

Chinwag. Sept 2009

Welcome to CHNI's e-newsletter

Word version of newsletter attached.

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Common Monitoring of Homeless 16-25 Year Olds

Tuesday 1st 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 – celebrating success

On the 7th September 09 CHNI hosted an event to celebrate the success of the OCN (level 3) Working with Substance Users Course, and those who had completed the programme. This event took place in CHNI offices, Great Victoria Street, Belfast.



Chris Rintoul opened the event by congratulating the Learners on their commitment and hard work. Guest Speaker Des Marley, Homelessness Services Manager (NIHE) praised the high standard of teaching and the added value this brings to the sector. Sean McCormick, Business Development Officer (OCN) was also in attendance to present the certificates. Everyone enjoyed the event which was a great opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate the learners. CHNI would like to thank everyone who attended.

Kathy Henry, Substance Use Training Administrator

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CHNI forthcoming training & development opportunities

Cross-Sectoral Placements within EHSSB

We are running Cross-Sectoral Placements within the Eastern Board area, between Homeless, Housing/and the Addictions Sector, anyone interested in participating should contact

kathyhenry@chni.org.uk

If you have a particular training need or require more information about our listed training courses contact the training department or complete the email form at the bottom of the [training website page](#). Please note, as well as designing training to suit your needs, all training can be offered in-house or at a venue that suits your organisation. Bespoke training is available to groups of staff on particular issues. Please use the contact details provided to discuss your particular training needs.

For further information

- For information on our OCN Supported Housing training and for OCN Working with Substance Users, visit our [training page](#) and / or [training calendar](#). Information on general training will be added to the website in due course.
- On all CHNI training courses, please contact: Yvonne Beggs or Lesley Morrison, Training Department. (tel) 02890 246440; (fax) 02890 241266; (email) training@chni.org.uk. Alternatively, complete the form at the bottom of our [training page](#).

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Homeless Awareness Week 2009-28th 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. 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.

Some events in the planning - dates and venues to be announced.



CHNI Charity Cup – Football tournament. Get your shorts on and your whistles out for another day of footballing shenanigans at the end of November. The favoured date for this event is Friday 27 November (to be confirmed). All booking and promo materials will be issued next week. **Expressions of interest welcomed at this stage – contact George at info@chni.org.uk.**



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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Employers for Childcare: breaking the childcare barrier



[Click on logo to visit site](#)

Employers For Childcare (EFC) is a registered charity (2002) and not-for-profit organisation, who trade for a social purpose: to assist working parents by encouraging businesses to invest in employer-supported childcare.

EFC services help all working parents, employers and childcare providers. The EFC ethos is: "*To make it easier for parents with dependent children to get into work and to stay in work.*"

EFC works in partnership with the business sector, government and childcare providers throughout Northern Ireland to promote the business benefits of introducing family-friendly practices into the workplace.

Free Childcare advice

EFC offers free childcare advice and information service to help parents with choosing childcare, geographical searches on local childcare availability as well as guidance with working entitlements, flexible working practices. EFC offers advice and information on;

- Choosing childcare
- Juggling work & family
- Balancing family & finances
- Savings on registered childcare
- Online childcare database
- FREEPHONE helpline 0800 028 3008

Employer-supported Consultancy

The Employers For Childcare Employer-supported consultancy service provides member employees with the latest information on employer-supported childcare, via networking events and seminars, case studies and news updates.

EFC Voucher Scheme

Employers for Childcare Vouchers Ltd, implements cost-effective childcare voucher schemes for employers. Employers For Childcare Vouchers Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Employers For Childcare to which all money is gift-aided to help run the charitable aims of the organisation. **100% of any profits are re-invested into the main charity.**

- Childcare Vouchers are a valid way for all working parents, both mums and dads to save money on registered childcare including registered childminders, day nurseries, crèches and playgroups etc.
- Childcare vouchers are available to all working parents, whose companies operate childcare voucher schemes.
- Childcare Vouchers are not means-tested
- Childcare Vouchers are independent of tax credits
- Working parents can EACH **save up to £99 per month** on registered childcare through exemption from tax and National Insurance Contributions

- Companies which provide childcare vouchers for employees **can save up to 12.8 %** on the value of vouchers through exemptions from National Insurance Contributions (on vouchers up to the value of £55 per week).
- EFC offer a comprehensive administration service. On completion of registration forms, EFC set up the account, handle all enquiries, and provide ongoing monthly administration. Additionally, they offer guidance for HR & finance staff, provide a comprehensive implementation pack, and an ongoing telephone support service for employees, employers and childcare providers.

For more information, visit CHNI website for an [Employers' Guide](#), and [Employees' Guide](#), or visit [Employers for Childcare](#)

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Members' Activities

MUST Hostel - Romania Aid Project

The M.U.S.T Hostel in Cookstown is organising a trip to Romania in September 2009. This trip will go by the name of the Romania Aid Project and the trip will provide improvements to a facility used by local street children and will include an extensive refurbishment of the centre including fitting a new kitchen, decorating the whole of the centre and carrying out any other repairs necessary.

All basic materials to be used in the project will be sourced and bought locally in Romania in order to help boost their local economy and provide as much general help as possible in what is a deprived area.

The trip is being organised to take place between the 9th and 21st September 2009 in Cluj, Transylvania, Romania and MUST are aiming to raise awareness of this, and through organised events raise funds for the project.



Events thus far include:

- 24 hour walk to take place at Lough Fea on the 20th and 21st June
- two collections carried out in Cookstown on the 4th July and Friday the 10th July to raise funds

For full press release and further information, [visit CHNI's website](#)

All donations should be sent to MUST Hostel/ Romania Aid Project, 73 Molesworth Street, Cookstown, County Tyrone, BT80 8PA. All cheques should be made payable to M.U.S.T. Hostel.

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Simon Community NI Sponsored Abseil

Simon Community is organising a “**Sponsored abseil day**” on Sunday 27th September 2009. They are asking for local businesses, agencies and individuals to support the event. They are also asking for their staff and colleagues to take part in the abseil to help raise awareness and funds for homelessness in Northern Ireland. If you require any further information or posters please contact Noreen on 02890232882 or email noreenkennedy@simoncommunity.org.

[Click here for flyer](#)

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Migrant Workers' Support Network (MWSN) Bill of Rights Consultation Event

With the upcoming Bill of Rights consultation process, MWSN will firstly host an information event focusing on the Bill as it relates to work with ethnic minority communities, and the importance of feeding into the consultation event. The second event will be a consultation event, whereby participants give their views on the Bill of Rights and make recommendations, which will be carried forward to the official consultation process. This event is important for everyone as everyone at some point may be vulnerable to violation of his or her rights. If you would like to attend, please contact keelin@stepni.org

Session One: Information: Wed 7th October

Time: Wed 7th October, 09.30am – 01.30pm; **Venue:** Community Relations Council Outreach Offices, Linen Green Centre, Moygashel, Dungannon; **Speakers:** Fiona Murphy, CAJ and Miriam Titterton, NIHRC.

Session Two: Consultation: Wed 3rd November (10.00am-2.00pm) Ballysaggart Business Park, Dungannon

To register your attendance at either event, please complete the attached application form and return to keelin@stepni.org or fax to 02887750212. **RSVP by Wednesday 30th September**

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MWSN Anti-Racist Workplace Week Events

This year, Anti Racist Workplace Week runs from 19th – 23rd October. STEP and MWSN plan to run awareness raising campaigns during this week in various workplaces in the South Tyrone area as a means not only of promoting Anti-Racism in the workplace

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Events

Migrant Rights Centre Ireland: Strategies for Tackling Forced Labour

Date: Thursday 1st October; **Time:** 9.15am – 2.00pm; **Venue:** Gresham Hotel, 23 Upper O'Connell St, Dublin 1

This seminar is organised by the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland in conjunction with Irish Congress of Trade Unions and Anti Human Trafficking Unit, Department of Justice and Equality and Law Reform. **To register for this seminar**, go to www.mrci.ie/news_events, and download the registration form. The deadline for registration is Wednesday 23rd September.

Northern Ireland Assembly road shows

Dates and locations are detailed below - – tea and coffee are available from 7.30 pm.

Date	Venue
22 September 2009	Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast
23 September 2009	Chinese Welfare Centre, Belfast
30 September 2009	NICVA, Belfast
1 October 2009	Farset International, Belfast
6 October 2009	Millennium Court Arts Centre, Portadown
14 October 2009	Burnavon Arts and Cultural Centre, Cookstown
15 October 2009	Marine Court Hotel, Bangor
21 October 2009	Clarion Hotel, Carrickfergus
3 November 2009	Ards Arts Centre, Newtownards
10 November 2009	Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim
12 November 2009	Downpatrick Arts Centre, Downpatrick

All venues are fully accessible. If you have any special requirements or want more information, contact the Assembly as follows

Phone: 028 9052 1220

Email: info@yourassembly.com

Web: www.yourassembly.com

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Review of Special Educational Needs & Inclusion (SEN) roadshows

The 11 roadshows, led by the Department of Education, will discuss the policy proposals emerging from the SEN Review and will be held across the north of Ireland. The roadshows will take place from 4.00pm – 6.00pm at the following venues and are open to the public;

- Tuesday 8 September 2009, Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown
- Wednesday 9 September 2009, Marine Court Hotel, Bangor
- Tuesday 15 September 2009, Everglades Hotel, Derry
- Wednesday 16 September 2009, Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen
- Thursday 17 September 2009, Leisureplex, Lisburn
- Tuesday 22 September 2009, Leighinmohr House, Ballymena
- Wednesday 23 September 2009, Strule Arts Centre, Omagh
- Thursday 24 September 2009, Beechlawn Hotel, Belfast
- Monday 28 September 2009 , The Lodge, Coleraine
- Tuesday 29 September 2009, Canal Court Hotel, Newry
- Wednesday 30 September 2009, Armagh City Hotel, Armagh

Source: Disability Action

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Diary dates

Anti Racist Workplace Week: 19th – 23rd October.

European Day of Languages: 26th September; <http://edl.ecml.at/>

World Mental Health Day: 10th October; www.wfmh.org/00WorldMentalHealthDay.htm

World Day for Decent Work: 7th October; <http://www.wddw.org>

Age Awareness Week: 28th September -2nd October. www.ageawarenessweek.com

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Reports & Publications

Promoting Social Inclusion - Employment Sub Group of Homelessness Steering Group.

Report on the Employment and Employability Seminars held on 25th June 2009. [Click here \(word doc opens in new window – CHNI website\)](#)

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Consumer Council Launches Consumer Skills For Life

The Consumer Council recently launched new education resource 'Consumer Skills for Life'. It is the first consumer resource in Northern Ireland that has been developed to help the one in four adults with low literacy and numeracy skills. It is designed for adult education tutors and staff who are working on family and health projects in the community and voluntary sectors. Tutors can request a free copy of Consumer Skills for Life from the Consumer Council by phoning 028 9067 2488 or downloading a copy from the website www.consumercouncil.org.uk. Everything in the pack can be photocopied. [Consumer Skills for Life](#) (PDF Document). [Click here](#) for more information.

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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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Simple guide to Reserves Policies

Specialist sector accountants Sayer Vincent have produced a short 'Reserves policies made simple'. Visit www.sayervincent.co.uk/Asp/uploadedFiles/File/SV%2001%20Reserves%20A4.pdf

The Sayer Vincent site also offers a range of 'made simple guides' ranging from risk assessment to websites. All listed at: <http://www.sayervincent.co.uk/render.aspx?siteID=1&navIDs=1,243,313>

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[Ideas to boost young people's self-esteem](#) (PDF document) [Back to top](#)

Need2Know Resource Pack

The Ulster Cancer Foundation has available a supply of the Need2Know Resource Pack. The pack is free and is suitable for use by teachers, youth workers and community leaders. The Need2Know project targets young people and aims to increase knowledge, address attitudes and change behaviour to prevent many cancers. There are 9 sections within the Resource Pack, namely - How to Use Need2Know, What is Cancer?, Healthy Eating and Physical Activity, Smoking Prevention and Cessation, Body Awareness and Sexual Health, Care in the Sun, Alcohol Misuse, Helpful Organisations, Useful Resources.

If you would like a copy of the pack or would like further information on the content please contact: Clare Smith, Ulster Cancer Foundation Tel: 028 90663281 or email claresmith@ulstercancer.org

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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

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Young people are ashamed to claim benefits

Young people feel ashamed when claiming Job Seekers' Allowance and Income Support, a new report has shown. Despite rising youth unemployment, [a report, published by charity YouthNet,](#) found of the 521 young people that answered an online survey, 41 per cent would feel shame if applying for income support. **Source:** Children & young people magazine online

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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](http://www.cipd.co.uk/subjects/health/stress/Instrswrk.htm). **Source:** VolResource newsletter 389

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New Housing Advice Resource for Migrant Workers

[Visit Housing Advice NI for more](#)

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News round-up

Transitional Arrangements from UK PQ to NI PQ – time running out!

If you're a social worker who needs one or two post qualifying requirements to achieve full PQ award under the UK PQ framework, then remember that the framework will cease to exist September 2010, and replaced with the NI framework.

To complete your award, you should consider making a submission in October 2009, to allow for final resubmission in March 2010. You can make a submission by verbal presentation to an Assessment Panel, written submission, portfolio, and/or for PQ6, through direct observation.

More detail about submission at: www.nipgetp.com or telephone 02890 461495. Info on [Completion and Transition Arrangements](#)

NI Framework Help for Candidates. Agencies who are members of the PQ Partnership have nominated representatives from within their organisations to make the links between the two. [Click here](#)

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New housing bill announced

A draft housing bill has been introduced to the NI Assembly on 9th June 2009. Amongst the proposals are provisions to enhance Part II of the Housing (NI) Order 1988 which deals with homelessness. They include requirements for:

- NI Housing Executive (NIHE) to produce a homelessness strategy
- health and social services boards and registered housing associations to participate in the development of the strategy
- certain statutory bodies and housing associations to take account of the strategy
- NIHE to ensure that advice on homelessness and its prevention is available and free
- NIHE to review decisions under the homelessness legislation with a right of appeal to the county court
- NIHE to inform people found “ineligible for assistance” of the grounds for the decision.

Other proposals include a change to the definition of a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) which Housing Rights Service has serious concerns about and has raised with the DSD and Social Development Committee. Details of the bill are available on the Assembly's website <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/>.

The Bill can be followed at: http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/legislation/primary/2008/nia7_08.htm, with stages followed at: <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/legislation/primary/assleg08.htm>.

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Other news

- **Disability Matters North Down has a new website - www.disabilitymattersnda.co.uk**
- **NIHE news item: our support for young city people.** The Francis Street Project, Londonderry, provides accommodation as well as individual support packages tailored to meet the needs of local young people aged between 16 and 25. The accommodation is an innovative development offering furnished self-contained apartment type accommodation. http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/about-us-home/media_centre/news-2.htm?newsid=15236
- **Citizens Advice Young People & Money FREE Money Management Training. Additional Dates in Belfast for 2009.** If you have a group of 12 or more people Citizens Advice can deliver an individual training day for your organisation. All venue and refreshment costs will be covered by Citizens Advice. **To book a place or for further information** visit the Young People and Money website: www.youngpeopleandmoney.co.uk or contact the Young People and Money Team at Citizens Advice, **Tel:** 02890 231120 **email:** ypam@citizensadvice.co.uk

- **Applied Suicide Intervention Skills training.** ASIST is a 2 day course which uses small and large groups, and requires active participation. Flexible teaching styles, simulation exercises, learning aids and audiovisual materials encourage a high level of participation. Much of the learning occurs in small work groups. This format encourages the development of participation, trust, acceptance and mutual support. It breaks down barriers, focuses attention and heightens learning. Full attendance during both days of the workshop is essential. On completion of the course participants will receive: Certificate of attendance; Training workbook & related materials; Suicide Intervention Manual; Information on local/national resources. **If you are interested in the ASIST Course Contact:** David Thornton, FASA Tel: 028 9080 3040
- **Job Opportunity: Head Of Legal Services Children's Law Centre NI** (Ref: HLS 09/09 NJC Scale 48-52 £40,338-£43,860 per annum).An application pack can be downloaded from Children's Law Centre NI website: www.childrenslawcentre.org/jobs/ or apply in writing quoting reference number to: Helen Rafferty, Administrator, Children's Law Centre, 3rd Floor, Philip House, 123-137 York Street, Belfast, BT15 1AB or email: helenrafferty@childrenslawcentre.org **Closing Date:** 12.00 noon Monday 28th September 2009. The Children's Law Centre is an equal opportunities employer
- **Secondment opportunity through the Interchange scheme: European Strategy and Policy Liaison Officer at OFMDFM.** This post is a short-term opportunity for middle managers wishing to obtain hands-on, strategic European policy experience. It also provides a unique opportunity to the home organisation to develop the policy capability and European knowledge of their staff and to gain valuable insights into the workings of the EU in a strategic, high level political context. Visit www.interchangenl.org.uk/opportunities/ for more details.
- **English Language Course for ethnic minorities** Derry City Council, in conjunction with Foyle Language School & SEEDS, is providing conversational English classes for ethnic minorities. Basic conversational course lasts for 10 weeks (30 hours). Course begins on Saturday 26th September from 2.00pm until 5.30pm. The course covers the four key skill areas of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. Classes are offered at beginner level (15 places) and intermediate level (15 places). **Administration charge of £10 per person for the course. Closing date for applications is 25th September 2009.** If you would like to apply for this course, you can contact sinead@foylelanguageschool.com on 028 71 272 933 or Marlena or Ewa at SEEDS on 028 71370989 or derry.pl@gmail.com
- **New Research into the experiences of LGBT accessing GP services.** The Rainbow Project, in partnership with Cara-Friend, is carrying out research into the perceptions and experiences of gay, lesbian and bisexual people when accessing GP services. If you are gay, lesbian or bisexual please take ten minutes (max.) to fill in their anonymous online questionnaire at: www.rainbow-project.org/survey. Paper copies of the survey (with a SAE

included) are also available from the Rainbow Belfast office Tel: 9031 9030 and ask for John, Pat or Miriam. **For more information** on other work of the Rainbow Project visit their website: www.rainbow-project.org

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; 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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19/06/2009

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