

NEWS for MEMBERS

Support, Training and Advice for Community Groups

April 2008



community
change

**We would like to
welcome our new
members:**

Upper North Belfast
Community
Empowerment
Programme

Church of God @
Shankill

Lucia Kearney

Please note

Community Change
has moved into new
modern premises in
Weavers Court. Our
new address is:

Unit 8a
Weavers Court
Business Park
Linfield Road
BELFAST
BT12 5GH

All contact numbers
& emails remain the
same.

As the summer season beckons and we all start to look forward to what is referred to as "a quieter period" find below three free networking and training events which we are providing and hosting in our new Community Change offices in Weavers Court.

Three free information and training events **Introduction to Financial Sustainability**

When: Thursday 29th May 2008 **Time:** 10am - 4.00 pm
(Lunch included)

Where: Community Change Offices, 8a Weavers Court Business Park

This session will take a simple grass roots look at Financial sustainability for community groups and organisations. It will explore issues and opportunities surrounding Financial sustainability. It will be an inter-active practical session with time for discussion etc.

Disability Networking Information Session

Understanding the work of the two main disability campaigning organisations - Mencap and Disability Action.

When: Thursday 5th June 2008 **Time:** 11am-1pm (followed by lunch)
Where: Community Change Offices, 8a Weavers Court Business Park

This session will provide an opportunity for groups to learn more about the work of Mencap and Disability Action. Speakers from the two organisations will outline the current campaigns and explain how people can get involved.

Action planning - Getting the Job Done **Training Event for Black and Minority Ethnic Organisations**

When: Wednesday 11th June 2008 **Time:** 11am-1.30pm
(followed by lunch)

Where: Community Change Offices, 8a Weavers Court Business Park

The purpose of this session will be to give a general introduction to Action Planning and provide these groups with an opportunity to network .

Registration for the events

These sessions are all free of charge but numbers are limited so register early. To register for any of the events contact Áine on 028-90 232587 or e mail aine.maguire@communitychange-ni.org

Please note if you book a place and do not attend your group will be invoiced for £10.00 to cover charges occurred and the missed opportunity for someone else.

*If you have any queries or comments contact us on info@communitychange-ni.org
Community Change is core funded by The Voluntary and Community Unit of the D.S.D*



The New Community Change Strategic Plan 2008-2011

Community Change has drafted a New Strategic Plan for April 2008—March 2011. We would be interested in hearing what you think of our suggested new aims and strategic objectives. It is important to us to stay focused on the needs of you our members whilst also working at a strategic level to keep you informed and provide training, support and advice around any strategic changes we see having an effect on community and voluntary organisations. We have tried to capture these two elements within our new plan but you can assess if we have managed that for yourselves.

The Aims and Strategic Objectives are listed below. Please feel free to send through your comments to info@communitychange-ni.org or give us a ring on 028-90 232587 to let us know your views.

Aim 1: Continue to build capacity of community and voluntary groups and organisations throughout Northern Ireland

Strategic objective: Increase the governance capacity of groups to manage, develop and embed good governance and leadership throughout their activities and practices within the community and voluntary sector

Aim 2: Develop and build skills and capacity in collaborative and partnership working, and managing change

Strategic Objective: Encourage and promote exploration, development and implementation of a range of different options in change management and planning for the future

Aim 3: Expand and promote Strategic Development work including advising government on building capacity and leadership within communities throughout Northern Ireland

Strategic Objective: Work as an agent for change by advising government departments at a strategic level on capacity and leadership needs in communities whilst also providing direct support to groups and organisations to build their strategic planning skills and knowledge.

Aim 4: Develop and secure the future sustainability, effectiveness and impact of Community Change

Strategic Objective: Ensure the future of Community Change as a key organisation of high quality, progressive and effective services through development of the organisation skills, resources, IT systems, and engagement with users at a wide range of levels.

Over the next few weeks the Community Change Board will meet to consider any feedback that comes in from you on the plan. They will then make any necessary amendments, finalise our Vision and Mission statements and prepare the Strategic Plan for launching. An update of these decisions taken will be published in the Newsheet at a later date so watch this space as they say in the advertising field.

‘Getting to know you..’

One of things you the members have been telling us is that you would like a “networking” and information sharing opportunity to hear what other groups are doing and the services they provide etc. This could be useful for future reference and would also provide an opportunity for the group featured to promote its work throughout Northern Ireland .

Community Change has taken this feed back on board and has decided to offer some space in each newssheet for a group to tell us about their work.

This is our first ‘Getting to know you’ article and it is provided by Emergency Medical Services who are based in Magherafelt. They are a relatively new Community Change member having joined us in November 2007.

If you are interested in your group appearing in this section of the Newssheet in the future contact Áine at Community Change to discuss.

Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.)

E.M.S. was founded in 1992 as a proactive response to, and concern surrounding, the number of persons dying of heart attacks in the Mid-Ulster area. The group is made up of volunteers who, being concerned about the above came together to help others learn Advanced First Aid with a specific focus on first aid for those showing first signs of having a heart attack.

We established, and continue to provide, a unique training programme which focuses on First Aid Training and Health & Safety Training. We provide training in the following Courses; First Aid at Work, Public First Aid, Emergency First Aid, Paediatric Emergency First Aid, Sports First Aid, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillation. We also provide training in General Health & Safety, Risk Assessment, COSHH, Manual Handling, and Fire Warden Training.

The training was planned to be delivered primarily in the Mid-Ulster area but the demand has been such that it is now delivered throughout Northern Ireland.

E.M.S. volunteers also provide a high standard pre-hospital First Aid service to a wide range of public and sporting events. We also provide non-urgent ambulance transportation for those who don’t want to sit for hours waiting to be moved to home or elsewhere.

If you would be interested in finding out more about us, using our services, or our training programme contact: E.M.S. 41 Rainey Street, Magherafelt, BT45 5AE. Telephone - 028 7930 1333 or
Email - emsfirstaid@gmail.com

**E.M.S. is a Registered Charity with the Inland Revenue Charity
No 29637**



Finance Input



As you know our Finance Project closed in December 07. Whilst we continue to try and secure funding for a Financial Management Support Project to meet the many support requests we receive in this area we realise here is a gap in information and advice in this area. We are delighted therefore that Níamh Goggin from The Charity Bank has agreed to do a small finance related article for the next few editions on a subject current in the finance world. We thank her for that and hope you enjoy this new edition.

The “CREDIT CRUNCH “ and the Community Sector – how does it effect us?

The global credit crunch may seem a million miles from work on the ground for local voluntary organisations and community groups but it will undoubtedly effect our work. Whilst the talk is about billions of dollars or pounds, Interbank lending freeze, toxic mortgages etc it may seem unrelated but remember it is a small world these days and irresponsible, greedy and reckless behaviour by the financial services sector will have an impact on us all.

Usually, the banks are happy to borrow and lend money between each other as it is needed. Now, that has all changed and the flow of finance has ground almost to a halt. The banks have realised that, like rogue greengrocers slipping a bruised apple or a rotten tomato into your bag, they have been buying and selling dodgy financial instruments. They are now so paranoid about the problem that they are hogging their own money and unwilling to buy or sell to other banks.

So what does it mean for your group

What this means is that access to credit for your group – overdrafts, loans, mortgages etc are likely to get more difficult. If your bank does not regard you as a dream customer – if you ever bounce a cheque, exceed your overdraft or miss a loan repayment – they may take an opportunity to get rid of you as a customer. Overdraft facilities are likely to be cut back and if you are planning to purchase, renovate or construct a new building, this is a bad time to look for a mortgage or loan towards that from the mainstream banks.

This credit crunch could not happen at a worse time, with many organisations coming to the end of their Peace funding and the delays that come at the end of project closures with the final payments from funders. The best advice has to be build and keep a good relationship with your bank manager. If it looks like you will run into financial difficulties during the summer, start planning now and **tell the bank** so they don't get “unexpected surprises”. Look for alternative funding, do some serious fund-raising, cut back all non-essential spending. By keeping the bank informed you will help keep the good relationship, and you might even avoid the fees you would incur for being told your account is overdrawn (no guarantee)

Niamh Goggin Charity Bank Tel 028-90 244179

