

Combating Homelessness In Northern Ireland



Networking

Training

Informing

Researching

Belfast Office:

72 North Street
Belfast BT1 1LD

☎ 02890 246440

☎ 02890 241266

NorthWest Office:

79 Strand Road
Derry BT48 7BW

☎ 02871 366363

☎ 02871 366364

info@chni.org.uk

www.chni.org.uk

CHINWAG
INFORMATION UPDATE FOR CHNI MEMBERS

Joint chairs' communiqué*: Meeting of Joint Government/ Voluntary and Community Sector Forum on 26 May 2005, NICVA, Belfast

* This communiqué has been adapted by Carol O'Bryan, Simon Community NI and Ricky Rowledge, CHNI

Positive steps

Positive steps is government's response to the investing together report of the taskforce on resourcing the voluntary and community sector, and can be found at www.dsdni.gov.uk/publications/documents/positive_steps.pdf

The presentation and subsequent discussions covered areas including:

- i. the Community Investment Fund (Para 4.1-4.3);
- ii. the Modernisation Fund (Para 5.1-5.4);
- iii. the recognition of the need for longer term funding (Para 3.1-3.3);
- iv. the definition and role of "lead funders"(Para 8.7-8.8);
- v. improved governance and accountability (Paras 8.1-8.6 7 8.9-8.10) as well as
- vi. the role of the implementation group chaired by DSD Minister (Para 11.1).

The meeting also divided into working groups to discuss how, in light of the commitments in positive steps, what additional actions should be taken to identify and manage the significant reduction in EU funding programmes for the voluntary and community sector, and, how the forum can contribute to resolving the issues. Feedback from the working groups produced a varied discussion about the issues, the impacts and ways of managing the changes that lie ahead. There are significant and wide-ranging challenges for the sector and government.

Review of Public Administration (RPA): Members of the RPA team attended the meeting to give a presentation and update on the current consultation. They stressed that this consultation will be the final chance to influence the process (which closes on 30th September), and that the Minister, Lord Rooker, intends to make decisions by the turn of the year.

Strategy sub group

The partners for change next stage strategy is being developed covering the period 2005 to 2008. Initial input has been received from most departments and the first draft is underway. Some meetings have been held with departments to agree their input. It is hoped to have the strategy published by the end of the year. Further information on the joint forum, including minutes of meetings once agreed, can be found on the new Community NI portal, at <http://www.communityni.org/index.cfm/section/article/page/joint%20forum>

Water Charge Survey Recently, we sent an email to you all as Service Providers to ascertain whether you were currently paying (or not) water charges CHNI are requesting this information in light of proposed water charging. We hope to better understand the current status, in order to evaluate whether any further proactive action should be taken by CHNI on behalf of its membership.



Specifically, we would like to know:

- (1) do you currently pay water charges?
- (2) If so, how are these charges funded (i.e. who pays?)
- (3) How are these charges paid (subsumed within rates / other charges; other method).
- (4) Whether you have meters, etc?

If you choose to assist us in our survey, please respond by Monday 1st August 2005—your answers will be treated with the strictest confidence. If you have any queries, please contact George at info@chni.org.uk

Supporting People

New performance information from July 2005

Throughput, length of stay, departures: The SP Team requires service providers to collect data on the above measures from the beginning of July.

Registered Care homes – important changes to funding: The DSD and NIHE informed NIFHA on the 20th of June that SNMA legacy funding for HA registered care homes would stop from the end of March 2006.

Children (Leaving Care) Act (NI) 2002: From the 1st of September Social Services must provide or otherwise pay for the accommodation, maintenance, and where it is necessary such support as Eligible and Relevant Children are assessed as needing. The NIHE intends to withdraw funding from that date after which, in line with guidance on the legislation, it will be the responsibility of the DHSS&PS. This is a DHSS&PS-led initiative and as such that Department and the relevant Boards and Trusts ought to be planning for the handover and for keeping service providers informed. CHNI has not received any further information from the DHSSPS regarding the consequences of this decision in terms of handover and implementation. The SP Team will continue to have responsibility towards certain categories of 16 – 17 year olds who have not been in care.

New Social Service Registration rules

- **Health and Personal Social Services Act (NI) 2001** Within the next few years, *every person* involved in providing or delivering social work and social care services will be required to register with the Council. For further information contact the NISCC at 02890 417600 or go to: <http://www.niscc.info/about/backgrd.htm>
- **The Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2003 (POCVA)** Child Care organisations are now *obliged* to undertake pre-employment checks before appointing to child care posts. This will start for vulnerable adults at a later date. (Tel No: 028 9052 2559 or 028 9052 2951), or go to: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/childcare/child-protection/povca.asp>
- **Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (NI) Order 2003** The Regulation and Improvement Authority will register and inspect an extended range of health and social care *establishments*. Transitional arrangements are in place between 1st April 2005 and 30th September 2005. It is essential that service providers familiarise themselves with these rules as soon as possible to avoid registration lapsing. **For more information** contact R&I Managers who are still at their old addresses and phone No's.

Supporting People contd...

Scheme Reviews

The SP Team increased the QAF to 6 objectives from the 1st of June 2005.

- The standards manual has been updated – go to: http://www.nihe.gov.uk/sp/spquality_and_monitoring/NIQAF6CoreObjectives.doc
- View the scene review timetable at: http://www.nihe.gov.uk/sp/spquality_and_monitoring/reviewtimetable1.pdf

Next SP Meetings:

- **03rd August 2005 - Small Providers Forum:** 2.00pm, Meeting Room 4, NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast
- **24th August 2005 – Focus Group:** 2.30pm, Conference Room 'B', NICVA
- **31st August 2005 – Providers Forum:** 10.30am at NIAMH, 80 University Street, Belfast

Belfast Members Forum

7th September 2005 - Travellers cultural awareness seminar 10.30 –12.00 (provisionally booked: confirmation in August's CHINWAG). As before, due to limited spaces no more than two members per organisation. front line staff are particularly welcomed.

New Accommodation & Advice Services Poster

Recently, CHNI forwarded, by email, a draft version of the Accommodation & Advice Services poster. As you are aware, this poster is distributed to all members, but also publicly regionally. We would like to take this opportunity to request that you ensure that your project(s) have been included, and that the details are to your satisfaction. **Deadline for changes / additions: WEDS 27th JULY 2005 - 12.00pm** Please only respond if you have changes / additions or pertinent queries. Similarly, if you are aware of projects other than your own that you feel warrant inclusion, please forward on their details. It will be assumed that if no response / comments have been forwarded on close of the deadline, that your details as included are to be considered accurate. If you have any queries, please contact George at info@chni.org.uk, tel: 02890 246 440.



Want to share your organisation's achievements with others? Want to get your profile out there to other CHNI members? CHNI are inviting members to write a few paragraphs about themselves, their history & activities to be included in each edition of CHINWAG to be shared with other members. Interested groups should e-mail their "piece" to George info@chni.org.uk, or telephone (028) 90246440.

Youth News

Buzz is back!

As you will have read in the last edition of CHINWAG, I have been recently appointed as the new Youth Participation Officer and as such, my main task will be to bring the Buzz Youth Media Project back onto the scene. The hope is that young people, aged 16-25, who have experienced housing difficulties, will improve confidence and self-esteem, develop skills in media related topics and have some fun while being involved in the production of The Whole Shebang magazine.



You should be hearing from me over the next couple of months with promotional materials and then I'll be available to come out and have a chat with you about the details of the project, so if your organisation works with young people who would be eligible to join us, please do let them know about this opportunity. With your help in recruiting participants, hopefully the project will be getting off the ground in September. In the meantime, any suggestions, queries or invites to coffee will be gratefully received!! **Contact Julia at :Tel: 90 246 440 or by email: julia@chni.org.uk**

New Youth Homeless Training Calendar: Staff in CHNI's Youth Department are currently putting the final touches to the Youth Homeless Training Calendar Autumn- Winter 2005, which we hope will build on the great success of our Spring/Summer programme, to which we had an excellent response and received some very positive feedback.

Forthcoming Highlights from this Training Calendar shall include: a series of training events exploring the concept of working with risk in youth settings. As part of this series, training will be offered in areas including drug misuse, the law and good practice, and client focused risk assessment. For further details on any aspect of the Youth Homeless Training Programme, please contact **Kathy Maguire, Youth Unit @ tel 028 90 246 440 or email kathy@chni.org.uk**

Homing in on the facts about Leaving Home..... Copies of *Home Truths*, CHNI's essential guide to housing, homelessness and leaving home, for young people in Northern Ireland, are available to order. Jam-packed full of useful and up to date advice and information on issues such as welfare rights, health and resettlement, the guide was written in partnership with young people, all of who have direct experience of homelessness and living independently. **To request your copies, please contact the Youth Unit .**

Did You Know? As part of our aim to promote best practice in the delivery of services and supports to young people, staff from the Youth Unit are available to discuss your organisations individual training requirements and can assist you in organising a specially tailored programme of Training for your staff team. To discuss your organisations training needs, please feel free to **contact Kathy.**

Bulletin In the last issue of CHINWAG we told you about the new bimonthly Information Bulletin we hope to launch in September, aimed at bringing those in the youth homelessness sector the latest news and information in a user-friendly format ⇒



Youth News contd.

⇒ ***So ...Spread the Word!*** If your organisation is holding an event in mid September to December, which you would like to promote, or if you have a new publication or perhaps service – you would like to raise awareness of, please contact Kathy Maguire for more information.

The publication will be circulated to a wide range of agencies/ professionals in both the voluntary and statutory sector, and we hope it will prove to be a valuable service development for the sector.

Make sure you get your copy! If you are not currently on our Youth mailing list and are interested in receiving Youth Unit Mailings including the new InfoZine and training mailings please forward your full contact details, including email, to kathy@chni.org.uk .

Children (Leaving Care) Act (NI) 2002: This legislation comes into effect on the 01st of September 2005 and has important implications for housing support services for relevant care leavers

The Act introduces new financial arrangements affecting relevant young people and brings with it some concern across the sector as to new arrangements for funding, given that from Sept 01, in accordance with the legislation, Supporting People shall no longer fund supported accommodation for this group of young people, with the young person's responsible HSST assuming responsibility.

This is a DHSS&PS-led initiative and as such that Department and the relevant Health Boards and HSS Trusts are responsible for planning for handover and for keeping service providers informed.

CHNI has written to DHSS&PS for clarification regarding handover and implementation of the new measures and we shall keep members informed upon receipt of any feedback.

In addition CHNI'S YHO and SP Officer have been in communication with relevant member organisations advising them of the proposed changes and the need to be entering into communication with their relevant HSST as to proposed changes

If you require further information regarding the implementation of the above legislation, guidance has been produced by the DHSS&PS. To view this guidance go to: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications/2005/leaving-after-care.pdf>

or please contact **Kathy Tel: 90 246 440 or by email Kathy@chni.org.uk** , who will be happy to direct you to further advice or assistance.