

**No Good Food
Should Go To Waste**

Time for your FareShare!

CHNI launches the first depot of the FareShare Island of Ireland Community Food Network in Belfast.

SEA BASS	1.39
RHUBARB	9.77
BASH POTATOES	2.39
TROPICAL FRUIT + SOYSA	1.49
PRAWNS	3.69
CELERY HEARTS	6.99
CHICKEN	8.95
BUTTER FREE RANGE EGGS	18.99
GREEN PEPPERS	4.35
MILK SKIMMED	3.99
MILD ROCKET	1.82
ORANGES	1.99
RASPBERRIES	



Time for a FareShare!

After months of anticipation, CHNI recently opened the first FareShare Island of Ireland Community Food Network depot.

What is FareShare Island of Ireland?

FareShare Island of Ireland is a regional Food Sharing Network, which aims to help vulnerable groups, whether they are homeless, elderly, children, or other groups in food poverty within our communities by distributing surplus but 'fit for purpose' food. The primary message is 'No Good Food Should Be Wasted'.

FareShare Island of Ireland is operated under licence by Council for the Homeless NI, and CHNI will be rolling out the FareShare model of re-distributing good surplus food amongst a network of voluntary organisations that provide meals and food to people in need. Over 38 organisations have already made contact to become Community Food Network Members. They will benefit from not just the food, but all the other resources that FareShare Island of Ireland will be offering in the coming months.

The Pilot Depot in Belfast

The depot will be open from the end of January to collect and distribute food to organisations that provide meals as part of their services to disadvantaged people in the community. The pilot will service the Greater Belfast area with deliveries to projects further afield where possible.



The new depot is located at:

**Unit 117a
Weavers Court
(Linfield) Industrial
Estate,
Belfast BT12 5GH**

FareShare is a national charity supporting communities to relieve food poverty. FareShare is at the centre of the two key issues of food poverty and food waste. FareShare acts in three ways:

1. *Providing quality food - that is surplus but 'fit for purpose' produce from the food and drink industry - to organisations working with disadvantaged people in the community*
2. *Providing training and education around the essential life skills of safe food preparation and nutrition along with warehouse and employability training.*
3. *Promoting the message that 'No Good Food Should Be Wasted'*

The FareShare Pilot Depot is funded by the Rethink Waste Revenue Fund and promotes policies to reduce food waste throughout all voluntary organisations.

[click here for more information](#)

Or call Alison Upton on 90246 440; email: foodnetwork@chni.org.uk

Click to read a review of relevant research with a focus on food and related poverty on the Island of Ireland.

Mental Health

One day conference exploring the priority of mental health within care services in a changing society.

The King's Hall, Belfast. Tuesday, 29 March 2011

£65 per delegate

[Book here](#)

This One Day Conference, organised by CHNI and reach ni* and supported by Awards for All, will explore the priority of mental health issues within care services in a changing society. The Conference will consider the effect of financial restraints on the following areas, including the effect of financial restraints on service delivery:

- The entrance criteria to mental health services
- The intervention strategies today
- Interface between various agencies
- Signposting of services
- Modern psychological strategies
- The impact on service users

Programme and Booking form

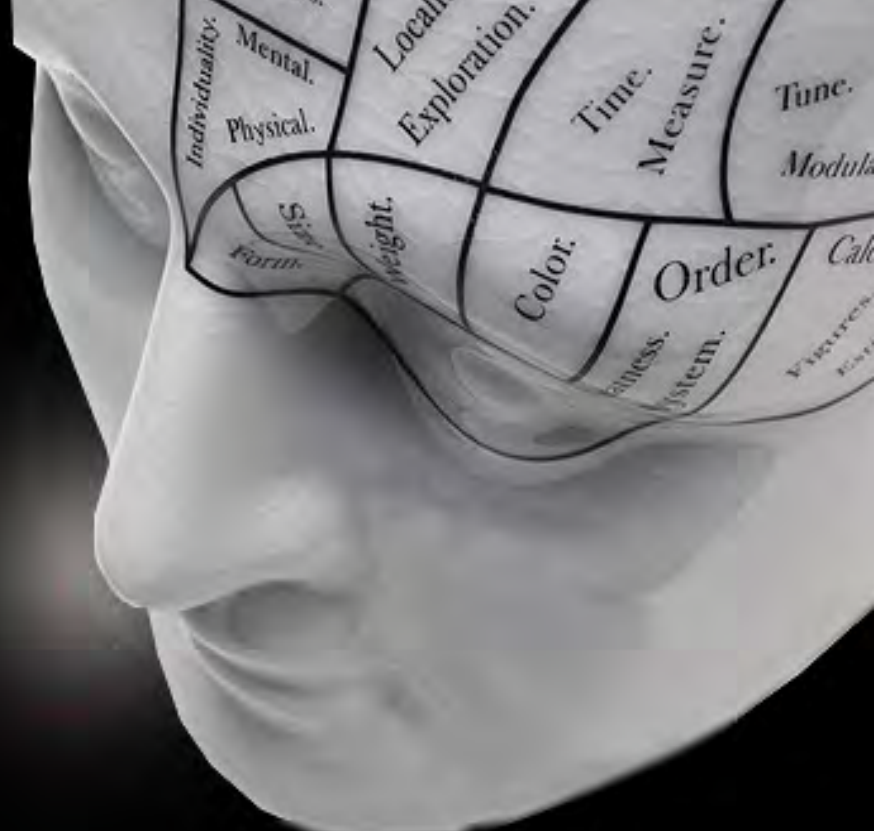
A full programme, including a profile of speakers and a booking form for the event and event workshops can be accessed from the CHNI web site: www.chni.org.uk/UserFiles/File/CONFERENCE_2.pdf, or click the 'book here' button above.

For queries and further information

Should you have any specific queries, please contact Yvonne Beggs, Training Officer, CHNI Training Department - Tel: 02890 246 440; email: yvonne@chni.org.uk

* [reach ni](#) is a social economy project providing professional consultancy services to Community & Voluntary organisations.

Conference
CHNI conference



New CHNI resource focusing on nutrition for alcohol users.

CHNI recently published 'Nutrition for alcohol users', a resource booklet for staff working with homeless alcohol users.

This resource booklet has been compiled for Council for the Homeless Northern Ireland (CHNI) by Helen Sandwell, Good Food and Health, with contributions from CHNI, homeless service users, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust's Community Nutrition and Dietetic Service, and Depaul Ireland. The booklet is funded by the Eastern Drugs and Alcohol Coordination Team (EDACT) and the Public Health Agency.

This booklet is aimed at support workers and other homelessness staff working with heavy drinkers*, who would like to help their clients eat more healthily. It provides information about the effects of alcohol and an alcohol driven lifestyle on nutrient intake, together with basic healthy eating messages and ideas on how to encourage clients to eat more nutritious food and more regular meals. It describes the personal circumstances that may affect diet, as well as exploring potential ways to deliver healthy eating messages to these client groups. Also included are a list of local and UK resources and sources of support and information.

* *The information in this resource is not suitable for drinkers who have developed more advanced liver disease and are presenting associated symptoms of the disease, for example, people with: ascites, varices, or encephalopathy. See booklet for more details.*



[click here to download](#)

Nutrition for alcohol users. A resource booklet for staff working with homeless alcohol users.

Download version

Can be downloaded from CHNI website at:

www.chni.org.uk/UserFiles/File/web_book.pdf (683 Kb, pdf format)

Hard copies

To discuss availability of hard copies, please contact Chris Rintoul or Kathy Henry, at: CHNI Training Department (substance use programme); Tel: 02890 246 440

Email: chrisrintoul@chni.org.uk or kathyhenry@chni.org.uk



[Click here to visit EDACT's web site](#)



[Click here to visit the PHA web site](#)

Training

substance use programme

Courses delivered so far 2011

The Substance Use Training Department have delivered the following courses, all of which were over-subscribed, and well-received by attendees:

- Safer Injecting & Needle Exchange training (11-13 January);
- Basic Life Support & Overdose Management training (8 February). This course is accredited by the Resuscitation Council UK;
- Homelessness & Substance Use training (17 February); and
- In January, we commenced the current delivery of the OCN accredited (level 3) Working with Substance Users course with 8 participants. This course will run until late March.

If you would like information about future dates for it please contact Kathy Henry 02890 246440 or email kathyhenry@chni.org.uk.

Forthcoming training

Chris delivered new training on the opiate 'antidote', naloxone, on 22-23 February. Naloxone is a drug used to reverse opiate overdoses, including heroin (see Q&A box, right).

This 'Train the Trainer' course will be for addictions staff, service users and pharmacists to become trainers on the issue. Chris will co-facilitate this with Stephen Malloy of the Scottish Drugs Forum. It is anticipated that he will then deliver training on this to homelessness services staff in April, details will be provided later. Chris will also be delivering bespoke training on Mephedrone and 'Research Chemicals' for East Belfast Mission staff on 9th March.

We are providing training on Nutrition for Alcohol Users on 15th and 16th March (1-day courses). It is aimed at people who work with heavy drinkers and would like to help them eat more healthily.

The training has been developed to complement a new resource booklet 'Nutrition for alcohol users'. This booklet has been compiled for CHNI by nutritionist Helen Sandwell, with contributions from CHNI, homeless service users, Belfast Trust and Depaul Ireland. There are a limited number of places still left on this course; please contact Kathy Henry a.s.a.p. if you wish to gain a place.

Naloxone: Q&A

Q: What is Naloxone?

A: Naloxone is an antidote drug that temporarily reverses the effects of heroin and other opioid drugs. Naloxone is regularly carried by ambulance crews for use in the event of a suspected overdose. It is permissible to prescribe take-home Naloxone to named patients and is fully endorsed in the UK Clinical Guidelines.¹

Naloxone is most commonly injected intravenously for fastest action. The drug generally acts within a minute, and its effects may last up to 45 minutes. It can also be administered via intramuscular or subcutaneous injection. Use of a wedge device (nasal atomizer) attached to a syringe to create a mist delivering the drug to the nasal mucosa may also be utilised.

Q: Is it harmful?

A: Naloxone is a very safe drug and there are no reports of it causing overdose in humans. Naloxone would have to be used in enormous quantities in order to be harmful. For example, the lethal dose of Naloxone is estimated to be 260mg per kg of body weight, so for a 70kg adult that would be 18.2g – the dose used in clinical practice is 0.1 to 0.2mg. Naloxone is inactive if swallowed – only active if injected or taken intra-nasally. In reality it is less harmful than many over the counter medicines if taken accidentally. For possible side effects go to [this site \(drugs.com\)](http://this.site/drugs.com).

1. Department of Health and the devolved administrations (2007). Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management. London: Department of Health (England), the Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and Northern Ireland Executive.

Training

substance use programme

Forthcoming training

March

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18

- **Tues 15 March:** Nutrition For Alcohol Users
- **Weds 16 March:** Nutrition For Alcohol Users

April

M	T	W	T	F
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22

- **Tues 5 and 12 April:** OCN Level 3 Working With Substance Users (2-days)
- **Tues 19 April:** Substance Use Awareness

OCN Celebration of Success Awards

We held our annual OCN Celebration of Success Awards on 31st January. 15 people, including line-managers, attended this event.



Brian Rowntree, Chairman of NIHE, gave a speech and handed out the OCN certificates to the successful candidates.



On behalf of CHNI we would like to congratulate all the successful candidates who achieved their OCN award in 2010; well done!

Service User Involvement

Chris continues to support the arena of Service User Involvement within homelessness and addictions services in the Eastern area through involvement in the relevant EDACT/PHA subgroup.

He will be speaking at the regional Service User Involvement conference in NICVA on 25th February.

If you are interested in attending this event please email Chris at chrisintoul@chni.org.uk.

Focus on research

The Cronem Report - determinants of homelessness and alcohol misuse amongst migrants in London.

This study examined the relationship between alcohol use and homelessness among Eastern European migrants living in London. The author concluded that structural exclusion, the tendency to value bonds with other homeless migrants, (and the use of alcohol to articulate these bonds), reinforced Eastern European homeless migrants' perceptions of the world outside their immediate network as alien and hostile. This in turn, served to entrench *'their embedded problems..'*

Service providers who participated in the study reported a problem with the level of engagement and cooperativeness from Eastern European migrants. A lack of clear access to public funds made it much harder to access treatment, which in turn, resulted in a reinforced unwillingness to engage and commit to treatment.

The author anticipated that London, and more widely England, would see a deepening and entrenching of these problems in the coming years. Despite various programmes and initiatives the vast majority of those interviewed did not intend to go back to their countries of origin and any attempts by the British administration to remove them were likely to fail or become too costly for public purse. In terms of service delivery, the growth of homelessness along with the public cuts means that the brunt of the problem will fall on the shoulders of the voluntary sector.

Reference in full: Garapich, M.P. (2010). 'THE UNWANTED.' Social and cultural determinants of homelessness and alcohol abuse among Eastern European migrants in London research report. CRONEM, Roehampton University.

[Read report \(PDF\)](#)

CRONEM (Centre for Research on Nationalism, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism), is a multidisciplinary research centre based at Roehampton University and University of Surrey: www3.surrey.ac.uk/Arts/CRONEM/

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.

Two rooms for all your needs.

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. If your needs are slightly less, why not book the meeting room? Similarly equipped and catered, this room can comfortably accommodate 12 to 15 people.



training room



meeting room

- water cooler
- Photocopies
- lunch and refreshments*.

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). CHNI particularly welcomes the use of these facilities by its member organisations, and those working with socially excluded and/or vulnerable groups.



Ideal location

CHNI training suite is the perfect central venue for meetings, negotiations and project teams. 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](#)

Got a question?

If you have a query or specific request, contact Lesley Morrison for larger training room, or Lara Bamford (for smaller room):

Lara: admin@chni.org.uk; tel: 02890 246440

Lesley: training@chni.org.uk; (tel as above)

[click here for more information & booking form](#)

The package

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

**For the reasons of Health and Safety, no food is allowed to be brought on to the premises by clients or delegates.*

Youth dept.

Regional Youth Homelessness Forum

This month shall see the next meeting of the Regional Youth Homelessness Forum, (formerly the Young Peoples Provider Forum), coordinated by CHNI, in partnership with the Regional Health and Social Care Board and NIHE.

Reflecting the changing policy landscape, membership of this forum has been extended to ensure the inclusion of all key stakeholder agencies involved in the commissioning, planning or delivery of services for young people affected by homelessness. The forum will aim to both influence and support the development of regional policy and strategy in respect of youth homelessness. It will continue to provide a formal mechanism for information sharing and consultation in relation to significant policy and practice developments.

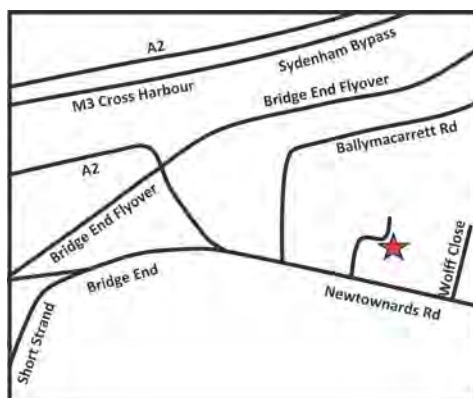
Areas for update and discussion at this next meeting will include:

- the implementation and monitoring of Standards for Young Peoples Accommodation projects;
- regional Joint Practice Guidance for NIHE and HSCT in meeting the Accommodation and Support Needs of 16-21 yr olds; and

- an update on local planning & developments in respect of youth homelessness.

Presentations on the day will involve key representatives from the Regional Health and Social Care Board, Supporting People and NIHE

Arrangements for this meeting are as follows: Friday, 8 April 2011, 10.00am-12.30 pm, City East Business Centre, Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1GW



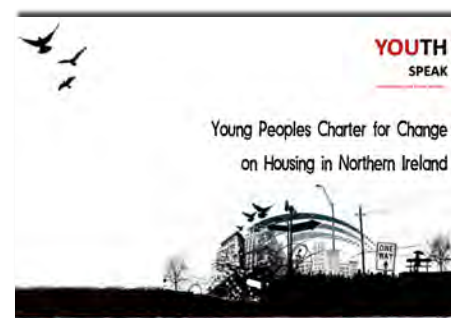
If your organisation is interested in participating in this forum please contact Kathy Maguire at kathy@chni.org.uk.

We continue to advocate for the needs of young people via our active participation in key regional and local policy and planning fora, which has included participation in the 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 development of best practice standards for young people's accommodation services and the development of regional supported lodgings provision.

Launch of the 'Young People's Charter for Change on Housing in NI'

The Young People's Charter for Change on Housing in NI was formally launched at the end of November 2010. Despite adverse weather conditions, the event was well attended by representatives from across statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations. In addition we were particularly happy to have a number of young service user and advocacy groups in attendance.



Youth dept.

The programme for the event included a presentation from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation around the work of the wider 'UK Young People and Housing' project, and the University of Ulster provided an overview of their 'Inventing Adulthood' research study.

Our young Peer Advisers introduced an animation short produced by them and young people from the other UK charter groups to highlight common issues emerging from the UK consultation. They then provided an overview of key findings and recommendations from the NI consultation.

We were delighted to also be joined at the event by senior representatives from a number of key government and advocacy agencies, who, on behalf of their agency, provided a formal response to the charter findings. This included the Department of Education, Department of Social Development, NIHE, Office of the Northern Ireland Children and Young Peoples Commissioner, Chartered Institute of Housing and the Housing Rights Service.

Everyone was in agreement that our young Peer Advisers did an excellent job on the day, presenting the outcomes of this innovative consultation project and

highlighting young people's ideas and recommendations for change

CHNI would once again like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their efforts over the past year and in coordinating the launch event. To date, the work of the Charter has received a very positive response from across the voluntary and statutory sectors and we have received strong expressions of support in taking the work forward in 2011.

To receive a copy of the charter, contact Kathy (kathy@chni.org.uk) or Susan (susan@chni.org.uk) in the Youth Department, tel. 02890 246440. The report will be made available online in the coming days.

YouthSpeak Participation Project

Our YouthSpeak project continues to develop apace and young people are currently working with staff to develop a Young People's Forum. The forum aims to be a youth led voice on homelessness and housing issues, with our YouthSpeak volunteers acting as both peer researchers (carrying out outreach work and speaking to young people across the sector about their

views and experiences) and also as representatives (speaking out for the young people they have worked with to the decision makers and planners who influence policy).

After a Christmas break our Peer Advisers have been keen to further promote the work of the NI Housing Charter and are in the final stages of putting together a follow up programme of lobbying and influencing to highlight key themes and issues emerging from the Charter project. They have also acted as consultants for a number of related research programmes across Ireland, to highlight homeless young people's views and experiences.

Please look out for more details on specific Youth Speak projects and activities in the next issue of CHINWAG.

If you are a young person who has experience of homelessness or housing difficulties and would like to get involved in the project, or if you know of a young person who might be interested, then please contact Susan Duncan on 02890 246440 or susan@chni.org.uk.

CHNI activities

Director and Deputy Director's activities

CHNI has recently been successful in obtaining funding from The Community Development and Health Network, to make the homeless community, including service users and key workers, aware of pharmacy services and how to access them. The project will also raise the pharmacists' awareness of the health challenges faced by homeless people.

There will be two information sessions for key workers in the Belfast area and eight sessions for service users, beginning in April 2011. The pharmacists will also lead a minimum of four group-based sessions, complemented by one-to-one sessions with service users.

We have also been awarded funding from the Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All programme, which will enable us to provide training at a subsidised rate over the next year. Those attending our Mental Health Conference on the 29th March 2011 will be among the first to benefit from these reduced charges.

This will be particularly welcomed by organisations in the homeless sector who are constantly under pressure to

provide a quality service and value for money in a difficult financial environment.

Ricky Rowledge, Director:

- Chaired the Young People's Charter at the end of November.
- Attended the NIARCO AGM.
- Participated in a series of meetings regarding move-on accommodation and Homelessness Strategy.
- Attended the EESC plenary session and FEANTSA Consensus Conference on Homelessness in Brussels on 8th and 9th December.
- Attended the DSD's presentation at NICVA's series of budget consultation meetings.
- Completed Fareshare training course in Barnsley in mid January.
- Participated in a round table discussion on the housing budget which was attended by Alex Attwood and a selection of representatives from the Voluntary and Committee sector at CIH.
- Addressed the DSD Committee regarding the draft budget at the beginning of February, on behalf of CRISPP.
- Attended a series of meetings on Joint Management Agreements

between service providers and their affiliated housing associations

- Assisted in the formation of the VSHPF and CRISPP responses to the draft DSD Budget.
- Attended the OCN presentations of the working with substance users training.
- Attended Committee meetings for Fareshare and NIAPN.
- Completed the first two modules in CO3's (Chief Officer's in the Third Sector) 'Inspiring Leaders Programme.'
- Attended a meeting with CEO at Sitra.

Northwest News

We have co-hosted several events in the NW in January, and have a lot more to look forward to over the coming months.

The first of these was the Census Awareness Event for the homeless sector. This event was held in the Verbal Arts Centre in Derry and a second was held in NICVA, Belfast.

We anticipated a good turn out for the events and were not disappointed. The Census Team's contact details, should you have any queries about the upcoming Census in March 2011, are

CHNI activities

as follows:

Denise Rainey

**Field Force Operations, (Census
Regional Manager)**

1st Floor Carleton House

1 Cromac Avenue,

Gasworks Business Park

Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 2JA

email: denise.rainey@dfpni.gov.uk

Tel: 02890 828222

We also co-hosted the 'Responsible Landlords Scheme' event with SmartMove in Belfast.

This event was aimed specifically at private landlords in the Derry area. Its aim was to inform them of the

implications of the new private rented strategy and how to become more efficient through accredited training which SmartMove will be implementing.

Big thanks to Paula Quigley and Tracey Askin from SmartMove for all their hard work leading up to the event.

The Northwest Members Forum meeting was held on Friday 11th February at CHNI regional office in Derry (update pending).

All CHNI members are welcome to the forum meeting. Please contact Majella on 02871 366363 if you wish to attend or for details about the schedule of meetings.

Upcoming research and information activities

The University of Ulster, in partnership with CHNI and the NI Housing Executive, are currently developing research that will examine the efficacy and impact of floating support models for those previously and currently availing of temporary accommodation and other homelessness services. As it stands, this will be the first NI-based and NI-wide study to examine floating support's impact on an individual's health and well-being. This research is still in the planning stages, but needless to say, we will be contacting members in the coming months to encourage your organisations to participate in this potentially valuable piece of research.



visit [homelessni](http://www.homelessni.org)

HELP YOU NEED WHEN YOU NEED IT

Search online for hostels, advice & support. Details of over 400 services

Use www.homelessni.org to get information about temporary accommodation, floating support, supported housing projects, advice services, Housing Executive offices, floating support, Jobcentres and other services for your particular client groups. **Homeless Northern Ireland** gives details of who each service is for, how to contact and make referrals, opening hours and support provided. With regards to hostels, it also includes information such as length of stay, facilities, costs, and move-on accommodation.

www.homelessni.org

Northern Ireland's online directory of homelessness and advice services

news



[click here to visit site](http://www.homeplusni.org)

Homeplus NI launch new website.

Homeplus is a registered charity working to meet the immediate needs of vulnerable homeless people sleeping rough in the Belfast area. Homeplus NI offer a number of services, including a nightly street outreach project, an on-call facility, and a drop-in centre for destitute foreign nationals. **Their new site can be found at: www.homeplusni.org**

Wanted: voluntary board members

Both NIFHA and VOYPIC are currently looking for volunteer board members. For more details, see below (*source: NICVA News 31 Jan*).



Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA) wants to add to its register of people interested in becoming voluntary board members of a housing association.

[For more information](#)

A housing association's board of management should represent a wide range of interests and skills. This

may include specialist knowledge of business development, strategic development, HR, housing management, finance, marketing and PR. Interest is welcome from **all** persons. **For more information** email info@nifha.org or telephone 028 9023 0446 or click on link (above).



[Application pack \(PDF\)](#)

Do you have experience and expertise in finance; human resources or social work? If so, why not consider applying to join Voice of Young People in Care's (VOYPIC) Voluntary Board of Directors.

VOYPIC is an independent charity that advocates for and promotes the rights and needs of children and young people with care experience (<http://www.voypic.org/>).

VOYPIC are hosting an information session at their offices (9-11 Botanic Avenue, Belfast BT7 1JG) on Wednesday 23rd February at 6.30pm.

To apply: contact VOYPIC Administration Dept. on 02890 244 888; email: admin@voypic.org for an application form. The closing date for applications is Friday 4th March at 12 noon.

News in brief

- Eamonn McCann (Belfast Telegraph): How unkindest cut of all will put many on streets. [Click here;](#)
- One in twelve fears homelessness as repossessions rise (Ireland). [Click here;](#)
- Warning of rise in repossessions (Irish Times). [Click here;](#)
- Numbers defaulting on mortgage double (Ireland). [Click here;](#)
- Focus Ireland Campaign to tackle homelessness (Irish Times). [Click here;](#)
- Scotland faces losing around £78m in payments for housing benefit. [Click here;](#)
- Scottish local authorities will be given new powers to increase council tax on long-term empty homes, (Inside Housing). [Click here;](#)
- MPs warned that proposed legal aid cuts will result in vulnerable people losing their homes (Inside Housing). [Click here;](#)
- Homeless acceptances in rural areas of England have increased by 25 per cent in the last year, (Inside Housing). [Click here;](#)
- Supreme Court has ruled a local authority should consider someone fleeing threats of domestic violence as homeless (Inside Housing); [click here;](#)
- Proposed cuts to housing benefit for the unemployed will hit more than 130,000 households, (Inside Housing); [click here;](#)
- Eating Disorders Awareness Week 2011, (21–26 Feb). Adapt ED Association (www.adaptingdistress.com) are leading the challenge to not only highlight ED Awareness Week, but also about the specialist and support services now available in NI. For more information: Una Foye on 02838347535 or email info@adaptingdistress.com (source link: [CDHN](#));

shaping the future

together

Since its introduction in 2003, the Supporting People framework has enriched the lives of many thousands of vulnerable people in Northern Ireland by enabling them to live more independently than would otherwise have been possible.

Depending on their needs and preferences, many continue to live at home with the help of housing support services that come to them; others have moved to more suitable homes in community-based supported accommodation. Service quality is externally checked and the commissioning of new projects is subject to approval by inter-agency panels that “join up” the housing, social care and probation authorities.

This conference will not only illustrate the achievements of the programme but give delegates a wonderful opportunity to influence the next Supporting People Strategy, which is currently being drafted. We believe Supporting People is important to your work so please be there and make your views known!

CRISPP conference 2011: a one day conference exploring the impact and future direction of the Supporting People Programme across Northern Ireland.

Weds 9 March 2011. Tullyglass House Hotel, Ballymena.

The aims of the conference will be to:

- demonstrate the importance of the Supporting People programme, both in terms of value of money and return on investment through positive outcomes;
- provide the opportunity for initial consultation on the direction for the new Supporting People Strategy, and the emerging funding framework for supported housing; and
- Offer a platform for organisational promotion and networking.

Cost of this event: free.

Click [here](#) to visit CHNI site to read more, and download programme and booking form.

For all booking enquiries, please telephone 028 71 366 363 or email majella@chni.org.uk



news



Frontline (Law Centre NI quarterly) special feature

Issue 78 of the Law Centre NI quarterly has a special feature entitled 'Making the poorest pay for the recession'. Also included (page 28) - an article by the Housing Rights Service entitled 'Challenging homelessness decisions'.

[click here to read](#)

Universal Credit - Law Centre NI response

The government is planning to reform and simplify the benefit system by introducing a new Universal Credit. The Law Centre and the Welfare Reform Group made submissions to the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee and the Department for Social Development on the proposals. The responses highlight the need to examine how Universal Credit will impact on vulnerable groups in Northern Ireland: <http://www.lawcentreni.org/policy/consultation-responses.html>

New single legislation web site

Information on current legislation throughout the UK can be found on a new government website, www.legislation.gov.uk. The site brings together legislative content from several sources to create a single legislation service. NI relevant content can be accessed directly through this page, as well as a link to NI Assembly.

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, A Shared Responsibility

'Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, A Shared Responsibility', minimum standards of best practice for organisations working with vulnerable adults in the voluntary, community and independent sectors **can be downloaded** in a number of formats, including easy print from [here](#). Also available from the site: an [Access NI update](#) (Feb 2011).

Volunteer Now is delivering a number of adult safeguarding training courses across Northern Ireland to support the standards and guidance. **To find out more** about this publication and/or training please contact Ruth Mulholland on 028 9081 8321 / ruth.mulholland@volunteernow.co.uk

News in brief

- FEANTSA report prepared for the Consensus Conference 2010: ['Homelessness and Homeless Policies in Europe: Lessons from Research'](#). This is an overview of research on homelessness in the EU. [FEANTSA](#) is the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless, and focuses exclusively on homelessness at European level.
- Study on housing exclusion: welfare policies, housing provision and labour markets. [Final report completed in April 2010](#) (pdf).
- FEANTSA European Journal of Homelessness, Vol 4, Dec 2010: 'Homelessness, Poverty and Social Exclusion' - [available online](#);
- EU should develop a unified approach to ending homelessness, according to former Belgian PM; ([Parliament.com](#));
- New calls for an EU-wide crackdown on discrimination against Roma people; ([Parliament.com](#)).
- Centrepont launches youth parliament, (Inside Housing. [Click here](#)).
- **Launch of the Children and Young People as Researchers Network (CYPAR)**. CYPAR is led by a steering group of researchers from organisations including NCB NI, NSPCC, PlayBoard, VOYPIC, Youth Action and Ark. The purpose of the network is to create an information and support mechanism for practitioners and researchers. The network aims to promote the value of involving children and young people as researchers; and promote good practice in involving children and young people in research. **If you would like to learn more or join up** (membership of the network is free) you can register online at www.ncb.org.uk/cypar.

news

End of A8 transitional arrangements in 2011

The Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia joined the EU in May 2004 and are often called 'A8' nations. A8 nationals have restrictions on their rights to work, apply for benefits and/or get help with housing. **These restrictions apply until 30 April 2011.** Bulgarian and Romanian nationals face different restrictions which will remain in place.

At the moment, there is a lack of clear information available from government about the changes that will occur and their likely impact. Broadly, it is assumed that A8 nationals will have the same rights as other EEA/EU nationals:

- the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) will no longer exist;
- many A8 workers who are out of work who could not access benefits in the past because they had not registered or had not completed enough time in registered work will be eligible for these benefits;
- A8 nationals will be eligible for Jobseeker's Allowance and Housing Benefit;
- after a period of time in the UK A8 workers/jobseekers will be 'habitually resident' (this is generally after about three months). By satisfying both elements of the Habitual Residence Test, they will be able to access means-tested benefits but will only have limited access to other income-related benefits;
- A8 nationals who are working will have 'worker status'/'worker rights';

- A8 workers with over a year of continuous employment will retain this worker status if they become involuntarily unemployed or become unable to work because of illness, and will be eligible for the housing register and homelessness services.

As it stands, these changes have yet to be confirmed. As such, CHNI will endeavour to keep you informed with up-to-date information, once it becomes available. Should any organisation be in a position to provide more clarity / further information, we would be glad to hear from you – contact George Quinn, info@chni.org.uk, tel: 90246440.

Source: Frequently asked questions about the rights of EEA nationals to access: Benefits and the changes for A8 nationals from 1 May 2011. MRN and AIRE centre. [Click here to access link](#) (pdf).



Rent and Deposit Bond Scheme

What is the Rent and Deposit Bond Scheme?

A common problem facing many homeless people trying to access private rented accommodation is the difficulty in obtaining the necessary finance to fund rent in advance and/ or a deposit. The Scheme, which is managed by the Simon Community NI and supported by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, provides a written bond to landlords in lieu of rent in advance and/ or a deposit.

How does the Scheme work?

The Scheme accepts applications from individuals, as well as agencies on behalf of homeless households.

All applicants are assessed for tenancy readiness. Those accepted are placed on the scheme's waiting list, introduced to participating landlords, and encouraged to locate properties themselves, with the assistance of Simon Community and referring agency, where needed. It is a condition of the Scheme that all successful applicants must engage with support staff for a period of 6 months after taking up a tenancy. The Simon Community will support clients via community support.

summary of scheme

Provider: Simon Community NI

Scheme: Rent & Deposit Bond Scheme

Location: Belfast, N.East & West, and the South & S.East.

Primary Client Group: Homeless Singles and Families adults aged 17- 65. **Exclusions:** Any person who has been convicted, or is facing charges relating to sexual offences. Unable to accept those whose risk assessment reveals a level of risk that the project is unable to support.

Access: via referral, made in person, in writing or by phone, either by the household in question, or an agency acting on their behalf. Suitability of client established through assessment and interview. Successful applicants must engage with support staff for a period of 6 months after taking up a tenancy.

How to apply: If you have any clients interested in the scheme, please complete the relevant forms and forward to: **The Rent & Deposit Bond Scheme Administrator, 57 Fitzroy Ave, Belfast, BT7 1HT.**

Forms: from CHNI site ([click here](#)) or contact Simon Community (below)

Queries: Anne McCusker, by email annemccusker@simoncommunity.org or by telephone: 02890 232882