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training | researching | networking | informing

April 2010

Welcome to CHNI's e-newsletter

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CHNI's work – update

Below is a snapshot of the type of work carried out by CHNI staff members. Details refer to specific activities, and may not necessarily refer to other, core / daily activities. Should you require further information about any of the activities below, or staff's other activities, please contact the staff member in question (click here to access contact details)

Directorate

Examples of some of the work, Ricky Rowledge (Director) has been involved in this month:

- Ongoing work in around food sharing initiative
- Speaker at the Cymorth Cymru conference.
- Gave evidence to the Welsh Assembly Government's Commission on the future of supported housing in Wales.
- Written responses to Housing Benefit Reform and Housing Bill consultations.
- Meetings of Voluntary Sector Housing Providers' Forum, CRISPP, and Multi-disciplinary Homeless Support Team Steering groups.
- Meetings in regard to European Year combating Poverty & Social Exclusion with European Commission office
- Meeting with Committee member for NI on European Economic and Social Committee.
- Charing Youth Scoping event, meeting with Private rented sector landlord regarding future provision and public private partnerships.
- Planning CRISPP conference.
- NICVA / SP / CHNI event in Ballymena on collaborative working
- Meeting DSD regarding the future of PSI homelessness.
- Delivering training with Margaret for EDACT.
- Meeting Homeless link and NIHE regarding future of Vacancy Online System service.
- Meeting Director of PHA re substance misuse training development.

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Margaret Henry (Deputy Director)

- Writing CHNI Business Plan
- Ongoing one to one support to members / providers
- Meeting with and assisting several member organisations who are considering collaborative working
- Review and update of Maternity and Paternity policies with LRA
- Delivered training as part of CHNI training programme
- Funding application to EDACT for Healthy Eating Project for those with addictions

- Business Plan Review
- Working with Homeless Link on feasibility study and development of Vacancy online system
- Attendance at Migrant Worker Thematic Sub-group
- Attendance at Vital Links Project ([click here](#))
- Attendance at Housing Rights Service Committee meeting
- Attendance at race & equality conference 'Stronger Together'
- Attendance at Migrant Worker related training
- Met with NIHE Supporting People & NIHE Housing & Regeneration

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Training department

Please find below the training calendar*, updated for Spring / Summer 2010.

Belfast		
Date	Session	Session Description
Mon 19 April	Tutorial	OCN Supported Housing
Wed 21 April	Training	Introduction to Schizophrenia
Wed 28 April	Training	Introduction to Personality Disorders
Wed 5 May	Training	Protection of Children in Supported Housing
Wed 12 May	Training	Challenging Behaviour
Tues 18 May	Training	Dealing With Diversity
Wed 19 May	Training	Interpersonal Skills
Tues 25 May	Training	Young People at Risk of Offending
Wed 26 May	Training	Support Plans
Wed 2 June	Training	Dementia
Wed 9 June	Training	Maintaining Professional Boundaries
Wed 16 June	Training	Service User Involvement & Participation
Wed 23 June	Training	Finance for non Financial Managers

North West		
Date	Session	Session Description
Wed 14 April	Training	Protection of Vulnerable Adults
Wed 21 April	Training	Health and Safety
Wed 28 April	Training	Lone Working
Thurs 6 May	Training	Support Values and Skills in Housing
Wed 12 May	Training	Protection of Children in Supported Housing
Mon 17 May	Training	Dealing With Diversity

Tues 18 May	Training	Interpersonal Skills and Motivational Interviewing
Mon 24 May	Training	Young people at Risk of Offending
Tues 25 May	Training	Support Plans
Thurs 27 May	Training	Planning and Developing Support for Housing
Tues 1 June	Training	Dementia
Wed 2 June	Training	Challenging Behaviour
Tues 8 June	Training	Maintaining Professional Boundaries
Wed 9 June	Training	Introduction to Self Harm & Suicide (Assignment issued)
Tues 15 June	Training	Service User Involvement and Participation
Wed 16 June	Training	Introduction to Schizophrenia
Tues 22 June	Training	Finance for non Financial Managers
Wed 23 June	Training	Introduction to Personality Disorders
Thurs 24 June	Training	Record Keeping and Report Writing

**Please note, although the training department works hard to ensure that all dates, venues, tutors and courses are fixed, CHNI reserve the right to change any aspect of course content as appropriate. We will notify you of any changes in good time, where practicable.*

Training Department (Substance Use strand)

- In 2010 the Substance Use training programme continues to consist of a wide range of free training and learning opportunities for homelessness and addictions staff in the Eastern area. For example, in February Chris began to facilitate an OCN Level 3 Working with Substance Users course. Learners will complete this in April by portfolio submission. Also commencing in February were 2 bespoke training courses for hostels who will be working with injecting drug users in the near future. Each of these 3-day courses received excellent feedback from participants who highly regarded the involvement of service users in the delivery of the course. Chris also delivered a tailored 2-day training programme to users of Extern services. This was entitled Substance Use Training and certificated by CHNI.
- Another OCN Level 3 Working with Substance Users Course will start on the 13th April. There will also be a Substance Use Awareness course on Thursday 20th May 2010. If you would like further information on the above courses please contact kathyhenry@chni.org.uk.
- Chris will continue to deliver bespoke training events in the spring to various homelessness providers on topics such as drug interactions with mental health, motivational interviewing, legal highs and prescription medications.
- We have applied for funding from EDACT Small Grants Scheme to train those working with homeless alcohol users. We hope to supplement the training with a specialist booklet on nutrition

which will aim to reduce alcohol related illnesses such as Wernicke-Korsakoff's syndrome by improving the diets/nutritional intake of this group.

- **For more information / queries regarding substance use training and development opportunities,** please email kathyhenry@chni.org.uk

Up and coming Training Courses, April-December 2010*	
Date	Session Description
April 13 th & 20 th	OCN Level 3 Working with Substance Users Day 1 & 2.
May 20 th	Substance Use Awareness Course 1-Day.
June 8 th	Basic Life Support/Overdose Management Course 2 half days.
June 15 th	Safer Crack Cocaine Course, 1-Day.
June 22 nd	Homelessness & Substance Use Course, 1-Day.
September 7 th , 8 th , 9 th	Safer Injecting Course, 3-Day.
September 14 th , 21 st	OCN Level 3 Working with Substance Users Course 2-Day.
September 28 th	Substance Use Awareness Course, 1-Day.
October 12 th	Alcohol Effects Course, 1-Day.
October 19 th	Substance Use Awareness Course, 1-Day.
November 1 st -12 th	Cross-Sectoral Placements.
November 2 nd & 3 rd	Screening Tools and Brief Interventions Course, 2-Day.
November 23 rd	Best Practice Seminar (to be decided).

**Please note, although the training department works hard to ensure that all dates, venues, tutors and courses are fixed, CHNI reserve the right to change any aspect of course content as appropriate. We will notify you of any changes in good time, where practicable.*

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Youth Department

Young Peoples Charter for Change on Housing in NI.

- Following last months away day to Limavady the young people involved in the 'Charter for Change on Housing in NI' Project have continued to meet regularly and are almost ready to embark on the consultation stage of the programme. This stage will see the young people holding focus events with 12 groups of young people from across the country, representing the wide diversity of young people within Northern Ireland. This phase of the project will allow a larger variety of voices to be heard and represented within the project. The young people have

also been discussing plans to film a documentary style, video diary of the process and are attending media training around this over the coming weeks.

Regional Common Monitoring Study.

- This month we are busy completing production of the detailed Regional Report which shall mark the final stage of this important project. In addition we are also finalising plans for two stakeholder information events that shall take place mid April to mark the launch of the reports findings. There has been a lot of interest expressed in attending the events and we are confident that a broad range of stakeholders will be represented, helping ensure as widespread dissemination of study findings as possible.
- **Regional Common Monitoring of Homeless 16-25 Year Olds in Northern Ireland Report. Key Findings Seminar Events: Belfast and Derry.**
- We will be hosting two invite-only events, marking the launch of a regional report detailing the study's main findings. These are –
 - **Belfast Area** (Programme shall include Belfast, South Eastern and Southern area specific findings). **Date:** Friday 16th April 2010; **Time:** 10 am – 12.30 pm approx; **Venue:** NICCY, Millennium House, 17-25 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7BA.
 - **Northwest Area** (Programme shall include Western and Northern area findings) **Date:** Wednesday 21st April 2010; **Time:** 10 am – 12.30 pm approx; **Venue:** Verbal Arts Centre, Stable Lane and Mall Wall, Bishop Street, L/Derry, BT48 6PU
- These events will present key (general and area-specific) information collected via the study, and offer representatives from the DHSSPS, DSD and NIO an opportunity to share their response to and outline the strategic relevance of the key findings.
- This event invites key stakeholders in the planning and delivery of services for young people, and attendance is by personal invitation only. However should you be unavailable, we are happy for you to nominate a suitable representative. Similarly, should you wish to be invited and have not been so, and for all queries relating to the events, please contact Kathy Maguire at 90246440 or via email, kathy@chni.org.uk. We thank you for your agency's assistance and cooperation with the Common Monitoring Study and very much look forward to welcoming you at this important event.
- **Young Peoples Accommodation Provider fora.**
- We have continued to assist and advise on key pieces of work aimed at improving the standard and quality of services homeless young people receive This month, saw the Youth department facilitate an Information Seminar for Young Peoples Accommodation Service Providers and

other key stakeholders aimed at providing an overview of current key policy and practice developments in relation to youth homelessness and the development of a standards framework for supported accommodation services. This event was extremely well attended with presentations on the day from key representatives from DHSSPS, RQIA, Supporting People and NIHE. One of the key action points agreed at this seminar was to re establish the quarterly Young Peoples Provider Forum, which CHNI has agreed to coordinate.

- Arrangements for the first meeting of this forum will be publicised in next months CHINWAG

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Information department

As well as ongoing information provision to staff, members and public; and information management, George Quinn, Information Officer has been

- Completed work on NIHE 2008-2009 homelessness statistics – available upon request.
- Developing paper copy and poster copy of Homelessni directory
- Produced interim report based on analysis of questionnaire responses re. Funding SP Services. Provider survey 2010. This short survey of supported housing providers was conducted following the recent announcement by the NIHE that the SP budget was to be baselined for the period 2008/09 to 2010/11 inclusive. The survey was conducted on for CRISSP, the Committee Representing Independent Supporting People Service Providers.
- Last month, we re-issued this questionnaire and set a reply deadline of Friday 26th March 2010. If you are in receipt of SP funding and have not received this questionnaire / are still to complete it, please do so. It is imperative we can provide a representative picture - in support of ring fencing and uplift in the SP budget - on your behalf. For queries, contact Majella – 71 366363, majella@chni.org.uk

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North West

- **Rough Sleepers and Street Drinkers Event.** CHNI and De Paul Ireland will be co-hosting an event on behalf of the NIHE Working Together to Deliver Effective Services To Rough Sleepers and Street Drinkers. The event will have major representation of the most appropriate services from the sector within the Derry area. All bookings for the event are being taken through the Northwest office and bookings will only be accepted from those with invitations only.

- **CRISPP Conference.** The CRISPP Conference was held on 23rd March in Walsh's Hotel, Maghera. My involvement was to disseminate conference information and book the delegates places on the event. The success of the event is due to the careful planning and organisation by Alison and our admin team in Belfast.
- **The Northwest Member's Forum** had good attendance at the last meeting. We had originally had the PSNI Police Protection Unit on the agenda to speak about Schedule 1 offenders and the most appropriate route of referrals for the NW, but due to unforeseen circumstances they had to send apologies at the last minute. However they have agreed to attend the next meeting.
- **Training and administration.** Bernie is also providing in house training to SATH on report writing and support planning. As it is nearing the end of the financial year there is a lot of finalising and inputting of accounts up to date. Other financial work would include the regular bookkeeping, banking etc.

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CHNI staff contacts:

Directorate

Ricky Rowledge, Director.	ricky@chni.org.uk
Margaret Henry, Dep. Director	margarethy@chni.org.uk

Youth Unit

Kathy Maguire, Youth Homelessness Officer	kathy@chni.org.uk
Sarah Kennedy, Youth Research Officer	sarah@chni.org.uk
Susan Duncan, Youth Participation officer	susan@chni.org.uk

Training Unit

Yvonne Beggs, Training Officer	yvonne@chni.org.uk
Lesley Morrison, Training Admin	training@chni.org.uk
Chris Rintoul, Substance Use Training Development Officer	chrisrintoul@chni.org.uk
Kathy Henry, Substance Use Admin	kathyhenry@chni.org.uk

Northwest Office

Bernie Heery, Northwest Officer	bernie@chni.org.uk
Majella Quigley, Northwest Admin	majella@chni.org.uk

Other staff

Alison Upton, Development & Admin Officer	alison@chni.org.uk
George Quinn, Information Officer	info@chni.org.uk
Lara Bamford, Administration	admin@chni.org.uk

CHNI News

- **Membership renewal time.** It's near the end of the financial year and Membership renewal notices will be sent out to all member organisations at the end of April. For queries regarding payment, contact

Majella at majella@chni.org.uk. For general membership queries, contact Lara Bamford, 90246440, admin@chni.org.uk

- **Click here for CHNI response to Housing Bill Consultation.** (http://www.chni.org.uk/UserFiles/File/Housing_Bill.pdf)

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CHNI Services: training facilities available for hire

Pressure on space for meetings and for training purposes is high in most busy organisations these days. Yours may be no exception. **If this is the case, then CHNI has the perfect solution.**

CHNI's training room is an ideal venue for educational activities, training, and for meetings. It is well-equipped and can comfortably accommodate up to 30 people.



Training and Meeting Rooms for Hire... CHNI training suite is the perfect central venue for meetings, negotiations and project teams.



Ideal location. The training room is situated in CHNI Central Office, ideally located in Belfast City Centre, accessible by all major public transport and by car, with a selection of car parking facilities nearby.

- Click here for [map for CHNI Central Office](#)
- Click here for [map for nearby parking](#)



Facilities included...The following facilities are available for inclusion in your package:

- Laptop and DVD Drive projecting on to 50 inch TV Screen
- Flip Chart, white board & Pens included in costs
- water cooler
- photocopies
- lunch and refreshments. (For the reasons of Health and Safety, no food is allowed to be brought on to the premises by clients or delegates.)

Should you have any particular requests regarding facilities, please contact the training department (details below).



Competitive rates... Hourly, daily and a number of delegate rates are on offer (reduced rates for CHNI members).



- **Booking form and further details at:** <http://www.chni.org.uk/services.php?sid=13>
- CHNI particularly welcomes the use of these facilities by its member organisations, and those working with socially excluded and/or vulnerable groups.
- **Further Information / queries,** email [Yvonne Beggs](mailto:Yvonne.Beggs@chni.org.uk) or telephone training Department on 02890 246440

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Homeless NI – online services directory

Homeless NI website - directory of services to help homeless people



Homeless Northern Ireland is a website that helps homeless people and those at risk of homelessness to get the services they need. It gives up to date information about 400 hostels, advice and support services.

The website is published by Homeless Link, in partnership with CHNI. The project is funded by the Big Lottery Fund Northern Ireland and the NI Housing Executive.

What does it do? You can search online to get full details from the website about each service to compare different options available and their appropriateness. It gives information about advice services, hostels and supported housing projects, Housing Executive offices, floating support, CAB, Jobcentres and other services for the public and particular client groups.

Homeless Northern Ireland gives details of who each service is for, how to contact and make referrals, opening hours and support provided. For hostels, it also includes information such as length of stay, facilities and move-on accommodation.

Who is it for? It's open access and easy to search. It would be of particular interest to:

- Agencies and advisors in contact with homeless people
- Homeless people, those in housing need or at risk of homelessness
- Policy makers, planners and researchers

How can I use Homeless Northern Ireland? To get started, simply visit the site and click on Search all services under the Find a Service menu. You can use Homeless Northern Ireland without registering as an individual user, but if you do register (click on My account to do this), you can also:

- save your frequently used searches
- add your own additional information about agencies as user notes
- bookmark pages that you frequently refer to

Click here to visit: www.homelessni.org or for more information, [click here and open this flyer](#) (PDF, opens in CHNI site)

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News & events

- **Methadone Study.** Link (pdf): <http://www.lifeline.org.uk/docs/M-cat%20report%20small.pdf>
 - The findings of this study contain some practical advice and harm reduction interventions. However it should be highlighted that the sample size is small and there is a distinct absence of prior clinical literature on this substance, so caution is warranted.
 - **Other methadone / mephedrone articles¹.**
1. NI Direct Mephedrone and legal highs - the facts: <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/news-mar-10-mephedrone-legal-highs-the-facts>

¹ Please note, potential sources of information cannot be endorsed by CHNI, as they are third party and the content has been checked by our staff - exercise your judgement re. suitability.

2. Drugscope website, Mephedrone, methadone, and methylone:
<http://www.drugscope.org.uk/resources/drugsearch/drugsearchpages/mephedrone.htm>
3. British Medical Journal website, editorial: What should be done about mephedrone?:
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/340/mar23_1/c1605
4. Guardian Newspaper online, Mephedrone: the anatomy of a media drug scare:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2010/apr/05/mephedrone-drug-media-scare-newspapers>
5. Transform (Drug Policy Foundation), blog entry: Mephedrone and the ACMD: lessons from BZP and New Zealand's 'Class D' experiment?: <http://transform-drugs.blogspot.com/2010/03/mephedrone-and-acmd-lessons-from-bzp.html>
6. Transform (Drug Policy Foundation), blog entry: Mephedrone and Methadone - keep calm and review the evidence - <http://transform-drugs.blogspot.com/2010/03/mephedrone-and-methadone-keep-calm-and.html>

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Other News:

- **Homelessness charities want to work together even more.** After two years of increasingly working together, homelessness charities Crisis and St Mungo's have entered into a strategic alliance to co-ordinate their services and campaigns. This includes the provision of emergency accommodation during severe weather and building links between services to support clients and increase volunteering opportunities. News item at <http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/governance/news/content/6313/>. **Source:** VolResource Newsletter No. 425
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- **Full guidance about the Vetting and Barring Scheme** is now available for download on the ISA website at: http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/PDF/VBS_guidance_ed1_2010.pdf. **This document contains details on:**
 - The scope of the Scheme;
 - Barring arrangements;
 - Responsibilities and duties for both employers and volunteer organisers, and the duties for those employees and volunteers;
 - Timescales for the phased implementation of the Scheme;
 - Explanation of transitional arrangements around Scheme introduction.
 - The guidance also covers those areas where the Scheme does not apply and discusses the points raised by Sir Roger Singleton when he reported into the boundaries of the Scheme in December 2009. This full guidance release will be followed by a suite of 'sector specific' guidance documents, which will show how

the Scheme will be applied in different areas of work and volunteering activities. Please circulate the guidance as widely as possible within your sector/organisation. **Source:** DHSSPSNI

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- **More on full guidance on Vetting and Barring Scheme for organisations and individuals.** The Home Office has now put online full guidance to help employers and voluntary groups implement the Vetting and Barring Scheme. It covers every aspect from who is covered to how the process works and the implementation timetable. Organisations are expected to start at <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/vbs>, while employees or volunteers would find <http://www.direct.gov.uk/vetting> more appropriate. Hard copies of the guidance for those who do not have internet access are available via the VBS helpline on 0300 123 1111. Home Office news release at <http://preview.tinyurl.com/yks84q4>. Source: VolResource Newsletter No. 425

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- **ISA fact sheets (March 2010).** The ISA has created a series of factsheets (<http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/default.aspx?page=303>) to explain in detail why we were set up and how we work. These sheets are available to download as pdfs. Please circulate as appropriate. Note the following links will open in a new window as pdfs.

- [Factsheet: The Employer's duty to refer](#)
- [Factsheet: The ISA decision making process](#)
- [Factsheet: Malicious and false allegations](#)
- [Factsheet: Applications from those with previous offences](#)

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- **More ISA Factsheets**

- Explains the background to the Act and some of the details within it: [ISA_A4_FactSheetNo1.pdf](#)
- Explains what the ISA is, its aims and objectives: [ISA_A4_FactSheetNo2.pdf](#)
- Explains 'regulated' & 'controlled' activities as they relate to the work of ISA: [ISA_A4_FactSheetNo3.pdf](#)
- Explains barred Lists are and how they work, barring decisions and appeal: [ISA_A4_FactSheetNo4.pdf](#)
- Explains the legislation that requires certain employers to refer to the ISA: [ISA_A4_FactSheetNo5.pdf](#)

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- **Update on Men's Project.** The Men's Project is no longer in operation and some of the work has been transferred to the Parenting Forum NI. **Contact:** Pauline Martin, Assistant to Director, Parenting Forum NI, Parents Advice Centre, Floor 1, Andras House, 60 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7BB, 028 90310 969, www.parentsadvicecentre.org, Parents Helpline Freephone: 0808 8010 722

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- **Men's Health Week** (MHW) always begins on the Monday before Father's Day and ends on Father's Day itself. This year it will run from Monday 14th June until Sunday 20th June 2010. The theme for this year will be Physical Activity, and all men and boys are encouraged to "Get Up. Get Out. Get Going!" Plans for events in Ireland are going well, and the Men's Health Forum in Ireland (MHFI) has been coordinating meetings of an inter-agency group (comprised of workers from a diverse range of sporting, health and community-based initiatives) to generate ideas. All will be revealed soon but, as in other years, this week is always most successful when local organisations put on local events and activities for local men. So what are you waiting for? **Website:** <http://www.mhfi.org/mhw.htm> (**Source:** e-male matters April 2010)

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- **Coerver ® Coaching NI Luchtime Football 6-a-side football Leagues.** *Exclusively at the Crusaders F.C. new 4g pitch!* Full details at: <http://coervercoachingni.com/lunchtimeleagues/>. For further information please contact via: tel: (028) 9094 1648; email: info@coervercoachingni.com

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- **Healthy minds: the key to realising potential.** Homeless Link, one-day conference, 20 May 2010, London. www.homeless.org.uk/healthy-minds. This conference aims to demystify the mental health care system and inform workers based in the homelessness sector, how they can more easily support clients with poor mental health. For more information / to book: Kate Alaway, Conference and Events Manager, Tel: 020 7840 4461, email: events@homelesslink.org.uk
- **Niamh Louise Foundation: Poster Competition 2010.** To mark World Suicide Awareness Day and World Mental Health Day this year, the [Niamh Louise Foundation](#) has launched a poster competition in association with Comic Relief and Children In Need. This competition seeks to find a creative and innovative design that promotes positive mental health and the prevention of suicide. The competition is open to anyone aged 14-18 years of age. The winning entry will have their design printed on two prominent advertising billboards for the period of one month to mark World Suicide Awareness Day (10th September 2010) and World Mental Health Day (10th October 2010). The winner will also receive a £100 voucher for Easons, and their design will be used for future promotional materials. The runner-up will receive a £50 voucher for Easons, and their poster will also be used for Niamh Louise Foundation promotional materials. **For more information** and a copy of the rules and conditions of entry, email: info@niamhlouisefoundation.com (**Source:** e-male matters April 2010)

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- **Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010.** [NISRA](#) (the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency) released results for the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010 on 31st March 2010. The findings are available online at: www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation.htm NIMDM is a relative measure of spatial deprivation, and provides results for 890 small areas ('Super Output Areas') in Northern Ireland. The NIMDM 2010 is a weighted combination of seven types or 'domains' of deprivation, consisting of 52 indicators mostly relating to 2007/08 and 2008/09.

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- **An Introduction to Suicide Research.** A series of courses related to the scientific study of suicide (suicidology) is being offered by the Open Learning Programme of the School of Education at [Queen's University Belfast](#) (QUB). A special invitation to participate is extended to men, but everyone is welcome to register for these courses. Further information and application forms are available on the QUB website at www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofEducation/OpenLearning and from QUB School of Education, Tel 02890 973323.

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- **Rural Community Network's Rural Manifesto 2010.** The manifesto is a declaration of rural issues and potential solutions for consideration by the political parties leading up to and beyond the 2010 General Election. This publication has been endorsed by the RCN Membership and Board. [Click here](#) to download the publication (pdf document).

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- **Dealing with Difference – Making a Difference.** WheelWorks is an established arts organisation that has been working with some of the most marginalised groups of young people in Northern Ireland using arts as a developmental tool in participative youth work. The Dealing with Difference – Making a Difference training programme offers youth workers and arts facilitators an opportunity to explore the area of difference in relation to race, sexual orientation and disability. These workshops are particularly useful for emerging youth workers given the YCNI Core Values of Equity, Diversity and Interdependence. WheelWorks has partnered with professionals experienced in the field of diversity, homophobia and disability to design and deliver a series of innovative and participative training programmes as follows:

- **Homophobia Awareness – 7 May**
 - **Diversity Awareness – Tuesday 11 May**
 - **Disability Awareness –Thursday 20 May**
- All workshops take place at The Crescent Arts Centre, University Road, Belfast. For more information and to register contact kate@wheelworks.org.uk. **Source:** MWSN Newsletter, April

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- **Men's Advisory Project needs men who have experienced domestic violence.** The [Men's Advisory Project \(MAP\)](#) is conducting research into the experience of male victims of domestic violence and abuse in Northern Ireland. The aim of this project is to increase our understanding of these men, and to recommend improvements in services for them. MAP is carrying out confidential case study interviews until the end of May 2010. Where appropriate, MAP is asking agencies that may have contact with such men to make them aware that the research is taking place. Potential participants, or interested agencies, can contact Daryl on Tel: 02890 241929, Email: daryl@mapni.co.uk or visit www.mapni.co.uk for more information.

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- **Free training at the Participation Network.** Participation Network offers a range of FREE training modules to the public sector on including children and young people in public decision making. Training events are held at Children in Northern Ireland's premises at Unit 9, 40 Montgomery Road, Belfast, BT6 9HL on the specified dates. <http://www.participationnetwork.org/training.aspx>

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- **Factsheet update on induction.** Personnel professionals' body CIPD has recently updated its factsheet on induction for new employees, giving background, guidance and an induction checklist. <http://www.cipd.co.uk/subjects/recruitment/induction/induction.htm>. **Source:** Source: VolResource Newsletter No. 425

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- **Invite to Conference on Sectarianism and Racism.** Ashton Community Trust and Mount Vernon Community Development Forum through its REAL Good Relations Project in North Belfast and as its contribution to Community Relations Week is facilitating a follow up conference as a method of measuring progress or lack of it. It will be hosted by William Crawley BBC and speakers will include: Duncan Morrow, Avila Kilmurray, Rev John Dunlop, and Dawn Purvis. There will be a plenary session after the speakers input. You are cordially invited to attend. The event will take place at the NICVA Building on

the Duncairn Gardens on the 30th of April 2010 commencing at 10.00am for registration. A light lunch will be served at approximately 12.45pm. **Queries / information / lead contacts:** Moyra Wylie/ Jim Deery: REAL Project 174 Duncairn Gardens North Belfast BT15 2GB; Phone: 02890 751973; email: jim@ashtoncentre.com / moyra.wylie@ntlworld.com

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- **'Rain tax' exemption becomes law.** Legislation that will spare thousands of charities, churches and sports clubs from huge water bills was passed last week. The Flood and Water Management Act has exempted charities from new pricing structures introduced by many water companies, based on 2003 guidance from regulator Ofwat, that would have meant they were charged according to how much water drained from buildings. This method of charging – dubbed the 'rain tax' – would have led to water bill increases of up to 1,000 per cent for many voluntary organisations that own land and buildings. A two-year national campaign led by the Scout Association and churches won the right to concessionary charges for not-for-profit groups. The legislation granting an exemption to voluntary groups was given royal assent, the final stage of a bill's passage through Parliament, on Thursday. **Source:** Third Sector online 9 April (<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/DailyBulletin/995960/Rain-tax-exemption-becomes-law/96E74A0E7B2E724FD9FE29C38A94A789/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>)

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- **Frances McCandless takes up Northern Ireland post.** Frances McCandless will start as the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's first chief executive on Monday. For full story visit: <http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/news/archive/995689/Frances-McCandless-takes-Northern-Ireland-post/?DCMP=ILC-SEARCH>. **Source:** Third Sector online 8 April
- Charity Commission website: <http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/ccni>

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Diary dates:

- Mon 26th April – Sun 2nd May: Community Relations Week
- Mon 14th June – Sun 20th June 2010 - Men's Health Week

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24/02/2010

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