

Chinwag. Feb 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

Margaret Henry (Deputy Director)

- Participated in NICVA consultation on the Housing Bill
- Joint Seminar with Housing Rights Service re. Housing Bill
- Meeting in Dublin with Safer Food and Food Standards Agency representatives re. funding application for food sharing project.
- Prepared funding applications for proposed CHNI food sharing project.
- Meet with Deputy Director Food Standards Agency
- Meetings with Reach NI consultants
- Meet with Dean of Belfast Cathedral and other dignitaries, at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, to receive donation from Black Santa Fund on behalf of CHNI.
- Attended Belfast City Council's Migrant Worker Forum
- Meeting with private landlord re. Private Leasing Scheme
- Meeting with NIHE re. CHNI evaluation
- Prepared evaluation report for CHNI Executive Committee and CHNI funder on how CHNI activities have met NIHE strategic objectives
- Delivered seminar on 'Homelessness – reasons, risks and responses'
- Work with Homeless Link re. feasibility study for Common Referral System

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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. So far there have been several training courses on Alcohol Effects, Substance Use Awareness, Basic Life Support/Overdose Management and on OCN Level 3 Working With Substance Users.
- In the coming weeks there are a range of training courses available to homelessness staff including the OCN level 3 in Working with Substance Users, Safer Injecting and

Needle Exchange, Substance Use Awareness and Basic Life Support/Overdose Management, Homelessness and Substance Use Course, Safer Crack Cocaine Use. If you are interested in any of these courses please contact kathyhenry@chni.org.uk.

- We continue to rely on service users in the design, development and delivery of most of the training courses. Service Users bring with them and share in training a range of experiential expertise and challenging insights. Evaluations show these continue to have a marked impression of training recipients and is a powerful way to improve practice. Our links with Belfast Trust's Drug Outreach Team and local Service User groups funded by EDACT continue to supply us with a rich vein of service users who are willing to be involved. If you know of service users with experience of homelessness and substance use who would like to become involved please get in touch with Chris at chrisrintoul@chni.org.uk or 90246440.
- **For more information / queries regarding substance use training and development opportunities**, please email kathyhenry@chni.org.uk

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Youth Department

Things remain busy as ever within CHNI's Youth Department, with a number of key seminars and events having taken place or currently being planned.

- The Youth Homelessness Common Monitoring Project, commissioned by DHSSPS, DSD and NIO is nearing completion, with a detailed Regional Report due to be launched mid April. This report will contain detailed analysis of the 1359 Common Monitoring forms received and shall provide a detailed overview of young people's routes into homelessness and the support and services they currently receive when in crisis
- It is hoped that information generated from the study shall meaningfully contribute to current policy and service planning by providing an accurate and up to date picture of the nature and scale of youth homelessness regionally.
- A Key Stakeholder Seminar Event for policy and strategic planners was held on Thursday 18th February at CHNI whereby first sight findings from the study were presented. This event was extremely well attended with senior representatives from Government departments, NIHE, Health and Social Care and Probation and Youth Justice Agency, Social Security Agency and Careers Service all in attendance. Wider dissemination of findings from the Common Monitoring study shall be undertaken by the project team over the coming months, with a number of Information Seminars planned for all key stakeholder agencies, where full findings

from study shall be presented. Further details of these events will be available shortly.

- The Young Peoples Charter on Housing NI project is now well underway with a number of information sessions for young people recently having taken place. A Young Peoples Core Group has been recently established who shall drive the development of the charter locally and a programme of capacity building and training for these young people is currently being planned.
- We have also been busy putting in place plans to involve homeless young people more centrally in the policy and advocacy work we strive to carry out on their behalf and we shall keep you up to date with how this is developing in future issues.
- We also continued to advocate for the needs of young people via our active participation in key regional and local policy and planning for a, which this month has included participation in the newly established Regional Reference Group on the Accommodation and Support Needs of Young People aged 16 and 17 who are Leaving Care or Homeless, chaired jointly by the Regional HSCB and NIHE. In addition we have also continued to assist and advise on key pieces of work aimed at improving the standard and quality of services homeless young people receive, including the regional roll out of the Joint Good Practice Framework for 16-21 yr olds who present as homeless and also the current work being led out by DHSSPS in relation to the development of best practice standards for young peoples accommodation services.

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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

- Liaising with University of York as NI representative re. UK wide research being conducted, looking at the needs and experiences of those people who are homeless and have complex needs. Included hosting an information session, assisted in the identification and recruiting of participants, as well as provided information to selected participants on behalf of research team, contacting participants, liaison with research ethics committees, and local contact for researchers and participants.
- Assisted Youth Department in production, editing and design of Common Monitoring System interim report
- Produced 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.

- Designed promotional materials for a number of CHNI projects and events.
- Assisted in responses to the Housing Bill and housing Amendment Bill
- Assisted in arrangement of joint CHNI Housing Rights Service seminar - Promoting Inclusion – Implementing a Prison Hostel Referral System
- Completing work on NIHE 2008-2009 homelessness statistics – available online (and will be circulated to members) early next week.
- Developing paper copy and poster copy of Homelessni directory

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North West

- We continue to provide valued support to our Member Organisations through one-to-one work. Bernie has been working closely with Sydenham House; providing in-house training to FHASS; and facilitating training provided in our Belfast office.
- The CHNI/NICVA/SP Collaborative Working event on 18th November 2009 was very successful. The event was well attended, and the feedback from providers on the day expressed a positive outlook for the future in regards collaborative working.
- The next in the series of the Collaborative Working seminars will be held on 25th February in the Rosspark Hotel, Ballymena.
- We just held our bi-monthly NW Members Forum on Friday 12th February 2010, in Foyle Haven, John Street Derry, and the next meeting is set to be held on Friday 23rd April at 11am in the Methodist Mission, Crawford Square Derry.
- The Northwest office will be closed from Monday 15th March to Friday 19th March. Any urgent enquiries can be directed to our Belfast office on 02890246440.

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CHNI staff contacts:

Directorate

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Northwest Office

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George Quinn, Information Officer

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CHNI activities

CHNI response to Housing Bill consultation

- **Click here for CHNI response.** (Link: http://www.chni.org.uk/UserFiles/File/Housing_Bill.pdf)
- To access the consultation document / latest news:
<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/consultations/consultation-housing-bill.htm>

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Interim report on Common Monitoring Scheme

A Key Stakeholder Seminar Event for policy and strategic planners was held on Thursday 18th February at CHNI whereby first sight findings from the study were presented. This event was extremely well attended with senior representatives from Government departments, NIHE, Health and Social Care and Probation and Youth Justice Agency, Social Security Agency and Careers Service all in attendance. Wider dissemination of findings from the Common Monitoring study shall be undertaken by the project team over the coming months, with a number of Information Seminars planned for all key stakeholder agencies, where full findings from study shall be presented. Further details of these events will be available shortly.

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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) or telephone training Department on 02890 246440

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News & events

- **Anthrax outbreak. Please read & circulate:** The link (opens in new page) below will take you to the most recent information and harm reduction advice regarding the anthrax outbreak amongst heroin users in the UK. Although there have been no reports of infection in NI yet, it is a real possibility.
- **If you require further information** or have any questions, please contact Chris at 90246440 chrisintoul@chni.org.uk.
- Link (external web site):
www.injectingadvice.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=173:anthrax25feb&catid=36:misc&Itemid=52

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From the newspapers:

- **Belfast Street league (organised by Hosford House staff) aims to give deprivation the red card.** Visit: <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/community-telegraph/sport/street-league-aims-to-give-deprivation-the-red-card-14664659.html>

- **North West Housing Association (NWA) hostel boosted by £260k grant for Community Learning for Independent Living Project.** For article visit <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/hostel-boosted-by-pound260k-grant-for-education-project-14694147.html>

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Other News:

- **Lisburn Grants Office temporary closure (NIHE web site):** 1 March to 12 March 2010. for full article / details, visit: http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/about-us-home/media_centre/news.htm?newsid=16167

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- **Glen Road Traveller Site Destroyed (NIHE web site).** For details visit: http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/about-us-home/media_centre/news.htm?newsid=16135

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- **The Committee Stage of the draft Housing (Amendment) Bill has ended (Housing Rights Service web site).** The dates for the next two Assembly Stages will depend on the Executive Committee approving any amendments which the DSD Minister wants to table. It is aimed that the Bill will receive Royal Assent by Easter. Various interested groups have given evidence on its contents including Housing Rights Service. Visit HRS site: <http://www.housingrights.org.uk/policy/latest-policy-news.html>

- **CHNI written evidence re: Housing (amendment) Bill -**
[www.chni.org.uk/UserFiles/File/Housing_Amndment_Bill\(1\).doc](http://www.chni.org.uk/UserFiles/File/Housing_Amndment_Bill(1).doc)

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- **Changes to UK Immigration Rules (STEP newsletter):** The UK Home Secretary Alan Johnson announced changes to the conditions under which students from abroad come to the UK to study. These new changes include the following:

- a good standard of English (equivalent of holding just below a GCSE in a foreign language) will be needed to come to the UK and study to improve English language competency further
- a good standard of English (again equivalent of holding just below a GCSE in a foreign language) will need to be demonstrated in order to study any other course below degree level

- restricting the lowest-level courses (A levels and equivalent) to only the most trusted institutions
 - halving the amount of time a student studying below first degree level or on a foundation degree course will be able to work, to just 10 hours during term time;
 - a ban on bringing in dependants for anyone studying a course for less than six months
 - a ban on dependants of anyone studying a course lower than foundation or undergraduate degree level from working - they will face removal from the UK if found doing so
- The ministerial statement is at:
<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/February/tougher-rules-for-foreign-stud>

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- **Research report. Human Trafficking in Northern Ireland (STEP Newsletter):** The Human Rights and Equality Commissions of Northern Ireland have commissioned the Institute for Conflict Research to carry out a scoping study of human trafficking in Northern Ireland. The research was based on a literature review and interviews with 24 key individuals from a range of agencies and organisations.
- Among the findings were the following:
 - There is evidence for the trafficking of women and children for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour
 - There is significantly less data on the trafficking of men
 - There are significant gaps in knowledge about the extent and nature of trafficking
 - Provision of services for victims is limited and ad-hoc
- Among the recommendations were the following:
 - There should be a co-ordinated multi-agency approach
 - A support plan should be developed, including: safe accommodation; Trauma support services and counselling; Rape crisis intervention; Immigration / legal / welfare / other advice; Guardians for minors; and Rehabilitation programme
- The report is at:
[http://www.nihrc.org/dms/data/NIHRC/attachments/dd/files/71/The_Nature_and_Extent_of_Human_Trafficking_in_NI_\(January_2010\)_ECNI_NIHRC.pdf](http://www.nihrc.org/dms/data/NIHRC/attachments/dd/files/71/The_Nature_and_Extent_of_Human_Trafficking_in_NI_(January_2010)_ECNI_NIHRC.pdf)

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- **Talking to Your Children About Tough Issues (TATI) newsletter.** The 'Talking to your children about tough issues' (TATI) programme is a campaign aimed at helping parents and carers communicate better with their children about risk-taking behaviours such as alcohol and drug misuse. **Copies of the newsletter are available from** Carla Smyth Coordinator, TATI, Lisburn YMCA, 28 Market Square, Lisburn, BT28 1AG; mobile: 07889057649; tel: 028 9267 0918

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- **Job Opportunity. Refugee Action Group: Researcher - Immigration Detention (MWSN newsletter)** - Refugee Action Group is currently looking for a talented researcher for a project on immigration detention. The project will give a 'human face' to the practice of immigration detention in Northern Ireland and will result in an illustrated information booklet to serve as a compelling campaigning tool. **Deadline for applications is 9am Monday 8th March.** Full details can be found at: <http://www.communityni.org/node/13407>

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- **Ethnic Minority Advisory Group: applications for membership (STEP Newsletter).** The Ethnic Minority Advisory Group (EMAG) provides advice to the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force on what is likely to work best for ethnic minority communities. It reviews planned initiatives to ensure they have the best chance of success, makes recommendations on new initiatives that Government could take forward and examines existing policies to advise if they are working as intended.
- Applicants are being sought from various sectors including education, voluntary and community groups, training providers, faith groups and employers, to provide a valuable source of advice and guidance based on their experiences.
- If you are interested and would like to find out more, visit <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2010/january-2010/dwp008-10-180110.shtml>

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- **Right to request time to train (Source: VoiResource Newsletter No. 416).** The right for employees to request time to train comes into effect from 6th April 2010 for organisations with 250 or more employees, and from 6th April 2011 elsewhere. The government has published a guide for employers explaining what this entails, available on the Business Link website via <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/timetotrain>
- Guidance for employees is on the DirectGov site, <http://www.direct.gov.uk/timetotrain>

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- **Updated timetable for Northern Ireland charity law (Source: VolResource Newsletter No. 416).** Northern Ireland umbrella body NICVA has got the latest on the implementation timetable for the NI Charities Act. The charity register is still due to go live this April, but the first charity reports won't now be due until April 2012, with guidance on accounting requirements to be published spring 2011. Official guidance on the public benefit test is due out in March. See NICVA news item at <http://www.nicva.org/news/latest-news-charity-commission>

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Diary dates

- **March 8 - International Women's Day (from MWSN Newsletter).** International Women's Day (IWD) is marked on March 8 every year. It is a major day of global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women. <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>
- **March 21 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. (from MWSN Newsletter):** <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/racial/>
- **13 - 21 March - European-Wide Action Week Against Racism: Enjoy Diversity (from MWSN Newsletter) -** <http://www.unitedagainstracism.org/pages/campARW.htm>

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Contact Us

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Contribute to CHINWAG

If you would like to contribute to Chinwag, please contact George Quinn, Information officer, at CHNI - tel: 028 90246440, or email: 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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24/02/2010

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