



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, including visits to London and Wales to meet with relevant organisations.
- 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
- Committee member for NI on European Economic and Social Committee.
- Chairing 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)

- Sourcing / completing funding applications for CHNI food sharing initiative (see below)
- Meeting with Safefood & FSA regarding funding for food sharing initiative
- Evaluation for CHNI Committee
- Review and update of Maternity and Paternity policies with LRA
- Delivered training to NIACRO Women's Group on accommodation for ex-offenders
- Delivered training on Homelessness, Risks & Responses
- Funding application to EDACT for production of information booklet
- Business Plan Review
- Working with Homeless Link on feasibility study and development of Vacancy online system
- Attendance at Migrant Worker forum, chaired by Belfast City Council

- Attendance at reception held by Lord Mayor of Belfast on behalf of migrant workers
- Attendance at North West Rough Sleepers' Forum

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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. 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

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Youth Department

- The Youth Homelessness Common Monitoring Project, commissioned by DHSSPS, DSD and NIO is due to be completed in end April, culminating in the launch of a detailed Regional Report.
- **Two Information Seminars are planned for key stakeholder agencies**, where full findings from the study shall be presented. Details of these events 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

Or

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, L/Derry, Stable Lane and Mall Wall, Bishop Street, L/Derry, BT48 6PU

- If you are interested in attending either event please contact Lara Bamford at CHNI, by Tel 028 90 246440 or email admin@chni.org.uk by no later than Wed, 31st March 2010, advising which particular date you are interested in.
- Wider dissemination of the findings from the Common Monitoring study is ongoing by the project team and this month has included presentation at a recent PSI Summit Event on 4th March and a presentation to the Western Area Children Services Planning Group on 2nd March.
- **The Young Peoples ‘Charter for Change on Housing in NI’ project** is now well underway with the young people beginning to take charge and drive the project locally. The aim of the programme is to give young people across Northern Ireland a voice in the future direction of housing and aims to be as inclusive and diverse as possible. The project will not only allow the young people to lobby key decision makers locally on issues relevant to young people in NI, but also on a UK wide basis by linking in with the wider Young People and Housing Programme facilitated by Joseph Rowntree
- Young people from across Northern Ireland shall participate in an Away Day event on 13th March to agree the focus and direction of the project and a work plan of consultation and research has already been developed with the aim of including as many voices, experiences and opinions as possible.
- Some of the young people involved attended training on Campaigning and Lobbying, in Dublin earlier this month and it is hoped that they will begin to put this learning into action over the coming months. Plans are also being for young people to make a Video Diary of the experience.
- Later this month, will also see a group of young people who have personal experience of housing difficulties get together to agree plans for involving homeless young people more centrally in the policy and advocacy work of the youth department at CHNI. We hope to see

this group grow and develop over the coming months and shall keep you updated as this work develops.

- 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 attendance at Children Services Planning fora.
- 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 and this month finalized plans for 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. Presentations on the day will involve key representatives from DHSSPS, Supporting People and NIHE. **Arrangements for this meeting are as follows;**

Date: Thursday, 25th March 2010

Time: 10am-1.00 pm approx (light refreshments shall be available from 9.45am)

Venue: NICCY, Millennium House, 17-25 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7BA (map attached)

- If you feel your agency would like to attend please contact Kathy Maguire at Tel 90246440 or via email kathy@chni.org.uk.

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Development work

Regional Food Sharing Project

- CHNI continuing it's work with the UK Fare Share organisation to establish a FareShare NI. Maximising on the PR gained from our 'Food for Thought' event hosted by Belfast's Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord mayor and High Sheriff, CHNI's Development Officer has been negotiating with potential funders and food companies to secure resources for a dedicated role to developing the project. Watch this space.

CRISPP

- CRISPP Conference for 2010 is being held on Tue 23rd of March in Walsh's hotel and Maghera, Invitations and programmes have been distributed to organisation heads and organisers CHNI and NIFHA hope for a good attendance. This is the sector's opportunity to hear and directly respond to NIHE's presentation of SP strategy for 2010 - 2011.
- **See Also Funding SP Services. Provider survey 2010** (details below)

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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
- 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 CRISPP, the Committee Representing Independent Supporting People Service Providers. Further data being collected. If you are in receipt of SP funding and have not received this questionnaire / are still to complete it, please do so. Please find main text from an email issued 9th March 2010:

*CRISPP has written requesting an urgent meeting with the Minister for Finance and Personnel on your behalf. The need to address budget settings in the current economic climate is imperative. However to do this CRISPP will need evidence to support the case for ring fencing and uplift in the Supporting People budget. CRISPP has also written to the DSD and DHSSPS in regards to this. For the benefit of all providers and to help CRISPP act on your behalf I urge you to take a few minutes to complete this survey, and return via post or Email to majella@chni.org.uk by **Fri 26th March 2010**. Your help with this matter is much appreciated.*

- To request a questionnaire, contact Majella – 71 366363, majella@chni.org.uk

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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.
- **SP Survey** – see previous (Information Dept) – **please complete this survey to allow us to act on your behalf!** Contact Majella for further details – majella@chni.org.uk / 71366363

- **CRISPP Event:** All general bookings for the event are being done through the Northwest office and Alison is coordinating all the Conference proceedings on the day. Colm McQuillan, CEO Supporting People, will be speaking at the event, outlining Supporting People strategy for the coming year.
- **Rough Sleepers and Street Drinkers Event:** Majella is working closely with De Paul Ireland, coordinating an event on behalf of the NIHE and SP. Also, Majella is continuing admin work up in the Northwest, and will be trying to develop closer networks with Member Providers in the Northwest in the future coming months through member forum groups. She is also continuing Finance work down in Belfast, once a week, possibly more than once a week for the coming month of April.
- 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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|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ricky Rowledge, Director. | ricky@chni.org.uk |
| Margaret Henry, Dep. Director | margarethenry@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

| | |
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| 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

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

- **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.



training room

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](#)



meeting room



meeting room

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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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.
- The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) met in January to review methadone and its close chemical derivatives. Normally it takes a year to make a substance illegal to manufacture, possess or supply. In this case they are trying to fast track the process due to widespread concerns at how quickly its use has spread throughout the UK and how regularly users are repeating their dose of the drug which is a factor in overdose scenarios and the creation of dependence. The ACMD meets again in April to decide on whether to ban it or not.
- **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 chrisrintoul@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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Other News:

- **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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- **Right to request time to train (Source: VolResource 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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Contact Us

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Northwest Office: Unit 15 Rathmore
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Tel: 02871366363; Fax: 02871366364

General email: info@chni.org.uk; website: www.chni.org.uk;
Charity No. XO544/83; Company No. NI27577

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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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