

# Funding Bulletin



## RBS Skills and Opportunities Fund

The RBS Skills and Opportunities Fund opened on Monday 24 August and is open until noon on Friday 11 September. The fund is open for applications from charities, social enterprises, community groups and state-funded schools and colleges based in the UK and Ireland.

The RBS Skills & Opportunities Fund commits £2.5m per year to fund projects aimed at helping people to learn new skills, get into work or start a business. Ulster Bank will distribute £220,000 per year for the next three years to support inspiring projects across the Island of Ireland. Having funded five projects this year so far, Ulster Bank is inviting applications to this second round for small local projects (ranging from £1,000/€1,400 and upwards) dedicated to making a difference in disadvantaged communities across Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Once the application period has closed, Ulster Bank will publish a list of all the projects shortlisted for funding online. Voting will then be open to the public between Friday 30 October & Friday 6 November and the successful projects will receive funding in December this year.

Ulster Bank wants to support as many people and organisations as possible. So even if it does not shortlist your project, it may be able to help you in other ways. This might include offering its skills and expertise to help you get your project off the ground in addition to a grant.

### How to Apply

To be eligible for this type of support, make sure your project meets the regional priorities and the set criteria, and – where Ulster Bank believes it can add value and your project has particular merit – it will contact you.

You can find out more about the winners and keep up to date with the progress of their projects at [www.skillsandopportunitiesfund.ulsterbank.com](http://www.skillsandopportunitiesfund.ulsterbank.com)

Full details of eligibility and criteria are provided at [communityfoundationni.org](http://communityfoundationni.org)

**The deadline for completed applications is Friday 11 September at 12 noon.**

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## Live Here Love Here small grants scheme

Grant applications for the 2015 Live Here Love Here small grants scheme are now open.

Live Here Love Here is a partnership between Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, the Department of the Environment, participating local Councils, and Tourism Northern Ireland. The Small Grants Scheme awards grants from £500 up to £5000 and aims to support volunteers undertaking practical actions to do at least one of the following:

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- Improve the quality of your local environment
- Enhance the environmental management of a local area
- Contribute to the development of civic pride within a community with a focus on environmental improvement
- Improve the environment around coastal areas or inland waterways

Groups which have previously received support from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful can apply, and you can make more than one application. They strongly encourage Partnership Working and welcome your application.

The Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme is open to volunteer and community groups, all schools and third level education organisations, youth groups and sports clubs.

To be eligible groups should be embedded in their local community, and their primary aims and objectives should be focused on the benefit to the community. The scheme will only accept applications from groups operating in the following Council areas:

- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
- Ards and North Down Borough Council
- Belfast City Council
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (Through the Down Your Street programme)

To qualify for the grant the project work must be undertaken within the boundaries of the participating Council areas (as listed) by local volunteer groups, schools, or third level education organisation operating within those Council areas.

## How to Apply

For more information on how to apply please visit:  
<http://www.liveherelovehere.org/Small-Grants.aspx>

**The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Monday 28th September.**

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## EC Rural Development Programme

The European Commission has approved the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020 for Northern Ireland on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2015 enabling up to £623m of funding to become available in the sector.

Agriculture Minister Michelle O'Neill has welcomed the news saying it would help improve farming businesses, protect the environment and support rural development projects.

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In July 2014, Executive approval was granted for the Rural Development Programme containing support worth up to 623m. This consisted of:

- Up to £257m for improving the competitiveness of the NI farm and agri-food businesses, including up to £220m for a farm business improvement scheme
- Up to £249m for protecting and enhancing our natural environment including £100m for an environmental farming scheme
- £80m for broader rural development measures, including £70m of support delivered through local action groups

For more information on the Rural Development Programme please visit:

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/rural-development/rdp.htm>

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## Erasmus + European Youth Mobility funding

Erasmus+ is the new programme combining all the EU's current schemes for education, training, youth and sport, which started in January 2014 and runs until 2020.

There are a wide range of different funding opportunities under Erasmus+ for youth organisations and groups working with young people. Organisations working with young people outside the formal education sector can apply to the youth strand. Funds are given to support activity called learning mobility which is a planned learning activity in another country. This part of Key Action 1 is managed in the UK by the British Council as part of the UK National Agency.

There is €2.4 million of funding remaining in 2015 for Erasmus+ Key Action 1 youth mobility activities across Programme Countries for youth exchange or European Voluntary Service (EVS) projects.

There are three types of learning mobility activities for youth: youth exchanges; European Voluntary Service (EVS); and training/networking for youth workers. One or more activities can be combined into a mobility project, with a UK organisation or in some cases, an informal group of young people working in partnership with one or more organisations from the Erasmus+ participating countries.

Overall, projects last from between one to two years. For young people this could mean up to a year abroad as a volunteer, while for youth workers it could be as little as two days abroad on training.

- **Youth exchanges**

Youth exchanges allow groups of young people (aged 13 to 30) from different countries to meet and live together for up to 21 days. During a youth exchange, participants work together on a chosen topic through a mix of

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workshops, exercises, debates, role-plays, simulations, outdoor activities etc. designed and prepared by them before the exchange.

- **Volunteering abroad – European Voluntary Service**

This activity allows young people aged 18-30 to take part in unpaid and full-time voluntary service for up to 12 months in another country within or outside the European Union. Young volunteers are given the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organisations and bring community benefit, as well as develop their own skills. Voluntary service may take place in health and social care, environmental conservation or other community projects. A project can include between 1 and 30 volunteers who can do their voluntary service either individually or in a group.

- **Training and networking for youth workers**

This activity supports the professional development of youth workers when they take part in:

- seminars, training courses, contact-making events and study visits;
- a job shadowing/observation period abroad in an organisation active in the youth field.

## Who can apply?

UK organisations active in the youth field can participate in a youth mobility project and informal groups of young people are also eligible to apply for funding under this Action.

## How to Apply

If you have not applied for funding before, please visit the 'before you apply' page for more information

<https://erasmusplus.org.uk/before-you-apply>

For more information on Youth Mobility Funding please visit:

<https://erasmusplus.org.uk/apply-for-youth-mobility-funding>

**The last deadline of 2015 for this type of activity in is 1 October at 11am**

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## King George VI Youth Awards

The King George VI Youth Awards have been helping young people in Northern Ireland for over 20 years. The King George VI Youth Council is responsible for 2 awards for young people – the sports awards, administered by the Sports Council NI and the youth awards, administered by Youthnet.

The Youth Awards are open to young people aged 14 – 21 and either individuals or groups can apply. The maximum award is £500 and applications are considered by a panel which meets at least 4 times per year. The panel is made up of representatives of Youthnet member organisations.

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## Who can apply?

- young people aged between 14 and 21
- groups or individuals can apply.
- you must be resident in Northern Ireland.

## What can I apply for?

You can apply for almost any youth work activity, which should be linked to the aims of the NI Youth Work Curriculum with some exceptions such as travel for activities taking place within Northern Ireland, Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland only.

## Sport

Applications for sport will only be considered where the applicant can show that the sport is part of a curriculum based youth work programme. Individuals making an application for sports activity or coaching must be able to demonstrate that they will pass their skills on to a youth group. Single activity sports groups/clubs are not eligible for an Award. Applications for the purchase of equipment should be directly related to training or youth work provision for young people.

## You should show some evidence of fund raising on your application

## How to Apply

Applications will be considered by the Awards Panel which meet usually 4 times each year. The date of the next meeting is posted on their website. For more information please visit:

[www.youthnetni.org.uk/King-George-VI-Awards-8106.html](http://www.youthnetni.org.uk/King-George-VI-Awards-8106.html)

**The next deadline for submission of completed application is 12 October 2015**

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## Institute of Fundraising – Research Project Launch

### Launch of the Research Project into Fundraising in Northern Ireland & Focus Group Discussion

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 8.30am – 10.30am, RSM McClure Watters, Belfast**

The Institute of Fundraising Northern Ireland committee, in partnership with RSM McClure Watters, would like to invite you to the launch of our research project examining fundraising in Northern Ireland.

The purpose of this research project is to understand who are the fundraisers raising over £742million every year in Northern Ireland and to identify their development, training and support needs to improve fundraising in the region.

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Part of this research involves focus group discussions with fundraisers, the first of which will take place as part of the launch on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September. They encourage anyone working in fundraising in Northern Ireland to attend.

To book your place please visit –

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/launch-of-the-research-into-fundraising-in-northern-ireland-focus-group-discussion-tickets-18241124695>

Please note it is necessary to book in order to attend and spaces are limited.

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## **BBC Children in Need Funding Information Session - Strabane**

BBC Children in Need is hosting an information event on Tuesday 8 September, 2015 in the Alley Theatre in Strabane.

There will be two sessions, 3.00-5.00pm and 6.00-8.00pm and refreshments will be available.

All projects working with disadvantaged children and young people in the Strabane area are warmly invited to attend. At the event, staff from BBC Children in Need will give details of funding opportunities and how to apply, and will offer individual, short meetings with groups who want to discuss their ideas.

### **How to Book**

Please contact [Siobhan.McKenna@bbc.co.uk](mailto:Siobhan.McKenna@bbc.co.uk) or telephone **028 9033 8221** to book your slot and to register to attend.

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## **Belfast City Council Age friendly Older Volunteer Awards open for nominations**

Belfast City Council's Age friendly Older Volunteer Awards are open for nominations from Monday 14 September. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year groups and organisations from across the city have had the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the difference older volunteers make to their work and to life in the city. To be eligible for nomination volunteers must be aged 60 and over.

.Awards will be presented in 5 categories:

- **Older Volunteer of the Year Award** – this award recognises an individual volunteer whose contribution over the last 12 months (October 2014 to September 2015), has made a significant difference to the organisation, services users or other volunteers around them.
- **Marie Mathews Participation Award** – this recognises an individual volunteer who is a perfect example of volunteering, either through their participation as a volunteer or through their involvement as a volunteer

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encouraging others to participate. It can also be someone whose length of service deserves recognition.

- **The Arts and Culture Award** – this recognises an individual volunteer who gives their time in the arts and cultural sector.
- **Team or Group Award** – this recognises a team or group of volunteers delivering a specific project, programme or working within the same section or part of a group or organisation.
- **Intergenerational Award** – this award recognises a team or group of volunteers who support or deliver a project involving different age groups.

These Awards are part of work to make Belfast an Age friendly City and are supported by Volunteer Now.

## How to Nominate

Nomination forms and guidance notes are available at [www.belfastcity.gov.uk/volunteering](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/volunteering). For more information contact Tracy Mawhinney at 028 9032 0202 ext 3775 or e mail [mawhinneyt@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:mawhinneyt@belfastcity.gov.uk).

**The deadline for nominations is Friday 23 October.**

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*For further information please contact James Laverty, Facilitation, Training and Development Officer, Community Change on 028 9023 2587 or [james.laverty@communitychange-ni.org](mailto:james.laverty@communitychange-ni.org)*

***The funding bulletin is a FREE fortnightly service to Community Change members .***

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