



Rural Community Network
SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES



HOLYWELL
TRUST



INVESTING IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

PUTTING PEOPLE IN
THE LEAD

Training Programme

Introduction to Community Development

This workshop will introduce you to community development and develop your knowledge of how community organisations can strengthen civil society by prioritising the action of communities, and their perspectives in the development of social, economic and environmental policy. This will include exploring how community development can empower local communities, including both geographical communities and communities of interest or identity and communities organising around specific themes or policy initiatives.

28th January - 19:00-21:00 - via Zoom

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders include individuals and organisations that will support, use services, finance or live alongside it. Engaging Stakeholders is critical, engaging Stakeholders – those who can affect or be affected by your community project or organisation is of vital importance. This workshop will provide you with guidance on what steps you can take to successfully engage with stakeholders.

11th February - 19:00-21:00 - via Zoom

Fundraising and Income Development

A decline in grants and funding means organisations must re-think and diversify their income. This workshop will provide guidance on the income options available to community and voluntary organisations.

24th February - 19:30-21:00 - via Zoom

An ambitious five-year £500,000 project which includes new and specific qualifications that support the next generation of leaders, to build their capacity to respond and react confidently to the challenges they face and give them the skills they need to make sure community voices are heard when working with statutory organisations.

This has the potential to make an important contribution to the future of the VCSE sector in the West and is managed by three organisations based in the West of Northern Ireland - Fermanagh Trust in partnership with Holywell Trust in Derry/Londonderry and the Rural Community Network a regional support organisation that is based in Cookstown.

For more info or to register a place on any course contact:



leadership@fermanaghtrust.org



028 66 320 210



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Facilitate Effective Meetings

Management Committee meetings are vital to the effective functioning of the committee and its ability to carry out its role. This workshop will provide guidance including how to on plan meetings, the Secretary's role, effective Chairing, and decision-making.

11th March - 19:30-21:00 -(Room/Zoom tbc)

Blunders For Funders

A practical workshop, this session will help you develop an understanding of what funders are interested in, explore and highlight some of the 'blunders' which result in your applications failing to gain support.

20th April - 19:30-21:00 - (Room/Zoom tbc)

Social Media - How can it benefit my community?

Effective Social Media is increasingly important to the success of community-based organisations. This workshop will provide participants to learn both the range of online technologies and how social media can be utilised to share information about your work in the community, engage with, interact with, and develop linkages with the wider community.

6th May - 19:30-21:00 - (Room/Zoom tbc)

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Succession Planning

The Community & Voluntary Sector is driven by passionate committed people who are determined to make a positive difference in their community. However, what happens when key members are no longer able to be part of the workforce? How can Community Groups look at succession planning as a way of thinking about how to 'future-proof' their organisations. This is a discussion event on this issue providing tips and ideas about how local groups can think about encouraging new members and training existing members to take on positions of responsibility.

3rd June - 19:30-21:00 -(Room/Zoom tbc)

Lunchtime Sessions:

Taking a closer look a viable route into the sector and insights into the career pathways of several practitioners. Discussion will highlight relevant courses, qualifications and opportunities which steer individuals towards success. If you've considered a change of career, making the move from volunteer to employee, or are simply interested in knowing more about working in community development - this lunchtime session will be of interest.

16th February - 13:00 via Zoom

Mediation - Handling Conflict

Provides an opportunity to learn strategies to manage conflict more effectively. This course provides an opportunity to learn skills to deal with difficult situations and everyday conflict. Understanding conflict, styles in conflict, conflict skills and processing conflict are all covered. Learning outcomes include:

- Understanding the principles and practice of Mediation.
- Understanding how, when, why and where to use Mediation.
- Understanding Conflict - giving insights into the structure & progression of conflict.
- Self-Awareness - looking at personal conflict styles & attitudes.
- Conflict Skills & Strategies - exploring useful approaches to conflict situations.

September 2021. Venue TBC

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Facilitative Leadership

Lead in a way that inspires, invites participation, and builds commitment.

This course will develop practical collaborative skills and tools for linking and supporting the creativity, experience, and commitment of volunteers, staff and communities. The course will also provide participants with a forum in which to explore their challenges and aspirations as leaders.

October 2021. Venue TBC

Grant Making Apprentice Programme

Enables young people aged 16-25 to make a positive impact on causes they care about, develop skills and knowledge to become active and empowered future leaders and influencers.

Young people will:

- Participate in a varied programme of Team building, Individual & Group work Activities
- Champion, promote and allocate funding to an area of particular personal interest to make a positive contribution to local, wider community and / or society.
- Work with others to develop a wide range of new skills and make a positive contribution to their community.

At weekly meetings and workshops Apprentices work with others to gain the knowledge and skills required for identifying issues or concerns in their community, researching, negotiating priorities, and ultimately working as a team to make a positive and meaningful contribution. As a result of participating Apprentices will develop a wide variety of skills and experience which will increase confidence, knowledge, skills and interest in their community.

Recruitment for the 2021 cohort of Grant-Maker Apprentices will commence August / September 2021

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Diploma in Community Development Practice

Working with NUI Galway, RCN plans to bring the Pre-Graduate Diploma in Community Development Practice to the region. The first 32-week Diploma course begins September 2021.

A practical course, preparing those taking part to explore the full compliment of issues facing the voluntary and community sector. Modules include Good Practice in Community Development, Understanding Group Work, Understanding Policy, Research, and elements of Peacebuilding.

Recruitment will commence April 2021. The course will be taught and co-ordinated by Kate Clifford of RCN and will have an intake of up to 25 students. Entry requirement is simply that those taking part are actively involved in community develop in their own areas, either as a volunteer or as a worker.

This course is aimed at those who wish to improve their understanding in Community Development and may also support people who are looking to gain a formal qualification in Community Development for career progression in the sector.

Recruitment for the 2021 Course will take in May and June 2020

Future Leaders

This programme is targeted at non-politically aligned individuals who feel that they have leadership potential and would like to make a positive difference within their communities. The participant-led Future Leaders programme seeks to upskill, enhance networking opportunities, and explore challenging issues which are relevant to the group - in turn, creating a cohort of people who are equipped with the skills, capacity and confidence to take the lead within the community. Participants will deliver community projects developed and delivered in small groups.

Recruitment for the 2021 cohort of Future Leaders will commence April / May 2021