
- Digital Derry – Ebrington Creative Hub out to EA with construction to commence in mid 2012.
- Foyle Cloud – Phase II underway (September 2011).
- City wide 100% superfast broadband infrastructure completed
- C of C capital programme underway.
- C of C programming underway.
- Maritime Museum – HLF application submitted.
- Co-operative Hub – DETI report published in September 2011. Input into DETI Social Enterprise stakeholder group which will inform the development of the Co-operative Hub Catalyst Programme.
- Evening & Night Time Economy – Action Plan to tender in early 2012.

Education and Skills

- Action Plan for Skills Escalation.
- Interim Skills Directorate established
- Early Intervention City – the Early Intervention Partnership established. First draft of Action Plan in progress.

Building Better Communities

- Peace Bridge open
- Foyle Valley Gateway – consultants appointed in August 2011. Masterplan to be completed by February 2012.
- Alignment of NR action plans underway.

Health and Well Being

- Early Intervention City – the Early Intervention Partnership established. First draft of Action Plan in progress.
- Restructuring of Derry Healthy Cities underway.

Sustainable Connected City Region

- Sustainable City Partnership established.
- Thermal mapping of the City confirmed.
- Potential projects being worked up between Derry City Council, Ilex, Belfast City Council and DRD for a joint bid to the EU CIVITAS programme.

Draft public procurement directive published by European Commission

Implementation would smooth the path for charities to win public services contracts.

The [European Commission](#) has published draft rules on public procurement that are expected to make it easier for charities to win public sector contracts. The proposed [directive on public procurement](#), published in December 2011, is intended to modernise and simplify European Union commissioning laws.

The directive says it will invite public bodies to break down contracts so that small organisations can bid for them. If the bodies refuse to do so they should publish an explanation. It will also aim to reduce the documentation needed by smaller organisations to bid for contracts successfully.

The directive proposes that public sector commissioners should consider the social impact of organisations that bid for contracts.

However, it is not clear whether this part of the directive would place additional requirements on the UK government, which is already backing a private member's bill, introduced by Chris White, the Conservative MP for Warwick & Leamington.

This would require commissioners of public sector services to consider how they might "promote or improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing" of their local area through any contract. If it is implemented it will apply to all EU member states.

Robin Barton, head of business development and tendering at the [Salvation Army](#), said he believed the proposals would have major benefits for charities of all sizes.

"At the moment the government issues contracts that even we, as one of the very biggest charities, would struggle to bid for," he said. "The Work Programme is the most obvious example of that. "If this leads to smaller contracts, it's good news.

"We also think that any requirement that bidders should show their social benefit could only help the sector."

Barton said the sector still had the opportunity to strengthen the development of the directive to make it more favourable to charities, and should continue to lobby European representatives.

(adapted from: www.thirdsector.co.uk)

Sector Updates

The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland has now moved office from Belfast to Lurgan. The new address is:
Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
257 Lough Road
Lurgan
Craigavon BT66 6NQ
Tel: 028 3832 0220
Fax: 028 3834 5943
Text Phone: 028 3834 7639

The new Northern Ireland Assembly website is now live –

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/>

There is a feedback / suggestions for improvements area on the homepage and you are asked to make submissions to help improve the site and service.

Funding Opportunities

Clothworkers Foundation - Small Grants

What is it for? Addressing the needs of disadvantaged communities.

Who can apply? UK registered charities with annual turnover under £250,000.

What is available? For projects that cost less than £100,000 in total, grants are available of between £500 and £10,000 for capital costs.

Programme Areas:

Alcohol and substance misuse – projects supporting people affected by, or at risk of, drug and/or alcohol dependency, and their families.

Disability – projects providing services for people with physical and/or learning disabilities, and/or for people with mental health issues. (We will not fund projects which focus only on meeting the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act)

Disadvantaged young people – projects supporting disadvantaged young people, particularly those in or leaving care, or not in employment education or training (NEET).

Domestic and sexual violence – projects supporting people affected by domestic or sexual violence

Elderly – projects for elderly people, in particular those living in areas of high deprivation or rural isolation

Homelessness – projects providing services for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Integration of disadvantaged minority communities – projects providing services to disadvantaged minority communities, in particular projects which promote integration and access to mainstream services.

Prisoners and ex-offenders – projects for prisoners, ex-offenders, or those at risk of offending, and their families

Visual impairment – projects providing services for blind or visually impaired people.

Funding can be used for one-off grants for capital costs such as:

- Building purchase, construction and renovation
- Equipment

Funding From Trusts & Foundations **- Under £10,000**

If an organisation is able to demonstrate that they have no needs for capital costs now or in the foreseeable future, it may be possible to make a one off request for specific work – ie production of publications (not regular newsletter); creation of training materials.

Application Deadlines:

There is a rolling programme of funding meetings, so there is no deadline for submitting an application. The turnaround time for the main grants programme is 8 weeks

<http://www.clothworkers.co.uk/Grant-Making/Overview/How-to-apply.aspx>

Henry Smith Charity – Small Grants

What is it for? Addressing social and economic disadvantage

Who can apply? Registered charities, voluntary and community organisations based in the UK

What is available? Applications can be made for one year grants and multi-year grants. Grants range from £500 to £10,000. The maximum multi-year grant is £20,000 spread over 3 years.

Priority for work with groups experiencing social and/or economic disadvantage, and work that tackles problems in areas of high deprivation.

Funding can be used for:

Grants can be used towards running costs (including core costs and salaries), project costs, or for one-off capital expenditure such as building refurbishment or equipment.

There are no deadlines and applications can be submitted at any time.

<http://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk/grants.html>

Funding Opportunities

Garfield Weston Foundation

Who can apply?

UK registered charities unless they have 'exempted' or 'excepted' status, such as churches, hospitals, educational establishments, housing associations

What is available?

There is no limit to the size of grant; however, funding is only given for a single year. Every application is considered on its own merits. Trustees anticipate the charities will have secured a significant proportion of funding prior to applying to the Foundation

The Foundation funds a broad range of activities and organisations, however, details from their annual report indicate that projects came under the following

categories: Arts, Community, Education, Welfare, Medical, Faith, Youth and Environment.

Funding can be used for:

Trustees are flexible on how funding can be used. Organisations need to demonstrate how the funds can make most difference – either by funding core costs (not salaries), or a specific project.

Application Deadlines:

There are no formal deadlines for submitting applications. Applications and supporting documents must be sent by post. Should allow approximately 4 months for a final outcome; for details of application process visit: <http://www.garfieldweston.org/process/>



Building a platform that brings people, socially conscious brands and not-for-profit organisations together to tackle social challenges.

The word 'challenge' has at least two meanings; it can be a problem that needs solved or a call to engage. The world certainly has plenty of the first kind of challenge, but it also has a growing army of people and organisations willing to engage and work hard to find solutions.

The idea behind CITZN is to harness the second to tackle the first. CITZN wants to bring together people, socially conscious brands and not-for-profit organisations (including government) to tackle social challenges big and small. To do that they're building a simple platform organisations can use to host idea challenges. Once finished, organisations will be able to use CITZN to create challenges based on social issues and challenge the public to come up with original ideas which will then be

implemented. People will earn rewards and get to see ideas realised. Non-profits will get loads of good ideas and connect with people who are keen to see them happen. And socially conscious brands will get the chance to engage with like-minded, influential, users.

The goal is to make the process simple, fun and rewarding for everyone involved. And to do some real, tangible, good in the process. It is hoped to launch CITZN in Spring/Summer 2012, in the mean time the website (citzn.com) is hosting a blog to let you know how progress is going and highlight some exciting social projects from organisations across the globe. They will also be running a few of their own challenges – both online and at live events – putting the concept to the test and refining the process.

If you'd like to learn more about CITZN or maybe get involved in some way, get in touch via hellocitzn@gmail.com or on Twitter [@hellocitzn](https://twitter.com/hellocitzn).

In the context of continuing deep cuts in budgets and public services the PILS Project and the Equality Coalition are co-hosting a **free seminar** to facilitate discussion on ways of strategically challenging cuts:

Friday 2 March 2012, 2 - 5pm (Followed by wine reception)

Law Society House, 100 Great Victoria Street, Belfast.

This free seminar is aimed at legal practitioners, NGOs, trade unions, academics and others who are interested in strategically challenging cuts in budgets and reductions in public services which disproportionately impact on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. Content will include:

- "The human rights and equality impacts of spending cuts" - Michael O'Flaherty, Chief Commissioner NIHRC
- "The experience and lessons learnt from challenging cuts in Great Britain" - Louise Whitfield, Associate with Pierce Glynn Solicitors, London.
- "Legal tools for challenging the cuts in Northern Ireland" - Mark McEvoy, Barrister
- "Challenging the cuts: the NGO experience" - Panel discussion with Law Centre NI, Children's Law Centre & the Public Law Project, (London)

CPD points are available

RSVP: info@pilsni.org or call 02890 446201

NWCN Membership 2011-12

Your Organisation:

Name Of Organisation:	_____
Named Contact(s) & Designation:	_____
Address:	_____
	Postcode: _____
Telephone:	Fax: _____
Email(s): <i>(feel free to submit multiple emails but identify primary contact address)</i>	_____
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 e.g. BACS, other electronic banking.