

From: NWCN [neola@nwcn.org]
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N W C N
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*working to create a genuinely
participative democracy*

For all the latest sector updates and to find out what's happening around the Network and its PESP project, join us on:



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1 Important Welfare Reform Update

As the Northern Ireland Assembly has now closed for summer recess, I am writing to clarify for you the current position of the Welfare Reform Bill and the implications this will have for implementation of the proposed changes to the social security system.

As you will be aware, the Welfare Reform Bill needs to pass through a number of key legislative stages before it can become law.

The Welfare Reform Bill (NI) 2012 has completed only the first three stages of the process to date. Discussions are continuing amongst the political parties and Minister McCausland has stated that he will only move the Bill into the next stage, Consideration Stage, when he believes there is sufficient consensus within the Assembly to do so.

The Department for Social Development's most recent planning assumption of Royal Assent being obtained in the autumn of this year is therefore no longer achievable. New planning assumptions for the introduction of the reforms, based on Consideration Stage happening in the Autumn 2013, are listed below:

- The introduction of Universal Credit: Summer 2014
- The introduction of a Benefit Cap: Spring 2014
- The introduction of Personal Independence Payment: Spring 2014
- Changes to housing benefit: Spring 2014
- The introduction of new fraud and error powers: Spring 2014
- Changes to Employment and Support Allowance: Spring 2014
- Reform of the Social Fund system: Spring 2014
- Introduction of changes to the Appeals process: Spring 2014

In the interim the Department is continuing to plan for the successful launch of the different reforms and is working with Northern Ireland Civil Service and Department for Work and Pensions colleagues to ensure all necessary infrastructure and information is available to enable go live when the legislation is passed.

More information on the Welfare Reform proposals is available at: www.nidirect.gov.uk/welfarereform

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2 Poots publishes report on Who Cares consultation

Health Minister Edwin Poots today published a report summarising the findings of the recent consultation on 'Who Cares? The Future of Adult Care and Support in Northern Ireland'.

This was the first stage of a three stage process to reform adult care and support.

Mr Poots said: "The consultation was an important first step in the process to reform adult care and support. A large number of people in Northern Ireland responded to the consultation, and their views will be the key in considering how best we move forward to the next stage of reform – developing proposals for change."

"The consultation report illustrates strong support for my Department's vision for the future of care and support. But it also shows that many people find the current arrangements for paying for long term care unfair, particularly the fact that people sometimes have to sell their family homes. It is certainly something that we need to look at very closely as we move into stage 2."

The consultation on Who Cares?, which ran from September 2012 to March 2013, was designed to raise awareness of how challenges such as an ageing population, increasing expectations of users and a difficult financial climate will impact on the care and support system, and make the case that change was needed.

Some of the issues raised by respondents included the need to focus more on preventative services, the need to promote independence, as well as concerns over the current arrangements for paying for residential and nursing home care.

The DHSSPS will now commence work on the second stage of the reform process, which will involve developing and costing proposals for change, including changes to how care and support is funded, and how people contribute. The Who Cares? consultation report, as well as further information on the reform process, can be found on the Department's website <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/publications>

The Minister concluded: "I would like to thank all those individuals and organisations who got involved in the Who Cares? consultation, whether by working with my Department to organise events, or by attending those events or responding in writing – your comments, views and suggestions are a valuable contribution to helping my Department set the future direction and funding of care and support services in NI."

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3 FREE ONE-DAY workshops on Intergenerational Practice and Age-Friendly initiatives

Places available - FREE One-Day Training Sessions in OMAGH

Linking Generations Northern Ireland has been successful in obtaining continuation funding from The Atlantic Philanthropies. As part of this funding, we would like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend the next Introductory and/or Theme one-day training session in OMAGH (you do not need to attend the first to attend the second). These sessions are FREE; please contact our office via email or phone to register as places go fast! Feel free to forward this email on to anyone that you think might benefit, especially those in the OMAGH area.

Type 1: Introductory Training on Intergenerational Practice - Omagh Community House – 2 Drumragh Avenue
4th September from 9.30 – 15.00

This training is suitable for anyone interested in learning about the general process of setting up an intergenerational project from recruitment stage through to evaluation.

Type 2: Theme Training on Intergenerational Practice with Funding Opportunity - Omagh Community House – 2 Drumragh Avenue
18th September from 9.30 – 15.00

A second type of training (which we call themes training) is for those interested in applying for a small grant. This session focuses on how you can link your intergenerational activity to wider social justice themes. Our emphasis is currently on tackling issues of Generational Equity, supporting the Age-Friendly concept, contributing to Safer, Shared & Confident Communities and Building the Peace. Participants are encouraged to discuss these topics and explore their relevance to Intergenerational Practice while discussing ideas for planning and implementing an intergenerational project.

Small grant application packs will only be available at these 'themes' sessions; attendance is required to apply. N.B LGNI small grants are only available in Northern Ireland. Please contact our office on (028) 9131 3022 or at infolgni@bjf.org.uk to register for our training sessions.

Follow us on Twitter: @LinkGenNI and
Facebook: Linking Generations Northern Ireland

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4 Community groups, businesses and public agencies asked to help with Wave on the Walls

Director of Holywell Trust, Eamonn Deane, today issued an appeal for local organisations to sign up for Wave on the Walls. Eamonn explained: "So far this year, people here have been extraordinary in their enthusiasm to participate in mass events. We need you to help once again to send out a signal of citizen solidarity and engagement. We want to mark the 400th anniversary of the process, which resulted in the building of the City Walls. We want to do this by getting 1500 volunteers together for a massive Mexican Wave around the mile-long circuit of the Walls on Derry Walls Day."

Derry Walls Day 2013 takes place on **Sunday 25th August**, during National Heritage Week, when 23 towns across Ireland will be celebrating the heritage of their Town Walls. This year's event will be especially significant because it coincides with the quadricentennial of the marking out of the ground for the Derry Walls, in August 1613.

Intern from University of Ulster, Janeen Leese, who is coordinating the Wave on the Walls, provided the details "We are particularly keen for community groups, businesses and public organisations to register to take part as a group. All group members will receive a specially designed Wave on the Walls t-shirt and souvenir certificate. The participation of groups and organisations will also be recognised in special souvenir booklet to be published later this autumn".

The Wave on the Walls will be photographed from the air, so that the circuit of the Walls will be clearly marked out by the line of people wearing red t-shirts. Entry to the event is free but a voluntary donation, on the day, to Foyle Hospice is recommended.

Wave on the Walls will precede the 1613 Charter Market at the Ship Key, with living history performers, demonstrations of weapons and costumes, livestock, food and street theatre.
Groups or individuals wishing to take part should register on-line during this week at www.walls400.com/waveonthewalls

5 Foyle Gay Pride celebrates its 20th birthday in style!

This year Foyle Gay Pride is back with a bang and celebrating its 20th birthday to boot.

The first incarnation of the festival took place in 1993, incredibly only 11 years after homosexual acts were decriminalised in N. Ireland. The festival has seen many incarnations over the last two decades, but its primary purpose has remained the same, to celebrate the lives of the LGBT community in the north-west and to push for inclusion and equality for all.

To kick it all off, Foyle Gay Pride festival is delighted to announce that writer and performer Amy Lamé will be opening the festival on **Tuesday 20th at 8pm** in An Cultúrlann on Great James Street. Miss Lamé, described variously as a, "multi-talented, multi-media, multi award winning wunderkind" and a "flowery feminist floosie", is known for her one woman shows, her LGBT-themed media works and as co-founder and hostess of the infamous Olivier award winning London club/collective Duckie. As if that wasn't enough, she also invented, produced and hosted The World's First Lesbian Beauty Contest, was twice a contestant in the legendary Alternative Miss World, and has had a successful and varied career as a model. A cultural icon, former Mayoress of Camden and devoted Morrissey fan, she's hosted the Stonewall Annual Gala Dinner and the LGBT Labour Dinner, and now she's coming here to open our Foyle Pride Festival.

The **Foyle Pride Parade** has become a colourful staple of Derry~Londonderry's summer and boasts a unique family friendly carnival atmosphere. This year the Parade will be leaving the Waterside Train Station at 2pm sharp to make its way along the historical civil rights route, over the Craigavon Bridge, up Carlisle Road, passed The Diamond and down Shipquay St to culminate in an afternoon of music and entertainment in the Guildhall Square.

The **big birthday bash takes place on Saturday night** in the scrumptious surroundings of St. Columb's Hall, with cocktails, dinner and filled with live performances including Derry's own little superstar, SOAK, as well as London DJ Jonbenet Blond, The Haciendas and a few other special little tricks tucked up the sleeves of the Foyle Pride.

For more information about the wide selection of events, activities and birthday bash as well as tickets, please visit www.foylepridefestival.com or www.facebook.com/foylepride

6 Get involved! Learning Disability Week: Celebrating families – 19 August – 25 August

This year the theme for Learning Disability Week is families. The families we know are amazing, brave and selfless superheroes and we want to make sure that everyone knows it!

Every day we will be celebrating the superheroes that make a difference, providing a platform so that families can share their positive stories about why they are so proud of their families.

I hope that you and your organisation will consider getting involved. You can get some ideas for celebrating Learning Disability Week as well as images and posters you can download by visiting the Mencap website <http://www.mencap.org.uk/get-involved/learning-disability-week>.

On our website and via social media during Learning Disability Week 2013 we will be celebrating the many superheroes Mencap hears about every day. Along with others, we will also be holding a number of events to bring people with a learning disability and families together from BBQs, coffee mornings and summer schemes to helping families with young adults learn how to surf.

If you would like further information or discuss anything connected with Learning Disability Week 2013 – or to let us know how you are going to take part - you can contact me directly at mark.smith@mencap.org.uk call me on my direct line 028 9069 0156.

7 Get Started with Outdoor Activities ~ Creggan Country Park, Derry

Want to gain skills and qualifications in Outdoor Activities? Get Started with Prince's Trust and achieve your goals!

Join our **FREE** 5 day programme and you could:

Enjoy an action packed week of Orienteering, Canoeing, Teambuilding, Assault course, Fishing and Environmental workshops

Opportunity to gain qualifications in Canoeing

Improve your team building and communication skills

You will also be offered three months of support after the programme to help you move into education, training or employment.

Don't forget, the Prince's Trust will cover your travel expenses and provide lunch!

Mon 19th Aug – Fri 23rd Aug

Interested? Call 028 9089 5000 or email outreachNI@princes-trust.org.uk

To be suitable for this programme you must be aged 16-25, and not in education, employment or training.

We work with people who are unemployed, who may have less than 5 GCSEs, who are in or leaving care and/or ex-offender /offenders

8 Disability Study Course

After the great success and feedback the participants had in the NUI Disability Studies Course last year we at DCIL are delighted to announce that we are running it again here in Donegal.

The course is part time and will run for 100 hours throughout the year. The course examines the different models and thinking around disability, the course will prove hugely beneficial to anyone working or interested in

the area of disability, also people with disabilities themselves.

The commencement of the course will be in late September, so if you have any queries or are interested in participating please contact:

Shane Bradley, DCIL, Training and Support Coordinator
T: +00353 (0) 74 9128945 / Email: shanedcil@eircom.net

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9 EVS (European Volunteer Service) Opportunities

Training opportunities for organisations interested in/connected to EVS....

1) Leargas, the Irish national agency for the EU Youth in Action Programme (YIA) are running a Newcomer Training to EVS at the end of September. The UK national agency (British Council) would be happy to support any organisations/people from Northern Ireland who would be interested to attend, and learn how to become an accredited EVS organisation. Please contact nbyrne@leargas.ie directly if you are interested in taking part. The British Council will reimburse 95% of travel costs to attend the day workshop, and if the journey is more than 3 hours one-way, will also support up to £75 of accommodation costs for one night.

2) Stepping Stones – now in December 2013 – will offer opportunities for accredited EVS organisations to make links between the UK and Ireland, in preparation for Youth in Action's successor programme, due to commence in 2014 entitled 'Erasmus+'. For more information on the Stepping Stones training programme, please click on the following link: <http://www.salto-youth.net/tools/european-training-calendar/training/stepping-stones-to-evs.3627/>

3) UK gathering of EVS organisations, 13-14 November, London. A chance to hear about the detail of Erasmus+ (as much as the British Council can provide at the time), and to share practise and connections with experienced EVS organisations from across the UK. For more information, please click on the following link: <http://trainings.salto-youth.net/3607>

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10 Listening Ear Training

Pink Ladies in partnership with Action will be holding listening ear training this September, this course which consists of 6 full day session is an accredited course, this training is based around you dealing with people affected by cancer and issues on cancer it will run on the following dates:

Monday 16th September 10am-3pm

Monday 23rd September 10am-3pm

Monday 30th September 10am-3pm

Monday 7th October 10am-3pm

Monday 14th October 10am-3pm

Monday 21st 10am-12noon

This training is limited to 10 places

If you are interested in doing this course please get in contact with Michelle on 02871347515 or 07568588124 Or email pinkladiesderry@hotmail.co.uk

Closing for registration is 31st August 2013

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11 Living life with & after cancer ~ Can Action Cancer Help You?

Positive Living Programmes:

- Life Coaching
- Counselling
- Complementary therapy

30 September & 01 October, 9.30am – 4.00pm, Everglades Hotel, Derry / L'Derry

Contact Mary on 078 1304 4178 or call 028 7127 7123

www.actioncancer.org

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12 Walking Club for Carers

All carers are invited to take part in a walking club

Day: **Monday 9th September**

Time: 11am

Meeting Place: Sainsbury's car park

If interested please confirm your attendance with Carmel Corrigan on (028) 71355023 Or email Carmel.Corrigan@westerntrust.hscni.net

Benefits of Walking:

- Lower blood pressure
- Increase fitness
- Reduce stress
- Improve sleep
- Have fun!!
- Meet other carers

NB: If people would like to partake in an evening walk @ 5pm and if I have enough interest I would do two walking clubs on a Monday

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13 Triax Sports Day

Friday 23rd August, 11-2pm, Brandywell Showgrounds

Ages U8, U11, U14
Fun to be Fit!

For more details contact Patricia on 07834706279 or Danielle at the Gasyard Centre on 71261916

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14 Derg Valley Healthy Living Centre Weekly Bulletin

Please find attached the weekly bulletin for Derg Valley Healthy Living Centre.

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15 UK Poet Laureate visits the city

UK Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy @ Waterside Theatre, 2pm (performance for children and "child in the adult") and @ St Cecilia's College, Blighs Lane 7.30 pm **October 5th 2013** with actor musician, John Sampson
UK City of Culture events co-organised by Yes! Publications, Guildhall Press and Derry Writers Group

Tickets available now from Waterside Theatre and the Millennium Forum.

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16 We are on facebook! Please spread the word

Please join with us in our campaign to launch our new Northern Ireland facebook website.

Please "like" us on facebook and "share" our campaign image – "There is more than one way to success"

www.facebook.com/princestrustNI

We particularly want to reach young people who are agonising right now over exam results and show them that there are options.

We have helped young people locally find work, regardless of their exam results.

Submit an article - Email info@nwcn.org to submit an article for inclusion in E-Bulletin.

When submitting an article for inclusion in this E-Bulletin, please conform to the following guidelines to ensure not only inclusion but clear understanding of the information you wish to convey:

Use only the Verdana or Arial Fonts, size 10 or 12

Use single-line spacing

As far as possible, do not use images or include attachments - information is best received when it is concise and straightforward.

Include reliable contact information: named contact, organisation, telephone number, email address &, where appropriate, web address

Please check that all details are correct when submitting as we will presume they are.

Please do not reply directly to this email, use one of the links above to feedback or to submit an article. For general enquiries, email info@nwcn.org

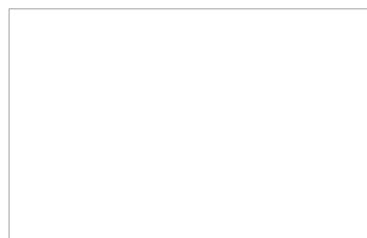
The information in this E-Bulletin has been collated from a range of sources. NWCN does not however accept responsibility for any third party content or for any of the opinions expressed.

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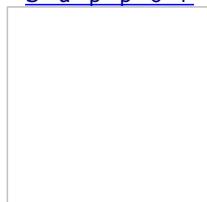
**NWCN is a membership organisation for Community & Voluntary groups in the North-West,
click here for a membership form for 2013-2014.**

**North - West Community Network uses core funding
Investment Fund (DSD).**
The Participation, Engagement & Skills Project (PESP) is funded by Big Lottery.

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DSDLogo.jpg



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