



Supporting Communities NI

69th Edition of E-Biz

6th July 2015

Karen Brewster

6th June 1975 - 26th June 2015



It was with a great sense of loss and sadness that the Board and Staff of SCNI learned of the untimely passing of our close friend and work colleague Karen Brewster on Friday 26th June 2015. Karen had been ill for some time but she had come to bear that illness with her customary resilience, fortitude and good humour. Karen was held in the highest regard by all of us who worked with her and we all came to appreciate her dedication to the job and her colleagues, her famous 'lists of things to do' but also for her endearing sense of humour which was fun, sometimes mischievous, but always delightful.

Karen joined SCNI in 2001 as a Liaison Officer initially covering the Fermanagh and Dungannon districts then taking on additional responsibility for Omagh district in 2005. Before joining SCNI, Karen worked with the Housing Executive in their Grants Section in MacAllister House, Omagh. Such was Karen's easy going personality that she immediately fitted into her new surroundings making friends with not only her SCNI work colleagues but also everyone in Kilmacormick Resource Centre where Karen was based for the whole of her career with SCNI. These friendships, whilst forged at work, extended beyond the workplace with close bonds made with so many people over the 14 years that Karen was with us.

From the moment Karen became part of the SCNI team, she displayed the tremendous commitment and enthusiasm for her work which we all came to associate her with, working tirelessly for the communities she served and forging close working relations with the various statutory agencies which she supported. She was held in extremely high esteem by both the community and statutory sectors in Dungannon, Omagh and Fermanagh and this was reflected in various roles and positions of responsibility which Karen held, including Chairperson of the Enniskillen Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and Chair of many Inter Agency Forums across these three Districts. Her dedication and commitment to her work was also recognised within SCNI when she undertook a Senior Team Leader role by supporting and guiding a Team of Liaison Officers to share the same passion work ethos and principles as herself.

Karen continually went far beyond what was expected of her role in order to help the many community groups which she supported, helping to train and empower many committee members and assist them to apply for funding in order to make a difference in the areas they represented. Despite her life being cruelly cut short, Karen's involvement with and input into all of the community associations she worked with will remain for many years to come where she leaves a legacy of confident committees, vibrant communities and estates where new community facilities, play areas and social programmes were created and developed as a direct result of the help and support provided by Karen.

Despite her illness, Karen continued to show tremendous courage, dignity, humility and loyalty – values that have left an indelible impression among all of us in SCNI and which we will continue to fulfil and deliver in her honour.

The Board and Staff of SCNI extend our heartfelt sympathies to Karen's husband Dermot and children Katie and Eoghan and her entire family circle.

May She Rest in Peace

Queen's Honour bestowed on SCNI Board Member, Linda Watson

One of SCNI's Board Members and longstanding member of the Central Housing Forum, Linda Watson, has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for work in transforming her community of Caw/Nelson Drive.



Linda is currently Co-Ordinator of Caw/Nelson Drive Action Group in Lerry and has been involved in the association since 1998. She has driven the Caw/Nelson Drive Action Plan for the improvement of the area and has also been involved in diversionary projects over the last two years, resulting in the removal of contentious murals, graffiti and painting on footpaths.

On the announcement of the Award, Michael Kelly, SCNI's Chair offered the congratulations of the Board and Staff Team to Linda saying; *"Linda has been given due recognition for all her commitment and hard work in her local community and also in part for her many years service to housing through the various roles she has played as part of the Housing Community Network; including Chair of both the Central Housing Forum and West Area Tenant Scrutiny Panel."*

Charity Commission publishes new equality guidance for charities

Northern Ireland's charity regulator has published new guidance to support charities in understanding the complexities of equality legislation as it affects them.

The guidance is a vital resource for anyone starting or running a charity in Northern Ireland today.

Frances McCandless, Chief Executive of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, commented: *"Charity trustees have a duty to ensure their charity complies with all aspects of the law as it affects them. That's why it is so important trustees, their staff, service users and supporters understand how charities may be affected by the equality obligations contained in Northern Ireland legislation. Our guidance covers the often complex intersection between charity and equality law, providing information on key issues, including what exceptions apply to charities and what is and isn't acceptable under the law."*



Equality legislation requires service providers, including charities, not to discriminate on certain grounds when they provide services to the public.

There are, however, some exceptions for charities which allow them to be established or operate for the benefit of certain groups of people, and not others.

The new Equality guidance for charities provides an overview of these key aspects of equality legislation as well as signposting to relevant support.

The guidance is available at:

<http://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk/charity-essentials/equality-guidance-for-charities/>

Consultation

Consultation on Human Trafficking

Department of Justice

<http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/public-consultations/current-consultations/consultation-on-human-trafficking.htm>

Closing date: 21st August 2015

Assembly News



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Assembly Business

At the full meeting of the Assembly held on Monday 15th June the Minister for Social Development, Mr Mervyn Storey MLA responded to questions on Asset Disposal by the DSD, Urban Regeneration Resources, Social Housing New-build Programme, Pavement Furniture and pedestrian access, Independent Advice Sector Funding and Welfare Reform.

The report can be accessed at;

<http://niassembly.gov.uk>

Committee for Social Development Meeting

The Committee for Social Development met on Thursday 25th June 2015 at 10am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Committee received a departmental briefing on the Tenant Participation Strategy of the Social Housing Reform Programme. During the course of the briefing the Chair and some members of the Committee as well as DSD officials recognized the contribution to the consultation made by SCNI and community representatives.

The Department also briefed the Committee on the Supporting People Review Findings and provided the Committee with an update on the Northside Regeneration Project.

The briefing can be accessed on audio and video at;

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committees/social-development/meetings/25-june-2015/>

The committee has been considering the Regeneration Bill and the final report prepared; minutes of the meetings and the minutes of evidence are available on the Assembly website at;

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committees/social-development/>

The full report is available at; <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/reports/social-development/report-on-the-regeneration-bill.pdf>



Westminster Parliamentary Outreach



www.parliament.uk

On 29th and 30th July, the Westminster Parliamentary Outreach Service will be delivering a 2 day training course as part of the 'Training the Trainer' programme at Parliament Buildings, Belfast. The programme is based around a training resource which has been designed so that organisations are able themselves to deliver training and information about Parliament and how people can engage effectively.

The resource consists of the following 11 modules and each module includes a session plan, presentation and group exercises. The modules are designed so that they can be delivered either in sequence or stand alone.

- What is Democracy
- What is Parliament
- What is Government
- What is the House of Commons and the role of an MP
- What is the House of Lords and the role of a Lord
- How is a law made
- Local / National link
- How to engage effectively
- Select Committee
- The devolved assemblies
- The link between the European Parliament and the UK Parliament

This resource is completely free of charge; however, they ask that organisations sign a user agreement whereby they provide them with regular feedback as to how they are using the resource.

If you would be interested in attending this training and accessing the resource please complete the attached application form and return it to parliamentaryoutreach@parliament.uk

Charity regulator to hold first public meeting in Belfast

Northern Ireland's independent charity regulator, the Charity Commission, will hold its first public meeting on Monday 21st September 2015 at the Duncairn Centre in Belfast. The meeting will provide an opportunity for anyone with an interest in charities to catch up on the progress of the Commission over the previous 12 months, as well as meet Northern Ireland's Charity Commissioners.

Attendees will be given an overview of the Commission's activities and future plans by Chief Commissioner, Tom McGrath, and Frances McCandless, Commission Chief Executive. There will also be a guest lecture by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland, John F Larkin QC. The meeting, the first in what will be an annual public meeting for the Commission, will take place on Monday 21st September, from 3pm to 5pm, at the Duncairn Centre, Duncairn Avenue, Belfast, BT14 6BP.

To confirm your attendance, please email admin@charitycommissionni.org.uk



Housing Rights Training Courses



Tenancy Deposit Disputes in the PRS

Belfast - Housing Rights Wednesday, 29th July 2015 - 10.00am to 1.00pm

Northern Ireland's tenancy deposit scheme has been in place since April 1 2013. As part of the scheme adjudicators are appointed by administrators to facilitate dispute resolution.

Housing Rights will have a representative from TDS Northern Ireland, one of the administrators appointed by the Department for Social Development, delivering this session. There will be a focus on practical matters aimed at avoiding disputes but also an explanation of the process when a dispute does arise.

Dealing with Housing Problems in the Small Claims Court

Belfast - Housing Rights Monday, 3rd August 2015 - 10.00am to 1.00pm

Derry - Holywell Trust Tuesday, 4th August 2015 - 10.00am to 1.00pm

Whether it's to recover a deposit, repairing issues or enforcing other legal rights; Often people feel that their only course of redress is to go to court. The small claims court procedure is designed to be used by individuals and organisations to enable them to access justice more quickly and with less expense than more traditional court procedures.

For more information on Housing Rights Training Courses and seminars, go to;
<http://www.housingrights.org.uk/training-events>

Could you Advise a Client About Discrimination?

Equality Commission

FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The Equality Commission for NI provide free basic legal training for advisory organisations, their staff and volunteers. They provide a basic overview of the equality law and aim to help you recognise unlawful discrimination, make a complaint and use the Commission's referral system - what their legal team can do for you, how they decide which cases to support - introduction to equality law - how Industrial Tribunals work and what to expect - find out if discrimination occurred and what the remedies are.

If you are interested in setting up a legal training session for your organisation, please contact mkitson@equalityni.org.

Find out more about the Equality Commissions services to advisors via their website at;
<http://www.equalityni.org/Employers-Service-Providers/Training>

Publications

Tenants right to compensation for repairs and improvements in social housing

Housing Rights Solicitor Carmel Ferguson explains when tenants are entitled to compensation for improvements they've carried out to their rented homes and how important it is to get written permission before starting work.

See more at:

<http://www.housingrights.org.uk/news/tenant-right-compensation-repairs-and-improvements-social-housing#sthash.aj9DaxB7.dpuf>

The logo for Scope NI, featuring the word "Scope" in a large, bold, black serif font, followed by "NI" in a smaller, bold, black sans-serif font inside a red circle.

New Issue of Scope Magazine

The June edition of NICVA's social policy magazine, Scope, is out now. Articles this month include a look at the aftermath of the election in South Antrim and Upper Bann, the new Minister at DHSSPS, Welfare Reform and the role of Special Advisors.

Subscribe to Scope via the website at;

<http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=5838488b4625db6430a7f34bb&id=7aa9384795>

NIEL Assembly News

Keep up to date with all the environment related news and events taking place at Stormont. To see the main agenda items to be discussed this week at the Assembly and view

NIEL's monthly review of the outcome of various Statements, Debates and Questions on environmental issues go to; <http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/news/assembly-news/>



Law Centre (NI) 

Law Centre NI

The June e-newsletter is now available from the Law Centre NI. To view and to share, go to; <http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ae690a33dc6a1581f08bf755b&id=a622972a60>

National Energy Action NI

The latest edition of the newsletter from National Energy Action NI has just been published. This newsletter is sponsored by the Public Health Agency through the Northern Exposure project.



Campaigning for Warm Homes

It will provide you with current programmes of work aimed at providing advice or support to householders as well as up to date fuel poverty policy information.

All editions of the newsletter can be located on the NEA NI website using the link below:
<http://www.nea.org.uk/nea-northern-ireland/see-us-in-action/NEA+NI+Newsletter>

NI Policing Board

The Policing Board has published the June edition of its magazine, Policing Matters. To download a copy and to share, go to;

http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/policing_matters_june_15.pdf

Social Investment in Northern Ireland

June Newsletter

Ulster Community Investment Trust

- ◆ Social Investment in Northern Ireland
- ◆ DTNI project secures UCIT loan
- ◆ Ards Rugby Club scores with UCIT loan
- ◆ Social Finance - Recent loans approved by UCIT
- ◆ West Belfast Social Enterprise Hub



Financing
Social
Enterprise

To access the Newsletter go to; <http://www.ucittd.com/ni-home.html>



FUNDING

Sport Northern Ireland launches 2015 Coaching Awards

Sport NI are calling on the public to nominate coaches and coaching organisations that have made a big impact on sport over the past 12 months. The Sport NI Coaching Awards highlight the huge importance of coaches and the role they play in supporting people to engage, enjoy and excel in sport. There are eight categories, allowing the contribution of coaches to be acknowledged and recognised, from grassroots right through to high performance level.

Awards for Coaches...

- ◆ Children's Coach of the Year
- ◆ Community Coach of the Year
- ◆ Disability Coach of the Year
- ◆ Female Coach of the Year
- ◆ Young Coach of the Year
- ◆ Talent Development Coach of the Year
- ◆ High Performance Coach of the Year
- ◆ Club Performance Coach of the Year

How to nominate

To nominate a coach or project, please visit www.sportni.net for guidance information and nomination forms for all award categories.

Completed application forms must be returned via email or post by 4.00pm on Friday 10th July 2015

Heritage Lottery Fund - Funding for Anniversaries

The Heritage Lottery Fund provides funding for projects to mark anniversaries of all kinds.

Grants start at £3,000. Groups and organisations can apply under our Sharing Heritage, Our Heritage, Young Roots and Heritage Grants programmes.

For more information please call the anniversaries enquiry line on 020 7591 6044 or email anniversaries@hlf.org.uk.

Alternatively please contact your local HLF office.

HLF has already funded a number of projects linked to anniversaries, from the internationally important Bicentenary of the Abolition of the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Act in 2007 and the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo in 2015.

If your group is thinking about getting an anniversary project funded, then please visit the link : www.hlf.org.uk/about-us/news-features/funding-anniversaries#.VYFavRHJDIW

Mars Milk Sports Fund

Every month the Mars Milk Fund will be donating cash awards to sports individuals and clubs in need of extra funding. Whether you need new kit, travel costs, extra pitch time, coaches, training or competition entry fees, just let them know how they can help via the application form available at the website.

At the end of each month, from May to September, ten applicants will receive an award of £300. The entry that gains the most support in any given month winning the People's Choice award of £1,000

Criteria

The fund is open to residents of and clubs and organisations based in the UK and Republic of Ireland only.

Applicants must be 13 years or over and only one application will be accepted per person, club or organisation.

To be in with a chance of winning, simply tell MARS in less than 200 words how £300 would help you

How to apply

Applications to the fund can be made on the MARS Milk website www.marsmilk.com