

NWCN



North-West
Community
Network
www.nwcn.org

Annual Report 2016

It is my pleasure to present this annual report as a reflection of what has been another challenging but productive period for your Network.

Each year I try to give some sense of the bigger picture that oversees our activities and worryingly but perhaps not surprisingly that bigger picture is in freeze frame. Over the last 10 years the sector has moved from thriving to surviving, not just because of finance but also changes in policy, government and world economics. Politically there is lip service paid to the value that the 3rd sector provides but strategically and operationally the sectors needs and opportunities are still a poor relation in change.

Understandable therefore that in the midst of all this challenge that we as a sector might lose sight of our ownership of NWCN. It's a not criticism, rather recognition of the perseverance of our members in what has been a slowly evolving and uncertain environment, a perseverance that demands focus on things close to home and suppresses the benefits that can be secured from a single, unified voice working for the needs of perhaps the most dynamic provider group in NI, the Community & Voluntary Sector. I hope today's AGM and our proposals for the next 12-18 months will be the beginning of a change for the good. Firstly however let's look at three landmark experiences in the last 12 months.

In years to come the outcome of the EU membership Vote will either mark this year as the beginning of decline or the beginning of an insightful evolution. On Thursday 23 June 2016 the majority of

UK citizens voted to leave the European Union. In NI the majority thought differently and now wait expectantly for the Governments next move. For many the immediate fears relate to the impact on European funding but the wider implications for infrastructure, rights, equality, deprivation, policy and growth are were the real outcomes have yet to be unveiled.

2015/16 has seen progress in Community Planning in Derry City and Strabane District Council area. NWCN welcomes this and has played its part. Initial meetings of all the local planning groups and the Transition Community Planning Partnership Board have been completed and Chairs have been chosen for all eight DEA/town areas. Draft local plans are currently being worked up, subject to further community input in the near future. The next key stage will be the launch of an overall draft Community Plan for consultation late 2016/early 2017. NWCN encourages everyone to be aware of and to add *your* voice to *your* local plan.

Derry City and Strabane District Council is also bidding for the title of European Youth Capital in 2019. This bid is set in the strategic context of the Community Plan, where efforts have been made to work in the needs of young people. NWCN sits on the Advisory Board of this group and recognizes the hard work and dedication that has gone into the bid to support participation, engagement and civic pride in forthcoming generations. The application deadline approaches fast, the winner to be announced on 16 November 2016.

The work continues and the need for a Network has never been greater, but not a NW Community Network as we currently know it. The last year has seen in-house changes on the Executive - some long-standing members have



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stepped off – after years of sterling service – and it is very pleasing to note that for the space this has created, new faces, ideas and ambitions have steadily come forward. As a network clocking up 22 years of service, the interest in supporting its role and function is invigorating, but we still need more engagement and direction from members. Now is the time to build a new Network for the next 22 years.



I thank all who continue to contribute to NWCN's performance, availing of and offering support and expertise

unconditionally. I welcome aboard our new members and wish the Network Executive luck in shaping the route ahead. New and refreshing ideas are being brought to the table and offer a positive prospect.

Executive Committee members also acknowledge the contribution of our staff team, Colin, Neola and Carol (who provided maternity cover in year). Every ship needs an engine room.

As always, the Network remains alert and active to community and voluntary sector issues in an arena where the only constant is change. While planning future diversification, NWCN commits to pursuing an Active, Inclusive, Influential and Learning Community.

Eamon O'Kane

2015-16 A REVIEW

Another year, another Annual General Meeting and Annual Report, more mileage on the clock. Thus far the year since the last AGM has been steady if not spectacular, crammed with useful activity and intent while consolidating in a period of continuing flux for the Community & Voluntary sector.

Much time and energy has been used this year in assessing where the Network should be pointing its direction in the times ahead. This has been no easy task – and arguably –not yet completed. Of various messages that have been gleaned over the course of the year, directly through the Network's own activities and through continuing engagement with various fora, three have been identified as being of

particular value in informing the Network's future ambitions:

Essentially, community development activity is a response to the impacts of poverty and the marginalisation of sections of our society therefore the Network recommits to an anti-poverty and social exclusion platform.

Structures within government – at all levels – have undergone significant change and this will require continuing attention to and intervention on supporting a healthy infrastructure within the sector and maintaining acceptable levels of capacity. The North West, even in a small region like Northern Ireland, has its own characteristics

Brexit – community engagement events, balanced analysis leading to partisan Remain position. Recent connections in support of collective effort by ESF-funded groups, and founding role in the Breaking



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Down Brexit Campaign

Stakeholder Engagement – Rural / Community Planning Plenaries /

Continuing role in support of Holywell DCCP – good governance, partnership development and identifying new opportunities including online and technological developments

Range of approaches to Community Engagement in determining C&V sector needs e.g. use of Survey Monkey and Mailchimp to identify sector's training needs priorities

In terms of Network resources, you will see from last year's annual accounts that there is a continuing constraint on what the Network might seek to achieve on Community Development activity. That the level of activity – output and impacts – has been sustained at fairly consistent levels on an annual has not necessarily been easy, and relies heavily on a well-practised discipline of working in partnership and collaboration with agencies and organisations with whom the Network has worked hard to build and sustain relationships.



Despite these pressures, that the Network has retained – with a fair wind – core funding for another year is a statement of sorts on the value placed on its achievements and of course standards of governance.

Skills Development

The Network's Executive Committee has been particularly keen in recent years to strike a keen balance between its

footprint at a strategic level in terms of representing the C&V sector at local, NW and regional fronts, and connecting with the sector in ways much more practical and grassroots in nature.

Some examples of how this played out in 2015-16 included the commissioning of a series of Skills Development Workshops in response to a survey of needs expressed by local Community & Voluntary sector groups. The topics covered – in most expert fashion and with the assistance of Community Change – included: Impact Measurement, Tendering & Procurement, Sustainability, Human Resources as well as a One-to-one day of clinics on fundraising tips and strategies. Local feedback on the latter suggest that these clinics over recent years have helped lever in over £3m to the C&V sector in the North West.

Communications & Membership

2015-16 saw some inter-connecting trends in relation to Network communications and membership. There has been ongoing development and refinement of the Network's relatively new website yet its most useful feature has been as an archive of Network communications to which signposting has been an extremely useful tool for member groups looking to refer back to recent communications. There are some views that websites have peaked in terms of their utility but there is a commitment to remaining active on what further improvements or innovations remain to be exploited. Sitting alongside this is the continuing growth of the Network's reach through social media

Leadership Shaping The Future

Cross-sectoral Connections Western Voices

Executive Committee
While welcoming the continuing interest from across the sector from organisations keen to get involved and



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NWCN ACTIVITIES 2015-2016

2015-2016 saw Network involvement in the following range of activities:

Engagement events:

- NW Community Investment Fund Groups
- Shaping The Future of Our Sector (Derry)
- Shaping The Future of Our Sector (Strabane)
- **HLF & Community Change Workshops:**
 - Sustainability Workshop
 - Human Resources
 - Tender and Procurement Workshop
 - Unique Learner Numbers
 - 1-to-1 Fundraising Clinic for groups (x2)
 - Full Cost Recovery
 - Simple Financial Systems
 - Impact Measurement
 - Gift Aid
- **Group Support (examples):**
 - Amelia Earhart Society – Social Media
 - Clooney Soccer School - Fundraising
 - Foyle BME – CCNI Assistance Session
 - Foyle Opera - Governance
 - Include Youth – Communications & referrals
 - SCPH – Strategic Planning
 - WOW – Governance
- 'Adopt a Spot' Litter Pick Up
- NI Assembly Elections – Hustings
- NI Assembly Elections – Hustings – The Young Persons Voice
- Outreach Clinic - ACE
- Local Commissioning Group
- VCSE Advisory Board
- European Referendum Debate
- Voices of Older People Findings Presentation

Policy Submissions:

- Draft Reporting & Guidance (CCNI)
- Housing Together – Building a United Community
- Programme For Government (as member of Holywell DiverseCity Community Partnership)

NWCN has productively engaged with:

- BME Voluntary Collective
- Causeway Rural & Urban Network / North Antrim Community Network
- Community Development & Health Network
- Civic Forum - DCSDC
- Civil Society Network
- Community Development Networks Forum
- Community Development Thematic Working Group
- Community Dialogue /St Columb's Park House / The Junction
- Community Places
- Community Planning – DCSDC
- Community Works Programme
- Culture Tech
- Derry Healthy Cities (Executive Committee)
- DiverseCity Community Partnership
- Dove House
- European Youth Capital Strategy/Advisory Group
- Foyle Women's Information Network
- Garden of Reflection Project (inc. Lunchtime events)
- Joint Government Voluntary & Community Sector Forum
- NICVA Executive Committee
- North West Ageing Well Together Strategy Group
- North West Volunteer Centre
- Personal & Public Involvement (Western & Regional Fora)
- Prince's Trust

Summary of Primary Outputs 2015-16

- **Network-supported events - 34**
- **Participation in Network-supported events – c. 172**
- **E-bulletins – 67 disseminated, incorporating approximately 1340 items to the sector from C&V sector groups as well as public bodies**
- **5 members surveys**
- **Consultation bulletins – 11 disseminated, as well as signposting to best practice materials on consultation and user engagement**



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COMING UP:

This document has assessed what has taken place around the Network in the last year but this becomes most useful when considering – and of course planning - what is coming forward and, resources permitting, you will find below a sample of what the Network will seek to achieve over the next period.

The ambition displayed here is where possible resource neutral while the practicalities are otherwise. In seeking to make the best of limited resources, the energy and innovation of all of NWCN's diverse resources will attempt to deliver:

- Ongoing surveys of C&V sector support and training needs, with two sessions to be delivered by March 2017
- New commission from Western LCG on Unscheduled Care
- Launch of Report from Independence of Voluntary Community Social Enterprise Research
- Co-ordination of Community & Voluntary sector representation on Transition Community Planning Partnership
- Continuing input to NICVA Executive Committee providing collective as well as NW leadership on behalf of the sector
- Community Development Networks Forum (CDNF) – activism and lobbying to maintain and build core community development activity and continued resourcing
- Brexit – continuing engagement on local campaigns to keep awareness and activism levels high, including around potential impacts to EU funded groups and activities (e.g. ESF) and longer-term strategic initiatives such as "Breaking Down Brexit"
- Social Innovation Project (Building Change Trust) – launch & community engagement event
- Resumption of Cross-Border networking via Donegal CoCo
- Community Investment Fund – lobby activity to remove uncertainties around future funding
- Funding opportunities – identification of options to further key aims around: poverty, social exclusion, action research, community infrastructure & capacity building
- Pensions legislation – support sessions to help guide C&V groups through the confusing matter of how to meet employer pensions requirements
- Governance support through working in partnership with Developing good Governance group and Charity Commission NI (next session planned for 26 Oct 2016)
- Network Outreach Clinics with C&V groups across North West to develop understanding of member needs and activities
- EYC19 – active involvement in and contribution to Advisory and stakeholder Group, aspiring to a successful decision late 2016
- Department for Communities – Community capacity and confidence policy hack
- Consultation on Review of Regional Infrastructure Support Programme
- Interagency communications strategy across C&V and public sectors, particularly local government & health
- Communications (audience) growth by 10% per annum
- Ongoing programme of sessions to validate/celebrate C&V sector successes – 2 by March 2017
- Leadership role in Holywell DiverseCity Community Partnership



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NWCN 2015-16 ... HAVE A LOOK



*Community Investment Fund Lobby
Group, Jan 2016*



*Full Cost Recovery
Jan 2016*



*Gift Aid
Mar 2016*



*Human Resources
Nov 2015*



*Impact Measurement
Mar 2016*



*Western Voices
2015-2016*



*Foyle Foodbank Collection
Sep 2016*



*Shaping The Future of our Sector
Strabane, Feb 2016*



*Unique Learner Numbers
Jan 2016*



*Simple, Effective Financial Systems
Jan 2016*



*Active Citizens Engaged
Aug 2016*



*Shaping The Future of our Sector
Derry~Londonderry, Jan 2016*



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North-West Community Network - Membership 2016

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Acorn Fund | 46. Harpurs Hill Children and Family Centre Ltd |
| 2. Action Mental Health Foyle | 47. Headliners NI |
| 3. Action on Hearing Loss | 48. Hillcrest House |
| 4. Ally Foyle | 49. Holywell Trust |
| 5. Amelia Earhart Legacy Association | 50. HURT |
| 6. An Gaelaras | 51. Kinship Care |
| 7. Autism Initiatives | 52. Learmount Community Development Group Ltd |
| 8. Bluecoat School Visitor Centre | 53. Liberty Consortium |
| 9. Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum | 54. Lifestart Foundation Ltd |
| 10. Bridge Accessible Transport | 55. Little Hands Surestart |
| 11. British Red Cross | 56. Maydown Community Association |
| 12. Calms | 57. NI Community Relations |
| 13. CAUSE NI | 58. NI Environment Link |
| 14. Childline Foyle | 59. North West Methodist Mission |
| 15. Children in Crossfire | 60. North West Women's Collective |
| 16. Clady Cross Community Development Association | 61. Oakgrove Integrated College |
| 17. Clooney Soccer School | 62. Off the Streets |
| 18. Columba Community | 63. Rainbow Child and Family Centre |
| 19. COSY Club | 64. Reach Across |
| 20. Council for the Homeless | 65. Rural Community Network |
| 21. Creggan Older People's Snooker Club | 66. Rural North West Community Support |
| 22. Culmore Women's Handcraft Group | 67. Sai Pak Chinese Community Association NW Branch |
| 23. Customised Training Services | 68. SHINE |
| 24. Dennett Interchange | 69. Sion Mills Community Forum |
| 25. Derg Valley Care | 70. Sion Stables |
| 26. Derry Healthy Cities | 71. Sisters of Mercy, Steelstown |
| 27. Derry Well Woman | 72. Sole Purpose Productions |
| 28. Derry Youth and Community Workshop | 73. S.T.E.P.S |
| 29. Disability Action | 74. Strabane and Lifford Women's Centre |
| 30. Easilink Community Transport | 75. Strabane Community Project |
| 31. Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company | 76. Strabane Community Unemployed Group |
| 32. Enterprise North West | 77. Strabane and District Caring Services |
| 33. Extern West | 78. Supporting Communities NI |
| 34. First Act Youth Theatre | 79. The Cedar Foundation |
| 35. First Act Youth Theatre | 80. The Churches Trust |
| 36. Focus on Family | 81. The Men's Advisory Project (MAP) |
| 37. Foyle Child Contact Centre | 82. The Siege Museum |
| 38. Foyle Down Syndrome Trust | 83. The Women's Centre |
| 39. Foyle Hospice | 84. TRIAX |
| 40. Foyle Women's Aid | 85. U3A Foyle |
| 41. Gables, Shelter NI | 86. Waterside Women's Centre |
| 42. Galliagh Community Development Group | 87. Youthlife |
| 43. Groundwork NI | 88. Zest |
| 44. Guildhall Press | |
| 45. Hands That Talk | |



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NWCN INCOME & EXPENDITURE

(as at 31 March 2016)

	31/03/2016 2016	31/03/2015 2015
<u>Restricted Income</u>		
Dept for Social Development	53,010	53,950
Big Lottery Fund	-	108,108
HSCB	-	500
HSBC – Western Voices	3,000	-
NI Human Rights		88
	56,010	162,646
<u>Voluntary Income</u>		
Clever Committee Training	-	2,071
Membership Fees	920	520
	920	2591
Totals	56,930	165,237

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2016	Total 2015
Wages & Salaries	-	46,054	46,054	119,212
Travel	45	1,025	1,070	8,291
Rent	-	3,000	3,000	5,900
Insurance	-	520	520	505
Light & Heat	-	-	-	1,600
Printing, Posting & Stationery	-	213	213	2,221
Advertising	-	-	-	994
Telephone, fax & Internet	-	719	719	729
Conferences & Seminars	-	1,253	1,253	5,685
Redundancy Payments	-	3,500	3,500	-
Consultancy	1,036	86	1,122	15,128
Accountancy	-	720	720	1,200
Training and Course Fees	-	958	958	5,144
Legal & Professional Fees	-	840	840	-
Bank Charges	246	7	253	244
Subscriptions	150	-	150	210
Sundry	140	83	223	707
Depreciation	-	534	534	584
	1,617	59,512	61,129	168,354

<u>Current Liabilities</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Debtors	8,236	5,051
Accruals	990	4,146
	<hr/> 9226	<hr/> 9,197

NWCN BALANCE SHEET

(as at 31 March 2016)

	<u>2016</u>		<u>2015</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets		2,272		2,806
Current Assets				
Debtors	8,236		5,051	
Cash at bank and in hand	20,074		30,080	
	<u>28,310</u>		<u>35,131</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year				
	<u>(990)</u>		<u>(4,146)</u>	
Net current assets		<u>27,320</u>		<u>30,985</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		29,592		33,791
Net assets		<u>29,592</u>		<u>33,791</u>
Reserves				
Restricted		27,228		30,730
Unrestricted		<u>2,364</u>		<u>3,061</u>
		<u>29,592</u>		<u>33,791</u>

NWCN Executive Committee 2015-16

Chair: Eamon O'Kane – Claudy Rural Development Group
Secretary: (Acting) Colin Devine – NWCN Coordinator
Treasurer: Martin Duffy – Derg Valley Care /Patricia Bray- (Interim)

Committee Members 2015-16: Austin Kelly – North West Ageing Well Together; Darren Kirby – Greater Shantallow Area Partnership; Eamon O'Kane - Claudy Rural Development Group; Eamonn Baker – Towards Understanding & Healing; James Knox – Men's Advisory Project (MAP); Kate Clifford – Rural Community Network; Marie Brown – Foyle Women's Aid; Martin Duffy – Derg Valley Care; Patricia Bray – Disability Action; Séamas Heaney – Old Library Trust; Shauna Kelpie – Acorn Fund (Community Foundation NI)



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During this period
NWCN received core & project funding from:



Community
Investment
Fund

North-West Community Network
Holywell – DiverseCity Community Partnership
10-14 Bishop Street
Derry~Londonderry BT48 6PW
Tel: (028) 7127 9090 Email: info@nwcni.org
Web: www.nwcni.org

Co-ordinator

Colin Devine
colin@nwcni.org

Administrator

Neola Nelis McCrossan / Carol Wright
info@nwcni.org



Accountants:

*McGroarty McCafferty &
Company Limited
2 Carlisle Terrace
Derry BT48 6JX*

Banking:

*First Trust Bank
Strand Road
Derry*

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