

# Combating Homelessness In Northern Ireland



- Networking
- Training
- Informing
- Researching

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**CHINWAG**  
INFORMATION UPDATE FOR CHNI MEMBERS

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## CHNI TRAINING PROGRAMME: SPRING/SUMMER 2005

	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI		COURSE/SEMINAR (Holidays in red type)
MARCH	14	15	16	17	18	15 <sup>th</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup>	Recruitment & Selection <i>St Patrick's Day</i>
	21	22	23	24	25	22 <sup>nd</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup>	Helping Young People to Manage Stress <i>Good Friday</i>
	28	29	30	31		28 <sup>th</sup> 29 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Easter Monday</i> <i>Easter Tuesday</i>
APRIL					1		
	4	5	6	7	8	5 <sup>th</sup>	Time Management
	11	12	13	14	15	12 <sup>th</sup>	Finance for non-financial managers
	18	19	20	21	22	19 <sup>th</sup>	Managing Staff's Performance
	25	26	27	28	29	26 <sup>th</sup>	Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bi- sexual and Transgender Young People
MAY	2	3	4	5	6	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>May Day</i>
	9	10	11	12	13	10 <sup>th</sup>	Health & Safety
	16	17	18	19	20	17 <sup>th</sup>	Business Planning
	23	24	25	26	27	24 <sup>th</sup>	Young People, Sexual Abuse and Self-Harm – The Links
	30	31				30 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Spring Bank Holiday</i>
JUNE			1	2	3	1 <sup>st</sup>	Business Planning
	6	7	8	9	10	7 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Fundraising – Day 1
	13	14	15	16	17	14 <sup>th</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Fundraising – Day 2 Business Planning
	20	21	22	23	24	21 <sup>st</sup>	Managing Risk in Youth Settings
	27	28	29	30			



All the above courses will be held in CHNI Training Room, 72 North Street, Belfast. BT1 1LD

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### Need more information?

Please contact Yvonne or Lesley (as above) if you want more information about a course, or wish to discuss your organisation's training requirements.

## Conference Evaluation

First and foremost, CHNI staff would like to thank all delegates, speakers and facilitators who made this year's conference / PSI consultation a success. As always, your contribution was most valuable.

CHNI has forwarded on its formal response to the PSI Working Group's report - a copy of this has already been e-mailed to you. Similarly, you should have received a copy of the workshop notes by post. If anyone has not received or would like another an electronic copy of either, please contact George on 90246440 or info@chni.org.uk

So far, 25 Conference evaluation forms have been received.

### Summary of feedback from evaluation forms

**How familiar were you / organisation with the content of the PSI report prior to the conference?** 36% of respondents were not at all or not very familiar with the content; 36% "somewhat familiar"; and 28% of delegates who sent back evaluation forms were "very familiar"

**Did the conference increase your understanding of the content of the report? How much?** 100% of those who returned forms claimed that the conference **did** increase their understanding. 64% felt that they had a "much better understanding"; 32% a "somewhat better understanding", with 4% reporting that their understanding was "much the same"

**100% of respondents** agreed that the conference would allow them / their organisations to better feed into the consultation process.. 36% indicated that they would be able to make a "much better contribution", 60% "a somewhat better contribution".

**Have the recommendations adequately reflected those areas needing addressed?** 96% of forms returned indicated that, **yes**, the recommendations were adequate.

In general, delegates were positive about the **usefulness of the conference**: 52% of delegates felt that the conference was "quite useful", the remaining 48% felt it was "very useful". Similarly, all respondents rated the venue and food as either "satisfactory" or "very satisfactory".

68% rated the **quality of CHNI support** as "excellent", the remainder rated it as "satisfactory". Similarly, 72% of returned forms indicated that the quality of information provision from CHNI staff was "excellent", the remainder rated it as "satisfactory"

**Additional remarks:** Generally, it was felt that the discussions during the conference covered a wide range of issues, including continuity of support / care, lifelong education—both informal and formal, as well as strategies to meet the needs of obscured and/or hidden populations. Others felt the workshops should have included a greater focus on ASBOs. Some delegates felt that the recommendations stopped short of compelling agencies to engage fully; that our focus should be proactive, not crisis-driven or reactive; and that Social Services' role should be clearly defined and comprehensive, with greater emphasis on floating support training and skills. Finally, there were concerns that a delayed start put pressure on the smooth running of the workshops and feedback sessions on day one.

CHNI would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have returned forms for their feedback. We, at CHNI, value the input, of you, our members. This information shall be put to good use in improving service to members, and will go some way to guiding preparation for the next conference, which, this year, returns to its

## Northwest News

The next members forum meeting will take place in Dillon Court in Strabane on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 11am. All members of the Council for the Homeless are welcome to attend. The minutes of the last meeting, an agenda (and NW Training calendar) have been forwarded.

## Supporting People

**Budget uplift 05 / 06:** SP has announced a 2.5% inflationary uplift for 05/06. All providers will receive a letter by the end of February. The increase applies to both fixed and variable payments. However providers in receipt of variable payments must submit details of unit rates before the uplift will be paid. SP can benchmark unit rates, & amend them where they see fit.

**Value for Money:** SP issued a paper on vfm in December which contains basic benchmark data comparing weekly unit costs by client group for NI and England. Schemes in the upper quartile of unit costs, and/or with overheads above 20% will be prioritised for inspection. Providers with higher than average costs will be asked to explain the reason for this. However SP may accept higher costs where this reflects better service and/or performance.

**Supporting People Officer:** Malcolm Christy will contact providers over the coming months to discuss his role and any supporting people issues. Please feel free to contact him directly if this is more convenient.

**Events. 24<sup>th</sup> March: Small Providers Forum - Belfast.** This group has not met for a while, but CHNI has received requests that it should be re-convened. The Small Providers Forum is an alternative to the Focus Group meetings. The target audience is small autonomous providers. However front-line staff may also find this a suitable forum in which to meet. The first re-convened meeting will be held at 10.30am at NICVA, Meeting Room 4, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast.

**5<sup>th</sup> April: Scheme Review Seminar.** There will be a one-day seminar on the scheme review framework at the Mount Conference Centre, Belfast. The target audience is SP managers and front-line staff. There will be presentations from providers who have successfully completed their reviews. The programme is being finalised and will be circulated shortly.

**7<sup>th</sup> April: Floating Support Forum.** 11am, Walsh's Hotel, Maghera; **14<sup>th</sup> April: Focus Group – Belfast.** 10.30am, at NICVA.



### Small Providers Forum – Belfast

The Small Providers Forum has been a voluntary sector alternative to the Focus Group for information sharing and discussion about supporting people.

This group has not met for a while, but CHNI has received requests from voluntary sector providers that it should be re-convened. As such CHNI is now planning to set it up again.

As the name suggests the target audience is small autonomous providers of housing support services. However front-line staff who may not otherwise have any opportunity to discuss housing support issues may also find this a suitable environment in which to meet. It is open to all member organisations of CHNI, but particularly to those meeting the above criteria.

The agenda will be the same as, or very similar, to that used for the Focus Group. This group already meets once every two months.

It is envisaged that the Small Providers Forum should also meet about once every two months - more or less on an alternate cycle to the Focus Group.

It has been some while since this group last met. Therefore we should hope members can give the matter some initial priority so that we can hit the ground running. The success of any meetings like these is wholly dependent on the contributions of the members.

**The first re-convened meeting will be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am at NICVA, Meeting Room 4, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast.**

This notice is being circulated to all member organisations of CHNI. However if you do not wish to be involved or to receive any information in respect of these proceedings please notify the CHNI office to take your name off the distribution list.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office should you have any queries.