



## Results from Spring Members' Survey



RCN undertook a membership survey which was carried out online and closed on Friday 26 February 2021. 39 responses were received, a response rate of 15.6%. The survey

was designed to ask groups about some of the key issues they were facing to carry out their work. It also asked them about key priorities in rural Northern Ireland as we recover from the effects of the pandemic. Some of the headline findings were:

- We asked respondents to rank the top three concerns in their community. The top three concerns were firstly health and well-being, second broadband and third community development.
- Respondents were also asked about what the NI Executive should prioritise as they develop the Programme for Government and to help people recover following the pandemic. A wide range of responses were received but investing in health and mental health, rolling out rural broadband connectivity more quickly and supporting grass roots community groups were key priorities.
- Almost 75% of respondents said that they had adapted their work to deliver to local communities due to the pandemic and would either return to what they had been doing or adapt their work using knowledge and experience gained during the pandemic. 6% of respondents reported concern that they had been unable to adapt their work during the pandemic and were unsure how to get re-started again.

A longer report on the findings of the survey will be emailed to members in the coming weeks and we would be happy to hear feedback from our members on the findings.

## Border Sounds



Are you aged 18+ and live near or on the border? Join Making the Future and RCN for a free virtual programme where you will take part in creative Zoom workshops, including story mapping, virtual reality and photography, and share your stories of the border.

The programme starts on **13 April 2021** and runs twice weekly, at 7.00pm - 8.30pm, for three weeks.

**Expressions of interest, contact Laura Aguiar:**

[l.aguiar@nervecentre.org](mailto:l.aguiar@nervecentre.org)

## Programme for Government



The Executive Office is consulting with the public on an updated Programme for Government Outcomes Framework until 22 March.

The Programme for Government Outcomes Framework sets out the high-level outcomes the NI Executive is aiming to achieve through its policies and programmes. The consultation documents are available at:

<https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-programme-government-draft-outcomes-framework>

The Framework sets out nine key outcomes and key priority areas underneath each outcome that the Executive aim to address. Outcomes include:

- Our children and young people have the best start in life
- Everyone can reach their potential
- We all enjoy long, healthy and active lives
- We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment

RCN hosted a workshop on the consultation with TEO officials on 24 February and will be making a response to the consultation. We would encourage our member groups to respond and make their views known. **If you require any further information contact our Policy Officer Aidan Campbell** [aidan@ruralcommunitynetwork.org](mailto:aidan@ruralcommunitynetwork.org)

## Training for Faith organisations

The next series of Training Programmes for Churches and Faith organisations will focus on Fundraising.

Many people need to fundraise for their church or faith group but don't know where to start. This two-part series is a great introduction for people new to fundraising. It will examine where funding can come from, fundraising methods, how to build a case for support and funders who can support your group.

Faith in Fundraising #1: Unrestricted Funding and Fundraising

**Date: Tuesday 16 March 2021 from 10.00-11.00am**

Register here:

<https://www.nicva.org/event/faith-engagement-faith-in-fundraising-unrestricted-funding-and-fundraising>

Faith in Fundraising #2: Grants & Trusts

**Date: Tuesday 23 March 2021 from 10.00-11.00am**

Register here:

<https://www.nicva.org/event/faith-engagement-faith-in-fundraising-grants-trusts>



### BBC Children in Need



The BBC Children in Need Northern Ireland team will be hosting two Zoom information sessions on the current Main and Small grants programmes on:

- **Tuesday 16 March at 3pm**
- **Tuesday 23 March at 12.00pm**

Main and Small Grants programmes can provide grants of up to three years to organisations supporting children and young people aged 18 years and under, experiencing disadvantage through:

1. Illness, distress, abuse or neglect.
2. Any kind of disability.
3. Behavioural or psychological difficulties.
4. Living in poverty or situations of deprivation.

The work they fund make differences in children's lives that help prevent or overcome the effects of the disadvantages they face.

If you would like to attend, email [sinead.tierney@bbc.co.uk](mailto:sinead.tierney@bbc.co.uk)

### BCPP Level 2 funding



BCPP aim is to bring communities together to reduce health inequalities using an asset-based community development approach.

**The closing date for this round of Level 2 funding is 25 March 2021.**

You can download a pack here

<https://www.cdhn.org/bcpp-level-2-application-pack>

If you want to find out more, have a look at these project examples or give CDHN a call on 028 3026 4606.

<https://www.cdhn.org/bcpp-project-examples>

### Quarterly survey on conditions for North-South and East-West

The Centre for Cross Border Studies, is calling on civic society organisations and local authorities in NI and the Republic of Ireland, to participate in their important quarterly survey.

The information provided will be crucial for its understanding of the extent to which the necessary conditions for North-South cooperation are being maintained, and how relations between organisations on the island of Ireland and Great Britain are being safeguarded following the end of the Brexit transition period.

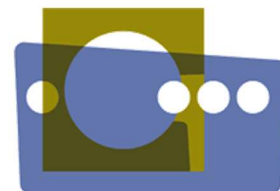
The results of this quarterly survey will be totally anonymised and made available to all. They will also be used by the Centre for Cross Border Studies as it works with other organisations to protect North-South and East-West relations.

To complete the survey, **before 26 March 2021**, go to:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSczcQyOteWU Fv0ljbsJH3w0TXo21OX2yaE\\_2\\_vZVMpHYsVgiw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSczcQyOteWU Fv0ljbsJH3w0TXo21OX2yaE_2_vZVMpHYsVgiw/viewform)

### Community Places Advice Service

## Community Places



Community Places offers free planning advice to people and community groups who cannot afford to pay a private consultant. Advice is independent, impartial and confidential. Advice can be given on:

- How the planning system works (applications; fees; enforcement; appeals)
- Planning policies
- Your council's decision-making process and
- How to comment or object if you think a proposal or a development will have a negative impact on your home or your community.

**If you need planning advice on any issue, ring 07783 649288. There is an option for a video call if you prefer or email [info@communityplaces.info](mailto:info@communityplaces.info)**