

NEWS for MEMBERS

Facilitation, training and support for community groups and organisations

March 2009



community
change

We would like to welcome our new members:

- ◆ Forthspring Inter Community Group
- ◆ Bessbrook & Divernagh Womens Association

Free Financial Training

Opportunities throughout N.I.

See page two for more details

Interested in bringing this training to your area - ring Margaret to discuss 028 90-232587

Launch 'n' Lunch Event & Free PR Workshop

IN BBC
GREEN ROOM
BLACKSTAFF BUILDING
GREAT VICTORIA STREET
BELFAST
ON FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2009
AT 10AM-1PM

Community Change is holding an event to launch a number of new resources. This includes three capacity building booklets on: Action Planning, Strategic Planning, Management Committee Roles and Responsibilities, our Strategic Plan 2008-2011 and our re-modelled Web-site.

In order to make the event productive for participants we have combined it with a FREE PR workshop entitled

“WAYS OF PROMOTING YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP WITH VERY LITTLE MONEY.”

Julie McCaughan from Issue Island will provide us with tips and secrets of how to ensure we use the limited budgets community groups have to promote their work in “creative” ways so that we make the very best of whatever opportunities we can. This will be a very practical and interactive workshop. The event will finish with lunch at 1.00 p.m. See enclosed flyer for more information

To register for this event please contact Áine on 028-90232587 or
E-mail Aine.Maguire@communitychange-ni.org

New Board Member

Community Change would like to welcome Charmain Jones to our Board. At our AGM in November 2008 we encouraged representatives from the Newry / Armagh / Portadown / Dungannon areas to join our Board. Charmain responded to that appeal and has been officially co-opted to the Community Change Board at the January Board meeting. Charmain is currently working as part time Co-ordinator for REACT and part-time in L.A. (Lisanally and Alexander) as Support Officer in Armagh. She has worked in the community development field and community youth work from 2000 in various roles and with different organisations in the Portadown area.

Good-bye & Good Luck!

Community Change Board and staff would like to wish Brenda Kelly, The Facilitation and Training Officer with the Networks Project, (which closed in December 2008) all the best in her post of Programme Co-ordinator within the Community Leadership Programme in NICVA. Brenda had been with Community Change for two and a half years and we thank her for all her hard work and dedication in her post here.



Finance Workshops

Basic Introduction to Financial Sustainability

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.

Venue	Date / Time	To register, contact
Keady & District Community Initiatives, Keady	Tuesday 24th February 2009 10am-1pm	Emma on 028 37-539928
Rural College & Derrynoid Centre, Draperstown	Tuesday 3rd March 2009 10am-1pm	Fiona on 028 79-629100
Community Arts Forum, Belfast	Monday 9th March 2009 10am-12.30pm	Heather Floyd on 028-90242910 or hffloyd@caf.ie
East Belfast Community Development Association	Thursday 19th March 2009 10.30am-1pm	Joanna on 028-90451512

Full Cost Recovery

This workshop will give a grass roots plain english overview of Full Cost Recovery and what is meant by that term. It will explore how groups and organisations can calculate the actual costs of delivering their services/activities etc. This will ensure that when applying for funding or entering into Service Level Agreements the costings used are real and include running costs.

Participants will get the opportunity to 'try out' a template to calculate full costs and all participants will receive a copy of that template for use with their own group / organisation

Venue	Date / Time	To register, contact
Keady and District Community Initiatives, Keady	Tuesday 3rd March 2009 10am-12.30pm	Emma on 028 37-539928
Rural College & Derrynoid Centre, Draperstown	Tuesday 10th March 2009 7pm-9pm	Fiona on 028 79-629100
Community Arts Forum, Belfast	Monday 30th March 2009 10am-12.30pm	Heather Floyd on 028-90242910 or hffloyd@caf.ie

Please note if you book a place on any of these workshops and don't attend you will be charged a cancellation fee of £20.00 to cover administration and catering costs

These workshops are funded by Lloyds TSB



'Did you Know?'



- ◆ There is a new Direct Links Transport scheme available to community groups across Belfast who become affiliated members. The following groups are specifically targeted: people with disabilities, elderly people, youth, women, carers etc. For more information contact Karen Moore 028 90-231074 or e-mail directlinks@usdt.co.uk;
- ◆ Community Change is currently creating a database of groups who would like to receive this newsheet by email, if you have not responded to our membership survey and would like to receive a copy by e-mail please contact Áine on 028 90-232587 to request this;
- ◆ W.E.A are running their Facilitative Leadership course over three days on the 9, 10, 11 March at Groundwork NI, the cost for the course is £400 this includes lunch and materials. Accreditation for those who complete the coursework is OCNNI Level 2. For more information or to book onto the course you can do this via www.wea-ni.com or contact Maura Kavanagh on 028-90329718;
- ◆ The Department for Regional Development has announced a new Rural Transport Fund Voucher Scheme. This scheme is aimed at rural community groups and organisations wishing to transport 17 or more passengers. To receive an application pack please contact 028 90-403535 or e-mail: sylvia@ctauk.org;
- ◆ NICVA is hosting an information event on The Charity Commission for N.I. on the 25th March 2009. To register contact Georgie Finlay on 028 90-877777;
- ◆ With the recent credit crunch and difficulties the banks are experiencing it is thought that many of the funding streams and grant giving trusts will have reduced amounts of funding to allocate;
- ◆ Age Concern and Help the Aged will officially become one organisation from 1st April 2009 and will be known as "The New Charity " until a new name is agreed later in the year;
- ◆ Many Peace III programmes are currently opened or opening. For current up to date information refer to http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/peace_iii_programme_2007-2013;
- ◆ COSTA in conjunction with CWSAN are holding a "**Beat the Credit Crunch**" multi-agency event on Thursday 12th March 2009, 7:00pm - 9:00pm at Corick House, Clogher, Co Tyrone. For more information contact Lorraine or Martina at COSTA: Tel: 028 85-556880 or e-mail: costa.network@virgin.net;
- ◆ The term M.L.A. stands for Member of Legislative Assembly and M.L.A.'s are elected by you the people NOT ministers;
- ◆ Under new provision which came into place in 2007 of the Companies Act 2006 all company members now have a statutory right to appoint "a proxy" to attend, speak and vote on their behalf at general meetings of the company - even if the company Articles say otherwise;
- ◆ Community Change offers independent tailor made facilitation and training.

THE BILL OF RIGHTS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND UPDATE 2009

What is a Bill of Rights?

A Bill of Rights is a legally enforceable agreement between a state and the people within it, of the fundamental or essential rights and freedoms that the government of the state will protect.

Why is it felt N.I. needs a Bill of Rights?

The concept of a Bill of Rights for N.I. is about rebuilding confidence in the legal system. The Bill will be part of a process that will create a new legal framework for everyone in Northern Ireland.

BILL OF RIGHTS FORUM

The Northern Ireland Office set up the Forum in December 2006 to create the Bill of Rights for N. I. The Forum has an independent chair, 14 members of civic society and 14 political representatives. The Forum presented its recommendations for a Bill of Rights to the Human Rights Commission in March 2008. The Commission then presented the recommendations to the Secretary of State on 10th December 2008 (International Day of Human Rights).

What is happening now?

The recommendations will go through an 8 - 12 week period of consultation, which is likely to take place this spring (2009). Organisations and individuals are able to take part in the consultation process.

What happens then?

- ◆ In the autumn after the consultation period, the Secretary of State will present a draft of the legislation to Westminster;
- ◆ Then the Bill will pass through the House of Commons and the Lords,
- ◆ Once approved, the Bill would become law in NI by 2010;
- ◆ Organisations /groups etc will then put the Bill into practice.

What is in the Bill?

So far the recommendations for NI Bill of Rights cover all sorts of areas.

When it becomes law, the Bill will impact on each one of the following areas:

- ◆ Right to equality and prohibition of discrimination;

- ◆ Freedom from violence, exploitation and harassment;
- ◆ Right to identity and culture;
- ◆ Right to civil and administrative justice;
- ◆ Rights to liberty and fair trial;
- ◆ Right to an adequate standard of living;
- ◆ Environmental rights;
- ◆ Children's rights;
- ◆ Right to health;
- ◆ Education rights;
- ◆ Language rights;
- ◆ Rights of victims;
- ◆ Democratic rights;
- ◆ Right to accommodation;
- ◆ Right to work;



Organisations involved

The Bill of Rights Forum:

The Forum meets regularly and have working groups who examine and report on areas of Human Rights. Everyone is invited to have their say via the Forum's website:

www.billofrightsforum.org

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission:

The Commission is an independent organisation working to ensure that human rights in N.I are fully and firmly protected in law, policy and practice. www.nihrc.org

The Human Rights Consortium:

This is a membership organisation made up of many community/voluntary sector organisations/trade unions/NGOs etc. The Consortium has observer status on the Bill of Rights Forum. Groups and organisations can join the consortium. More information is available at:

www.billofrightsnri.org

Learning from others

Northern Ireland can learn much from the experience in other countries, such as South Africa, where a Bill of Rights debate allowed the expression of views for all sections of society regarding the rights they felt it was important to protect.

However Bills of Rights do not only emerge from conflict and at times of transition. Most societies have a document such as this, which sets out in a clear and accessible way, the constitutional limits, to the exercise of power by the government of that country.