

Belfast Agenda VCSE Panel Refresh 2025- 2029

**Information Session
Monday 27 January**

WELCOME **AND** INTRODUCTIONS

- **Susan Glass:** **NICVA**
- **John Tully:** **Belfast City Council**

PROGRAMME

John Tully

- ▶ Belfast Agenda
- ▶ Background and role of the VCSE Sectoral Advisory Panel
- ▶ Terms of Reference
- ▶ VCSE Advisory Panel Refresh

PROGRAMME

Susan Glass

- Nomination and Selection Process
- Key Dates
- Selection Criteria
- Selection Panel
- Application Pack

Your Questions and Comments

JOHN TULLY

Director of City and Organisational
Strategy, Belfast City Council

Refreshed Belfast Agenda (2024-28)





Background and Role of the VCSE Advisory Panel

- VCSE Advisory Panel was established in **February 2020** for a four-year term (extended by 1 year due to COVID-19)
- Articulate the voice of the sector in strategic planning
- Support the development of cross-sectoral relationships and improved partnership working
- Promote ongoing and effective engagement in community planning
- During its first term the Panel has played a key role in helping to drive forward the Belfast Agenda

Terms of Reference

- Drafted in 2019
- Set out: role and purpose of VCSE Panel; values and code of conduct; roles and responsibilities of panel members, Chair and Vice-Chair; Membership; Operational details; Reporting arrangements; and ways of working
- The Terms of Reference will be updated to better represent the aims of the Belfast Agenda and the diverse nature of the sector and the people of the city
- Approved by the new Panel

VCSE Advisory Panel Refresh

- Refresh will increase size from 15 to up to 30 members to:
 - reflect diverse nature of the sector
 - ensure appropriate geographic and area-based representation
 - more closely align membership with the five thematic areas and 15 priorities agreed in the updated Belfast Agenda
- Four-year term from April 2025 to March 2029

VCSE Advisory Panel Refresh

- Membership drawn from VCSE organisations and groups operating within the Belfast local government district boundary
- **Balanced VCSE sectoral representation across:**
 - Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships – 10 places (minimum)
 - Belfast Agenda Themes and Priorities – 15 places
 - Section 75 and Minoritised Voices – 5 places
 - Reserve List – up to 10 places
- Support in place to ensure the process is as accessible as possible
contact susan.glass@nicva.org

Current VCSE Panel Members

Barnardos	Dearbhla Holohan
Belfast Hills Partnership	Jim Bradley
Ashton Trust	Irene Sherry (Chair)
EBCDA	Michael Briggs
GEMS NI	Susan Russam
LORAG	Natasha Brennan (Vice Chair)
Save the Children	Laura Feeney
The Blackie River Community Group	Peter Lynch
Community Foundation for Northern Ireland	Róisín Wood
Upper Andersonstown Community Forum	Angie Mervyn
West Belfast Strategic Health & Wellbeing Forum	Terry Quinn

SUSAN GLASS

Nominations Coordinator for NICVA

- Nomination and Selection Process
- Key Dates
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NOMINATION and SELECTION PROCESS

- **Stage 1:** Request for Application
- **Stage 2:** Assessment of Applications
- **Stage 3:** Recommendations to BCPP
- **Stage 4:** Notifications

KEY DATES

- Nominations Open **15 January 2025**
- Online Information Session **27 January 2025 (today)**
- Return Nomination Form by **20 February 2025 at 12 noon**
- Selection Panel Assessment **24 February – 14 March 2025**
- Notifications Sent **on or before 31 March 2025**
- Refreshed Panel Approved **April 2025**

SELECTION PANEL

Independently managed by NICVA

Selection Panel

- 3 Reps from NICVA's Executive Committee
- Panel Chair appointed by the Selection Panel
- Must consider any potential conflicts of interest

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Geographical Representation
- Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships
- Section 75 and Minority Groups
- Belfast Agenda Themes and Priorities
- Scale and Size of Organisation
- Gender Balance
- Senior level of authority within organisation

SELECTION CRITERIA

Time Commitment

- Nominees must be able to fully commit time
- Including time and preparation for meetings
- Maximum of 12 meetings a year
- Usually with a 2-hour duration
- Community Planning Partnership Boards – quarterly meetings
- **This is more than the four times per year as stated in the ToR**

APPLICATION FORM and GUIDANCE

- Via the approved Application Form only
- Must have the support of the CEO/Director/Chair
- Sufficient detail and information to CLEARLY demonstrate a minimum level of relevant experience in the following areas:
 - Skills and Experience
 - Reach and Connectivity
 - Knowledge and Expertise

APPLICATION FORM and GUIDANCE

- ▶ Reflective of the sub-sector which you are seeking to represent
- ▶ Concise and as meaningful as possible, with **CLEAR EVIDENCE** and relevant examples
- ▶ Selection Panel can only refer to and consider the information detailed in the completed Nomination Form.
- ▶ Incomplete or late forms cannot be considered

APPLICATION FORM and GUIDANCE

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

If you need extra assistance or support with completing the application form, or require it in a different format, or need an alternative method of submission, please contact me directly

Susan Glass at susan.glass@nicva.org

Tel:028 9087 7777

APPLICATION FORM and GUIDANCE

To request a Nomination Pack

- Email: vcsnominations@nicva.org, including '*VCSE Sectoral Panel Nomination Form Request*', in the subject area of your email.
- The closing date for receipt of all completed nomination forms is **12 noon on Thursday 20 February 2025**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

You can find all the information about the Nomination and Selection process on NICVA website



**Any Questions or
Comments?**

THANKS

Thank you for
attending today's
session.