

network update



**2014
Issue 1**

Leading the Community & Voluntary Sector in the North-West

What will make a Super Council?

22 May 2014 – just a date on the calendar or a key moment for civic society in Northern Ireland?

The electorate will be asked to vote in a fresh cohort of councillors for the new Derry and Strabane District Council. How fresh will they be though? Some stalwarts (and others) have already stood down in both areas, replaced by co-optees who are likely to remain as candidates. There will then follow a transition phase – for both the new agency and incoming councillors – the duration of which no-one can yet determine but which none of us can afford to be unduly prolonged.

As well as representing a significant realignment in local government, there will be the challenge of adopting a wide range of new powers. Amongst these (in part or in full) will be: Local Planning, Neighbourhood Renewal, Community Development, Economic Development, Rural Development Housing and Social Entrepreneurship. Undoubtedly each of these will be of interest for the Community & Voluntary sector as will the underpinning responsibility of Community Planning. Across the piece, it is NWCN's view that the structural changes have thus far been the dominant focus – arguably to the detriment of how the adoption of new responsibilities will actually work.

The organisational changes require to take place and clearly this will take time, industry and some patience. It will not be acceptable however for early delivery on the new assumed powers.

What can make this latest democratic engagement more interesting are two factors: an increase in independent candidates (*though perhaps how independent?*) and that remuneration for elected members is more significant than ever – will this see accountability increase?

So, to answer the question heading this commentary, some of what will make this new council somewhat super will be: revitalisation of the One Plan, strong leadership on tackling the socioeconomic inequalities that blight the North-West, and enthusiasm to implement Community Planning.

As the electoral bandwagon picks up pace, NWCN encourages everyone to vote with foresight and conviction – and the confidence thereafter to hold elected members to account. This is an important election – even without referring to the European dimension – that will usher in new personnel, energy and skills. The Community & Voluntary sector has reason to be optimistic but vigilance and perseverance will be required.

Community Development In a Changing Landscape - A Look Forward



1245 - 1615, 29 April 2014

The Junction, Holywell – DiverseCity Community Partnership
8-14 Bishop Street, Derry~Londonderry BT48 6PW

What are the challenges and opportunities for community development activism in a currently uncertain environment?

How might the C&V sector support effective devolution of powers while retaining cohesion and influence at regional level?

Are there actions or objectives that leading community development agencies such as NWCN should adopt to support the C&V sector on this journey of change?

To register your attendance: neola@nwcn.org / 028 71279090

This event brings together a range of respected figures from the Community & Voluntary and public sectors to answer and pose questions as we consider ongoing and imminent changes that impact on our sector. The Reform of Local Government (including new councillors, council powers and Community Planning), the potential effects of Welfare Reform, and of course continuing deprivation and inequalities at community level.

This is a timely opportunity to listen to the experiences and insights of key practitioners from across the C&V sector and from Local Government. You will also be invited to discuss some key questions on the main theme, devised by NWCN to help identify what the next set of priorities and key objectives should be for networks.

AGENDA:

Time:	Item:
1245	Lunch – Finger Buffet
1315	Chair: Eamonn Deane Opening comments & scene setting
1325	NWCN Chair
1330	Kate Clifford – Director, Rural Community Network
1345	Catherine Cooke – Building Change Trust, Foyle Women’s Information Network, NW Peace III Partnership
1400	Stephen Gillespie – Director of Development, Derry City Council
1415	Colm Bradley – Director, Community Places
1430	Break
1445	Table discussion – Set Questions
1520	Feedback
1540	Plenary & Panel - Q&A
1610	Next Steps
1615	Close



Getting To Grips With NI Charity Legislation

0945 – 1230

3 June 2014

North-West Community Network and its PESP project invite you to this free event, one of a series of events around Northern Ireland.

The key aim, now that the Charity Commission has established the register of charities, and has its powers of investigation and enforcement, is to determine what this means in practice for charities on the ground.

The seminar will focus on the new rules and regulations that have come into being from charity legislation which all Community & Voluntary organisations need to be aware of.

There will also be the chance to hear from a local group that has successfully completed registration with Charity Commission NI, and learn about the support that is available in the North-West.

The seminar will also cover good governance within charities and participants will have the opportunity to pose questions to the Charity Commission as well as consider the revised Code of Good Governance (from the Developing Governance Group).

0945 – 1230, 3 June 2014

The Junction

Holywell – DiverseCity Community Partnership

8-14 Bishop Street

Derry~Londonderry BT48 6PW

Register: neola@nwcni.org / 02871279090

Please note that places are limited.



www.communityistheanswer.org

COMMUNITY
is the answer

**Celebrating our common
wealth; an international
gathering**

**9-11 June, Glasgow
Hunter Halls, University Avenue, Glasgow University, Glasgow G12 8QQ**

This major event will explore some of the most significant local and global questions we face today in the context of the answer: community.

How will we address the challenges of poverty? Of growing inequality? Of the environmental crisis? Of the failure of our institutions?

Community is the answer will showcase community-based solutions from Scotland and around the world. It will allow community members, activists, practitioners, researchers and policymakers to come together and examine what actually matters to people, how to measure it and how to place it at the core of what we do.

Taking place in the run-up to the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the gathering is expected to attract several hundred Scottish and international participants. This will be a unique opportunity for those who care about community development to learn about how people in different contexts are tackling similar challenges; to create new connections; and to develop networks which will last beyond the life of the event.

The event is a collaboration organised by the International Association for Community Development (IACD) and the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Standards Council for Scotland, with the support of the Scottish government and key partners.



So What is Community Development?

It is very hard to find a simple definition of community development which is easy to understand and which everyone can agree on. There have always been many views of what 'community development' means. The aim here ... is simply to provide some relatively straightforward definitions that people can use as a starting point for understanding what community development is.

Community development is an occupation (both paid and unpaid) which aims to build active and influential communities based on justice, equality and mutual respect. Community development work is done in ways which challenge oppression and tackle inequalities. It involves changing the relationships between ordinary people and people in positions of power, so that everyone can take part in the issues that affect their lives.

Community development work involves working with communities to:

- identify their strengths, needs, rights and responsibilities
- plan, organise and take action
- assess the effect of any actions taken.

It also involves working with agencies to increase their capacity to understand and work with communities.

Communities can be based on where people live (geographic communities), or on a shared concern, issue or identity (communities of interest).

How community development is different from other community processes:

Terms such as 'community development', 'community capacity building' and 'community involvement' are similar in the sense that they can all refer to processes of helping community members develop skills and confidence so that they can have more influence on the issues that affect their lives.

However, terms such as 'community involvement', 'community participation' and 'community engagement' usually refer to attempts to encourage communities to get involved in the work of an outside agency or organisation. This type of work is more likely to start with the needs or targets of the agency, rather than the needs of the community.

Community development is different to other community-related work because it involves a commitment to:

- starting with the issues which people in communities identify as being important to them, rather than starting with the issues that an outside agency wants to tackle
- helping people understand why the issues they want to tackle have come about, and why some groups have more power or resources than others
- working towards changes which reduce inequality and poverty.

Excerpt reproduced with kind permission from:
http://www.iacdglobal.org/files/what_is_cd.pdf



Seda Catalyst Awards 2014

**Helping Ambitious Social
Entrepreneurs To Grow Their
Ventures**

A new SEDA Catalyst Award to support early stage social ventures with high-growth potential has been launched by UnLtd and leading financial services company Santander.

The award offers social entrepreneurs £5,000 cash and a 12-month development and growth support package.

It is aimed at established ventures that have great potential to make real, positive social change but need targeted support to grow and move to the next stage of their development.

The SEDA Catalyst Award is being offered by Santander and UnLtd as part of Santander's wider Social Enterprise Development Awards (SEDA):
www.santanderseda.co.uk

70 SEDA Catalyst Awards will be made per year over the next three years.

To be eligible for a Catalyst Award you must:

- be 18 or over and living in the UK
- be a social entrepreneur with an established venture that has been up and running for a minimum of 12 months
- be committed to an intensive programme of experiential learning and be excited by the prospect of peer-to-peer support.

Your venture will:

- have an average annual turnover of between £25,000 and £75,000
- address a recognised social issue and demonstrate early potential to deliver high social impact.
- have a business model and idea that have been tested
- have identified new potential sources of sustainable income
- have identified clear opportunities for growth and is receptive to working with UnLtd and Santander in maximising these.

Social entrepreneurs can apply for a SEDA Catalyst Award now by completing an application form - deadline 5pm, *16 June 2014*.

All info can be found at: www.unltd.org.uk/SEDA

NI Citizen Contact Strategy policy - Screening Form

The Citizen Contact Strategy is a guidance framework to assist departments in the transformation of their citizen-facing service delivery and on-going interactions with their customers.



Please follow attached links to view relevant guidance.

www.dfpni.gov.uk/digital-transformation-service-citizen-contact-strategy - Gateway page which houses the screening form
www.dfpni.gov.uk/publication-scheme-what-are-our-priorities-impact-assessments.htm - Impact assessments page where it links to screening form

Grant Advice from Sported



Sported is introducing 'Bitesize' to all Sported Members, Mentors and Partners.

Bitesize are short video clips of information of between 30-150 seconds to support all our members with key areas of support that were taken from the member survey last year. To introduce you to this we have developed a pilot Bitesize series entitled 'Completing a Grant Application'. This is general information with top tips on completing any grant application with specific information for Northern Ireland Members, Mentors and Partners and was supported by funding from the Ireland Fund. This pilot series has 12 video clips ranging from 'Top Tips' to 'Completing the budget'. If you have any feedback on this series to help us develop this approach in the future please contact p.naphthine@sported.org.uk.

Please [click here](#) to access 'Completing a Grant Application' Bitesize series or copy and paste this into your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvFFUOoaGWtdyUPNq3rRDp2IZqc1BT4Uz>



European Election Candidate Hustings

**1030 – 1230
9 May @ NICVA**

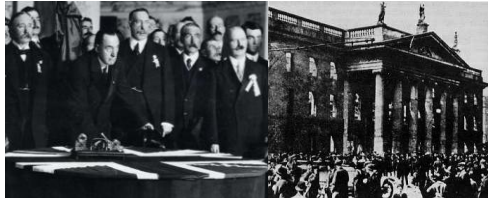
NICVA is hosting a hustings event to provide the Community & Voluntary sector with the opportunity to question European candidates from across the political spectrum on issues that matter to them.

It will also be an opportunity for MEP candidates to listen to the C&V sector's views and concerns and will offer participants a chance to ask questions of MEP candidates about the impact of the EU on their organisations. The event will provide the sector with an opportunity to meet candidates who are seeking to represent them and get the chance to hear them set out why they deserve to be voted in.

Questions will be accepted in advance, on the day from the audience, jenna.maghie@nicva.org - comments will remain confidential.

European Election Candidate Hustings
1030 – 1230, 9 May
NICVA
61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast BT15 2GB

Contact: cathy.breslin@nicva.org / 028 9087 7777.



Ethical and Shared Remembering: A Decade of Change and Violence in Ireland 1912-1922

Rural Community Network is offering a six week course entitled Ethical and Shared Remembering: A Decade of Change and Violence in Ireland 1912-1922. The course will explore the following:

- The Ulster Covenant 1912
- The Great War 1914-1918 - The Battle of the Somme 1916
- The Easter Rising 1916
- The Anglo-Irish War or War of Independence 1919-1920
- Partition 1921
- Anglo-Irish Treaty 1921
- Civil War 1922-1923

Join the course to explore this decade through an ethical and shared lens, examining many of the unresolved issues from that time that continue to this day and begin to unearth facts that have not been part of the rhetoric of the past. The course takes place at RCN on Monday's from 12 May until Monday, 16 June from 7.00pm - 9.30pm.

Contact: teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org / 028 8676 6670.

Please note this programme aims to target individuals, particularly those working or living in rural communities, who wish to undertake similar conversations in their own area on the Decade of Anniversaries following completion of this programme.

What is Crowdfunding?

After a recent NWCN-organised and very enlightening event led by Neil Irwin (of www.niFundraising.org) it was deemed appropriate to encourage others to get "in the know" about this approach to funding – not exactly new but always innovative!



Crowdfunding is asking a crowd of people to donate a defined amount of money for a specific cause or project in exchange for various rewards.

There are three general categories crowdfunding can fall under: Equity, Donation, and Debt.

Equity-based crowdfunding is asking a crowd to donate to your business or project in exchange for equity.

Do you, or does anyone you know have an unusual or fascinating story to tell about how getting online has made a difference?

The BBC would like to hear real life stories about how getting online has helped people feel less isolated and more independent, keep up to date with the news or in touch with relatives and friends. Perhaps you know someone who has become more involved in social media or discovered a new aspect to their hobby – whether it's music, gardening or baking. Has anyone you know met new people, reunited with old friends or boosted their small business using the internet? Do you know anyone making a living or even a small income online? Are there any interesting digital group projects or clubs in your area that are running activities like bingo with iPads or gardening with smart phone apps? Are there any digital champions you know of that are now inspiring others to embrace new technology or is there anyone using the internet in interesting places or in quirky ways, perhaps to broadcast themselves or blog?

If you have a story or know someone who would be willing to share their own the BBC would love to hear from you. If you'd like to get in touch please call the number below or send an email.

Contact: Aoife McKevitt, Knowledge and Learning, BBC Northern Ireland

aoife.mckevitt.01@bbc.co.uk / 028 9033 8588

Institute of Fundraising Northern Ireland Awards 2014



Institute of Fundraising Northern Ireland supported by Coca Cola is calling on nominations for its Annual Fundraising Awards 2014. Nominations are sought in four categories:

1. Fundraising Event of the Year
2. Fundraising Partnership of the Year
3. The Bryan Walliker Fundraising Volunteer of the Year
4. IoF Fundraising Team of the Year

The Institute of Fundraising awards are open to all individuals and fundraising teams across Northern

Ireland's voluntary and community sector. To make a nomination visit the IOF website:

<http://nicva.us2.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=5838488b4625db6430a7f34bb&id=9716b82205&e=6dd7d96588>.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, 16 May 2014. Winners will be announced at the Institute of Fundraising Northern Ireland Awards Lunch to be held on Thursday, 12 June at Belfast Castle, Belfast from 12noon. The Awards will be hosted by Pamela Ballentine with special guest speaker Richard Moore, Founder of Children in Crossfire.

Public affairs strategy workshop: Developing an effective lobbying strategy

Thursday 8th May 2014 • The Mount Conference Centre, Belfast

agendaNi will be running an interactive one day training workshop on how to develop and implement an effective lobbying strategy. The workshop will include practical sessions in which delegates will build the framework of a public affairs strategy for their organisation.

Workshop outline:

- What makes an effective public affairs strategy?
- Exercise: identifying your key stakeholders
- Engaging with the Northern Ireland Assembly
- Exercise: determining and ranking key issues
- Engaging with Westminster and Europe
- Exercise: Drafting the structure of a public affairs strategy
- Case study: Implementing a lobbying strategy
- Exercise: putting your strategy into action!

The event is open to any organisation or individual who wishes to attend.

Each delegate will be provided with a workshop pack and refreshments and lunch is included.

Delegate fee **£245** + VAT @ 20% = £294

028 9261 9933/ registration@agendaNi.com / www.agendaNi.com/events



Kennedy seeks to secure greater diversity in public appointments

Regional Development Minister Danny Kennedy has announced his Department will be taking measures to improve the diversity of the boards of its associated bodies, including making all reappointments subject to public competition. After reviewing the Department's record on diversity in light of the recommendations in the report, Under-representation and Lack of Diversity in Public Appointments in Northern Ireland, issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments Northern Ireland in January 2014, Minister Danny Kennedy said: "I want to encourage more women, younger people, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities to apply for appointments to the boards of NI Water, NI Transport Holding Company and the three main Ports.

"I have asked my officials to raise awareness of appointments through outreach measures and to try to make the recruitment process as accessible and attractive as possible, to secure a wide pool of applicants for future appointments.

"I want to build teams with a range of skills on all of my boards. To allow fresh candidates to apply for all public appointments I intend, from the 1 April 2015, to move away from what has become almost automatic reappointment of board members for second terms and make all reappointments subject to public competition."

The Minister added: "My proposals have been discussed with the Commissioner for Public Appointments Northern Ireland and I welcome his support for this initiative."

The Minister will continue to make public appointments based on merit and continue to strive towards achieving the best mix of skills and experience on boards. Existing board members who have completed their first terms will remain eligible to apply to serve a second term through the public competition, where they will be assessed in the same way as all other applicants.

Minister Kennedy intends to extend all first term appointments falling due between now and 1 April 2015. This will give the Department and boards time to plan and manage the changes.

NWCN Membership 2014-15

It's that time of year again, renewal of your NWCN membership.

Once again – even as membership benefits continue to improve – subscription has been maintained at £10/€13 per year. This helps keep NWCN accessible to as many Community & Voluntary sector groups as possible – while of course providing excellent value for money.

In a practical sense, the biggest difference to last year has been further refinements to the Network's information services. Automated bulletins and access to archives have been added, as has a report system that allows NWCN to analyse readership and which articles attract most attention. This is important feedback in determining what NWCN membership finds most useful and interesting.

A new website has been created – not yet fully launched - and a couple of screenshots are provided below to showcase a much more visually appealing and interactive online presence.

These steps – as well as the strategic leadership continuously provided by NWCN – provide continuing reason for your organisation to renew or take out membership for 2014-15.

What does membership of NWCN provide?

- Visible, vocal and strategic representation for the C&V sector
- A mandate for local, regional and national advocacy
- Allegiance to the needs of members
- Active pursuit of social justice, equality, inclusion and meaningful participation
- Influence on decision-making
- Commitment to collective action
- Practical and informative workshops, training & seminars

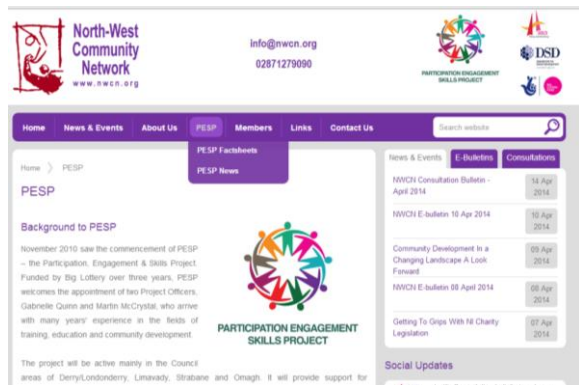
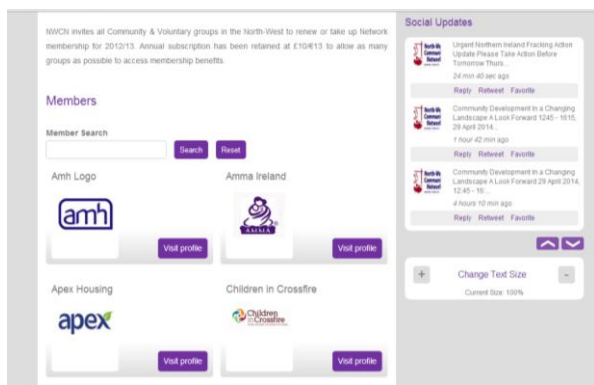
Communications & Engagement:

- E-bulletins
- Consultation bulletins (+ follow-up support in making submissions)
- Targeted engagement with key agencies and representatives
- Network Update
- Social media – [facebook.com/NWCN01](https://www.facebook.com/NWCN01) + twitter.com/NWCN01 + [Tweet: @NWCN01](https://twitter.com/NWCN01)
- www.nwcn.org – brand new website with customised Member access and profiles

Screenshots of new NWCN website

www.nwcn.org

If you want your organisation profiled (Members only), please submit your information to NWCN as soon as possible to gain maximum exposure for your activities.



As well as the usual contact information, you are invited to submit:

- Background information on your organisation and its activities (max 150 words)
- your organisation's logo + up to three additional images. Preferred formats include: jpeg, png, tiff.

This information can be sent to NWCN (info@nwcn.org) with the Subject Heading – Organisation Entry – (Name of organisation)



NWCN Membership 2014 - 15

Your Organisation:

Name Of Organisation:	_____
Named Contact(s) & Designation:	_____
Address:	_____
	Postcode: _____
Telephone:	Fax: _____
Email(s): <i>(submit multiple emails but identify primary contact address)</i>	_____
Website:	_____
Other Social Media: (e.g. Facebook / Twitter / LinkedIn)	_____
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.

NWCN, 8-14 Bishop Street, Derry~Londonderry BT48 6PW

(028) 71279090 / info@nwcn.org / www.nwcn.org

facebook.com/NWCN01 - twitter.com/NWCN01 - Tweet: @NWCN01



*...working to create a
genuinely participative
democracy...*

North-West Community Network

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tweet: @NWCN01

Holywell – DiverseCity Community
Partnership

8-14 Bishop Street

Derry~Londonderry BT48 6HW

T: NWCN Office 02871279090

PESP Team 02871368811

NWCN is a membership organisation for Community & Voluntary groups in the North-West, click [here](#) for a membership form for 2014-2015 OR complete and return the form included.

North-West Community Network receives core funding through the Community Investment Fund (DSD).

The Participation, Engagement & Skills Project (PESP) is funded by Big Lottery.



PARTICIPATION ENGAGEMENT
SKILLS PROJECT



DSD

Department for
Social Development
www.dsdni.gov.uk



LOTTERY FUNDED