



Chinwag

training | researching | networking | informing

Chinwag. November 2009

Welcome to CHNI's e-newsletter

PDF version of newsletter attached.

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## CHNI's work – update

Below is a snapshot of the type of work carried out by CHNI staff members.

### Directorate

This month, Ricky Rowledge, Director:

- delivered evidence (as part of a team representative of the sector) to Committee for Social Development on the Housing (Amendment) Bill. **For link to Hansard minutes on NI Assembly site, [click here](#)**
- delivered a guest address at De Paul Ireland's Investor In People Awards Ceremony;
- Chaired meetings of CRISPP (committee representing independent Supporting People providers);
- Chaired meeting of Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI) Youth sub-group
- attended FEANTSA's European Conference in Copenhagen, representing Northern Ireland. This conference was the highlight of [FEANTSA's Annual Theme 2009](#) on Participation and Homelessness. Co-organised by Danish FEANTSA member, projekt UDENFOR, the conference aimed to show the importance of involving service users at all levels in homeless services. ([FEANTSA](#), the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless is an umbrella of not-for-profit organisations which participate in or contribute to the fight against homelessness in Europe.)
- met with the DSD to arrange the programme for Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI) of Homeless People seminar, which is being held as part of [Homelessness Awareness Week](#); and
- as part of the preparations for Homelessness Awareness Week, Ricky also held a meeting in Belfast City Hall, sponsored by the Lady Mayoress, Deputy Lord Mayor, and Lord High Sheriff of Belfast.

Margaret Henry, Deputy Director, has been equally busy. A sizeable proportion of Margaret's work involves HR / staff management:

- identification of training needs and suitable courses for CHNI staff. For example, Margaret is currently supporting Chris Rintoul, Substance Use Training & Development Officer through the NI Practice Teacher Training Programme;
- updating CHNI policy & procedures, particularly maternity and paternity documentation;
- Met with member organisations to share HR materials;
- Ongoing job review meetings with staff; and
- Assisted in the development of a new NVQ (level 3) course in Management & Leadership, to be offered to members by CHNI, with limited bursaries available through DEL funding.

Margaret also recently:

- attended Migrant Workers Thematic sub-group. A significant strand of this group's work is lobbying Government for funds towards emergency accommodation / repatriation of destitute foreign nationals;
- attended the working group set up to work around the accommodation needs of substance users (see below);
- met with NIFHA regarding shared Supporting People activities; and
- was involved in Homelessness Awareness Week preparations, particularly in putting together funding applications, and securing a venue for the [Participate! Arts Day](#), as well as assisting member organisations in the co-ordination of events;

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### **Development & Admin Team**

As well as the thankless and endless tasks of administrative work, Alison Upton, Development & Admin Officer, and Lara Bamford, Admin Assistant have also been involved in a number of other projects:

- **Alison:** organising programme, securing sponsors, and general management of Participate! Day, as part of Homelessness Awareness Week;
  - ongoing awareness raising to gain support for regional food sharing network. The aim of this network is to help homeless sector in the first instance and whole of the voluntary sector where people are suffering food poverty;
  - bringing the Social Development Committee to meet with CHNI in North West and visit member organisations; and
  - Organising member organisations to host Santa's grotto at Belfast's Continental Market - 17th Nov to 19th Dec to raise awareness of Homelessness and the great work of our members.
- 
- **Lara:** organising CHNI's Annual General Meeting. This year our AGM will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November, as CHNI's Belfast Office (10.30 – 12.30, refreshments provided);
  - running of the Vacancies Online System. This has included the daily updating of vacancy data, project visits, and updating accommodation / project details onto the Homeless NI site;
  - updating and managing CHNI Membership;
  - data management and minute taking relating to Common Monitoring Scheme; and
  - preliminary work around the annual DSD Christmas Grant.

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## Training department

- We have successfully finished this years OCN Supported Housing programme with great feedback. The new programme will be starting in Jan 2010. All queries and for further information, contact Yvonne at 90246440, [yvonne@chni.org.uk](mailto:yvonne@chni.org.uk)
- The Training Department are running an **Effective Manager Programme - Leadership in the Workplace** NVQ course. The programme is highly participative and will take a practical approach to supporting the implementation of culture change within the workplace. The programme will be run over 6 half day's starting January 2010 in Cookstown. It will also be offered in Belfast in February 2010. If you would like any more information please contact Yvonne, as above.

## Training Department (Substance Use strand)

- A Working Group has been set up after the Seminar on Drugs, Housing and the Law held in Oct 2008. This multi-agency group comprises of members of the PSNI, Public Prosecution Service, NIHE, Eastern Drugs & Alcohol Co-ordination Team, CHNI and various accommodation providers. The group has commenced work writing a protocol which will facilitate the accommodation for injecting drug users into Belfast based hostels.
- The Cross-Sectoral placements are about to take place 2nd-13th November 2009. Eleven placements have been organised between the addictions sector and homelessness housing sector.
- Chris Rintoul, will be facilitating a Course on **Screening Tools & Brief Interventions (16th & 17th November 2009)**. There are still a few places left on this two day course. **For more information** please email [kathyhenry@chni.org.uk](mailto:kathyhenry@chni.org.uk)

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## North West Unit

As well as recently moving to new premises and continuing to provide valued support to our Member Organisations through one-to-one work, the North West team are overseeing several new developments in the area. Bernie recently:

- attended training on the new QAF provided by NI Housing Executive;
- continued to facilitate on CHNI's OCN Supported Housing training
- provided a number of in-house training courses to members, including Foyle Women's Aid and MUST Hostel;
- was involved in the newly formed Rough Sleepers Group which met in October, and also attended various Supporting People project meetings.

As of beginning of November, Bernie Heery, Regional Coordinator will be reducing her working week from Wednesday-Friday.

Majella, as well as responsible for administration in the North West, and CHNI's book-keeping, also has been working on organising a joint event on behalf of Supporting People / NICVA / CHNI. This Collaborative Working Event will be held in the North West on the 18th November. This event has had a lot of interest expressed and is currently fully subscribed.

The North West team held a bi-monthly NW Members Forum at end of October in the new CHNI offices in Rath Mór Centre. The next meeting is on 27th November and will be held in Foyle Valley House, Foyle Rd Derry. We also look forward to having our first CHNI Management Committee meeting held up in our new Derry offices at the end of November.

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## **Youth Department**

**CHNI welcomes a new member of staff to the Youth team.** This has been a busy and exciting month for CHNI's Youth Department, which has seen us welcome a new member of staff, Susan Duncan to our Team.

*"Hello, I'm Susan and I have recently joined the team at CHNI as Youth Participation Worker. I have a background in both youth work and working with the homeless and am looking forward to utilising this experience in my new role. There is lots to get stuck into over the next few months and hopefully I'll be able to get lots of young people just as excited about the upcoming new projects as I am!"*

In this new role Susan will be responsible for developing a range of opportunities and projects aimed at encouraging the active involvement of young people in the focus and direction of the Youth Projects future work and in ensuring that homeless young people play a key role in finding solutions to the many and complex issues they face.

This includes an exciting new partnership project with Joseph Rowntree, looking at young peoples views and aspirations regarding housing in Northern Ireland and we shall have further details of how your young service users can get involved in next months issue.

**Common Monitoring of Homeless 16-25 Year Olds.** The Youth Homelessness Common Monitoring Project, commissioned by DHSSPS, DSD and NIO continues apace with staff busy

chasing up and collating agency returns for both the September and October months. To date we have received approximately 480 returns for the month of September, initial analysis of which already shows strong trends in relation to young people's experiences when in homelessness crisis. We have also been busy developing a framework for the analysis and presentation of the schemes findings, in partnership with our Management Group, including a seminar event for key policy and strategic planners, which we hope shall take place in late January 2010. **For more information on the scheme, [see below](#)**

**Advocacy work.** We also continued to advocate for needs of young people through our active participation in regional and local policy and planning, which this month has included the PSI Youth Homelessness Sub Group and the Southern area Children Services Planning groups

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### **Information department**

As well as ongoing information provision and management, George Quinn, Information Officer has been

- Involved in organising a Charity Football Tournament, as part of Homelessness Awareness Week. This year's tournament, organised in conjunction with Lisburn City Council and the IFA, coincides with the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lisburn, and dignitaries from the city, as well as DSD minister Margaret Ritchie will be in attendance.
- **Want to be part of the event?** For more info / application form, [see below](#). We would appreciate all the help we can get, so should you wish to volunteer your services on the day as a steward or referee, please contact George at 90246440 / [info@chni.org.uk](mailto:info@chni.org.uk);
- Redesigning CHNI's website. Should you have any constructive suggestions / ideas for improving upon our current website, feel free to contact George at 90246440 / [info@chni.org.uk](mailto:info@chni.org.uk).

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## **CHNI news**

### **Common Monitoring of Homeless 16-25 Year Olds**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September saw the regional launch of Common Monitoring of Homeless young people in Northern Ireland.

The Common Monitoring project has been commissioned by the PSI Youth Homelessness Sub Group, a cross-departmental, cross-sectoral Steering Group, whose membership includes DHSSPS, DSD, Regional Health Board representatives, PBNI, YJA, Education and Careers and other voluntary agencies. This sub group has been tasked with co-ordinating a detailed regional analysis of the nature and scale of youth homelessness and ensuring that relevant information be reviewed to identify themes, trends or important issues that may better inform strategic planning.

CHNI have been appointed to undertake the regional scoping exercise, the aim of which is to:

- provide definitive quantitative information on the scale of youth homelessness,
- analyse and outline the context in which young people are becoming homeless,
- provide baseline information on the needs of those young people vulnerable due to homelessness.

Furthermore, it is hoped the exercise shall provide an analysis of the structural and practice issues impacting on young people's access to, and engagement with, services and begin to identify gaps in service provision for young people, in particular Early Intervention and Preventative services.

The project funded and mandated by Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Department of Social Development and the Northern Ireland Office, is Northern Ireland wide in scope and involves the collation of information on all young people aged between 16-25 years who present to agencies as homeless or at immediate risk of homelessness between September and November 2009.

The agencies involved in the scheme include:

- Local NIHE offices,
- Health and Social Care Trusts,
- Probation and Youth Justice Teams,
- Supported Accommodation and Floating Support Providers,
- Education and Careers Services
- Social Security Agency and
- A range of other community and voluntary agencies, including advice and advocacy services.

Using a Common Monitoring approach, the process entails completion of a standardised form by all agencies when a young person presents to them as homeless or at immediate risk of homelessness. A unique code is used for each young person to ensure accurate counting and the tracking of movement of young people through services. The use of this code also allows each return to be anonymised, thus protecting each young person's right to privacy.

The Youth Unit at CHNI commenced work on the scheme in February and spent time reviewing common monitoring schemes and forms already in operation across the UK, exploring the risk

factors and early indicators of future homelessness and developing the research tools in consultation with our project management group and practitioners. The scheme was piloted for one month in June 2009 in the legacy Southern Board area, after which the process was reviewed in close consultation with involved agencies.

Information and training seminars were hosted in June and August in preparation for this month's regional launch of the scheme. Following completion of the three month monitoring period, the findings will be collated and analysed with a report of the Northern Ireland wide findings produced and presented to both funders and participants in January 2010. If you feel that this scheme is relevant to your organisation and you are not already involved, please do not hesitate to contact the Youth Unit at CHNI for further information.

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## **Swine Flu advice & Information paper**

A briefing paper outlining some basic information and advice regarding swine flu. Details resources and links which should help cope with this pandemic, and to prepare contingencies to ensure continuity of services. [Click here for swine flu briefing paper](#)

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## **CHNI AGM**

**Date / time:** 19<sup>th</sup> November, (10.30 a.m. refreshments provided)

**Venue:** CHNI, Belfast Offices. All welcome. Please confirm attendance to Lara Bamford [admin@chni.org.uk](mailto:admin@chni.org.uk); 90246440) by 9<sup>th</sup> November.

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## **Homelessness Awareness Week 2009. 27th November to 5th December**

It's almost that time of year again when we aim to raise awareness of all aspects of Homelessness to the wider population of Northern Ireland. CHNI will be posting the full list of events being held round the country on our website and want to hear from you.

If you are planning an event or activity please let us know by telephone or email as soon as possible - contact Alison Upton on 02890 246440 or email [alison@chni.org.uk](mailto:alison@chni.org.uk). You may just want some advice on getting something started in your organisation, project or local area. It's a great

opportunity for us to raise awareness of the plight of homeless people and also to applaud the tremendous work of the voluntary sector to provide services in this sector.

#### Events confirmed this far:



CHNI Charity Cup – Football tournament. Get your shorts on and your whistles out for another day of footballing shenanigans on Friday 27 November. [Online application form](#) or request an application pack, contact: George Quinn, [info@chni.org.uk](mailto:info@chni.org.uk); Tel: 90246440

This year's tournament, organised in conjunction with Lisburn City Council and the IFA, coincides with the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lisburn, and dignitaries from the city, as well as DSD minister Margaret Ritchie will be in attendance.

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**Participate 2009.** It's back. Another day packed full of things to tempt people out from projects to take part in the big Homeless Awareness Week's event that is totally for people who are homeless. More information will be circulated when available.

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**Celebration of Life service.** This event will be hosted by DePaul Ireland at St Barnabas and St Joseph Church Shore Road. Date: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Further details will be issued when available.

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**DSD Event to mark the work of PSI Including the Homeless.** This interdepartmental, cross-sectoral event is being held on Wednesday 2nd December, at Grosvenor House, Belfast. Invitation only.

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## Members' News

The following appeal has been included on behalf of Foyle Women's Aid.

Dear all,  
Foyle Women's Aid are appealing to you for financial support to enable us to provide an 'alternative' this Christmas for families in the Foyle Trust Area including L'Derry, Limavady, Strabane and Dungiven who have suffered or are still suffering abuse in the home.

We would deeply appreciate new gifts of toys, books, clothes etc. for children of all ages, including teenagers and babies under 2, as these age groups, we find are sometimes forgotten about. Alternatively, we would be happy to receive gift tokens/vouchers, cheques of any amount, large or small, for the families in our Refuge and Aftercare Projects.

Ideally, we hope to receive your donation in plenty of time for Christmas and this would enable the burden of 'going into debt' to be lifted from the shoulders of the mums in our care this Christmas.

Your donation could make all the difference. Please let them know you care! Thanking you for your kindness and wishing you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely,  
Marie Brown, Management Co-ordinator, Foyle Women's Aid



**“Silent Night –  
Violent Night”**

Many Women and children in Northern Ireland will be forced by DOMESTIC VIOLENCE to leave their homes and spend this Christmas in our refuges.

*Can you help us make Christmas in refuge a little brighter by sending*

- .Money/Vouchers*
- .New toys/gifts for children and teenagers*
- .Gifts for women*

**Your generosity at this time of year will really make a difference.**

**Donations can be left at  
24 Pump Street, Derry**

Thank You!

**Foyle Women's Aid**  
**24 Pump Street, L'Derry, BT48 6JG**  
**Tel: 028 7128 0060 Fax: 028 7128 0061**  
**Email: [marie.brown@foylewomensaid.org](mailto:marie.brown@foylewomensaid.org)**  
**Website: [www.foylewomensaid.org](http://www.foylewomensaid.org)**  
**24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline: 0800 9171414**

## Change of address for Triangle Housing Association Ballymoney Floating Support

The Ballymoney Floating Support Team, Triangle Housing Association have moved offices. The offices are above the Winsome Lady clothes shop at the bottom of Main Street, Ballymoney. The address will be forwarded once confirmed. In the meantime, post can be directed to:

60 Eastermeade Gardens, Ballymoney BT53 6BD or alternatively, fax 028 276 62994

Lucy Campfield, Floating Support Manager, has informed us that there may be a period of time when they are unable to access emails, so please contact by mobile phone if it is an urgent request. Please pass this information on to anyone else who needs it.

Lucy Campfield 07808092262  
Sheila Beattie 07779719753  
Ellen O’Kane 07843599964  
Heather Marshall 07834711663  
Joanne Liken 07921059040  
Noreen Hamill 07921649602  
Selina Simpson 07970830545  
Trisha Cupples 07834000192

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## Events

### Foyle Multicultural Forum AGM

**Date:** 12th November. For further information, contact Laura Giacani, 028 7137 0989 or email [foylemf@gmail.com](mailto:foylemf@gmail.com)

**Decisions, Assessment, Risk and Evidence in Social Work (DARE) Conference**, Mon 28 & Tue 29 June 2010: <http://www.socsci.ulster.ac.uk/spri/dare/>

**RCN workshop.** RCN is offering a workshop demonstrating the NI Statistics and Research Agency’s NINIS website **on 3 December 2009 in South West College, Cookstown.** The workshop will give participants the chance to learn more about the NINIS website which contains a wealth of government statistics on Northern Ireland including demographics, deprivation, health and education. **Places are limited to 20 people.** For further information or to register contact Aidan [aidan@ruralcommunitynetwork.org](mailto:aidan@ruralcommunitynetwork.org)

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## Reports & Publications

### Official health and safety books to download

The content of around 230 priced publications from the Health and Safety Executive can now be downloaded from their new HSE Books web site at no cost. The format of the online versions may have been adapted to some extent, and the price is still shown as printed versions are also available. Go direct to <http://books.hse.gov.uk>.

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### **Gingerbread Multi Lingual Resources**

Gingerbread NI offers free, confidential and impartial advice and information for lone parents on a range of topics such as benefits, housing and legal issues. Gingerbread has recently launched their multilingual 'Information for All' booklet which includes information on Gingerbread's work and services. The booklet is available in Portuguese, Tetum, Polish, Lithuanian, Russian, Slovenian and Romanian. If you would like to receive more information on these leaflets, telephone 028 9023 1417 or email [enquiries@gingerbreadni.org](mailto:enquiries@gingerbreadni.org)

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**Help for line managers in tackling stress at work.** Updated practical help for HR and line managers to tackle the issue of stress at work has been produced by CIPD working with the Health and Safety Executive and Investors in People. This includes a competency framework enabling line managers to work on the skills required to reduce and prevent stress. Find the guidance etc. at <http://www.cipd.co.uk/subjects/health/stress/Instrswrk.htm>. **Source:** VolResource newsletter 389

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**Health and safety advice for Northern Ireland.** A new web site, Health and Safety Works NI, has been launched as an advisory service of the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland. It is designed to provide practical advice and useful information to small businesses, and although a part of the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland it has a distinct identity with no enforcement powers. <http://www.healthandsafetyworksni.gov.uk>. **Source:** Volresource e-newsletter 404

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Up to date information on the Vetting and Barring Scheme is available now from <http://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org/news/news.aspx?ID=158&type=news>

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**Risk assessment template.** The Health and Safety Executive has published a template to create risk assessments and health and safety policies. It "brings together your risk assessment, health and safety policy and record of health and safety arrangements into one document to help get you started and save you time." Download the Risk Assessment and Policy Template (Word format, 298KB) from <http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/step4.htm>. **Source:** Volresource e-newsletter 404

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**Further resources on the Vetting and Barring Scheme.** The official guidance on the new Vetting and Barring Scheme from the responsible body, the Independent Safeguarding Authority, is now available as a pdf download, 1.45MB, from [http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/PDF/VBS\\_Guidance.pdf](http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/PDF/VBS_Guidance.pdf).

From 12th October there have been some changes, including "If you employ people or use volunteers in regulated activity or controlled activity, and subsequently dismiss or cease using them because you think they have harmed or pose a risk of harm to children or vulnerable adults, you must refer the case to the Independent Safeguarding Authority".

See <http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/default.aspx?page=379>. And there is a new definition of "Regulated Activity", with a wider range of people being covered by the barred lists, changing the eligibility for Enhanced CRB Checks. The Department for Children, Schools and Families has a new Frequently asked questions document on 'Parent volunteers and the new Vetting and Barring scheme' in Word format (46KB) and a quick overview at <http://preview.tinyurl.com/l4mlne>. **Source: Volresource e-newsletter 404**

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**New Housing Advice Resource for Migrant Workers** [Visit Housing Advice NI for more](#)

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**FEANTSA European Network of Homeless Health workers** – latest quarterly newsletter: <http://feantsa.horus.be/code/EN/pg.asp?Page=760>

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## News round-up

**You could get more help from Housing Benefit**

**New Housing Benefit Legislation.** New legislation coming into effect at the start of November 2009 will mean that more people will become entitled to Housing Benefit and some people already receiving HB will get more. The legislation is aimed at providing more help for both families with children and the elderly. **From 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

- Income from Child Benefit will be disregarded entirely in the assessment of Housing Benefit claims and
- The amount of capital and savings of elderly people that is disregarded will be raised from £6000 to £10,000

**Who is affected?** The Housing Executive will automatically adjust any existing claims affected by the new legislation and will notify tenants of any changes to their HB award. Tenants already receiving full HB (covering all of their rent and rates charge) will not be affected by this change.

People not currently receiving HB who are affected by the new legislation are encouraged to consider applying, including anyone who applied before and didn't qualify for HB as their income was too high. HB is designed to provide help with housing costs for people on low income and this includes people in work.

**New HB Entitlement Calculator.** This entitlement calculator can be found at <http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/housingbenefit.htm> (or external link: <http://www.quickcalc.co.uk/nihe/>) to help tenants assess their possible entitlement to HB. For more information, contact any NIHE office.

The Housing Executive has also made it simpler for existing claimants to report changes of circumstances. These can now be reported by phone to 03448 920 902. It is no longer necessary to confirm the change in writing although sometimes further details may be requested. The Housing Executive website can also be used to download a change of circumstance form which can then be sent to the Housing Benefit office. Just go to the website [www.nihe.gov.uk](http://www.nihe.gov.uk) click on Housing Benefit and follow the links to reporting changes of circumstances.

**Additional Help for Rates Payments.** In addition to HB the Housing Executive administers Rate Relief and Lone Pensioner Allowance, both of which provide help with rates payments. **Source:** NIHE

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**Consultation on review of special needs extended.** The consultation period on the Department of Education's Review of Special Educational Needs and Inclusion has been extended by one month to 30 November 2009. **Source:** Disability Action Ezine, November 2009

**Driving Theory Course.** Disability Action's Mobility Centre is offering a course to assist people with learning disabilities to attain a pass in their theory test. Click here: <http://www.disabilityaction.org/services-and-projects/driving/> **Source:** Disability Action Ezine, November 2009

**Disability Action Housing Project.** Disability Action in partnership with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive is looking for people with different disabilities or carers from across Northern Ireland to take part in a research study in early 2010. The research study will give you the

opportunity to recommend products that have made your life easier or highlight any difficulties you are having with any particular products.

**If you would like to find out more or take part in the research then please contact Laura Cleland**, Tel: (028) 90 29788, Fax: (028) 90 297881, Textphone: (028) 90 297882, or E- Mail: [LauraCleland@disabilityaction.org](mailto:LauraCleland@disabilityaction.org). **Source:** Disability Action Ezine, November 2009

**Luminous Soul: Dance Project for Disabled People.** Open Arts has a new project for all disabled people with an interest in dance. Luminous Soul is part of a series of events led by Open Arts for the Legacy Trust UK "Connections" programme, funded by Legacy Trust UK, and managed by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

To kick start it Dance Development Days will be held in the following areas: Belfast (30th November 2009), Derry (Jan 2010), Omagh (March 2010), Ballymena (May 2010), Newry (Aug 2010). **For more info:** <http://www.disabilityaction.org/news/item/79/luminous-soul-dance-project-for-disabled-people/> **Source:** Disability Action Ezine, November 2009

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### **Identity Cards for Foreign Nationals**

The UK Government has brought forward plans to issue skilled migrants (Tier 2) with identity cards to January 2010. Tier 2 migrants were to receive cards from April 2010 and Tiers 1 and 5 issues are to be brought forward from 2011 to 2010. Currently identity cards are being issued to Tier 4 students and those renewing marriage visas. **Details are at:** <http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/national-id-cards>

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**Private rented sector strategy update.** The DSD has completed its initial consultation on a new strategy for the private rented sector. Consultees were generally in favour with the majority of the proposals, including a tenancy deposit scheme and a dispute resolution service. There was also considerable support for the mandatory registration of landlords which was not being directly proposed by the DSD. Following on from the consultation, a strategy will be produced. Most of the proposals will require legislation. Any new primary housing legislation will need to be introduced in the Assembly by spring 2011.

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**Social housing rent bill hits £21m.** Visit UTV site: <http://www.u.tv/News/Social-housing-rent-bill-hits-%C2%A321m/c6f453b4-cdf8-4d2f-bfd5-7c4642c2256b>

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**National Minimum Wage rates from October.** The National Minimum Wage rates increased from 1st October. The new amounts are £5.80 an hour to workers aged 22 and above, and £4.83 an hour to workers aged 18 to 21.

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## Contact Us

**CHNI, Belfast Office:** Fourth Floor, Andras House, 60 Great Victoria St, Belfast, BT2 7BB;  
Tel: 02890246440; Fax: 02890241266

**Northwest Office:** Unit 15 Rathmore Centre, Blighs Lane, Derry, BT48 0LZ,  
Tel: 02871366363; Fax: 02871366364

General email: [info@chni.org.uk](mailto:info@chni.org.uk); website: [www.chni.org.uk](http://www.chni.org.uk);

Charity No. XO544/83; Company No. NI27577

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## Contribute to CHINWAG

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