

Chinwag: news update. March 2009

Welcome to CHNI's e-newsletter

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If you would like to contribute to Chinwag, please contact George Quinn, Information officer, at CHNI - tel: 028 90246440, oremail: info@chni.org.uk

Feel free to send news items, information about any job vacancies, projects, achievements, or activities, including those of residents / those who use your services: info@chni.org.uk.

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[Click here to contact us](#)

A Goodbye to Malcolm Christy

With great regret, CHNI staff members bade an official good-bye to Malcolm Christy during March. Malcolm, as many of you will know worked as Supporting People Officer both at CHNI and NIFHA, and will be returning to the NI Co-Ownership Housing Association from which he was seconded.

CHNI would like to thank Malcolm, on behalf of its members, and all SP providers, for his diligence, hard work and guidance to providers over the last four and a half years. He will be missed as a staff member here at CHNI's Belfast Office. We wish Malcolm all the best on his return to NI Co-Ownership Housing Association, and for the future. Should you have any SP queries in the short-term, please contact Bernie Heery at our NorthWest Office. [Back to top](#)

CHNI forthcoming training

Courses / training currently available (April - June 2009) include the OCN Supported Housing; OCN Working With Substance Users; Homelessness and Mental Health; Understanding Self Harm, Working with People who Self Injure; Managing Risk and Risk Assessment; Mental Health Rating Scales; Understanding schizophrenia; Protection of Vulnerable Adults; Suicide and Self Harm; Developing & Implementing Support Plans; Interpersonal Skills; Health and Safety in the Workplace; and Report Writing and Record Keeping.

If you have a particular training need or require more information about our listed training courses contact the training department or complete the email form at the bottom of this page. Please note, as well as designing training to suit your needs, all training can be offered in-house or at a venue that suits your organisation. **For further information** on the CHNI training courses, please contact: Yvonne Beggs or Lesley Morrison, Training Department. (tel) 02890 246440; (fax) 02890 241266; (email) training@chni.org.uk. Alternatively, complete the form at the bottom of our [training page](#). **Bespoke training is available to groups of staff on particular issues. Please use the contact details provided to discuss your particular training needs.**

For information on our OCN Supported Housing training and for OCN Working with Substance Users, visit our [training page](#) and / or [training calendar for Spring 2009](#). Information on general training will be added to the website in due course.

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Child Poverty Alliance seminar series

The Child Poverty Alliance (CPA) is an alliance of organisations working together to ensure that the UK Government and NI Executive achieve their targets of halving child poverty in Northern Ireland by 2010 and eradicating it by 2020. CPA would like to invite you to attend a series of seminars focusing on issues relating to child poverty, each (listed below) to be held in the **Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings, Belfast**. Each session will focus on a topic relating to the impact of poverty and deprivation on the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland. If you do not work in Parliament Buildings you need to have a personal invitation to attend these events so it is vital that you reserve a place. CPA members are welcome to bring along a small pop up stand for display: if you are planning to do this, please be there about 15 mins early. There will also be a table for members to display any literature they want to distribute.

Y Impact of the recession on children and families, Tuesday 24 March (12.00-2.00). Guest speaker: Professor Paddy Hillyard, QUB. **To book**, contact Cathy Breslin, NICVA, cathy.breslin@nicva.org before Tuesday 18 March.

Y Unravelling the myths of child poverty, Tuesday 21 April (12.00-2.00). Guest speaker: Marina Monteith. **To book**, contact Anne Moore, Save the Children a.moore@savethechildren.co.uk before Tuesday 14 April.

Y Supporting families, Tuesday 16 June (12.00-2.00). Guest speaker: to be confirmed. **To book**, contact Mary Ann Webb, Barnardos mary.annwebb@barnardos.co.uk before Tuesday 9 June.

Y Children with disabilities and child poverty, Tuesday 22 September. (12.00-2.00). Guest speaker: to be confirmed. **To book** contact Eddie Casement, The Family Fund eca@familyfund.org.uk.

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Anti Poverty Awareness Day

At Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, Wednesday 28th May 2008 - from 9.30am. With representatives from many local charities and community/voluntary workers. To register your interest, please contact the Member Support Office on 028 8772 0309. **Source:** CDHN

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European-wide Action Week Against Racism

Contact UNITED who can provide you with information and campaign material and logos. For further information, visit <http://www.unitedagainstracism.org/pages/camparwv.htm>

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New Learning Programme for people currently unemployed

The Learner Access & Engagement Programme has been developed in partnership between the Worker's Educational Association & five local Further Educational Colleges. The main aim of the programme is to get people who are not in work & have a low level of educational attainment back into learning and increase community-based provision. **Further information** is available from <http://www.wea-ni.com/college-contracts/2.html>

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Polish Film Festival comes to Belfast

Queen's Film Theatre is launching a Polish Film Festival which is taking place between 20th and 26th March. This event has been organised as part of Polska Year (2009-2010): <http://www.queensfilmtheatre.com/Whatson/>

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Men's Project Activities

New Fact Sheets for fathers. The Men's Project is pleased to announce that it has collated two new fact sheets for fathers. These provide answers to some of the key questions about "Paternity Leave and Pay" and the "Rights of Unmarried Fathers" in Northern Ireland.

Copies are available for free downloading online at: www.mensproject.org/resources/paternity.html and www.mensproject.org/resources/unmarried.html

"Kick Start 2009": Supporting Work with Fathers. Is your organisation interested in developing work with fathers? Do you ask yourself questions such as: Where do we start? What is possible? Who can help us? What has been tried in other places? Would you like training and ongoing support to achieve your goal? Then "Kick Start 2009" might help you!!!

The Men's Project (within Parents Advice Centre) is delighted to announce that we have just received funding to run another of our highly successful Kick Start programmes during 2009. Kick Start is an innovative initiative (sponsored by the Family Policy Unit, DHSSPS) which offers a package of training, support, mentoring, reflection and practical action to organisations that are currently trying to, or wishing to, engage with fathers in Northern Ireland. **source:** *Men's Project*

To get more information, please contact Trisha McQueen or Colin Fowler at Tel: 02890 310891 or visit our website at www.mensproject.org/kickstart.html. **Click here for registration form and related documents.** (Note: these documents available via CHNI website for a limited period. Contact Project provider(s) for further detail / forms).

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Highlighting Senior Mens Activities

An event promising information, entertainment, & "craic"! **Thursday 26th March, 11am - 4pm, Ducker's Social Club, Pilot Street, Belfast.**

A day to highlight activities undertaken by men involved in the Ageing Well Reach Pilot Initiative in North & West Belfast. Lunch will be provided followed by musical entertainment 2-4pm. Transport assistance may be available. **Phone Melanie at Age Concern** Tel: (028) 90 245 729 before 16th March 2009. **Source:** *CDHN Health Bytes*.

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CDHN - 'RPA' Workshops

CDHN has begun a new set of workshops to present updates on the Review of Public Administration. The next workshop will be held on the 14th May in Belfast. The [most recent set of slides](#) have been uploaded to the [CDHN RPA web page](#). (www.cdhn.org/rpa)

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Local Government NJC payscales

The local government NJC payscales for the current year (2008/09), often used in the voluntary sector, have finally been fully settled. An interim increase of 2.45% on the previous rates was made in November (backdated to April), and an arbitration process began. This has resulted in an uplift of 2.75% overall, with extra for the lowest paid. The details can be found on NAVCA's site at <http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/scales/>, or NICVA, <http://preview.tinyurl.com/dx5gvh>. **Source:** *VolResource Newsletter No. 376*

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Effective ways to tackle workplace stress

The Health and Safety Executive recently revamped their [stress management website](#). A further section 'Effective ways to tackle workplace stress' is now online, to help "employees, HR staff and Board directors discover effective, lasting answers to workplace stress". Don't spend all day popping the virtual bubble wrap (requires Flash), <http://www.hse.gov.uk/stress/tacklestress/index.htm>.

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New form P45 to be used from April

Employers are being reminded by HM Revenue and Customs that they must use the new A4 version of form P45 from 6th April. Introduced in October 2008, the new form includes date of birth and gender. News item: <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=394560&NewsAreaID=2>. **Source:** *VolResource Newsletter No. 376*

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European Law and Equality fact sheet

ENAR have published a fact sheet introducing European Law and Equality. The document briefly explains what the EU is, treaties of the EU, key political institutions and European Law. [Click here](#) (via CHNI website) (<http://www.chni.org.uk/UserFiles/File/Euroequality.pdf>). **Source:** *MWSN Newsletter*.

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Paper: Effects of recession in NI

A paper on the implications of the economic crisis on the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland, requested by the Minister for Enterprise Trade and Investment, has been submitted by umbrella body NICVA. It highlights falling income set against increasing demand in certain areas. News item at <http://preview.tinyurl.com/7lmxvh>. **Source:** *VolResource Newsletter No. 376*

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News round-up

Y NIHE team up with Simon Community to provide a Floating Support Clinic at the District Office in John Street, Derry. [Click here](#)

Y Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission calls for abolition of Worker Registration Scheme. [Click here](#)

Y (Irish Times article): Number of homeless from abroad on the increase. [Click here](#)

Y (Children & Young People Bulletin): Rise in suicidal children calling ChildLine. [Click here](#)

Y Hard times for Irish in London. [News article](#)

Y (Irish Times article): Minister critical of e-mail campaign by homeless group. [Click here](#). **See related:** [MakeRoom to End Homelessness - Four Main Housing and Homelessness NGOs launch Campaign](#) (Simon Community Ireland website). Also visit [MAKEROOM website](#)

Y (BBC Scotland): Rise in homeless children numbers. [Click here](#). **See related:** [Shelter Scotland - Acting in the best interests of homeless children: views on where they want to live \(pdf\)](#)

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