

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council Community Support News – December 2022

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 the next Newsletter is Tuesday 20 December

Council News & Events

[COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Information, advice & Council services – Fermanagh & Omagh District Council \(fermanaghomagh.com\)](https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/covid-19-information-advice-and-council-services)

For a list of events across the District visit
<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/events-and-festivals/>



**Season's greetings from the Community Services Team,
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council
wishing you a prosperous and peaceful 2023**

Christmas in Fermanagh and Omagh

We can confirm that the Christmas season in Fermanagh and Omagh will begin on Thursday 1 December 2022.

The programme will include festive lighting and Seasonal Saturdays, as well as a wide variety of activities and entertainment at various venues throughout the District.

Visit <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/article/christmas-in-fermanagh-and-omagh/> to find out more

Winter Well-being

Would you like information on;

- Domestic Energy Efficiency Grants
- Home Security & Crime Reduction
- Home Safety & Accident Prevention
- Benefit Entitlement
- Household Energy Efficiency?

Visit a venue near you from 10am to 3pm

Lisnaskea Library – Wednesday 7 December 2022

Irvinestown Library – Wednesday 11 January 2023

Carrickmore, The Patrician Hall – Wednesday 8 February 2023

For more information or to book an appointment call 0300 303 1777 and ask for the Health Improvement Team

Have a look at our Cost of Living Help Page for lots more useful information:

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

DisAbility Awareness Week 2022

The Council has organised a programme of events and workshops from **Saturday 3 December to Friday 9 December** to celebrate International Day of People with Disabilities. The programme has been created in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council and is funded by the Public Health Agency.

Throughout the week and further into December, there will be a range of information sessions, training events, talks and engaging craft workshops.

For full details including registration requirements, visit

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/your-council/policies/equality/disability-awareness-week-2022/>

Fermanagh Lakeland Forum Redevelopment proposal

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is undertaking a public consultation ahead of a planning application for the redevelopment of the Fermanagh Lakeland Forum, Enniskillen.

The public consultation is running until 12 noon on Monday 19 December 2022.

You can feedback on the proposal via an [online survey](#) which is available through the Council's website.

For more information visit <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/article/the-council-seeks-feedback-on-the-ambitious-fermanagh-lakeland-forum-redevelopment-proposal/>

New Planning Portal will launch Monday 5 December 2022

This is the largest joint IT project between the Department for Infrastructure and 10 of the 11 Councils in Northern Ireland to date.

It will benefit all users as we seek to drive planning online in this digital age.

For more information visit <https://bit.ly/NewPlanningPortal>

10-year roadmap for local tourism agreed following public consultation

A new 10-year roadmap for tourism in Fermanagh & Omagh has been agreed following a 12-week public consultation; with 93% of survey respondents (131 respondents in total) in favour of the new Visitor Experience Development Plan (VEDP) for Fermanagh Lakelands and Omagh and the Sperrins.

The VEDP, which focuses on sustainable and regenerative tourism to benefit local communities, business and the environment, has been jointly funded and developed by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Tourism NI and Waterways Ireland following input from the public, private and community sectors.

Further information on the public consultation, including proposed updates to the VEDP and next steps to take forward the plan, is available to view on the '[Closed Consultations](#)' section of the Council website.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Tourism NI and Waterways Ireland would like to thank everyone for their interest in the VEDP and for their engagement in the public consultation, helping to shape the final plan.

The final VEDP will be available on the Council website shortly and officially launched early 2023.

Autism Café

Friday 9 December, 10am-1pm, Omagh Leisure Complex

Organised by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and the Western Health and Social Care Trust. The event aims to help provide parents, family members and practitioners with more information on the early intervention support available to children and young people who are diagnosed or waiting on an autism assessment. The events are being supported by the Public Health Agency.

For more information, please telephone 07880 723076 / 0300 303 1777

Email Priscilla.magee@westerntrust.hscni.net or disability@fermanaghomagh.com

Council launches Calling All Centenarians booklet

This reminiscence project aimed to provide a lasting legacy of stories from five residents who were born over 100 years ago – the late Ms Evie Bowles, the late Mr Bob Lingwood, Mrs Pauline Brown, Mr Noble Hetherington and Mr Vincent O'Reilly.

We were delighted to be joined by Mr Hetherington at the launch.

For more information including details of how to receive a copy of the booklet, visit

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/article/council-launches-calling-all-centenarians-booklet/>

Climate Literacy Training

Friday 9 December, 10am-4pm Online

How can your community make a difference? Be part of the solution.....

Carbon literacy training is a great way to promote awareness of climate change and it allows people to recognise what they can do in their own lives/places of work to make a difference.

A mix of self-study and learning with colleagues. No previous knowledge required.

This is the link for booking [Carbon Smart Communities](#)

Choose 1 Day Fermanagh and Omagh in the Drop Down Menu

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

Landfill Communities Fund

Grants £5,000-£60,000

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council in partnership with Ulster Wildlife, invites Expressions of Interest from constituted groups, community organisations and statutory bodies, within the fields of community development, sport, arts and culture and social economy (Conditions apply)

Funding is at a rate of 75% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant of £60,000. The minimum grant payable is £5,000.

Expressions of Interest will close at **12 noon on Monday 19 December 2022**. Applicants who submit a successful Eoi will proceed to application stage.

Groups, organisations and projects must be based in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area; and be located within a ten-mile radius (as the crow flies) of the following landfill sites:

- Drummee Recycling Centre, Drummee Road, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, BT74 5JX; and
- Tullyvar Recycling Centre, 130 Tullyvar Road, Aughnacloy, Co. Tyrone, BT69 6BN

Further information, Expression of Interest Form and Guidance Notes are available to download from the Council website at: www.fermanaghomagh.com

or contact the Grants & Investment Unit on;

Tel: 0300 303 1777 Text phone: 028 8225 6216 Email: grants@fermanaghomagh.com

Forest Users Survey

The [Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#) in partnership with FODC and community partners have recently invested in Forest Parks and Community Trails to encourage use of the Forests and enhance your experience.

DAERA and its partners are keen to find out about your experiences of visiting these improved facilities and the difference they have made to your use of the Forest. This information will help inform future programmes.

To complete the survey visit bit.ly/3qLxT95

Fairtrade

Fairtrade is a simple way to make a difference to the lives of the people who grow the things we love. Consider choosing products with the Fairtrade Mark such as tea, coffee, bananas or chocolate and you will be supporting farmers and workers in developing countries.

For more information visit www.fairtrade.org.uk

To find out more about the Council's involvement with Fairtrade including the District's Fairtrade Steering Group, visit www.fermanaghomagh.com/your-council/policies/sustainable-development/fairtrade

Businesses or organisations that support Fairtrade can register as a Fairtrade Supporter. Please let us know by emailing info@fermanaghomagh.com

Church and Leadership Workshops in Enniskillen and Omagh

Exploring church leadership in changing times in Fermanagh and Omagh today!

Over the last few years, the role of churches in the community has become ever more important in improving the quality of life of local communities. The pandemic and now the cost-of-living crises has highlighted the central role played by churches and their volunteers in this work. You are cordially invited to a series of workshops to discuss this ever evolving and important role of churches in community development activities.

This workshop series, funded through Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's good relations programme, includes a series of **four workshops** which will be held in both Omagh and Enniskillen for local church leaders and their lay leaders. The workshop series will include guest speakers from a wide range of other churches across Northern Ireland and the border counties engaged specifically in innovative community development, poverty related church-based work. This requires visionary leadership, but this work can also be challenging on time hungry church leaders and their lay leaders especially at busy times. Our speakers include:

- Rev Andrew Irvine, East Belfast Mission, (Housing and poverty);
- Yvette Wilkinson & Damian French, Lisburn Churches Forum (Church leader respite);
- Jude Bailey, Well Fed, Newtownards (Social Supermarket) and
- Rev Hazel Hicks (Teemore, Co Fermanagh) (Woman in Leadership).

All have unique experiences and backgrounds which link churches to community support and create a sense of hope and belonging for communities and people in need. Much of this work links to many of the outcomes and priorities within the FODC Community Plan which will be explored during the workshops. The workshops aim to support busy Church leaders to share best practice and develop new ideas and relationships that places their important and crucial role at the heart of the community. The workshops will explore:

- current challenges and lived experiences of supporting the health and wellbeing for busy church leaders
- the cost-of-living crisis impact and the churches community response post covid
- recognising and growing community relationships and networks to understand the value and contribution local Churches bring to wider society
- the unique challenges for women in church leadership roles

Places are limited – sign up to today. Email bridget.enslin@bluzebra.co.uk

Date/Time	Venue	Workshop	Speaker
10th January 2023 1-3pm, Omagh 5-7pm Enniskillen	TBC TBC	The cost-of-living crisis, food, heat and building communities around essential services and a sense of belonging	Jude Bailey (Well Fed, Newtownards)
17th January 2023 1-3pm, Omagh 5-7pm Enniskillen	TBC TBC	The unique challenges for women in church leadership roles	Revd. Hazel Hicks (Teemore, Co Fermanagh)
24th January 2023 1-3pm, Omagh 5-7pm Enniskillen	TBC TBC	Essential wellbeing and self-care for Church leaders in their busy lives	Yvette Wilkinson & Damian French, St Patrick's Lisburn, (Lisburn Church Forum)
31st January 2023 1-3pm, Omagh 5-7pm Enniskillen	TBC TBC	Outwards looking churches connected to the community to grow, develop and sustain those most in need	Rev Andrew Irvine (East Belfast Mission)

Litter Champion Scheme

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is committed to a cleaner, greener, and more vibrant District. The Council currently undertake a programme of cleansing to deal with litter, dumping, and fly tipping across the District each year.

Whilst our cleansing team do exceptional work keeping the District tidy, it is always greatly appreciated when individuals and communities offer their support to help maintain and improve our District through volunteering.

For more information visit bit.ly/FOLitterChampion

ASPIRE Employability Programme

If you are job seeking or working part-time contact us today! All of our courses are free!

We have a wide range of training opportunities available such as our Classroom Support Package which includes various qualifications such as Child Protection Training, Paediatric First Aid, Foundation Food Safety, Linguistic Phonics, Autism Awareness and ICT for the Classroom.

We offer Industry Specific Training; this includes CSR Card and Forklift Refresher, Foundation Food Safety, Manual Handling and Level 1 Health & Safety in the workplace.

Our Administration Training includes Level 1 IT User Skills and OCN Level 1 in Social Media, Producing Business Documents, Time Management and Communication Skills. Our Finance & Accounts Package includes IAB Level 1 in Payroll and Computerised Bookkeeping.

We also offer assistance with developing your CV, opportunities to gain voluntary work experience and provide interview training and support.

ASPIRE offer an approach that is tailored to suit YOU and your needs.

ASPIRE is the Fermanagh & Omagh District Council led Employability Programme supporting people into paid employment. This project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014-2020 and the Department for the Economy.

To discuss your needs, or if you have any queries, please call 028 8224 6535 (Omagh) or 028 6632 6478 (Enniskillen), email aspire@fermanaghomagh.com

Physical Activity Referral Scheme (PARS)

A 12 week exercise programme for people with specific health conditions.

For details please visit

[Physical Activity Referral Scheme \(PARS\) – Fermanagh & Omagh District Council \(fermanaghomagh.com\)](http://fermanaghomagh.com)

MacMillan Move More (MM)

An exercise and support programme for those living with and beyond cancer.

For details please visit

[Macmillan Move More Project – Fermanagh & Omagh District Council \(fermanaghomagh.com\)](http://fermanaghomagh.com)

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.

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.

For further information or enquiries regarding Council support to charities, please email communitysupport@fermanaghomagh.com

Carbon Literacy Training for community groups

Friday 9 December 2022: Online 10am - 4pm. Up to 50 people.

Are you a member of a local community or youth group, keen to learn more about climate change? Do you want to know the climate science facts as well as learn how we can all work together to make a change? Come along to this accessible, 1-day programme and learn with people from your council area to find the ways that local communities can make a difference together and become part of the solution.

The link for signup is below and the courses is now live for booking;

<https://keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.etinu.net/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=73>

This is a link to a short 2-minute video with details of the programme and a response from a local community member. It may be useful:

[Begin Climate Action with Carbon Literacy Programmes - YouTube](#)

For further information please contact the Council's Biodiversity Assistant,

emma.denton@fermanaghomagh.com Tel 0300 303 1777 Ext: 20502

Consultations

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/your-council/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.

Community Support

The Community Services Department offers support to individuals and organisations within the community and voluntary sector promoting community action. Officers within the Community Services Team are available to assist community groups and voluntary organisations make as big a difference as possible to local lives and issues.

For further information, please visit [Community – Fermanagh & Omagh District Council \(fermanaghomagh.com\)](#)

The link below can help you find your local Community Support Officer - please contact us for any assistance you or your organisation may require on 0300 303 1777

<https://fermanagh.maps.arcgis.com/apps/ZoneLookup/index.html?appid=82210c413ab74bcd8da1750af0321163>

Area	Officer	Email	Telephone
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	Neville Armstrong	neville.armstrong@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 20275
Omagh	Josephine Treanor	josephine.treanor@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 20222
West Tyrone	Billie-Jo Irwin	billie-jo.irwin@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 20220

Community News

Advice and Support with the Cost of Living

[nidirect](#) has issued important information & advice about support available to help with the cost of living, including:

- help with energy costs
- help with your income
- help for families and children
- help for older people
- help with housing
- help with other costs

To find out more visit <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/cost-of-living>

Mencap Coffee Club

We'd love to meet you

Enniskillen – Thursday 1 December, 10am-11.30am - Westville Hotel, Tempo Road,

Omagh – Friday 2 December, 10am-11.30am – Rue in Main Street

Do you have a learning disability?

Would you like to meet other people and make new friends?

Just buy your own drink and join us for a chat at the Mencap table.

Christmas jumpers welcome. You might even win a prize!

If you need support please bring someone with you.

Contact louise.donnelly@mencap.org.uk Mobile 07929 837725

Christmas Tree Display at Fermanagh Fun Farm

Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 December, 11am-3pm

The exhibition will be open to the public with **Free Entry**.

See Santa's grotto, enjoy some entertainment and visit our new tearoom. You will also have a chance to see our animals in their winter homes

From Monday 12 December to Thursday 15 December the exhibition and Santa's Grotto will be open to schools to visit.

Proceeds from our Christmas raffle, tearoom sales, Santa's Grotto etc during this event will go towards the care and welfare of our animals this winter.

Please email fermanaghopenfarm@hotmail.com or text/call 07834 903858 to let us know if you'd like to take part, or to obtain further information

NSPCC Northern Ireland

Enniskillen District Committee

Annual Coffee Morning

Saturday 10 December, 10am-12.30pm

New Venue – St Macartin's Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen

Entry £5 suggested donation.

Cake and other stalls, raffle and entertainment for the children

Have a cup of coffee with us and give a child the chance of a happy, fulfilled life.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Every childhood is worth fighting for.

Are You Ready for The Big Lunch at Christmas?

For many, it's a busy time of year, and for some, it can feel quite lonely. Taking time to chat with neighbours over mince pies, or enjoying a shared meal is a great way to keep connected, which is why Eden Project Communities have launched [The Big Lunch at Christmas](#) this year.

As with the annual Big Lunch in June, it's all about sharing food and friendship with people in your community

It could be giving the gift of time and inviting the neighbours in for tea, hosting something bigger in a community space or setting an extra place at your table for someone that lives alone.

Check out their [handy guide](#) and [winter warmer activity ideas](#), set a date and get ready to share friendship, food and festive fun this December!

Community Christmas Dinner

Sunday 25 December at 12.30pm

Omagh Community Church, Old Marketplace, Omagh BT78 1EN

At the heart of the Community Dinners is a desire to provide food for those who need it but also a friendly face and some conversation for many who find themselves alone during this festive period.

As always, this will be a completely free service and we thank all our generous supporters and volunteers for their help in making this happen.

If you, or anyone you know find yourself lonely or in need this Christmas, please contact us on 07821 736104 or email office@omaghcommunitychurch.com to book in with us.

Places are limited

Fermanagh Women's Aid

Where the Blame Lies – Domestic Abuse Conference

Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 March 2023

We are delighted to announce that tickets are now on sale

Book today, exclusively on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/where-the-blame-lies-domestic-abuse-conference-tickets-439012617557>

Cancer Connect NI

Magical Winter Wonderland

There are still times available for our December dates, and would encourage you to visit our event page to book now - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../cancer-connect-ni-winter...>

The experience begins at Eden Street [behind B&M] where Mrs Claus & the Elves will welcome all before boarding the Polar Express train which will make its way through the town and arrive at Enniskillen Castle for complementary refreshments, a photo opportunity on the life-sized sleigh in Santa's grotto before the Elves invite families to experience a flight with Santa's magical snowman in a 16-seater Venturer simulator.

To finish the experience a gift awaits the children in Mrs Claus' toy shop.

Share Village on Ice returns to Share Discovery Village

From school groups, to families and couples, to corporate breaks and team building nights, Share Village on Ice is sure to create a fun-filled, memorable night for everyone. Themed sessions are also planned to get the party started, from 80's night, country night and Disney sessions, skaters of all ages are guaranteed a good time.

Customers can enjoy seasonal food and drinks with some bites on the side. From hot chocolate and tea and coffee, to slushies, ice cream and hot food takeaway, there's something for everyone. Need a break from the frozen fun? Take yourself off the ice and onto the inflatable bouncy castle or have a go on the new curling lane.

Booking is open via www.sharevillage.org. Hurry! Spaces are filling up fast!

Northwest Fermanagh Vintage Club

Christmas Lights Tractor Road Run

Collection in aid of RNLI (Fermanagh branch)

Ballinamallard – Thursday 15 December at 7.30pm

Irvinestown – Friday 16 December at 7.30pm

Kesh and Ederney – Saturday 17 December at 7.30pm

Fermanagh Choral Society and Murley Silver Band

Christmas Concert

Friday 9 December at 8pm, St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen.

Everyone welcome. Proceeds in aid of Fermanagh Choral Society and Cathedral Organ Fund.

JustUs event for adults with disabilities

Christmas Party

Thursday 22 December, 7pm-10pm in Enniskillen Hotel

£5 entry with one carer free

Over 18s

Open Bar

Full Moon Fever Band

Those requiring assistance must have a carer present.

Also, **New Year event on Friday 27 January**

“Beyond the Call” Project

Provision of telephone, home and “out and about” buddy befriending for older people aged 60 and over living in Omagh, Fermanagh and Strabane. We are currently open for referrals. We have a coordinator in each of the areas, Laurence Harte (Omagh) and Rita O'Loughlin (Fermanagh).

Contact us at Omagh Volunteer Centre on 028 8224 0772 for further information.

Free Sim Cards

Supporting Communities is delighted to provide free connectivity to those who need it through a Vodafone initiative to tackle digital exclusion. We will distribute 1500 free SIM cards to those who have difficulty paying for internet access or are digitally excluded. For further information visit

<https://supportingcommunities.org/latest-news/2022/8/15/get-connected-for-free>

Home Start Omagh District

Trustees Needed!

We are seeking Trustee Volunteers to help with the running of our charity. If you are:

- Seeking a new challenge
- Passionate and interested in helping local families
- Experienced in **any** of the following areas – Fundraising, NHS Services, Social Enterprise, Financial/Legal/Management background, PR
- Looking to enhance your well-being
- Enthusiastic about continuing personal development – we have access to free, high quality training for all our Trustees.

****Being a Trustee can bring demands,
but it is also a special way to support families in your local area****

To find out more, please call our office 028 8224 0902, Email info@homestartomaghdistrict.org.uk
Call Alison on 07843 749852 Facebook @Home-Start Omagh District

Self Care for Carers

Tuesdays 10.30am-12.30pm

Fermanagh House, Enniskillen

Inspiring Yarns are currently offering these sessions for carers to give them an opportunity to get some time to themselves.

Have a cuppa and a chat and learn some new skills, or work on knitting or crochet.

Learn self-advocacy skills and find out about support services in your area.

Meet others for support on Zoom/in person. Learn how to support your mental health and take time for yourself.

Places are available **free of charge** by contacting hello@inspiringyarns.co.uk

Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service

By appointment only; to book please call 08085 534 653 between 10am and 4.30pm.

St John's Parish Hall, Fivemiletown

Monday 12 December, 12.30pm-4pm and 5pm-7.30pm

Many thanks for your continuing support - it is greatly appreciated.

Check out <http://www.nibts.hscni.net/donating-blood/where-to-donate/> for further Scheduled Donation Sessions

Inspire Wellbeing

Free Drop in Breakfast

Tuesdays 10.30am-11.30am

Archdale Hall, Lisnaskea

Enter through the Corn Market

A selection of breads, cereals, yoghurts, fruits, tea and coffee will be provided. All welcome

Erne Paddlers

Join us over the winter months for our indoor pool courses. Our final sessions start this week and run up to mid-December but we'll be back in the pool in January with more. We have courses for complete beginners, courses for those who want to improve the skills they already have and courses for kids, 8yrs+. We use the Lakeland Forum pool in Enniskillen and the pool at Fivemiletown College Youth Annex. All courses are run by our highly qualified paddlesport instructors, are focused on progressive development, building water confidence, and having fun. All paddling equipment is provided and individuals can book directly online at www.ernepaddlers.org.uk/events We are an inclusive club. If you need extra support to paddle please get in touch to discuss how we can help. Find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for regular updates too.

Erne Paddlers is your local paddlesports club, a community organisation and a not for profit registered charity. We have experience over many years, coaching individuals and groups of all ages and abilities, developing staff and volunteers' skills, and facilitating tailor made courses and programmes for local organisations, including schools. We are committed to providing access to paddlesport for all and to the 'Take 5' steps to wellbeing approach, making these a central part of the club's ethos.

If anyone would like to find out more about the club please get in touch, email@ernepaddlers.org.uk or call 07468 911398.

Carbon Smart Communities Training with [Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful](#)

Friday 9 December, 10am - Online

Are you interested in learning more about Climate Change?

Do you belong to a community / youth group?

If so, sign up to learn what action you can take to be part of the solution!

For more information and to register visit bit.ly/3VIN5Uq

Eden Project Communities Virtual Community Camp

Applications Welcome

Eden Project Communities next virtual Community Camp will be held in January 2023.

Designed to connect and support volunteers and people with community ideas, the Virtual Community Camp is an immersive learning experience, offering a mix of practical activities, workshop sessions and networking opportunities for people from across the UK.

Fully funded by National Lottery Community Fund. This year applicants may also attend a series of in person, optional sessions held in a range of communities across Northern Ireland.

Participation in the Community camp opens up access to the UK wide Eden Project Communities Network as well as optional attendance at any of our Northern Ireland gatherings and a network of connected community people online.

To find out more and apply visit: <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/community-camps>

Online Stress Control Classes

For dates of the next free online Stress Control classes visit <https://ni.stresscontrol.org/dates/>

Stepping on Programme

The Stepping on Programme offers balancing & strengthening exercises for Older People which can help to reduce falls and at the same time increase self confidence in situations where they are at risk of falling.

Falls are a serious problem and can even on occasions be fatal, however falls can be prevented at any age.

Stepping on presents an evidence based exercise programme called OTAGO which aims to strengthen muscles and improve balance which helps reduce falls.

Programmes are being held in the following locations:

ARC Healthy Living Centre, Irvinestown.

Contact peggy.carty@archlc.com Tel 028 6862 8741 for programmes starting on 17 January 2023

St Columba's Hall, Omagh.

Contact michael@dergvalleycare.com Tel 028 8167 0764 for programmes starting on

26 January 2023

The Creative Lives Awards - formerly the Epic Awards

An annual celebration of the achievements of voluntary and community-led creativity.

Each year, we invite creative groups across the UK and Ireland to share their achievements with us, so we can give you a well-deserved moment in the spotlight.

If your group did something really special between September 2021 and September 2022, and voluntary participants played a key role in both planning and delivery, then fill out the online application form [here](#) or download a Word version [here](#).

Visit <https://www.creative-lives.org/awards> to find out more

Entry closes Monday 19 December 2022.

Community Relations Council

Good Relations Awards

The Good Relations Awards 2023 are now open for entries. If you know someone deserving special recognition for their peacebuilding and good relations work, nominate them now to any or all five awards.

Previous Award winners have come from all parts of the region and worked in a wide variety of settings including women and peacebuilding, faith-based work, youth work, community development, cross community work at interfaces, and ethical remembering/commemorative work in a history of conflict

For further information visit <https://goodrelationsawards.com/>

Nominations close on 9 January 2023.

Rural Action Launches New Awards Scheme

To mark their third birthday, Rural Action will celebrate with the launch of the Rural Action Awards Scheme, aimed at supporting rural communities celebrate their own achievements.

Groups wishing to enter must complete a simple online form available at www.ruralaction.co

The successful groups will then be contacted and following a simple verification process, can avail of the £1000/ €1000 to use for their community action project. Full terms and conditions are available on our website. **Final allocation in March 2023**

Census 2021 Results

Further results from Census 2021 on health and housing will be published on 15 December 2022.

The results will be available on the [NISRA website](#) and will include statistics at both Northern Ireland and Local Government District levels. The [Census 2021 outputs prospectus](#) provides more information on this and future releases.

Open Water Safety Webinars – Bookings Now Open

[RNLI](#) Lifeguards patrol nearly 250 beaches around the UK and Channel Islands during the summer.

Lifeguards will show you the best places to swim and offer advice on how to stay safe, as well as keeping an eye on what's going on in the water. Much of their work is preventative, and thousands of people enjoy the coast under their watchful eyes.

This is why [Swim Ulster](#) and Swim Ireland in partnership with the [RNLI](#) are delighted to be able to offer this set of four open water safety webinars designed to educate and influence our behaviour and activities in and around open water.

The cost of this series of four webinars is £20.00 which will be donated to the work of the RNLI.

The details are as follows:

- Wed 7th Dec 2022 - 'An Introduction to open water safety' - 7.30pm to 8.30pm
- Wed 11th Jan 2023 - 'Cold Water Shock' - 7.30pm to 8.30pm'
- Wed 8th Feb 2023 - 'Tides & Currents' - 7.30pm to 8.30pm'
- Wed 8th Mar 2023 - 'Wind and Waves' - 7.30pm to 8.30pm

To enrol please visit <https://form.jotform.com/swi.../OpenWaterSafetyWebinars22-23>

The closing date is Monday 5 December at 12noon, after which you will be emailed your Zoom login details.

Aisling Centre

Hope for the Future

Hope, Healing, Growth Day of Inspiration

Saturday 7 January 2023 10.00am – 3.00pm

The Crest Centre, South West College, Killyhevlin, Enniskillen, BT74 4EJ.

Attend In-Person or Virtually

Tickets available on Eventbrite <https://tinyurl.com/28897tmy>

For further information and to view the programme please visit <https://theaislingcentre.com/hope-healing-growth/>

Inspire – New Service

Our Health@Home Project offers support to individuals aged 18+ whose tenancies are/could be 'at risk' due to substance use and/or mental ill health. Individuals referred will be able to avail of Pre-Crisis, Therapeutic Intervention and/or Counselling support to help reduce their substance use, improve their mental health and overall tenancy sustainment.

Ongoing support for individuals impacted by substance use is also available through our:

- **Living well at Home Project:** This project is specifically for NIHE tenants, who are at risk of losing their tenancy due to substance use and/or poor mental health. This project offers pre-crisis, therapeutic, counselling support. Individuals referred must be aged 18+ and an NI Housing Executive tenant living within the Western Trust area.
- **Mutual Aid Partnership Peer Support Groups:** Our groups provide support for individuals aged 18+ who are or have been impacted by substance use. Our group support is available weekly. MAP is a safe place for individuals to come together to be a part of a unique recovery community and benefit from peer support.
- **Our Family Support:** Our Peer Family Support Group runs online on a fortnightly basis. This group is available for family members who are/have been impacted by a 'loved one's' substance use. We have some limited 1-1 support for family members who have been negatively impacted by a loved one's substance use. Please make contact for more information.

If you would like more information or would like to make a referral please contact 028 8283 9240 or email addictionservices@inspirewellbeing.org; self-referrals can also be accepted.

Training Opportunities

Elevate Training

Thursday 1 December, online via Zoom

Wednesday 7 December, online via Zoom

Wednesday 14 December, 10am-1pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm

West End Community Centre, Enniskillen

This is a **free**, interactive full-day training programme focusing on community development as a way to reduce health inequalities. Participants must be available for both the morning and afternoon session of the training.

Topics will be explored such as the social determinants of health, poverty and health, the impact of Covid-19, community development values and how community development approaches can be used to reduce health inequalities. Elevate training will highlight the importance of meaningful engagement with communities where you live and work.

To register/find out more please visit

<https://elevateni.org/course/community-development-health-inequalities-west-end-community-centre-enniskillen-14-dec-2022/>.

Prince's Trust

Online Courses

Suitable for those not in full-time work or full-time education

Want to work from home? Age 18-30

6 and 7 December, online

For more info call free on 0800 842 842

Email outreachni@princes-trust.org.uk

Investing in Community Winter Programme

Working or Volunteering in the Community / Voluntary sector?

Are you volunteering in a mother and toddler group, a sports club, a women's group, community centre, men's shed or befriending service?

Are you sitting on a Committee or Board and want to improve your knowledge or skills? Working or Volunteering for years, have the experience but want to meet others and build connections in your area?

Then please take a look at what's currently on offer for **free** on our Investing in Community Programme!

Allow us to help you improve your knowledge and skills and enable you to serve your community or group to the best of your ability!

Link to Full Winter Programme:

[Training Programme Sept - Dec 2022 \(fermanaghtrust.org\)](https://fermanaghtrust.org/training-programme-sept-dec-2022)

WHST Recovery College

The WHST is running **free workshops on mental health and emotional wellbeing** throughout the Trust area - Derry/Londonderry, Enniskillen, Limavady, Omagh and Strabane. All courses are written and delivered by people who have the lived experience of mental health issues alongside mental health professionals. Course topics range from Understanding Psychosis, to Getting a Good Night's Sleep, to Learning to Like Yourself and are all designed to give people the skills and confidence to better manage their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Our new Autumn 2022 Prospectus is available to download from the WHSCT website: <https://westerntrust.hscni.net/service/recovery-services/recovery-college/>

Alternatively you can contact the Recovery College on 028 8225 2079 or email recoverycollege@westerntrust.hscni.net and they will send you a copy of the prospectus.

Health Improvement Training Brochure, October to December 2022

The WHSCT Health Improvement Equality & Involvement Department is delighted to share their latest training brochure for the period October to December 2022.

Choose from a range of courses with topics including Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) awareness, mental health & suicide prevention, digital safeguarding and child sexual exploitation. The majority of courses will be delivered via zoom with some courses delivered face to face in a range of locations across the WHSCT.

The brochure has been created using Page Tiger, an interactive document. To navigate please use the blue arrows on the left and right of each page. If you would like more information or to book a place on the course please click on the icon 'click here for more information' which will take you to the Eventbrite registration page. Please note that some courses offer a choice of dates and locations therefore it is important to click the icon beside the date you wish to register for.

To view the training brochure click on this link [Training Brochure Oct-Dec 2022](#)
If you have any issues or queries in relation to our training brochure, please email health.improvement@westerntrust.hscni.net or telephone 028 7186 5127 for further information.

Free Keeping Adults Safe Online Training

For community, voluntary, faith and independent sector organisations in the Western Trust Area

Keeping Adults Safe: Training for Staff and Volunteers

Suitable for staff/volunteers who have regular and/or direct contact with adults at risk (e.g. leader, coach, carer or support worker), this certificated training programme covers: key definitions; legal context of adult safeguarding; awareness of abuse issues; procedures for reporting concerns; procedures for planning activities and assessing and managing risk; confidentiality issues; and code of behaviour for staff/volunteers.

Thursday 12 January 2023, 10.00am - 3.30pm

[Keeping Adults Safe: Training for Staff and Volunteers \(Western Trust area\) - Volunteer Now](#)

All Keeping Adults Safe training is supported by the Health and Social Care Board.
All training is delivered by accredited trainers.

NICVA Finance Videos

Four finance tutorial videos have been launched, all with British and Irish Sign Language, funded by the Halifax Foundation for NI.

[Basic finance tutorial videos | NICVA](#)

We also have a free session on cyber security coming up if that is of interest.

[Improving your Cyber Security - for small and medium sized organisations | NICVA](#)

Funding Opportunities

Arts Council NI

A range of funding support schemes to arts organisations in Northern Ireland is currently available <http://artscouncil-ni.org/funding/funding-for-organisations>

T:BUC

2023/24 Central Good Relations Fund

The 2023/24 Central Good Relations Fund will open for applications on 6 December.

T:BUC Camps Programme 2023-24

We are delighted to announce that applications are now open for groups who wish to deliver a Camp under the T:BUC Camps Programme 2023/24.

The T:BUC Camps Programme is one of the seven headline actions in the T:BUC Strategy. Good Relations learning is at the heart of every T:BUC Camp and it provides opportunities for young people aged 9 to 25 from all backgrounds to come together, try new experiences, have fun, and build longer term relationships.

The Education Authority (EA) act as Programme Administrator for the T:BUC Camps Programme on behalf of the Executive Office (TEO).

You can apply via the link below, where you will also find more detailed information about the T:BUC Camps Programme:

www.eanifunding.org.uk/tbuc

Completed applications must be returned to the Education Authority no later than 4pm on Tuesday 31st January 2023.

EA are also hosting Funding Application Workshops - you can find more details on these and register through the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/education-authority-funding-workshop-events-18191285824>

Warm This Winter Campaign Opens

A new 2022 campaign that brings together anti-poverty and environmental organisations across the UK to call for practical measures from the government to help people struggling with fuel costs this winter and to ensure people have lower energy bills and access to affordable energy in the future. The grants scheme funds groups holding events and activities in support of the campaign. The fund aims to support community groups organising local events and activities that help to build public and political support for the Warm This Winter campaign.

Small and medium grants can be applied for at any time and will be assessed on a monthly basis **until 1 January 2023**. An application form is available to download via the online guidance notes. Applicants should contact the Warm This Winter Campaign for further information.

<https://www.warmthiswinter.org.uk/about>

Living Places and Spaces Programme

This programme offers small scale capital grants of between £1,000 and £10,000. This is to support communities by creating more sustainable and resilient outdoor spaces through:

- Greening - planting more trees and plants in an area
- Rewilding - allowing nature to take over an area
- Water management - slowing rainwater before it gets to the drainage systems.

The funding helps increase access to those spaces. The types of projects that could be funded include:

- Community gardens (a single piece of land gardened collectively by a group of people)
- Pocket parks and forests (small urban or rural forests)
- Allotments (an area of land used for growing fruit and vegetables)
- Rain gardens (an area which is planted so that rainwater from roofs, driveways, etc runs into it and soaks into the ground, and therefore does not cause flooding or other problems)
- Green roofs (a roof that is partially or completely covered with vegetation)
- Ponds and living walls or vertical gardens (vertical structures that have living plants or other greenery attached to them).
- Installation of outdoor furniture or features to encourage usage
- Measures to encourage walking, wheeling and cycling.

Full information available via

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/living-places-and-spaces>

Application deadline: 5pm, Friday 6 January 2023

Micro Community Investment Fund

The fund will enable those organisations who are making the lives of others in their communities better, by improving their financial, physical, and mental wellbeing.

You do not have to have a constitution to apply to this fund. We will discuss your project with you in advance of application if you do not have certain governance requirements for funding in place.

We want to support smaller, grassroots organisations delivering great work. For this reason whilst groups with an income of up to £30,000 per annum are eligible to apply preference will be given to groups with an income of up to £10,000.

Community Investments available: Up to £2,000

Applications are sought to support both new and existing activities and projects that enhance the financial, physical and/or mental well-being of people in communities. We will support new or existing community initiatives that have a particular focus on addressing the challenges people are facing around the rising cost of living.

For further information visit

<https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/micro-community-investment-fund/>

Ongoing – No Deadline

Power NI

The Brighter Communities programme energises innovative and emerging community groups, teams and projects with £1000 of funding awarded each month. Since 2018 we have contributed over £40,000 to our communities and we are still going! Applications for the month are now open, and we welcome all communities to apply. Successful communities will receive £1000 of funding to help make their community shine a little brighter. All applications must comply with the Brighter Communities terms & conditions.

Please visit [Brighter Communities | Community Funding | Power NI](#)

Climate Action Fund

This funding aims to help communities across the UK to address climate change. We're looking for projects that focus on the link between nature and climate. We want to fund projects that use nature to encourage more community-led climate action. We expect these projects to bring other important social and economic benefits. Like the creation of strong, resilient and healthy communities or the development of 'green' skills and jobs.

For further information please visit

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/climate-action-fund-programme#section-3>

£145,000 funding available for community play projects

Community engagement platform ChangeX, supported by the LEGO Foundation, has launched a £145,000 fund to enable communities across the UK to start proven learning through play projects. The UK Community Play Fund aims to support up to 60 teams across the UK to start new community projects. Groups can choose from a carefully-curated portfolio of 14 proven play ideas.

Find out more and apply: <https://bit.ly/UKCommunityPlayFund>

Any queries, please contact support@changex.org

National Lottery Community Fund Grants

Details of funding opportunities via The National Lottery Community Fund can be found here <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/northern-ireland>

If anyone would like further information or to discuss any of grant programmes, please do not hesitate to contact Charlie Thomas, Funding Officer on 07929 872482 or 028 9055 1424

The National Lottery Heritage Fund UK

Grants for projects that connect people and communities to the national, regional and local heritage of the UK. Grants from £3,000 - £5million; Rolling Deadlines

For further information visit <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding>

Community Finance Ireland: Sports Fund

Community Finance Ireland (previously UCIT), one of the UK's largest providers of social finance, has already provided £7M to 70 clubs across Ireland, helping deliver new training facilities, clubhouses and state-of-the-art pitches. The new fund will commit a further £4m to the local sporting sector over the next five years. Click on the above link for further information.

Community Relations Council: Small Grants Scheme

The Community Relations Council, with the support of Government, has established a fund to spend each year on community relations projects. This funding is intended to help community/voluntary groups throughout Northern Ireland develop their capacity to engage in community relations work and to enhance the community relations potential of projects they undertake. Grants are up to £10K maximum and for project costs only. Average grant is £2K – £5K

For further information visit <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/community-relations-cultural-diversity>

Closing date: Friday 16 December 2022

Update on the Dormant Accounts Fund Northern Ireland

From 5pm on 3 March 2023, The National Lottery Community Fund will not be accepting applications to Phase One of the Dormant Accounts Fund Northern Ireland from individual organisations.

If you are thinking of submitting an application to the fund, we encourage you to get your applications in as soon as you are ready. You don't need to wait until 3 March.

The team will continue to assess applications and to announce the new awards that are made, but **no new applications will be accepted from 5pm on 3 March.**

For further information visit <https://www.nicva.org/article/update-on-the-dormant-accounts-fund-northern-ireland>

Community Relations Council

CRCD (Community Relations and Cultural Diversity) Grant Scheme OPEN (1st April – 16th Dec) Project costs up to £10k per application (Average award £2k - £5k). For more information go to our website or contact Helen DiDuca. Please note, the CRCD grant scheme is currently oversubscribed, low budget remaining. Any potential applicants please encourage them to apply when the CRCD grant scheme re-opens for the next round of funding in April 2023 – Dec 2023 for project delivery in the next financial year up to the end of March 2024.

Publications Grant Scheme OPEN (Closing 27th January 2023). Up to £5K to encourage the production and dissemination of better community relations in NI. Applications must come directly from publishers. For more information go to our website or contact Paul Jordan, Funding & Development Director, email address pjordan@nicrc.org.uk

Media Grant Scheme – This grant scheme offers financial support to a range of media projects designed to underpin peace building and/or support the development of good relations in our diverse society. The scheme is designed to fund new material but may also support the development of existing resources to increase use by new audiences. For more information go to our website or contact Paul Jordan, Funding & Development Director, email address pjordan@nicrc.org.uk

Pathfinder Grant Scheme – Emergency fund for urgent diversionary projects, or to temporarily fill a gap in funding for groups if critical to peace in the community and the survival of the organisation, and any other urgent issues that threaten peace and stability as they arise. This scheme is not promoted on our website. Before an application can be made, interested groups must contact Paul Jordan to discuss their proposal pjordan@nicrc.org.uk or call Paul Jordan via 028 9022 7500.

Please click on our website link which has all the information about the grant schemes: [Funding | Community Relations Council \(community-relations.org.uk\)](https://www.nicrc.org.uk/funding)