



# E-Zine

Welcome to Supporting Communities 69th Edition of E-Zine, bringing you Best Practice from the Community Sector; Funding and Training Updates and Policy Developments in Northern Ireland, Great Britain and Republic of Ireland.

## **Social Sector Size Criteria** Sometimes referred to as 'Bedroom Tax' this Welfare Change comes into effect 20 February 2017

# Housing Executive

### **Who will be affected?**

It will affect social housing (Housing Executive and housing association) tenants considered to be 'under-occupying' their homes. It does not apply to privately rented properties.

### **What is happening to households affected?**

If a household is considered to be 'under-occupying', the rent used to calculate Housing Benefit will reduce by:

- 14% if under-occupied by 1 bedroom, or
- 25% if under-occupied by 2 or more bedrooms

### **Welfare Supplementary Payment**

The Northern Ireland Executive committed to alleviating Social Sector Size Criteria. If a household's Housing Benefit goes down because of the changes they will receive a Welfare Supplementary Payment. These are in place until 31 March 2020.

Those affected do not have to apply for Welfare Supplementary Payments. The Department for Communities and the Housing Executive will work together to automatically calculate the amount to be paid which will be credited to the claimant or social landlord receiving the Housing Benefit payments.

### **What does the size criteria allow?**

The Social Sector Size Criteria now allows one bedroom each for:

- every adult couple
- anyone else aged 16 or over
- any two children of the same sex aged under 16
- any two children aged under 10
- any other child (other than a foster child or child whose main home is elsewhere)
- children who can't share because of a disability or medical condition
- a carer (or team of carers) providing overnight care

Those living in a Housing Executive or housing association home aged 16 years or over but below State Pension age receiving Housing Benefit will be affected. Pensioners are not affected.

### **How will the household know if they've been affected?**

An early notification letter is being sent to all Housing Executive and housing association households likely to be affected by Social Sector Size Criteria. This phased posting started 17 January 2017 and will take 2-3 weeks for all letters to be issued. It is due to be completed by 3 February 2017.

The mailing will contain a Household Details Form containing the information we have on record for the household. Householders will be asked to check this information and if it is correct there is nothing to do. If the information is incorrect you should make the amendments on the form and return it to the Housing Executive in the prepaid envelope provided.

### **Who is not affected by the changes?**

You will not be affected by Social Sector Size Criteria if:

- you or your partner have reached State Pension age
- you live in exempt supported accommodation
- you live in a houseboat, caravans or mobile home
- you live in a shared co-ownership scheme
- you live in temporary accommodation

### **Are any households allowed an extra bedroom?**

Your household may be allowed an extra bedroom if you are:

- an approved foster carer who has a child placed with you
- an approved foster carer who is between placements but only for up to 52 weeks from the end of the last placement
- a newly approved foster carer for up to 52 weeks from the date of approval if no child is placed with you during that time
- If a student or member of the armed forces has a bedroom in your home but they're away, their bedroom won't count as unoccupied.

Information is also available on the Government's website [nidirect](http://nidirect) and the Housing Executive's Housing Benefit team can be contacted on 03448 920 902.

# Community Involvement Strategy Consultation Workshops

Last week, Supporting Communities assisted our colleagues in the Housing Executive conduct an important series of consultation workshops in five locations across N Ireland. These consultation workshops were held to provide attendees the opportunity to reflect on the outgoing Community Involvement Strategy 2014-17 and to help shape the vision and content of the new Strategy which will run for the next 5 years (2017 – 2022).

With Supporting Communities staff helping to independently facilitate the 5 Workshops, there was excellent interaction and feedback from those attending.

Speaking on behalf of Supporting Communities, Colm McDaid, Chief Executive, commented; *“We were delighted to support the Housing Executive in this very important consultation exercise particularly as the contributions will assist in the development/compilation of this key Strategy for the Housing Executive”.*

Speaking after the final Workshop in the Girdwood Community Hub in Belfast, Deirdre Crawford, the Housing Executive’s Communities & Cohesion Manager remarked; *“We were delighted with the turnout at all 5 Consultation Workshops and the feedback from attendees will prove essential for us in preparing the draft Community Involvement Strategy for the next 5 years.”*



Over 150 attended the 5 Public Workshops with representation coming from HCN Members, Housing Executive Tenants, Residents, Community Partnerships and various Stakeholders including; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Organisations, Council Officers as well as employees from the Youth, Health and Education Sectors.



Consultees were invited to give their feedback under 3 key headings:

- ‘What worked well in the outgoing Strategy?’
- ‘What could be improved?’
- ‘Where Next for the new Community Involvement Strategy?’.



**Omagh Workshop**



Deirdre continued; *“We will be carrying out further consultation with key forums we engage with including the Youth, Rural and Disability Forums as well as the Strategic Cohesion Forum and this exercise will be facilitated through the Visual Arts Centre and Hive Studios over the coming weeks.”*

**Ballymena Workshop**



The Housing Executive would also welcome any additional comments or contributions from tenants, residents or stakeholders who may have not been able to attend the Regional Workshops held last week and would invite feedback based on the 3 Key Questions identified opposite. Please email your comments to: [karen@supportingcommunities.org](mailto:karen@supportingcommunities.org) by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

# Welfare Changes Helpline

A free and independent Welfare Changes Helpline is available for anyone in need of help or advice about changes to the welfare system.

**The contact telephone number is: 0808 802 0020**



The helpline is open 9am to 5pm (Monday to Friday) and is operated by the Welfare Reform Advice Services Consortium (Advice NI, Citizen's Advice and the Law Centre NI).

To help people face-to-face independent advisers will be available in each of the 11 council areas through the local Citizens Advice and Advice NI offices. Specialist legal advice is available at the Law Centre and it can arrange access to specialist services when required. These services are free for anyone who needs help or advice about any of the changes to the welfare system.

Additional Links: [nidirect](#) [Advice NI](#) [Citizen's Advice](#) [Law Centre NI](#)



## Minister Givan announces first tenancies under the Rent to Own scheme

Communities Minister Paul Givan has welcomed news that 22 households are now on the path to home-ownership through the new innovative Rent to Own scheme.

Five households have moved in to their new homes and another 17 households have been accepted onto the scheme and will be moving into their new homes over the next few months.

The pilot scheme, which has been made possible by a £12.5 million investment by the Department for Communities, is targeted at assisting lower income households onto the property ladder. It does this by providing customers with the opportunity to rent a new home of their choice for up to three years and, at the end of the rental period, receive a rent rebate of 25% towards a mortgage deposit to purchase the property.

Minister Givan said: *"I am delighted that 22 individuals and families now have a new home, or will have a new home in the near future, as a result of the Rent to Own pilot. Rent to Own represents a new way of thinking and shows how my Department is supporting the aspirations of people who want to get on to the property ladder."*

*Increasing housing supply is a key priority for my Department. My officials continue to look for new ways of meeting housing need across all tenures.*

*The success of the Rent to Own scheme pilot so far offers key learning opportunities for how we design and deliver future initiatives."*

The scheme is being exclusively delivered via OwnCo Homes, a subsidiary of the Northern Ireland Co-Ownership Housing Association, and aims to deliver 90 affordable new homes across NI over the next two years.

Mark Graham, Chief Executive of Co-Ownership Housing said: *"Rent to Own offers tenants a better option than simply renting, with no prospect of a return. It starts with a commitment to a three year payment plan with a down payment of £2,500 and an inbuilt 25% rebate on rent paid. Together they build up a lump sum to be used towards purchasing the property. We really are thinking differently about renting."*

The product is available for homes in Northern Ireland and will typically provide new build turnkey type homes in the starter home price bracket of around £100,000 - £150,000, excluding one-bedroom properties and apartments.

For information on the Rent to Own scheme at <https://www.owncohomes.uk/> (external link opens in a new window / tab) or telephone 0333 2001554.

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## Consultation on the Homelessness Strategy Ends 8th February

On Wednesday 30th November 2016, the Board of the Housing Executive approved the draft Homelessness Strategy 2017-22 – “Ending Homelessness Together”. The Housing Executive is undertaking an external consultation exercise, to seek feedback on the strategic direction the organisation has set out in the document.

The Strategy sets out key objectives and associated actions aimed at preventing homelessness where possible and finding long term sustainable housing and support solutions for those households faced with homelessness. The Strategy supports a multi-agency approach to tackling homelessness and recognises the importance of local service delivery.

Views on the draft Homelessness Strategy proposals are welcome from as wide a constituency as possible including interested parties from all backgrounds, community representatives as well as statutory, private and voluntary bodies.

**Please note:** copies of the Rural Issues Statement and Equality Statement for this document are available on request.

Electronic versions of the consultation response form should be emailed to [homelessness.strategy@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:homelessness.strategy@nihe.gov.uk)

If you would like more information please contact [Richard Tanswell](#), Homeless Strategy Manager on 028 9598 2327.

The Strategy document and response form are available at;  
<http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/consultation.htm>



## Health Minister to continue VCS Core Grant Fund



The Health Minister, Michelle O'Neill has confirmed that she will continue the core grant fund to the voluntary and community sector.

Many voluntary and community sector organisations work closely with users of health and social care services and can advocate on their behalf. This has the potential to help us shape health and social care services in the future, to make them better and more responsive to the needs of the people of the north who they are intended to serve.”

Work had been ongoing that would have seen the core grant scheme phased out alongside the introduction of a new innovation scheme.

A new core grant scheme with an innovative component will be designed in due course, it will be open to all VCS groups. In the interim the Minister will not be progressing a planned 25% reduction in the core grant scheme.

In making this decision the Minister has stated her concern that the removal of the scheme would result in the weakening of the strong advocacy voice of the sector.

Making a statement today the Minister said, "I want to support voluntary and community sector organisations that can assist with the delivery of my vision for health and social care in the north, with an emphasis on transformation.

I have decided to do that by way of providing organisations with funding to support their core functions.

Welcoming the Minister's decision NICVA Chief Executive Seamus McAleavey said, “*The Minister* and her officials have been in discussion with us for some months now and we are delighted she has made this decision. NICVA expects that the new funding scheme will be in place for April 2018 and in the meantime she will maintain the existing scheme with no cuts next year.

Voluntary and community organisations have a big part to play in the Minister's Transformation agenda and NICVA supports the vision that she has set out to transform health in Northern Ireland.

We recognise the challenge is huge and requires the united support of a Northern Ireland Executive if it's to be achieved. If there is an election then the task falls to the incoming Executive and possibly a new Minister but the challenge remains the same and will need unity of purpose”.





## Network For Youth Audit of Participation Structures - Have Your Say & Win £50 of Amazon Vouchers!!

The Education Authority Launched a Pilot 'Network for Youth' initiative in October 2016.

The Network for Youth is a model for strengthening participation in the youth service at a local, sub-regional and regional levels; and is being led by the NI Youth Forum in partnership with Youth Action NI; Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster; Include Youth and Fóram na nÓg. The Network for Youth is open to and inclusive of Participation Structures from across the voluntary and controlled youth service.

A questionnaire has been designed to help establish a baseline of youth participation structures within the EA funded youth work sector.

Once completed, questionnaires will help NIYF write an audit and work together across the youth work sector; connecting pockets of good practice and celebrating young people's achievements. It is the intention to showcase this work via a Participation Hub web page, which is currently being developed.

All participants who complete the questionnaire will be added into a draw for £50 of Amazon vouchers.

For further information please contact Natalie Corbett at NIYF on 028 90331990.

To complete the survey please use the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NFYAudit2017>

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# NI Assembly



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Assembly Update

Whilst the Assembly has been focussing its attention on the Renewal Heat Incentives Scheme since the start of the session, there have been oral answers on matters of Health, Justice, Infrastructure and Finance.

The Assembly reports are available at; <http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/officialreport.aspx>

In addition, the Minister for Communities, Paul Givan MLA responded to questions during the plenary session of the Assembly held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The Minister responded to questions on, Transfer of Housing Executive land and property, ring-fencing funding for social housing, the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Community Halls Programme, Social sector Size Criteria (bedroom tax) mitigations amongst other matters.

The report for the session is available at; <http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/report.aspx?&eveDate=2017/01/24&docID=288332#2655203>

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# Consultations



## Private Rented Sector in Northern Ireland - Proposals for Change

Department for Communities

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/private-rented-sector-northern-ireland-proposals-change>

Closing date; 3rd April 2017

## Homelessness Strategy 2017-22 – 'Ending Homelessness Together'

Housing Executive

<http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/consultation.htm>

Closing date; 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017



# Preparing For Severe Weather

## ***Are you prepared for severe weather?***

Here you'll find some useful tips on how to prepare in your home, on the move and in your community.

Where	How to prepare
<b>In your Home</b>	<p>Keep an emergency kit (include items like battery/windup radio and torch, spare batteries, candles and matches, a phone that doesn't require mains electric to work, list of useful numbers list of medications that you are taking, copies of household insurance policies.</p> <p>Make sure your heating is safe and that your house is properly ventilated.</p> <p>Know how to turn off your electricity supply at the mains.</p> <p>Know where your stop valve is and how to turn off your water.</p> <p>Follow NI Water's advice on protecting your pipes: visit <a href="http://www.niwater.com">www.niwater.com</a> for details.</p>
<b>On the Move</b>	<p>Before travelling, tune into the local forecast and Met Office warnings. Visit <a href="http://www.metoffice.gov.uk">www.metoffice.gov.uk</a> and <a href="http://www.trafficwatchni.com">www.trafficwatchni.com</a></p> <p>Check the road conditions and think about alternative routes and allow extra time for your journey.</p> <p>Fully charge your mobile phone and take a charger with you.</p> <p>Make sure you have appropriate clothing, equipment and food.</p> <p>Pack an emergency travel kit – this will stand you in good stead at any time of the year.</p> <p>If your area is at risk of flooding, remember you should not drive or walk through flood water. Six inches/15cm of fast-flowing water can knock over an adult and two feet/just over 1/2 m can move a car.</p>
<b>In your Community</b>	<p>Helping each other a little can make a big difference.</p> <p>Identify family members or neighbours who may need an extra helping hand if severe weather strikes.</p> <p>Have their phone numbers to hand.</p> <p>Offer help with grocery shopping or other essential tasks.</p> <p>Clear ice or snow from their pathways.</p> <p>If you are part of a community group, think about what your group can do to help others during bad weather.</p> <p>Remember Northern Ireland Electricity Networks (NIE Networks) offer a critical care information service to customers who are dependent on life supporting electrical equipment. Customers on this register will receive up-to-date information by phone during a power cut or a planned interruption. Please call 03457 643 643 to register.</p> <p>Mains Water Supply Northern Ireland Water offers a range of additional services to older customers or customers who have serious medical conditions or need extra help for any other reason. Please contact Northern Ireland Water's Waterline on 03457 440 088.</p>

## ***Useful Downloads:***



**Preparing for severe weather: useful phone numbers [17KB]**



**General Household Emergency Life Saving Plan [211KB]**



**Household Flood Plan [1027KB]**

# Publications



## NI Environment Link Publications

The most recent NIEL e-bulletin is available on the NIEL website at;  
<http://www.mailings.tc/t/r-85C731ACF46D432A2540EF23F30FEDED>

In addition, NI Environment Link has a calendar of events being run by stakeholders and member groups; to find an event of interest to you, or near you go to; <http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/events/>

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## New Year...new catalogue!

Just arrived & hot off the press...the brand new Main Catalogue for public play areas, which is packed full of inspiration and ideas to transform your playground.

With a new look and feel, the catalogue has been designed to simplify your reading experience and also includes the NEW [Role Play Tunnel](#) range.



It's available in both printed and virtual formats. So, don't delay... request your copy by clicking [HERE](#) today!

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## Law Centre NI

The most recent E-bulletin can be accessed at;  
<http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ae690a33dc6a1581f08bf755b&id=c0bde17b94&e=c2b6ae91b3>



## Rural Community Network

The latest edition of the Rural Policy Link is now available from the RCN.

To access the publication, go to;  
<http://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.co.uk/publications/publicationdocument.aspx?doc=610>

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## Scope<sup>NI</sup>

NICVA has published a number of online articles considering issues such as rural schools and the Ministers' plans for the schools estate.

Scope can be accessed at; <http://scopeni.nicva.org/latest-scope-articles>



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## Community Arts Partnership

The most recent edition of Community Arts Weekly is available at;

<http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=b8a8a675fc3c8c08286c7e4ee&id=51323912f1&e=f98d0fc214>

Here you will get access to up to date information on local community arts events, projects and funding.

There is more information and updates on the Partnerships' website at; <http://comartspartner.org/>

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## Community Development and Health Network

The most recent edition of the CDHN e-newsletter is now available.

To access the newsletter, go to;  
<http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=1efc35d04e4c921abca05f196&id=6b2d37b6bb&e=09b1f9112e>



Please click the link below to access the January 2017 edition of inpartnership – the newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives.  
<https://www.pcsp.org/sites/pcsp/files/media-files/inpship-Jan-17.PDF>

# Events



## Annual Barney Filor Memorial Lecture 2017

**Girdwood Community Hub, Belfast on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017 commencing at 1:30pm.**

A distinguished speaker has agreed to provide the lecture: Nic Bliss – Head of Policy, Confederation of Co-operative Housing will give his perspective on the theme of “Is this the time for Housing Co-operatives in Northern Ireland?”

This event will give delegates an opportunity to address the following issues among others:

- The status of Co-operative Housing in the UK
- The recent growth of housing co-operatives in Wales
- How to build on the current interest among people in creating their own housing solutions and sweat equity
- The potential for Tenant/community and self-builders in NI
- Can the Community Asset Transfer policy help with new housing solutions?
- Where do we find financial support to get started, what lessons are in the public domain, how does it fit with the social economy business processes
- Creating and maintaining affordable housing
- Housing mix, mixed tenure developments, intergenerational development, new forms of housing construction

This event is aimed at: Academics; individuals wishing to get involved with self-build housing; housing co-operatives; co-housing; eco-housing and community building; Housing Associations; Senior Government and Public Servants; Investors; Funders and Credit Unions. Invitations will be issued to all political parties to attend.

Email: [events@shelterni.org](mailto:events@shelterni.org)

Tel: 028 90 247752

If you have any questions or queries, relating to the event please contact Ânia Gonçalves [ania@shelterni.org](mailto:ania@shelterni.org)

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## PRESTIGIOUS AWARD TO RECOGNISE VOLUNTARY EFFORT

***Are you a volunteer group that deserves recognition for your outstanding work or would you like to nominate another group to receive an award?***



**The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest Award given to volunteer groups - the equivalent to an MBE. It is for groups of volunteers who together make a real difference - previous winners say the Award has raised their profile, made them

feel valued and inspired them to keep volunteering - so it is well worth considering!

The winners are announced during Volunteers' Week every year and they receive a domed glass crystal and a certificate signed by the Queen.

Groups cannot nominate themselves for the Award – someone not directly involved in the group needs to do that. It could be someone who has benefited from the group, a funder, a local community leader or statutory representative. The group and a nominator can work together to complete a nomination - the process is easy!

Nominations are open for the Award at any time (<https://qavs.direct.gov.uk/>), there is no deadline.



Rural Community Network are hosting an information briefing on **7<sup>th</sup> February 2017, 7pm – 8.30pm** in **RCN, 38A Oldtown St, Cookstown BT80 8EF**, to let you hear how you can nominate, or be nominated, for this prestigious Award.

The session is aimed at potential nominators and interested groups and will go through the process. Additionally if you decide to submit a nomination, you can get one to one support (meeting slots available from January – March 2017) from Volunteer Now to help submit a high quality nomination.

Volunteering is at the heart of rural communities; why not raise its profile and achieve recognition for the difference that volunteers make. Come and hear more, please confirm your attendance by contacting Teresa McKernan in RCN on 02886766670 or email [teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org](mailto:teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org) before 5.00pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017.

This is an opportunity to meet with people engaged in supporting the Awards across NI and would be very beneficial for Networking Organisations to hear how local groups and volunteers can be recognised for their work.

# Training



**Supporting Communities will be holding Good Governance training sessions across all areas in the coming months.** There are two sessions covering two subjects – Effective Meetings & Good Governance and Managing Charity Finances. Within each area we will be running these during the day and also in the evening to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to attend.

If you have a community base, are a member of the HCN / TSP system or are unsure of the governance regulations expected of you by the Charity Commission NI it is vitally important that you do your best to attend or have a representative from your Charity at these important training events.

For the dates of when training will be taking place in your local area please contact your Liaison Officer or visit: <http://supportingcommunities.org/latest-events>.

For any other queries please do not hesitate to contact our Training Team on: [info@supportingcommunities.org](mailto:info@supportingcommunities.org) or Tel: 028 25645676

## Volunteer Now Training News

### Befriending Training

15th February 2017, 10:00-4.00pm

Venue: Volunteer Now

Cost: £45 + VAT

*This training session takes you through essential generic befriending skills - what is befriending, communication skills and highlights the importance of boundaries and having a planned process to 'close' or 'end' a relationship.*

The communication section explores effective listening, the use of body language, mirroring, summarising, tone and question styles to help build rapport and encourage open discussion. Reflecting on a model of communication and gaining top tips on how to give constructive feedback all add to the overview of essential skills. Let Volunteer Now get your Befriender Training well underway, leaving your organisation to focus on specific client needs and boundaries. Please note as part of the consultancy service this training can be tailored or extended to reflect your specific project, client group and structure. A Certificate of Attendance is awarded at the end of this session.

### Having Sufficient Income to Sustain Volunteering Activities

21st February 2017, 10:00am-1.00pm

Venue: Volunteer Now

Cost: £45 + VAT

*Volunteering needs resourced - it is not free.* Attend this masterclass and gain new skills to support the completion of funding applications and hear about trusts, foundations and other funding bodies that may invest in your volunteering organisation/project. Certificate of Attendance is awarded at the end of this masterclass. Delivered by NI Fundraising.

### Keeping Adults Safe: Training for Managers, Supervisors and Management Committee Members

15th February 2017, 09:30-4.30pm

*This is a FREE\* 1 day certificated course - It is being held in Training Room 2, Downshire Hospital, Ardglass Road, Downpatrick BT30 6RA.*

This training will raise awareness of risk of harm in adulthood, provide a background into legal responsibilities in relation to adults at risk and examine the procedures that need to be in place for the recruitment, selection and management of staff and volunteers. It will assist voluntary, community and independent sector organisations working with adults at risk to achieve the minimum standards of best practice as outlined in the publication 'Keeping Adults Safe - A Shared Responsibility'.

This is a one day certificated course for those individuals who manage or supervise staff and volunteers working with adults at risk and those with governance responsibilities.

It will cover:

- awareness of abuse issues;
- legal and policy context
- procedures for reporting concerns;
- code of behaviour for staff and volunteers;
- procedures for recruitment, selection and management of staff/volunteers; and
- dealing with allegations against staff/volunteers.

If you have attended either the Keeping Adults Safe: An Introduction or Keeping Adults Safe: Training for Staff and Volunteers within the last 12 months, you may wish to attend the afternoon session only. Please discuss with Volunteer Now prior to booking.

For other areas, please view the training calendar by clicking [here](#).

For further information contact: [claire.maddison@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:claire.maddison@volunteernow.co.uk)



# Funding



## BBC Children in Need Small Grants

The Small Grants programme is open to charities and not-for-profit organisations applying for any amount up to and including £10,000 per year for up to 3 years. You can now apply for up to £10,000 per year for up to 3 years – a total request of £30,000.

Projects working with children and young people of 18 years and under experiencing disadvantage through:

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



Projects we fund make differences in children's lives that help prevent or overcome the effects of the disadvantages they face. Projects achieve these differences by either working directly with children or seeking to improve their social and physical environments.

For further information, visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/wWhd5lqf4RZ3xhL63G9Xmc/small-grants-what-you-need-to-know>

## Cregganconroe: Community Benefit Fund

This local community fund has been set up by Gaelectric. A wind energy and energy storage company that believes in a sustainable future. Gaelectric is committed to ensuring that their wind farms, whilst having obvious environmental benefits, also provide significant economic benefits to the local community.

The Cregganconroe Community Benefit Fund (set up by Gaelectric) will be administered by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland and will provide a fund available for local projects that educate, raise awareness and demonstrate community involvement in work that promotes environmental issues and healthier lifestyles.

Small grants ranging from £1000 to £2000 will be available to local community projects within a 10km/6 mile radius of the wind farm.

Cregganconroe wind farm is based just off the Loughmallon Road, Pomeroy, Co Tyrone.

The areas located within a 10km radius of the wind farm are largely rural, having a rugged mountaineous terrain within the Sperrin Mountains and comprises dispersed rural settlements including the hamlets and villages of Cappagh, Galbally, Pomeroy, Carrickmore, Kileenan and the Rock.

**The closing date for applications is (9am) 13th February 2017**

For further information, visit, <http://www.communityfoundationni.org/cregganconroe-community-benefit-fun>

## Money Saving Expert Charity

The MSE Charity provides grants to promote financial literacy through education or other activities.

### Who can apply?

- UK registered charities
- Community interest companies
- Credit unions
- Not-for-profit companies limited by guarantee
- Social enterprise companies.

NB You must demonstrate that the people delivering the project have appropriate qualifications and experience to work with the people group targeted by the project. In addition they must be qualified and experienced in delivering financial education.

- The majority of the revenue-only grants made are for activity costs although some grants fund salaries and running costs.
- The majority of grants given are under £5k but exceptional applications could go up to £10k.

For further information, visit, <http://www.msecharity.com/>



# #AllAgesApril

## 2017

#AllAgesApril is a month to bring all ages together - to share, learn, connect and have fun!

### GET INVOLVED!

To mark this special month we encourage you to make the link and reach out to another generation in your area....

Linking Generations Northern Ireland is offering small grants of up to £150 to support one-off events / activities to bring generations together to celebrate!

Applications open Friday 13th January 2017  
and close Monday 27th February at 5pm

Visit [www.linkinggenerationsni.com/allagesapril](http://www.linkinggenerationsni.com/allagesapril)  
or contact [lynn.johnston@bjf.org.uk](mailto:lynn.johnston@bjf.org.uk) to apply!  
Tel: 02891 813022

Let's make this April one for all ages!

Supported by



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Small grants ranging from £1000 to £2000 will be available to local community projects within a 10km/6 mile radius of the wind farm.

Priority will be given to applicant organisations based within the Carrickmore (3.5 miles), Galbally/Cappagh (4-5 miles) and Sixmilecross (6 miles) areas.

**The closing date for applications is (9am) 13th February 2017**

For further information, visit, <http://www.communityfoundationni.org/inishative-community-benefit-fun>

## Hedley Foundation

The Foundation makes grants to small charities working with young people in the areas of Recreation, Sport, Training, Health and Welfare, Support and outdoor Education of young people between the ages of 11 and 25. The Foundation is particularly keen on open air and adventure-type activities and the funding of appropriate kit and equipment. The Foundation is keen to support small charities which can demonstrate achievement in persuading and deterring at-risk young people from proceeding further down the pathway to custody.

A secondary aim is to assist small charities helping with disabled and terminally ill young people through funding for specialist equipment, organised respite breaks and holidays. The Foundation also supports young carers.

For further information, visit, <http://www.hedleyfoundation.org.uk/>

