

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council Community Support News – February 2026

The Community Support Newsletter is published monthly. Regular updates are also issued by email. If you wish to receive these or place an article in the Newsletter, please contact Alison Gilmore on 0300 303 1777 ext 21217 / email alison.gilmore@fermanaghomagh.com

Please note the deadline for March's Newsletter is Tuesday 24 February

Council News & Events

Grant Aid/Sponsorship & Bursary Support Call for Applications 2026 / 2027 Now Open

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council invite online applications from voluntary clubs, societies, community groups, social enterprises and sporting organisations for Grant Aid and Events & Festival Sponsorship. Events & Festival Sponsorship is also open to commercial event organisers. Bursaries are also available for individuals in the area of Culture and Sport. Applicants must be based in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area. Projects/Activities/Events must take place during the 2026/2027 financial year.

Closes on Wednesday 18 February 2026 at 5pm.

Applications are invited in the categories listed below:

Grant Aid:

- Community & Wellbeing
- Community Premises Support
- Ending Violence Against Women & Girls - Local Change Fund
- Good Relations
- Irish in the Community
- Project Development (Rolling)
- Seeding (Rolling)
- Sports Team - Significant Sporting Achievement (Rolling)
- Summer Schemes 2026 - July/August
- Ulster Scots in the Community
- Verti-Draining

Sponsorship:

- Events and Festivals Sponsorship - (Medium/Large Scale Events)

Bursaries:

- Irish Language (Academic)
- Irish Language (Gaeltacht) Minors, Adult, Family
- Sport (Rolling)

Visit the Council website <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/sponsorship-grants-bursaries/grant-aid/> to access:

- Grant Aid, Sponsorship & Bursary List
- Guidance Notes

Apply online: <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/sponsorship-grants-bursaries/grant-aid/>

For further information:

Email: Grants & Bursaries grants@fermanaghomagh.com
Sponsorship events@fermanaghomagh.com

Telephone: 0300 303 1777

Textphone: 028 8225 6216



Or scan QR Code here:

Grant Aid for Older Persons Groups

Older Persons Groups must apply directly to the South West Age Partnership (SWAP) for the Council's Community & Wellbeing Grant Aid stream. For further information please contact Allison Forbes Tel: 07955 787456 or Email: aforbes@southwestagepartnership.co.uk

Ongoing support with Grant Aid Applications is available by contacting any Community Support Officer

Area	Officer	Email	Telephone 0300 303 1777
Enniskillen	Ruthanne Fawcett	ruthanne.fawcett@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 21649
Erne East	Joanne Cunningham	joanne.cunningham@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 21405
Erne North	Leza Cleary	leza.cleary@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 21234
Erne West	Kellie Beacom	kellie.beacom@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 21201
Mid Tyrone	Gary Mortland	gary.mortland@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 20225
Omagh	Josephine Treanor	josephine.treanor@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 20222
West Tyrone	Billie-Jo Irwin	billie-jo.irwin@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 20220

Expression of Interest – Environment for All PEACEPLUS Programme

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is inviting community and voluntary groups, constituted organisations, local community-based organisations, and schools or other educational settings to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Environment for All PEACEPLUS Programme. Groups must operate within the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area.

This EOI is an initial information gathering exercise only. It is not a funding application, does not require a detailed proposal, and does not represent a commitment to funding. The information gathered will be used to inform programme planning, design and prioritisation within the approved PEACEPLUS programme.

Expressions of Interest are invited under the following themes:

- **Repair Skills** – developing repair skills and community capacity
- **Supporting Community Gardens** – strengthening existing community gardens through learning and skills
- **Greener Towns & Villages** – enhancing shared outdoor spaces and pride of place

For groups interested in the Supporting Community Gardens or Greener Towns & Villages themes, an application form will be sent out to those who have submitted an Expression of Interest. The EOI has been designed to be short and accessible, and groups may express interest in more than one theme.

EOI Survey - [EOI Peaceplus - Environment for All 2.6](#)

If you require the set guidance to support completion of the Expression of Interest, please contact caitlin.jones@fermanaghomagh.com

Expressions of Interest should be submitted by Friday 6 February 2026 to help inform the next stage of programme planning. EOIs received after this date may still be considered, subject to programme timescales.

Fermanagh and Omagh Community Plan - Statement of Progress 2023–2025

A decade of partnership delivering improved outcomes for people and places

The Fermanagh and Omagh Community Planning Partnership recently launched its fourth Statement of Progress, covering the period June 2023 to June 2025. The report marks a significant milestone as the Partnership approaches its 10-year anniversary, highlighting major achievements, strengthened collaboration, and the continued commitment to improving the lives of people across the district.

You can download a copy of the Statement [here](#).

Upcoming Heritage Events at Strule Arts Centre

- **Omagh's Grand Old Hotels: A Bygone Era**

Thursday 26 February, 7pm

Join Dr Jonny Hamill for a fascinating exploration of Omagh's historic hotels, including the Royal Arms and the White Hart. Discover how these lively venues shaped café culture, commerce and community life, hosting political speeches, social gatherings and legendary visitors.

- **Ask the Archaeologists – Drop-in Session**

Wednesday 18 March, 2pm

A relaxed and informal opportunity to speak directly with heritage professional, Dr Vicky Ginn. Ideal for anyone with questions about local heritage, archaeology projects, or sites of interest. No appointment required.

- **Omagh Railway Station: A Journey Through Time – Part Two**

Thursday 23 April, 7pm

Local collector and author Tony McGarland continues this popular series, delving deeper into the story of Omagh's railway and its role in shaping the town. The talk will be accompanied by a special pop-up exhibition on Level 3, featuring photographs and artefacts celebrating Omagh's railway heritage.

For further information and to book any of the events detailed, visit www.struleartscentre.co.uk or contact box office on 028 8224 7831.

Community Physical Activity Programmes

January – March 2026

Community Wellbeing at Fermanagh and Omagh District Council deliver a wide range of programmes and activities across the district.

To view the full programme and to register for activities, please [click here](#).

If you have any questions or queries regarding Community Wellbeing programmes or activities, please [get in touch](#)

Keep up to date by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityWellbeingFODC>

The Memory Circle of Song

Every Friday to 20 March, 11am -12.30pm

Strule Arts Centre, Omagh

Relaxed Singing & Music Workshops for People Living with Dementia and their carer.

Join us for warm, welcoming sessions featuring:

- Familiar songs that spark memories
- Group singing for joy and connection
- Gentle rhythm activities & creative sound-making
- Live acoustic music in a dementia-friendly setting

8-week pilot programme led by professional artists experienced in supporting people with dementia and their carers.

Come share songs that are special to you — and enjoy music that brings memories to life.

Email bernie.kirrane@fermanaghomagh.com to reserve a space

Changing Places facilities make a real difference

Standard accessible toilets don't meet everyone's needs. Changing Places provide vital equipment such as height-adjustable changing benches, hoists and space for carers, helping people with profound and multiple disabilities to access places with reassurance that there is a suitable, dignified and hygienic space to use the toilet or change continence pads.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council has four venues with Changing Places facilities:

- Omagh Leisure Complex
- Enniskillen Castle
- Gortin Glen Forest Park (non-accredited)
- Strule Arts Centre, Omagh

By raising awareness, we hope more businesses and venues will invest in Changing Places - creating communities that are truly accessible for all.

Find out more about what Changing Places are and why they matter – visit <https://bit.ly/3WwMW5z>

Events in Fermanagh and Omagh

Visit the following websites for details of what's on in the district:

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/events-and-festivals/>

<https://www.fermanaghlakelands.com/whats-on>

<https://exploreomaghsperrins.com/whats-on/>

Cost of Living Help

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/community-help-support/cost-of-living-help/>

Consultations

Consultations provide you with an opportunity to have your say. They also help us to find out what you think and to understand your priorities and concerns about our district. Further information is available at <https://www.fermanaghomaggh.com/your-council/consultations/>

1. Department of Education Consultation on a new "Attendance Matters" Strategy. Closing date for responses Friday 6 March 2026

This consultation relates to issues associated with ensuring that children and young people attend school every day. The pandemic together with the financial crisis has resulted in different routines for families and at times, a different way of learning which means regular attendance at school has been adversely affected.

Link to Consultation: [Consultation on a pupil attendance strategy - Attendance Matters | Department of Education](#)

2. Department for Communities Consultation on a Draft Disability Strategy. Closing date for responses Friday 20 March 2026

This consultation aims to improve the lives of people who are Deaf and disabled, their families and carers so that they can play a full and active role in all aspects of our society.

Link to Consultation: [Draft Disability Strategy Public Consultation - NI Direct - Citizen Space Book here...](#) for Public Engagement Events

Tuesday 10 February, 11am Fermanagh House

Wednesday 11 February, 11am online

Wednesday 25 February, 11am online

3. Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Consultation on Draft Off-Street Parking Order. Closing date for responses Sunday 1 February 2026

This consultation is in anticipation of the Department for Infrastructure's planned revocation of existing legislation (the Off-Street Parking (NI) Order 2000) in 2026-27.

Link to Consultation: [Draft Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Off-Street Parking Order Consultation](#)

Charity Support

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council may provide support to charities in a number of ways including the provision of grant aid; the attendance of the Council Chair or Vice Chair at photo opportunities; use of Council facilities and the illumination of Council buildings to mark specific days of significance to a chosen charity which is associated with a particular colour.

For further information visit <https://www.fermanaghomaggh.com/services/community/>

Please note, applications for the use of Council facilities or the illuminating of Enniskillen Castle and Strule Arts Centre in a particular colour, should be submitted to the Council **at least 6 weeks** before the date requested, to allow sufficient time for the application to be considered.

To make an illumination request please complete <https://form.jotform.com/222782646405055> or for any enquiries regarding Council support to charities, email communitysupport@fermanaghomaggh.com

FODC Physical Activity Referral Scheme (PARS)

Delivered in partnership with the Public Health Agency (PHA), PARS is a **free 12-week exercise** referral programme facilitated by fully qualified staff for individuals with specific health conditions who have no absolute contraindications to exercise.

PARS includes online delivery with sessions also facilitated at Council leisure centres.

For further information visit [Physical Activity Referral Scheme](#)

FODC Move More Programme

A physical activity initiative delivered in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support available to anyone who has had a cancer diagnosis, at any stage of their life.

Move More supports the lives of people with cancer through physical activity. Physical activity before, during and after cancer treatment can help prevent and manage the effects of treatment, such as fatigue, depression and risks to heart health.

Sessions are facilitated at Council leisure centres.

For further information visit [Macmillan Move More](#).

Age Friendly at Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is committed to providing an Age Friendly District and seeks to ensure that older people lead more independent, engaged and socially connected lives.

For further information visit <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/health-wellbeing/agefriendly/>

For details of how to join an older person's group, visit

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/health-wellbeing/agefriendly/join-an-older-persons-group/>

For details of upcoming events for older people please visit

<https://www.facebook.com/swapnetwork/>

Community Centres

Our community centres are available to hire for children's activities/parties, community events, health and sporting activities, special occasions and corporate events.

For further details or to make a booking visit

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/community-centres/>

Irish Language Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

For up to date information and details of activities across the district

visit <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/irish-language/>

Fermanagh and Omagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)

A partnership between the Council, statutory providers and the community. The partnership is made up of elected and independent members and representatives from the statutory sector.

Follow us on Facebook via the link below

https://www.facebook.com/FermanaghandOmaghPCSP/?locale=en_GB

Community News

Winter 2025 edition of the 'Getting Weather Ready' Newsletter

The newsletter includes articles on top tips for staying safe this winter, community resilience initiatives, road safety for winter travel and insurance advice for those affected by flooding.

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/getting-weather-ready-regional-community-resilience-group-newsletter>

PEACEPLUS 'Connecting Communities through Well-Being' Programme

Monday 2 February, 2pm

West End Community Centre, Enniskillen

This is a great opportunity to share your views and help shape and design a health and well-being focused programme for our local communities. This programme will be led by ARC Healthy Living Centre in partnership with Fermanagh Rural Community Network, Omagh Healthy Living Network, Oak Healthy Living Centre and Lakeland Community Care (known as Fermanagh Omagh Well-Being Network)

For further information contact the ARC Healthy Living Centre on 028 6862 8741 or email jenny.irvine@archlc.com

Please note you do not need to register to attend.

Northern Ireland Census User Needs Consultation

NISRA is seeking your views to help shape the content of Census 2031. This [consultation](#) is your opportunity to tell us what information you need from the census and how it can best support planning, policy, research, and services across Northern Ireland.

Your feedback will help ensure the census remains relevant, efficient, and valuable to users.

[Read the full consultation document](#)

Ways to respond

- Respond online at <https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/dof/nisra-census-user-needs-consultation/>
- [download and return the questionnaire](#) (PDF or Word version) by email or post.
Email: census2031.consultations@nisra.gov.uk
Post: Census Office, NISRA, Colby House, Stranmillis Court, Belfast, BT9 5RR

The consultation closes on Wednesday 4 February 2026.

If you have any queries, please contact us at census2031.consultations@nisra.gov.uk

ForSight Omagh

Annual Community Coffee Morning

Friday 13 February, 10am-1pm

27 Market Street, Omagh

All Welcome

Erne District Chinese Families' and Friends' Association

Chinese New Year Celebration	-	Saturday 14 February
Lantern Festival / Chap Goh Mei	-	Saturday 28 February
AGM & Qing Ming Festival	-	Saturday 4 April
Dragon Boat Festival (Outdoor)	-	Saturday 20 June
Regular Activities	-	Alternative Saturdays 2pm-4pm

Marie Curie Companions at Home service (Volunteer befriending)

This is a face-to-face support for those over the age of 18 living with any terminal illness and their families and deemed to be in their last 12 months of life.

Our trained volunteers are matched to one/two families normally within 10 miles of their own homes and provide:

- Companionship
- Respite (for a family member)
- Practical support
- Signposting
- Bereavement support

They can visit once a week/fortnight for up to 3 hours depending on the demand for the service. Volunteers are not required/able to provide medical advice or personal care but can work around the current package of care to ensure that family members can avail of some time to refresh and recharge their batteries during a break from caring.

The volunteers will be asked to complete training (some online, the rest face to face)

Find out about becoming a Companion Volunteer by telephoning Joy Spreadborough, the volunteer services officer, on 07740 456750 or email Joy.Spreadborough@mariecurie.org.uk
<https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/services/companion>

Henry Healthy Start Programme

This programme is available for families with children 0-5 years across NI and is commissioned by the PHA. It can help families with young children learn something new and receive support to provide a healthy start for their children and indeed the entire family.

Henry is an 8 week structured programme covering the 5 themes below, which are key to ensuring a healthy start in life.

- Promote parental confidence
- Physical activity
- What children and families eat
- Family lifestyle habits
- Enjoying family life and reducing stress

Henry is available via a blended approach - we offer 1-1 face to face programmes at home, group face to face programmes in schools, sure starts & many local women's centres across NI.

Henry explainer video: <https://youtu.be/XEQFs-JFmNI>

For more information visit www.henry.org.uk or email Sinead.mcdaid@westerntrust.hscni.net

Mobile: 07500 263121

Email henry@westerntrust.hscni.net to book a place.

The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Survey

Why have the incomes of charities fallen?

The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland looked at charity data from December 2013 to July 2025 and noticed something important: over 1,000 charities reported lower income in 2024–2025 than the previous year. They want to understand why – and you can help. Please complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J7MGFGT>

DAERA Rural Data Hub

This is a new resource bringing together rural-specific data into a single, user-friendly dashboard. The Hub will benefit rural communities, researchers, community and voluntary organisations, funding bodies, elected representatives and central and local government.

This new dashboard aims to provide decision-makers and stakeholders with accurate, granular data to better understand and address the needs of rural communities across NI.

[More Information](#)

Give blood - you could save 3 lives!

Northern Ireland needs 1200 blood donations per week. That's 1 in every 8 minutes!

Book your appointment via <https://nibts.hscni.net/online-booking-for-blood-donation-appointments/>

PS - Want to know if you can give blood? Check out our eligibility quiz here:

<https://nibts.hscni.net/donating-blood/can-i-donate/>

Financial Wellbeing Project

Are you struggling with your personal finances?

Would your staff like a Debt Awareness Session?

Would your group users benefit from a Financial Well Being Clinic?

Omagh Independent Advice Service and Community Advice Fermanagh are delighted to offer One to One Advice, Financial Well Being Clinics and Information Sessions to the general public and to all interested local voluntary and statutory groups.

Our project will provide advice and representation on the following:

- Benefit Entitlement Checks
- Better off Calculations
- Budgeting Advice
- Free, confidential Debt Advice

If you would like to avail of our services or help us arrange a Financial Well Being Clinic in your area please contact us on:

Omagh Independent Advice Services

Phone No. 028 8224 3252 or Email info@oias.co.uk

Community Advice Fermanagh

Phone No. 028 6632 4334 or Email website@communityadvicefermanagh.com

Volunteer Now

For a list of our scheduled training courses visit <https://bit.ly/VNCoursesScheduled> and for our on demand courses visit <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/on-demand-courses/>

Latest Volunteering Opportunities

Fermanagh <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering-opportunities/>

Omagh <https://omaghvolunteercentre.org/opportunities>

Oak Healthy Living Centre, Lisnaskea

For a copy of our latest programme of activities

Visit <https://www.oakhealthylivingcentre.com/events/>

Tel: 028 6772 3843

Email: Info@oakhlc.com or admin@oakhlc.com

Alzheimer's Society

Dementia Café Fermanagh

A warm and welcoming space for people living with dementia, their carers, family and friends. The session blocks are held on the following **Mondays**, 2–4pm:

- 2, 9, 16, 23 February, 2, 9 March

Carers Peer Support Fermanagh

A warm and welcoming group for carers of people with dementia to meet and chat. The session blocks are held on the following **Tuesdays**, 2-3.30pm.

- 3, 10, 17, 24 February, 3, 10 March

Carers Information Support Programme (CrISP)

for carers, family, and friends of people with dementia

It focuses on developing knowledge about dementia, legal and financial future planning and services available for you and the person you care for. Booking essential.

- Wednesday 18 and 25 February, 6.30pm-8.30pm online via zoom
- Thursday 19 and 26 March, 11am-1pm in person

All sessions are held in Fermanagh House, 6 Broadmeadow Place, Enniskillen, BT74 7HR.

Light refreshments are provided.

For more information and to book your place, contact:

Martin Bradley, Dementia Adviser: 07725 475715

Rita O'Loughlin, Dementia Adviser: 07889 148927

Alzheimer's Society

Carers Information Support Programme (CrISP) Omagh

for carers, family, and friends

Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 February, 6-8pm

All sessions are held in Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh BT79 7DH

Light refreshments are provided.

For more information and to book your place, contact Julie-Anne Casson, Dementia Adviser on 07889 604702

Tara Centre

11 Holmview Terrace, Omagh, Co Tyrone, BT79 0AH

Tel: 028 8225 0024 Email: info@taraomagh.com Website: www.taraomagh.com

Ongoing Counselling, Psychotherapy, Art Therapy, Complementary Therapies

Booking via reception essential for all events! Please check our website for further updates!

Saturday/Sunday 14-15 February, 10am-4pm

Ayurveda and the Art of Conscious Living: From Gut Health to Mental Wellbeing

Aileen O'Kane

A workshop to empower your decisions for your health and well-being.

Friday/Saturday 27-28 March

Friday 7pm - 9.30pm (registration 6.15-6.55pm)

Saturday 10am - 4.15pm

Healing of Personal and Generational Trauma – a Gift for Future Generations

Jim Cogley

Chair Yoga - Teresa Sexton

Tuesdays 2.30pm – 3.30pm followed by a cup of tea

6-week block: Tuesdays 13 January – Tuesday 17 February

Drop-ins welcome!

Meditating Together - Mary Daly & Maura Twohig

Tuesdays 11am - 12.30pm starting 13 January

Step into a space of stillness and presence.

Dru Yoga & Qi Gong for Self-Healing – Mandy Currans

Wednesdays Dru Yoga 10 – 11.30am Qi Gong 11.45am – 1.15pm

Block 1: 7 January – 11 February (6 weeks)

Block 2: 18 February – 25 March (6 weeks)

Drop-ins welcome!

Hatha Raja Yoga – Josephine Rafferty

Thursdays, 6.15pm – 7.45pm

Block 1: 15 January – 19 February (6 weeks)

Block 2: 26 February – 2 April (6 weeks)

PATHS Meetings

2nd Tuesday of each month 8.00pm-9.30pm

Omagh Men's Support Group

Mondays, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Grants available for some of the costs associated with the provision of counselling/psychotherapy, complementary therapies and some workshops/seminars

Aisling Centre

37 Darling Street, Enniskillen BT74 7DP

For further information on any programmes, please contact Aisling Centre on info@theaislingcentre.com or telephone 028 6632 5811 (unless stated otherwise).

Groups & Programmes:

- **Hope, Healing, Growth 2026** – This event was a huge success with in-person tickets selling out and many people registering to attend via Zoom. Videos from all the speakers will be uploaded to www.theaislingcentre.com in the next few weeks - please keep an eye out for these
- **Forget Me Not** – Support group for those bereaved by suicide. First Monday of the month 7.30-9pm. Next meeting will be Monday 2 February.
- **Self Care Drop-In** – Monthly drop-in sessions, first Tuesday of every month at 10am. Next Meeting Tuesday 3 February. Suggested donation £3 per person.
- **Mindfulness Meditation** – Monthly drop-in sessions, last Wednesday of every month at 7pm. Next meeting Wednesday 25 February. Suggested donation £3 per person.

Other Groups & Events:

- **Alcoholics Anonymous** – 3 meetings per week at Aisling Centre.
- **Aware** – Mental Health Support Group. Meets every Tuesday at 7pm. For further information, please contact info@aware-ni.org
- **Baby Zen Massage** – Promoting bonding and relaxation for parents and babies. To book, please contact Emma on 07407 063266. Thursdays at 10am.
- **Cherish Sure Start** – Creche facility from Monday-Friday as well as various programmes for both children and parents. For further information call 028 6862 1970.
- **Eclipse Fitness** – Styku 3D body scanning, last Friday of the month 4.30-6pm. For further information please contact Niall on 028 6634 0475.

- **Escapists** – Support Group for Carers. Meets Wednesdays 10.30am-1pm.
- **Fermanagh Pride** – Meets fortnightly on Thursdays at 7pm. Contact 07368 503661 or email fermanaghpride@gmail.com for further information.
- **Island Artists** – Open to new members. Meets Wednesdays from 1-4pm. For more information, please contact Maura on 07968 225704.
- **Little Mess** – Let your little ones explore their curiosity and learn through messy play. To book contact Colette at fermanagh@thelittlesensory.co Fridays at 10.30am.
- **ZEST: Healing the Hurt** – Counselling for people who self-harm. Contact 028 7126 6999.

Yoga Timetable (please contact individual facilitators to book):

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| • Christine | Mondays at 6pm | 07722 550040 |
| • Elena | Tuesdays at 6pm | 07894 037450 |
| • Alasdair | Wednesdays at 6.30pm | 07776 290903 |
| • Genny | Thursdays at 12pm | 028 8754 1994 |
| • Theresa | Thursdays at 6pm (men only) | 07923 694523 |
| | 7pm and 8pm (both mixed) | 07923 694523 |

Erne Paddlers

Our winter pool courses will continue until March with something to suit everyone, including sessions for younger children, teens and adults of all levels. Join us in Fivemiletown Community Youth Annex pool or in Omagh Leisure Centre. Look out for our early booking discounts and our special offer 'TRY FOR £5' tickets which are available on some beginners' courses. Go to www.ernepaddlers.org.uk/events for full details and to book tickets online.

Erne Paddlers can also provide bespoke group kayaking sessions and courses in the pool. If you would like to book a paddle session or a series of sessions, for example for your community or charity group or staff members/volunteers, just get in touch to find out more.

Outdoor courses will start in April.

Dates for the Diary:

Saturday 25 April - Paddlesports Taster Day

Saturday 20 May - Firewalk and Family Fun Day. More details to follow.

Erne Paddlers is a not-for-profit registered charity and an inclusive club and we want as many people as possible to experience the health and wellbeing benefits that paddlesports can bring. We have a flexible pricing structure with a range of discounts available including assistance rates.

Check us out on Facebook, Instagram and X for regular updates too.

If anyone would like to find out more, please get in touch via social media, email email@ernepaddlers.org.uk or call/WhatsApp 07468 911398.

Fermanagh Fleadh Fundraiser like no other!

Saturday 11 April (all day)

The Old Oak Bar, Enniskillen

Newtownbutler CCE branch are looking forward to hosting the Fermanagh Fleadh for the third consecutive year (31st May – 7th June). To help with the ever increasing costs of running the 55th County Fleadh, this marathon trad session starts at 11am with Newtownbutler CCE musicians. The majority of the seven CCE branches in Fermanagh will be there to play their tunes plus many more well known and loved trad musicians from the county – Maria Connolly, Chris Maguire, Dinie Leonard, Gary Curley to name but a few.

On the hour every hour, will be a new group of musicians - the last slot at 11pm is with the mighty Darren Breslin. This event is free of charge, but its success depends on voluntary donations on the

day from the general public. Raffle tickets will be on sale via Comhaltas branches in Fermanagh and throughout the day.

All are invited to pop in and stay for an hour or the whole day; whether you are a musician, singer or listener– what better way to spend a Saturday!

For further details check out the Fermanagh Fleadh Facebook page or contact Fleadh Chairperson Sinead Mc Cabe on 07796 297143

Training Opportunities

Accessible Digital Skills Training for Deaf and Hearing Loss Residents

Thursdays 26 February, 5 March and 12 March, 2-4pm

Omagh Library

Delivered by AdaptNI, the **free** programme consists of three visual, Deaf-aware sessions focused on practical everyday digital skills.

Participants will learn how to use their own devices, access online services, communicate digitally and stay safe online.

Participants are encouraged to bring the device they use regularly.

For further information, please contact info@adaptni.co.uk

Eden Project Community Action in Practice Course

Thursdays 26 February, 5 March and 12 March, 10am-11.30am

Online (Each session lasts 90 minutes)

This short online course is open to anyone working with communities and trying to create positive change in a paid capacity. It is perfect for those looking to upskill and will provide all the tools, knowledge and inspiration needed to cultivate and nurture strong communities as well as exploring how to facilitate action at a local level.

Course costs: £30 for charitable/third sector workers

£45 for public/private sector workers

For more information and to book your place visit [Community Action in Practice](#)

You can also sign up to our [newsletter](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for more community news, inspiration and details of our upcoming events and activities.

Action Mental Health

Free SafeTalk Suicide Awareness training session

Saturday 28 February, 10am-1.30pm, Belcoo Healthy Living Centre

This training is suitable for anyone working with children, young people, and young adults.

SafeTalk is an excellent, evidence-based programme that helps participants feel more confident and comfortable having conversations around suicide and mental health, and supports early intervention and appropriate signposting.

Please note, it is recommended that individuals who have been directly affected by suicide within the past 12–18 months consider whether this training is appropriate for them at this time.

Further details and booking information can be found at [safeTALK \(Belcoo\) | Action Mental Health](#)

Training Opportunities in Libraries NI

The Department of Finance Digital Inclusion Team – Go ON NI, works in partnership with LibrariesNI to deliver **free digital skills sessions** for anyone interested in learning basic digital skills. The digital skills sessions take place in libraries across the country with each district having a designated trainer to facilitate the sessions.

The most popular sessions include “1-2-1 eClinics” – these are ‘IT help for beginners: help with your mobile device, general IT assistance, information about library e-services’. Each session is tailored to suit the skillset of the individual and is delivered at their desired pace, allowing them to build confidence with the internet and technology. Other sessions include, Internet Scams, Privacy and Security, Shopping Online.

Find events taking place at your local branch library <https://www.librariesni.org.uk/libraries/?src=EventsPgTile>

To book the sessions, customers should contact their local library and let them know the subjects they are interested in learning e.g. how to use ‘Google’; how to use ‘Whatsapp’ etc. Even if there are no eClinics currently advertised in their local area, they should contact the library to register their interest and ask to be informed of the next available session. These eClinics run all year round and library members can attend as many times as they like.

Supporting Communities Go on NI Digital Skills Group Sessions

We offer **free** digital support and training for individuals and groups wanting to develop and improve their digital skills.

These are casual, short sessions that can be tailored to suit the needs of the group.

How to book a free online session: Visit www.supportingcommunities.org/latest-events

How to book an in-person session:

Contact future@finance-ni.gov.uk or stef@supportingcommunities.org

Things to include in your request:

Group name, group meeting times, days and location, topics to be covered during the session

Sign Up for Free, Fully Funded Workshops for individuals volunteering or working in the Community/voluntary/charity sector! Coming to a town or village near you across Omagh & Fermanagh!

Our first series of workshops, includes:

1. **Committees: Roles, Functions and Responsibilities**
2. **Fundraising: Generating Income for your group /organisation**
3. **Safeguarding - 3 Hour Certified Course**
4. **Safeguarding, Designated Officer, Full Day Course**
5. **Halls & Venues, How to Manage your Building and Maximise its use.**
6. **Introduction to Social Media, AI Tools & Canva**
7. **Volunteers: How to get them & how to keep them**
8. **Inclusion: Delivering Activities and Events that are Welcoming to Everyone**

This initiative offers **free training and development opportunities** for volunteers, committee members, and staff working in the community and voluntary sector.

We're delighted to share this programme of activities for the new Investing in Community Volunteers (ICV) Programme, part of the Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan, supported by PEACEPLUS and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Each workshop will be delivered in seven locations across Fermanagh and Omagh up to June 2026, morning, evening and online sessions available too ensuring accessibility for all.

View the full programme and register here: <https://www.fermanaghtrust.org/investing-in-community-volunteers-programme/>

Please share this information with anyone who might be interested.

If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch with Sonya Johnston, The Fermanagh Trust

Tel 028 6632 0210 www.fermanaghtrust.org

Fermanagh Trust

Expand Your Skills – 250+ free Online Courses Available Now!

We can offer access to over 250 **free** online courses through our new PEACEPLUS Funding. You can register and start learning immediately!

Our courses cover a wide range of topics to support both personal development and professional training needs. From GDPR, Cyber security, Dementia awareness, Neurodiversity awareness to Food Hygiene and manual handling, to Microsoft Excel and Setting Goals there is something to suit everyone!

- **Accredited qualifications**
- **Personal development programmes**
- **Available anytime, anywhere, on any device**
- **Offered in 40+ languages**
- **Save time and money for you and your organisation**

The 'Investing in Community Volunteers' Programme is one of 13 programmes as detailed in the Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan, a project supported by PEACEPLUS and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

For further information/to register visit www.fermanaghtrust.org

or email sonya@fermanaghtrust.org Tel 028 6632 0210

Invitation to Apply –

ILM (Level 3) Leadership & Management Programme

Are you a Volunteer in a Community / Voluntary setting in the Omagh area?

We are inviting Applications for this **free course** via the link below:

<https://forms.gle/4bJnQhMa4epgK1GG6>

This programme includes a blend of in-person and online sessions, designed to support your personal and professional development. Full details can be found on the Application Form via the link above.

Please note, full attendance at all in person and online sessions will be required to achieve your certificate should you be allocated a place.

Course Schedule:

All training will take place in Omagh Enterprise Centre, Great Northern Road, Omagh BT78 5LU

- **Induction** – Flexible access via pre-recording
- **Understanding & Developing Leadership**
- 24th February (In Person 9.30am - 3.00pm)
- 3rd March (Zoom 9.30am - 1.00pm)

- **Problem Solving & Decision Making** – 10th March (In Person 9.30am - 3.00pm)
- **Conflict Management & Team Development** – 24th March (Zoom 9.30am - 1.00pm)
- **Effective Teams** – 31st March (In Person 9.30am - 3.00pm)
- ****Easter Break****
- **Final Presentations** – 14th April (In Person 9.30am - 3.00pm)

Please complete and submit your application **by 12 noon on Monday 9 February**.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the application, feel free to get in touch – Email sonya@fermanaghtrust.org or Tel 028 6632 0210

WHSC Recovery College

Free courses on mental health and emotional wellbeing that run in Derry/Londonderry, Enniskillen, Limavady, Omagh and Strabane.

[Autumn/Winter 2025/26 prospectus](#)

Our workshops are **free** and open to absolutely everyone – carers and supporters, people with or without a mental health diagnosis, staff, students – anyone who wants to improve or maintain their mental health and emotional wellbeing. We keep things informal and relaxed, and all workshops have been written and are delivered by people who have lived experience alongside mental health professionals so students get the lived and learned experience of the topics.

For further information or if you would like hard copies of the prospectus

T: 028 8225 2079 or E: recoverycollege@westerntrust.hscni.net

Health Improvement Equality & Involvement Department

Update Training Brochure January to March 2026

The WHSCT Health Improvement Equality & Involvement (HIEI) Department has released the Update Training Brochure which is offering **free training courses** taking place across the Trust to 31 March.

The training courses, in this Update edition, are found under the headings of Children & Families, Emotional Health & Wellbeing, Nutrition, Physical Activity, Sexual Health, Smoking Cessation and the Traveller Health and Wellbeing Programme.

The Department is delighted to introduce a brand new Children & Families event; Our Neuro Network – Professional Networking Event and a new Emotional Health & Wellbeing session – ‘Sexual Abuse, Sextortion and Sexual Exploitation in a Digital World’. Returning for this edition is Digital Safeguarding Core Awareness also found in the Emotional Health & Wellbeing section. The courses in the brochure will be delivered either via Zoom or face to face in a range of locations across the WHSCT.

To view the Training Brochure click on this link – ... [Training Brochure January - March 2026 - HIEIE Training Brochure January to March 2026](#)

For course details, including times and course content and to book a place, please click the ‘Click to Register’ icon beside each course which takes you to the Eventbrite registration page.

For further information and any queries in relation to the Training Brochure or if you would like to be added to the HIEI mailing list, please contact 028 7186 5127/Ext 217126

Funding Opportunities

UK Government: Connect Fund

The Connect Fund connects great ideas, people and solutions in Northern Ireland with those across the United Kingdom to strengthen East-West connections, address mutual challenges and grasp shared opportunities.

Delivery of projects must be within the period from 1 April 2026 - 31 March 2027.

For further information visit [UK Government: Connect Fund](#)

Community Groups have until Thursday 12 February to apply.

The NIEA 2026/27 Water Quality Improvement Strand (WQIS)

Now open for applications

This is a grant competition funding projects taken forward by local communities and voluntary organisations to deliver water quality improvements, help connect people with the water environment and bring about behaviour change.

The grant is open to applications from constituted not-for-profit organisations and councils and will cover up to 85 % of funding for projects costing between £5,000 and £30,000. The projects will run from spring 2026 until February 2027.

If you are an eligible organisation with an interest and passion to deliver improvements in your local water environment, then now is the time to think about a potential project.

Keep an eye on the webpage for further information [Environment Fund – Water Quality Improvement Strand | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#)

Please note the awarding of any funding is subject to departmental budgets being approved. By applying to the fund there is no guarantee that you will be successful, and any costs incurred in submitting an application will not be re-imbursed.

If you wish to discuss your project proposal with your NIEA Catchment Officer they can be contacted by email RiverBasinPlanning@daera-ni.gov.uk

Deadline: Wednesday 18 February 2026

The Olympic Legacy Fund

This is a £1million pound investment programme, delivered by Sport NI in partnership with Crowdfunder UK. The fund aims to improve the quality of offering at club/community sports facilities, encouraging people to engage in sport and physical activity. Supported projects will leave a lasting community legacy from the success of Northern Ireland athletes at the Paris 2024 Olympic/Paralympic Games.

For further information visit <https://www.sportni.net/olympic-legacy-fund/>

The final date for applications will be Friday 20 February 2026

Community Relations/Cultural Diversity

The Community Relations Council, with the support of Government, provides funding for intentional work with a clear good relations purpose and deliberate and planned activities directly addressing sectarianism and/or racism (the two main aims of the CRCD grant scheme). Funding of up to £10,000 is available for project costs only. Average grant typically between £2,000- £5,000. The scheme supports a wide range of work and offers support and assistance whether you are a first-time applicant or have been supported in the past. For further info visit

<https://www.community-relations.org.uk/funding-scheme/community-relations-cultural-diversity>

Closing date: Friday 27 February, 4pm

Community Foundation for Northern Ireland opens two new schemes

The Randal Foundation works to deliver the vision of its Founders - saving and significantly improving the lives of 1 million people, across the UK and globally. In partnership with the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland they will offer grants to support grassroots activity that directly save or significantly improve lives. Grants of up to £3,000 available.

The Inspiring Growth Fund set up in recognition of the community sector facing many challenges from the pandemic to rising costs while simultaneously supporting increasing demands for their services from communities. The aim of the Inspiring Growth Fund is to help organisations in the community sector take the time and space needed to focus on their digital capacity including opportunities that AI (Artificial Intelligence) may bring. Grants of between £5,000 to £10,000 for up to two years available.

Further info available at <https://communityfoundationni.org/achieving-impact/available-grants/>

The National Lottery Community Fund

Strengthening Communities is our funding for community led projects. It will help us deliver our strategy, 'It starts with community.'

We know that communities have many strengths and resources. We'll fund projects that use these to help make people's lives better.

Your project must:

- involve people who experience poverty, disadvantage or discrimination
- support people early to help prevent negative experiences
- be led by your community and build on its strengths and connections.

[See what we're hoping to fund](#) for details.

For further information

visit <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/strengthening-communities>

Application deadline: Ongoing