



September 2009

Welcome to 'Health Bytes', the Community Development and Health Network's monthly information bulletin.

We welcome contributions from our members on upcoming events, research, launches, job information and projects in the CD and Health field. We hope that the information contained herein reflects the rich and diverse activities of our members so please, get in touch and let us know what you're up to.

Local power in Northern Ireland – Do you know how local councils are organised?

As part of the ongoing Review of Public Administration (RPA) local government has been overhauled. Twenty six councils have become eleven and in May 2011, additional functions will be granted to them.

At present, the 26 councils have responsibility for refuse collection and disposal and leisure services. However, from 2011, the councils will gain control of local development plans, local aspects of roads including street scaping, street lighting, off street parking and permitting local events.

In a further effort to empower local government, registration, repair and demolition of houses in multiple occupation (HMO's) and Travellers transit sites which do not have permanent facilities will also transfer.

Local authorities are funded by rates income, government grants, fees and charges for certain services and private loans. Grants are paid by the Department of the Environment, which, in the main part, are to compensate councils for loss of income due to de-rating certain properties and to give additional finance for those councils with greater need than their wealth.

Councils can also look to government paid specific grants to help in financing capital or long term projects

The position of Mayor or Council Chairman rotates around the parties at council level on a yearly basis. There are currently 11 transition committees being formed to aid in the migration from 26 councils to 11.

As with all bodies responsible for public money, the councils performance is measured by the Northern Ireland Audit Office

*A warm welcome from
the new Director of
CDHN...*

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Director of CDHN. I have been in post since the start of August and I am amazed at the breadth and quality of work being undertaken by the organisation in association with you, the members.

The Building Community Pharmacy Project is going from strength to strength, with the recent expansion consolidating its role in delivering projects which have a real impact on community development and health on the ground. Congratulations to Sharon and her team on their recent award for making an outstanding contribution to community pharmacy services.

The next few years promise exciting times that will not be without challenges; but the opportunities offered by programmes such as our new "Pathways to Health", and indeed the changing health and local government structures will be a main focus of our work. CDHN has, and will continue to play a central role in these developments.

I am delighted to have been appointed, and I look forward to working with you all in the near future. Lastly, I would like to offer my thanks to Ann McGeeney, Interim Director, who has held the fort over the past few months, and has been an invaluable guide and support to me in my first few tentative weeks!!

Best wishes
Joanne Morgan

New Research into the experiences of gay, lesbian and bisexual people...

The Rainbow Project, in partnership with **Cara-Friend**, is carrying out research into the perceptions and experiences of gay, lesbian and bisexual people when accessing GP services. If you are gay, lesbian or bisexual please take ten minutes (max.) to fill in their anonymous online questionnaire at:

www.rainbow-project.org/survey

Paper copies of the survey (with a SAE included) are also available from the Rainbow Belfast office Tel: 9031 9030 and ask for John, Pat or Miriam.

For more information on other work of the Rainbow Project visit their website: www.rainbow-project.org

Living with Parkinson's Disease...

Parkinson's Disease Society has organised an event for **Younger People (aged 65 years and under) living with Parkinson's Disease in Northern Ireland**

Date: Tuesday, 15th September

Time: 11.30am – 4.00pm

Venue: ECOS Centre in Ballymena

For more information, please contact Catherine Murrain, Information and Support Manager on 0844 225 3682 (calls charged at local rate) or email cmurnin@parkinsons.org.uk

Age Awareness Week...

The **Third Age Awareness Week** will happen between **28th September and 2nd October** this year.

The week is organised through the Changing Ageing Partnership in which WEA, Queens University of Ulster, Age Concern Help the Aged and the Age Sector Platform(the project is supported by Atlantic Philanthropies). For information on the full programme of events that will be happening, go to the following web address,

www.ageawarenessweek.com

Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service— Deprivation Measures Update...

The current measure of spatial deprivation, the **Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005** (NI MDM 2005), is being updated. A Consultation Document detailing the proposed changes to the measures was published on 27 July 2009 – please go to **NI MDM 2009 Consultation Document** at http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/mapxtreme_deprivation2005/viewData/NIMDM_2009_Consultation_Document.pdf

A consultation period will run from 27 July to 6 November, giving users of the deprivation measures an opportunity to respond to the proposals. Two public meetings will also be held in September in Omagh and Lisburn. The updated measures will be published in early 2010; until then the NIMDM 2005 remains the official measure of spatial deprivation. Deprivation queries and consultation responses should be directed to: **deprivation.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk**.

Become a Parent's Helpline Volunteer...

Have some spare time? Retired?
Working part-time? Unemployed?

You could use your parenting experience and/or experience of working with families to support parents and children through Parents Helpline. **Accredited preparation courses** are commencing late September 2009 in Belfast and Derry city centres. Becoming a **Parents Helpline Volunteer** offers opportunities to develop knowledge and skills to enhance your personal and professional life, have your learning and development recognised through accreditation, undertake varied and challenging work with a wide range of clients in a well-structured and supported environment, enjoy social activities and use your experience to help parents and safeguard children.

For more information contact **Andrea** on Tel: 028 9031 0891, e-mail andrea@pachelp.org or visit www.parentsadvicecentre.org/volunteering



Consumer Council - New Education Resource...

The **Consumer Council** has launched its new education resource 'Consumer Skills for life'. It is the first consumer resource in Northern Ireland that has been developed to help the one in four adults with low literacy and numeracy skills. It is designed for adult education tutors and staff who are working on family and health projects in the voluntary and community sector. Tutors using this pack can teach people how to work out their budget and make savings as well as compare costs and credit prices for buying goods.

Tutors can request a free copy of **Consumer Skills for Life** from the Consumer Council Tel: 028 9067 2488 or download a copy from the website www.consumerCouncil.org.uk

Health Based Events 2009-10...

NNHAZ (Northern Neighbourhoods Health Action Zone) and Supporting Communities NI are pleased to announce that Health Based Events funding has been secured for 2009-10. Applicants should note that the total allocation per neighbourhood is £1000.

For more information contact NNHAZ at Tel: 028 2531 1212

Legal Service Commission Funding Code...

The **Northern Ireland Legal Service Commission** proposes to implement a new Funding Code for civil legal aid. The proposed reforms are set against the backdrop of emerging proposals for major changes in England Wales and Scotland and will change significantly the way in which such services are delivered.

Historically the system for award of civil legal aid service in Northern Ireland has not distinguished between different types of cases and consequently it has not been possible to target resource towards different type of proceedings or client groups. The Commission believes that effective targeting of resource towards priority groups, individuals and cases is essential in order to secure fair and equal access to justice. A priority is to focus on welfare issues that will enable people to avoid or climb out of social exclusion, including help with housing proceedings and advice relating to debt, employment rights and entitlement to benefits. People in Northern Ireland will directly benefit, but targeting of groups who provide support and advice may also be a factor, particularly in areas such as housing, debt immigration and benefits.

The consultation documents can be accessed via www.nilsc.org and the deadline for submissions for responses is **16th October 2009**

New website of services for homeless people...

Northern Ireland's new website of services for homeless people, www.homelessni.org is researched and published by the **Resource Information Services** in partnership with the **Council for the Homeless NI**. It is primarily a resource for agencies and advisors in contact with homeless people, those in housing need or at risk of becoming homeless and policy makers, planners and researchers. It provides information about advice services, hostels, supported housing projects, housing executive offices, CAB, floating support, job centres and other service for particular client groups.

The aim of the service is to improve referral and access to support services, provide information at an early stage, share knowledge and good practise and aid the planning process for targeting homeless people by providing up to date information on supply of current Services.

For further information please contact Council for the Homeless on Tel: 028 9024 6440

Sharing Our Space -Overcoming division in communities...

Rural Comunity Network and the **Community Relations Council** with support from the **Interface Working Group (IWG)** is holding events to provide an opportunity for the community to comment on a draft working document on the nature of rural interfaces.

All events run from 6.30pm to 8.30pm commencing with buffet on arrival. Event details below:

- 20th October Belmont, Banbridge
- 22nd October City Hotel, Derry
- 26th October Tullyglass Hotel, Ballymena
- 28th October Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh

For more information on this work or to book a place, please contact Bebhinn, Email: bebhinn@ruralcommunitynetwork.org

IFI Community Leadership Programme recruiting...

NICVA, in conjunction with the **International Fund for Ireland (IFI)**, has launched the second year of its successful £2.1 million **Community Leadership Programme** for Northern Ireland and the southern border counties. The Programme is for groups that work with the whole community not single issue groups.

This is a one year leadership journey for groups, and by participating a group and its committee will have the opportunity to build management and leadership skills, achieve accreditation at the Institute of Leadership and Management, CMP certificate from the University of Ulster and receive a bursary of £2,500 (2750 Euro) to develop an application learning project of your choice. **NICVA** want to ensure that groups from across Northern Ireland and the southern border counties have an opportunity to take part.

Groups currently in receipt of IFI revenue funding are not eligible to apply for this programme. Groups interested in the 2010/2011 programme should complete an expression of interest form by **8th October 2009**.

Download the form and find out more www.communityleadershipprogramme.org or call Nuala Muldoon on Tel: 028 9087 7777.

10 Year Celebrations...

Rasharkin Women's Group invites you to join them in Celebrating their 10th Anniversary on **5th September 2009**

There will also be a information on Rasharkin Womens Group, past, present and future and a number activities to keep all the family happy.

The celebration activities are open all. To Register please contact Stephanie on Tel: 028 295 71385

August Member of the Month Glenluce Quality Caring Centre

CONTACT DETAILS:
82 Knocknagoney Avenue
Belfast

Tel: 028 9076 1400
Lynlong.glenluce@googlemail.com

Organisation: Glenluce Quality Caring Centre
Staff contact: Lyn Long

Glenluce Quality Caring Centre is a charitable based organisation, supporting older people in the Knocknagoney, Garniville and Orchard Court areas of East Belfast. The surrounding area has very poor infrastructure and many services are not easily accessed by our target group.

We provide a **Community Based Advocacy Service** and this has been in existence from March 2008, helping older people and carers to improve their quality of life and access to services. This project is run in partnership with many other agencies, both local and regional.

The aim of our work in the advocacy service is to not only improve the quality of life of older and disabled people, but also to encourage social and peer support, stimulating interaction between individuals and groups. We also raise self awareness and highlight the need for self help methods in relation to health and social care needs of clients

From 2008, we have organised and provided a wide range of support and these include: dance exercise, armchair aerobics, stress and relaxation classes, health information sessions, informal coffee mornings , two half days per week drop in for advice/benefits, housing information etc (current times are Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon.). We also provide advice, support, signposting and information every weekday from 9-4pm., a Carers social support group on the first Tuesday of every month, Reminiscesce on Wednesdays, a Men's Drop in centre every Thursdays, and ongoing support for carers.

Contact Lyn Long (Health Advocacy Manager) for more information.

Other services GQCC provide:

Respite Care Service, Befriending Schemes, Light housework with a small charge.

Future Plans...

Plans for the future include increasing knowledge on health and safety and intergenerational work with local schools

Immigration Detention Emergency Helpline—

www.refugeeactiongroup.com

Refugee Action Group has recently launched its Immigration Detention Emergency Helpline. Tel: 0800 8400 495. This free and confidential service is designed to assist people who are stopped and held by

Immigration Officers when travelling to/from or within Northern Ireland. Detainees can contact the Helpline and a trained volunteer will try to notify the detainee's family and to contact an Immigration

Adviser who may be able to assist the detainee in challenging her/his detention. Several NGOs and voluntary sector organizations, such as Law Centre (NI) and Amnesty International, welcome the launch of the Helpline which will provide an invaluable service to detainees.

If you require further information about the Helpline please contact Liz Griffith at: RAG, C/O Law Centre (NI), 124 Donegall Street , Belfast BT1 2GY, Telephone: (028) 9024 4401, Email: eliza-beth.griffith@lawcentreni.org

*Gingerbread's Marks &
Start programme now
available in the North West...*



Gingerbread has been working in partnership with **Mark & Spencer** to deliver the Marks & Start programme in the Belfast area since 2005.

Due to the success of this programme **Gingerbread NI** will be offering the programme in the North West area. This programme aims to help lone parents make an informed decision about whether returning to work is right for them. It also prepares parents for the world of work and refers them to jobs and/or training opportunities.

The programme consist of a three day work preparation training course in Marks & Spencer, (within schools hours), tailored specifically for parents. Areas which will be covered include: developing confidence, employability skills, communication skills and how to ensure the work-life balance; induction training with Marks & Spencer; two-weeks work experience placements within Marks & Spencer, a buddy support system during placements; childcare costs, travel costs, meals, and uniforms will be provided; and support & guidance will be given before, during and after the programme.

If you are an organisation working with one parent families or interested in returning to work, contact **Avril** on **Tel:** 028 90231417 or **email:** avril@gingerbreadni.org